



Saint Francis Xavier
Thousands venerate
major relic during visit
to Saskatoon in January.

RELIC • Page 9

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz
National Higgins Award
recognizes contributions
to Catholic Education.

EDUCATOR • Page 11



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ARCHIVES • Page 23



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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• SPRING EDITION • APRIL 2018

Prayers and solidarity at Humboldt Broncos vigil

Bishop reflects on announcement Pope Francis will not visit Canada in response to TRC

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has expressed his solidarity with all those who are disappointed in the news that Pope Francis will not be coming to Canada to apologize for the Catholic Church's involvement in the Indian Residential Schools system.

"I recognize that the recent letter to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada from the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) is a disappointment to many people in our community," said Hagemoen. "I too regret that Pope Francis is not coming at this time."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #58 called upon the Pope to come to Canada to issue an apology to residential school survivors, their families and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools.

In the March 27 letter to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, CCCC president Bishop Lionel Gendron of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, QB, stated that while the Holy Father is aware of and takes seriously the findings of the TRC, the Pope "felt that he could not personally respond."

In recent years, the Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan – and Hagemoen in his previous role as bishop of the northern diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith – have been among those inviting Pope Francis to come to Canada.

"I have discovered since coming to Saskatoon that there was much expectation and excitement about a possible papal visit here," noted Hagemoen.

Preliminary planning and logistical work was undertaken locally in order to facilitate a possible papal visit to Saskatoon. "Many – including Indigenous and non-Indigenous community leaders and business people – felt that to provide a strong sense of welcome for the Holy Father, working to address some of the major logistical and financial requirements of a visit would be helpful in removing significant obstacles," said Hagemoen. "Thus, many people here are disappointed."

As bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, Hagemoen was also part of a recent invitation to Pope Francis to visit Fort Simpson for the blessing of the new Sacred Heart Catholic Church in that northern community.

• PAPAL VISIT • Continued on Page 3



Easter joy

During a liturgy of profound joy, Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated 26 baptisms at the Cathedral of the Holy Family at the Easter Vigil March 31 – many as full immersion baptisms in the walk-in baptismal font. In his Easter message to the diocese, the bishop wrote: "The Creator's light infuses all darkness, and reminds us of the ever-bearing hope that God's love and light will conquer all obstacles to human flourishing." He also quoted St. John Chrysostom: "O death, where is your sting?... Christ is risen and you are cast down.... Christ is risen and the angels rejoice!"

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

BY BLAKE SITTLER

On April 6, just south of Nipawin, an accident between a semi-truck and a bus broke the heart of every parent in Saskatchewan.

Around 5 p.m. April 6, a semi-trailer collided with the bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos hockey team, their coaches, statistician, athletic trainer/therapist, and play-by-play media personality. Sixteen people have died and 13 remain in various states of recovery.

In the 48 hours that followed the crash, local, national and even international media covered the story, describing the men who were lost, in excruciating and loving detail.

Tragedy destroys and then draws together: on Sunday, April 8, the city of Humboldt, which was shaken to its foundation, rose as a community and gathered in the Elgar Petersen Arena and Uniplex.

"This is a community event that has been orchestrated by an inter-ministerial organization," said president of the Humboldt Broncos, Kevin Garinger in a radio interview earlier that day. "This is not about [the Broncos] tonight, this is about supporting the families of the Humboldt Broncos."

The liturgy was live-streamed, broadcast, and watched in locations across the province as well as at St. Augustine Catholic Church just up the street.

At the arena, the same scene played over and over: family, friends and community members saw each other, teared up, hugged, and then began talking to each other, shaking their heads in disbelief. Large photos of the team placed at the front of the room often elicited new tears of grief.

Grief and crisis counsellors, including grief dogs, roamed the arena, available to any in need of support.

Fr. Joseph Salihu, the pastor of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Parish, who participated in the vigil, described first hearing the news of the accident. "On Friday, there was a concert, and just before it began, a teacher from St. Augustine School drew my attention to some news that there was an accident," he said. "All the ministers came as one... we drove straight to the Uniplex to be with the families."

"We just stayed with the people and waited," he said. "We were there all together and that is what gave us the idea to organize this vigil."

• HUMBOLDT BRONCOS • Continued on Page 2



Holocaust education event hosted at Holy Family Cathedral

Fr. David Tumbach of Holy Family Cathedral, Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky, Holocaust survivor Robbie Waisman, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs representative Matthew Godwin, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Chair Diane Boyko and MC Heather Fenyes of Congregation Agudas Israel (l-r) were with some 2,000 students at the Holocaust Education Program March 15, 2018 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Read more about Holocaust survivor Robbie Waisman's powerful presentation to the students on the diocesan website news page at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Hagemoen reflects on first months as bishop

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

“It has been very full – fast and full.”

Bishop Mark Hagemoen says he is struck by the energy and enthusiasm he has encountered since taking up his new role as bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Nov. 23.

“There are a lot of things going on in the diocese of Saskatoon, and that energy and enthusiasm is reflected in a lot of programs, (and) initiatives – people doing some really good things – and this is across all sorts of spectrums,” he said.

Contributions from many partners enrich the Catholic mission and presence in the diocese, he noted. This includes Catholic health, Catholic education, Catholic colleges, and new apostolates, along with the work being done in parishes, by pastors and lay leaders – many of whom the new bishop has been meeting with in recent weeks.

“If there is one theme that goes through all of those encounters, it would be a continuing reflection on the New Evangelization,” Hagemoen mused. “Our present and past few popes have been clear about where they want to go

in terms of reflecting on the New Evangelization, and where they don’t want to go – they do not want to jump into a direction in terms of a program or strategy. If you will, Jesus is the strategy – that keeps it on track. The gospel is the strategy.”

Strategic thinking comes naturally to this bishop, who delights in pastoral planning and rejoices in the concept of faith in action.

Updating and establishing diocesan structures and consultative bodies has been a priority for Hagemoen in recent months, especially for the four canonically defined consultative groups: the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Finance Council, the Presbyteral (Priests’) Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

“What I did find very quickly was that there was a need to do some reorganizing and re-visioning, especially because the statutes of each of these had not been updated for quite a few years, so right now we are in the process of doing just that.”

Setting up the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) will be next steps. Hagemoen said he hopes that the

DPC will “fly at 50,000 feet,” offering a big-picture perspective as part of a visioning process on pastoral priorities and focus for the diocese.

“Another aim would be to make sure that this process reflects a regional diversity across the diocese in terms of the rural and the urban,” he said.

Hagemoen is also looking ahead to what will be the first diocesan gathering of clergy and laity under his leadership, held to consider and reflect on priorities and directions. The proposed date is Oct. 19-20, with plans calling for speakers to bring different perspectives on general themes and trends facing the Church.

Another question involves how the diocese can prepare for and deal with growth. “The city of Saskatoon had the highest growth rate in Canada last year – that growth raises some new challenges for us as a diocese.”

Some have expressed concerns about the increasing “grey hairs” in parishes, but Hagemoen observes that “the Church of Saskatoon is still young – or maybe a better way to put it is that this is a Church where we see all the generations. And we must

engage all the generations.”

There is an ongoing tension to be found in the clash between increasing secularization and communities of faith, he noted.

“We see those clashes in relation to life issues right now – for instance in relation to doctor-assisted suicide and end of life issues. Navigating that well, and proclaiming the good news of life – that is a real challenge.”

When it comes to “faith in action” the bishop says “one of the most prophetic, compelling and needed ways in which we must realize this faith in action is in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.”

“The biggest thing that informs this relationship is the early and developing legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We need to be part of that legacy – actively and not passively.”

He continues: “I think we must begin by just living and working and playing together – it is important to have some goals, but let us just live well together...very often we want to jump into setting up programs, versus walking across the street and saying hello to our neighbour.”

As the Easter season unfolds,



Bishop Mark Hagemoen
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

the bishop has now embarked on joining parishes across the diocese in celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

“This is a wonderful opportunity as a new bishop to visit parishes, at a time that is really important in the faith life of children and their families. I look forward to hitting the road and meeting the people.”

The life of a bishop continues: fast and full.

Humboldt Broncos: vigil prayers and caring hearts

(Continued from Page 1)

“Coming together tonight is a powerful sign that these families are not alone in their anguish,” Salihu added. “We need to remember that after the funerals, these people will still need our presence.”

Salihu said there are layers of pain and layers of healing. “No one has a map for grieving,” he pointed out. “Every pain is unique.”

Naming the players

During the service, team president Garinger named those who were injured and those who died in the crash – however, at the time it was not yet known that two players had been misidentified. The next day it was discovered that Parker Tobin had been killed, not injured, and that Xavier Labelle was in fact the injured player in hospital.

In addition to Labelle, the injured are: Graysen Cameron, Ryan Straschnitzki, Bryce Fiske, Tyler Smith, Kaleb Dahlgren, Matthieu Gomerick, Nick Shumlanski, Derek Patter, Morgan Gobeil, Brayden Camrud, Layne Matechuk, and Jacob Wassermann.

Those who died in the crash are Humboldt Broncos: Parker Tobin, Adam Herold, Conner Lukan, Evan Thomas, Jacob Leicht, Jaxon Joseph, Logan Boulet, Logan Hunter, Logan Schatz, and Stephen Wack, as well as support and team personnel: assistant coach Mark Cross, head coach Darcy Haugan, team statistician Brody Hinz, Bolt FM broadcaster Tyler Bieber, and bus driver Glen Doerksen. A 16th death occurred in hospital April 11: team trainer Dayna Brons.

The Sunday evening prayer vigil April 8 began with the singing of O Canada.

Rev. Matteo Carboni of St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, vice-chair of the Humboldt Ministerial

April 6, 2018 is a night that Humboldt and Saskatchewan will bear like a scar for a long time, but one small step in healing was taken at the prayer service two days later on April 8 -- that night showed Saskatchewan at its finest, its most broken, its most supportive, its most tender.

Association, served as MC. “We remember the words of Jesus, who told us: ‘You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy,’” Carboni began. “We need each other to make this promise a reality.”

Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench brought greetings and condolences from the city of Humboldt. “This is a very tough time for all of us,” Muench said. “Together, we can get through this and I thank everyone from all over Canada and the world who have offered support.”

Dignitaries in attendance included Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Dr. Ryan Meili (leader of the provincial opposition), as well as *Hockey Night in Canada* personalities Don Cherry and Ron Maclean, along with Elgar Petersen, for whom the Humboldt arena is named, and who has been part of the Broncos organization since its inception.

Garinger spoke at the vigil through restrained tears. “The real scope of this community tragedy will not be fully realized for days or weeks or even years,” he stated.

The team president took time to thank the families, the community, politicians, sports personalities and the first responders who offered important work even while dealing with their own grief.

“I want to say to all the Humboldt Bronco families, billets, coaches, teammates, classmates, teachers, friends, community members, that not one of us is alone in our grief,” he said. “Reach out, help is there.”

Rev. Colleen Pilgrim of Carlton

Trail House of Prayer gave the opening prayer, followed by words from Dr. Lawrence Joseph, the former chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

“The Indigenous people are in the process of not only praying for you, lifting their pipes,” Joseph assured, “they are also gathering resources to support you and your loved ones in the days to come.”

“Jesus wept...when he found out his friend Lazarus died,” Joseph said, “so it is okay for all of us to weep...it shows the love we have for all these boys.”

Moment of silence

At 7:32 p.m., there was a minute of silence to mark what would have been the beginning of the Humboldt Broncos next game.

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon proclaimed Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd.

Pastor Sean Brandow of Humboldt Bible Church, who is also the team chaplain for the Broncos, brought some appreciated levity, unblemished reality, solidarity of despair, and promised hope with his reflection.

“I don’t want to be here, but it’s good that we are,” the team chaplain admitted.

“I arrived at the scene shortly after the [accident] and walked up on a scene I never want to see again, to sounds I never want to hear again,” he agonized. “To hear groaning and panic and fear and confusion and pain... All I saw [that night] was darkness and I had nothing. Nothing.”

“I’m a pastor. I’m supposed to have somethingI’ve received

thousands of texts and even scripture,” he said. “But I needed to hear from God.”

Brandow continued: “We do not have a God who is unfamiliar with what we are going through... He has suffered grief, wept... felt alone and lost. He wept in the garden... Jesus suffered like us and he has gone ahead of us into the heavenly realm,” He assured. “Death couldn’t hold Him...He’s alive...I don’t have all the answers, but I do know that.”

Prayers for healing

Local Lutheran pastor, Rev. Clint Magnus, offered prayers of intercession, asking for solace and healing, love and peace for families and survivors. He prayed for the caregivers who endured many horrors in order to offer comfort to the victims.

Magnus thanked the various leaders, especially Muench, the local ministers and faith leaders, and the crisis counselors present at the vigil. He also acknowledged other towns and provinces who lost someone in the accident.

Rev. Brenda Curtis of Westminster United Church led a

closing prayer: “Humboldt family and friends, a quilt of love has been placed around our shoulders and our community as our brothers and sisters around the world have held us in their care.”

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon offered a final blessing. “Lord God, you are the light that illumines the darkness,” he prayed. “Continue to lead us into your light.”

As music played, people left as they had entered: hugging, crying, shaking their heads in disbelief. Some just sat holding hands.

Bishop’s reflection

“The experience of the prayer vigil in Humboldt was like light shining through great darkness. The community gathered was led by various community and faith leaders through a reflection of acknowledging great pain, but also striving to embrace hope” reflected Bishop Hagemoen after the event.

“That hope was very present through the many people gathered, holding family and community members with great compassion and care,” stressed Hagemoen.

“Although this crisis will be with the community for a long time, they will make it through this time of darkness because of such prayer and caring.”

More coverage about reaction to the tragedy, including statements by Bishop Hagemoen and Pope Francis can be found online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news

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Reconciliation: Getting real about need to listen and to change

BY BLAKE SITTLER
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

Director's Cut

My name is Blake Sittler and I am racist.

Now why on God's green earth would I say something like this in a column from the Director of Pastoral Services in the Diocesan Newsletter to you, the good people of this diocese?

Honestly, sadly and ashamedly, it is because it is true. I don't want it to be true and I'm working on it, but, for now, it is true.

More importantly though, I say it because racism is so very difficult to discuss in Saskatchewan. Whenever we start any conversation where race is a theme, the phrase "I'm not racist..." is usually followed by a statement that is perhaps unintentionally, but almost invariably, racist.

Obviously, it is difficult to continue a conversation when in the first minute of exchange one participant then says to the other person: "Well, that thing you just said is racist!"

If you don't believe me, just try it. Go up to another person, start a conversation about the opening lines of the Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada called "Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future" that described the actions of many Canadian institutions as "cultural genocide." And remember: start the conversation by calling them a racist.

Okay, you're back? How did that work for you?

When the title "racist" is put on us, we resist; but maybe if we simply confess our sin, we can seek forgiveness and move forward.

Our country is in desperate need of a prolonged, inter-generational conversation about the racism that permeates Canada, and that includes our diocese.

Roman Catholics have a very important role to play in the conversation about reconciliation because we were among the institutions that participated in the cultural genocide, and we continue to benefit from the structural racism that prioritizes the European perspective.

A wise theologian once said, "We [followers of Christ] are called to be a leaven (Galatians 5:9), not the whole loaf". We, as individual Catholics, as the diocese of Saskatoon, do not have the answer. In fact, we don't even have the question. Our role in the conversation, for the next while, is to listen.

There are so many ways we can listen. Yes, we can listen to the story of a residential school survivor or a person who was part of the '60s scoop. We can also listen by attending a powwow or another cultural gathering. We can invite a speaker from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to come



Dwayne Stonechild (l) and Blake Sittler share a laugh as they re-enact Blake's moment of epiphany.
- Photo by Carrie Shingoose

to our parish. We can watch a documentary like "Reserve 107" or the National Film Board of Canada's "Birth of a Family." We can read one of the many great books written from a First Nations perspective.

We can even go and celebrate Mass at 1:00 p.m. any Sunday at St. Mary's Church in Saskatoon, where the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will graciously welcome you. The music is great and the sign of peace takes five minutes because everyone goes around shaking hands. Added bonus: if you go on your birthday, they'll probably sing to you.

We need to listen to some very,

very difficult stories. These stories won't jibe with the stories we've told ourselves.

For example, when my wife, Brooke, graduated from law school, I met her as she exited the Centennial Auditorium with flowers. I then offered my hand to congratulate a First Nations friend, Dwayne Stonechild, who was graduating as well. He shook my hand and then pulled me close and asked, "What do you call an Indian with a law degree?" I stammered, "Gee, I don't know." He smiled and put his friendly arm around me and said, "You call him a lawyer, you bloody racist!" Then he laughed heartily!

My answer – or rather, my lack of answer – made me feel like King David in 2 Samuel 12:1-14 when the prophet Nathan tells the story of the rich man who steals the poor man's sheep for a feast. Outraged, King David yells, "That man deserves to die," to which Nathan responds, "You are the man!"

The journey of reconciliation between First Nations and non-aboriginals will take decades, most likely longer.

No matter how long it takes, I think it is absolutely important that in the distant future, Catholic historians will be able to say, "We made an earnest effort from the start and we persevered through the difficult and awkward conversations because they were important and now we are here together."

The work of reconciliation is not some passing "theme" that the diocese is promoting for the upcoming year. I continue to support all of our many offices at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in any and all efforts that they discern could foster deeper understanding of each other.

Reconciliation needs to be a part of our character that permeates how we witness our faith in the resurrected Christ.

So why did I make the statement that opened this article? I said it so that you will have someone to sit beside and say, "I'm a little racist, too, so let's sit here nicely, shut up for a few minutes, and listen."

Papal Apology: Action is needed beyond words, says bishop

(Continued from Page 1)

"The opening and blessing of the new church corresponded with the 30th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's visit to Fort Simpson in 1987. Given the discussion of a possible papal visit in connection with the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action, many in the Northwest Territories were hoping that a possible visit to Canada would feature a visit to the far north," Hagemoen said.

"Through the papal nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, the Holy Father indicated that he was not able to visit Fort Simpson for the 30th anniversary – a result

that was disappointing for the community, but not unexpected."

Hagemoen added that he is among those who remain hopeful about the possibility of a future papal visit in response to the TRC Calls to Action. "And what I have heard from Indigenous people in Saskatoon is that the desire to receive and welcome the Holy Father is always here," he said.

"But for the time being, the Holy Father will not be coming to Canada. While I recognize the disappointment, I look forward to pursuing the many ways in which we continue the very important work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action in our Church and our wider community."

At the same time, Hagemoen noted that, contrary to some recent statements that the Catholic Church is "the only Church that has not apologized," there are in fact many apologies on record from Catholic bishops and Catholic religious orders over the past 25 years, including apologies offered at TRC events held throughout the country.

"Apologies from various Catholic leaders have been many," he said. "These various apologies were needed – and as a young bishop I can say that I am proud these apologies were offered. They acknowledge injustice and wrongdoing, recognize much pain and hardship, and are a way of facilitating healing and renewed relationships."

The bishop added that, beginning with Pope John Paul II, recent popes have also given the "only non-Canadian acknowledgements of the painful history of the Indian Residential Schools."

Hagemoen noted: "The words of John Paul II during his visit to Canada in 1984 and then to Fort Simpson in 1987 anticipate the perspective and language of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples document."

Acknowledgments also include the historic meeting of Pope Benedict XVI with Canadian representatives at the Vatican in 2009 – including then-National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Phil Fontaine – when the pope acknowledged and expressed his sorrow for the sufferings of Indigenous children in Indian Residential Schools.

"As well, in 2015, during his Apostolic Visit to Bolivia, Pope Francis apologized for the Church's grave sins toward the native people of the Americas," noted the bishop.

The healing journey must always go beyond apology into action, such as the many grassroots efforts, encounters and relationship-building initiatives that have been undertaken in the diocese of Saskatoon

and across the country, stressed Hagemoen.

"My interpretation of the recent announcement (by the CCCB president) is that Pope Francis is putting the emphasis on the bishops and the local churches to continue to provide and build concrete initiatives, in the spirit of the TRC," he said.

"Our local church continues to strive to listen, to build bridges together, and to undertake awareness and reconciliation through a range of initiatives and encounters. These include education, treaty awareness, initiatives regarding justice and healing, praying and celebrating together, and social outreach and care," said Hagemoen who highlighted examples of such work in a pastoral letter sent to parishes in the diocese of Saskatoon during Holy Week (Page 14).

Those working toward reconciliation must continue to be inspired by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Hagemoen said. "That declaration, along with the TRC Calls to Action, continue to challenge all of Canada – including members of the Church – to pursue a more comprehensive approach to justice for Indigenous Peoples, to change mindsets, and to take concrete action in a wide range of areas."

He added that Indigenous communities have always highlighted the need for concrete actions and positive relationships to accompany the many words and expressions of commitment given over the years.

"I therefore join with the CCCB president and all bishops of Canada in recommitting 'to engage honestly and courageously with the past, to acknowledge the failings of members of the Catholic Church, and to take active steps of solidarity with Indigenous Peoples towards a better future.'"

• BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER
• See Page 14



Way of the Cross

Some 200 people braved cold temperatures Good Friday, March 30, to follow the cross through the streets of Saskatoon, during the annual outdoor Way of the Cross. Organized by Myron Rogal of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, the Holy Week event features participation by a range of groups and organizations who lead reflections and prayers at each station connecting the passion of Jesus Christ to suffering in our world today. Themes included homelessness, human trafficking, family life, care of creation, support for Catholic education, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Find a news report and a link to a slide show online at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Bishop’s Annual Appeal raises \$1.487 million, thanks to generous donors and volunteers

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Thanks to the support of donors and volunteers, the 2017 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) has raised \$1,487,322.29, just short of the \$1.575 million goal.

The theme of the 2017 Appeal was “Let Your Light Shine,” with a focus on the words of Jesus Christ about salt and light in the Gospel of Matthew: “... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your

good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

BAA coordinator Cathy Gilje of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation gave thanks for all who supported this year’s Appeal.

“The light of Christ shines in families and parishes across our diocese, as we encounter Jesus Christ in God’s word, in sacraments and in each other, and then go forth to carry that light to the world in love and service. The light of Christ is also shining in the generosity of so many to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal,” she said.

“Gifts to the BAA make a beautiful difference to people who are served by the important programs and ministries within our diocese, as well as providing continued support for the community organizations that share in our faith-filled mission,” added Gilje. “The light of Christ is shining brightly in our midst.”

During this year’s Appeal, the new bishop also expressed his appreciation for the generous support for the BAA, which allows ministry support and outreach of many kinds to happen across the diocese. “Good stewardship is so important in the life, work, and mission of Christ and his Church,” said Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

Ministries supported by gifts to the Appeal both “reach out in love” and “build up the church” and include outreach and faith development programs such as Hospital Chaplaincy, Youth Ministry, Lay Formation, Marriage and Family Life, Aboriginal parish ministry, Justice and Peace, Catholic prison outreach (Restorative

Ministry), Catholic Deaf Ministry, Evangelization and Catechesis, Vocations promotion, ecumenism, communications, and the education of priests and future priests.

“Through our gifts to the BAA we are reaching out in love – by shining light into the darkness of sickness and suffering through the ministry of Hospital Chaplaincy and into the lives of prisoners through the outreach provided by the Office of Restorative Ministry. The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace shines a gospel light as it advocates for justice and an end to poverty, and the protection of the life and God-given dignity of each and every human person at every age and stage,” described Gilje.

“Through ministries supported by the BAA, those who are grieving find companionship, those in need find an advocate.”

“Gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal are also building up the church by ensuring that the light of faith burns brightly through ministry to youth and families, in vocations promotion and the education of priests, in catechetics and adult faith formation,” she added.

“Once again the faithful of this diocese have shown incredible generosity. I keep thinking I will get used to it, but I never do – I am in awe all over again.”

For more information about the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, or to donate online, see the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Foundation website at www.dscatholicfoundation.ca or contact Cathy Gilje at (306) 659-5851.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon		
Statement of Support & Revenue and Expenses		
For the fiscal year end as of June 30, 2017		
	2017	2016 (Restated)(A)
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Parish assessments	\$ 1,128,412	\$ 1,198,393
Bishop’s Annual Appeal	967,542	1,020,521 (B)
Diocese of Saskatoon Roman Catholic Foundation	388,034	474,782 (C)
Insurance and occupancy costs recovery and administration	555,422	560,060
Cost recovery from support of external ministries	199,434	153,405
Special collections	306,334	329,236
Donations	99,893	143,604
Events revenue	49,707	43,349
Clergy recovery	153,769	189,432
Fifth Avenue property	87,920	96,420
Participant fees related to ministry	120,640	86,730
Investment income	121,896	91,301
Interest revenue	107,856	140,076
Sundry	34,758	26,432
	\$ 4,321,617	\$ 4,553,741
EXPENSES		
Ministry	\$ 898,111	\$ 956,035
Administration	1,022,715	1,000,810
Clergy	902,893	765,785
Support of external ministries	261,442	195,367
Special collections	306,334	329,236
Pastoral services	146,494	197,419
Occupancy costs	172,220	409,255
Bishop’s office and housing	140,936	220,166
Chancery and tribunal	211,260	211,324
Fifth Avenue property	42,760	19,800
Unrealized loss(gain) in market value of investments	42,972	(10,809)
Committees and commissions	51,923	42,688
Interest expense (Parish Development Fund)	138,133	154,546
	\$ 4,338,193	\$ 4,491,622
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (16,576)	\$ 62,119 (D)
(A) Episcopal Corp. decided to incorporate the Parish Development Fund (PDF) balances into the 2017 financial statements. The PDF consists of funds contributed by various parishes (as savings) and are used for capital projects (as loans) undertaken by other parishes as approved by the Diocesan Financial Council. 2016 corresponding figures were restated accordingly.		
(B) Revenue from the Bishop's Annual Appeal does not all come into the diocese. Some of the revenue is dispersed to Catholic organizations and ministries outside of the Catholic Centre. Further, the revenue for the 2016-2017 fiscal year includes a segment of funds from both the 2015 and 2016 Appeals.		
(B) Episcopal Corp. (RC Diocese of Saskatoon) received donations in the amount of \$388,034 in 2017 (2016 - \$474,782) from the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation Inc., an organization which is under common control. \$35,038 (2016 - \$3,800) of these donations related to education of seminarians; \$42,000 (2016 - \$53,835) to the Brazil mission; \$30,218 (2016 - \$28,865) to refugee aid; \$160,100 (2016 - \$191,250) for operations; \$36,640 (2016 - \$49,648) to ecumenical relations; \$65,000 (2016 - \$130,000) to clergy pensions; and the remaining \$19,038(2016 - \$17,384) to other smaller initiatives.		
(C) Several fund allocations were made between Restricted and Unrestricted Net Assets into various reserve funds throughout the year, including Capital Building Reserve, Capital Equipment Reserve, Insurance Deductible Reserve, Bishop’s Ordination Reserve, International Clergy Reserve, Pooled Mileage Reserve, and Newly Ordained Priests Reserve. The total (net) amount of allocations transferred into reserves was \$31,296.		

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon		
Statement of Financial Position		
For the fiscal year end as of June 30, 2017		
	2017	2016 (Restated)(A)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,037,450	\$ 5,424,346
Accounts receivable	2,279,923	2,501,036
Investments	5,480,380	1,901,288
Prepaid expenses	18,973	20,507
	\$ 9,816,726	\$ 9,847,177
PROPERTY		
	492,998	492,988
	\$ 10,309,724	\$ 10,340,175
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,500,848	\$ 6,590,157
Deferred revenues	182,905	160,381
Prepaid parish assessments	393,779	348,727
Deferred Bishop’s Annual Appeal	466,400	458,542
	\$ 7,543,932	\$ 7,557,807
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted	1,287,082	1,255,786
Unrestricted	1,478,710	1,526,582
	\$ 2,765,792	\$ 2,782,368
	\$ 10,309,724	\$ 10,340,175



Refugee sponsorship

Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon is one of the faith communities actively sponsoring refugees fleeing violence and persecution and seeking to find a safe haven in Canada. Letekurstos Haile (third from left) – who was co-sponsored jointly by the parish and her sister Tirhas Haile – was welcomed at the Saskatoon airport Jan. 25. Pictured are (from left to right): Semhar Sandbo, Tsegea Arey, new arrival Letekurstos Haile, co-sponsor Tirhas Haile, Seare Kidane (who also arrived that evening), Benhur Haile (Tirhas’ son who arrived in Canada in 2015 after being separated from his mother for ten years) and Abede Bairu (who arrived in Canada in October, 2017). There are a number of ways for parishes and organizations to get involved in refugee sponsorship. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a role administered through the diocesan Office of Migration. For more information, contact coordinator Sofia Berumen at (306) 659-5842 or migration@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

- Photo by Shirley McGuire

Join Bishop Mark Hagemoen for an evening
of fine dining and fellowship!

The Bishop’s Dinner

Friday, May 11

Cathedral of the Holy Family
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon

Cocktails (cash bar) will begin at 5:45 p.m. with dinner at 6:45 p.m. and entertainment to follow. Bishop Mark Hagemoen will share his vision and priorities for our diocese, some of which will be supported by the funds raised through the Bishop’s Dinner. Tickets may be purchased for \$125 at www.Eventbrite.ca – search ‘2018 Bishop’s Dinner’ or for more information call (306) 659-5851. Seats are limited!

“JESUS KEEPS KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR IN THE FACES OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTER, IN THE FACES OF OUR NEIGHBOURS, IN THE FACES OF THOSE AT OUR SIDE” - POPE FRANCIS



Dynamic Speakers Engaged Awareness Service Outreach Relationship Building

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For information please contact
Kate O’Gorman, J.O.Y. Program Coordinator
(306) 659-5847 or joy@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Now Accepting Applications!



Bishop Mark Hagemoen (left) joined coordinator Kate O’Gorman and members of the JOY program for a visit to Sherbrooke Community Centre, a nursing home in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Catholic Social Teaching is heart of hands-on J.O.Y. program

BY KATE O’GORMAN

Applications are now being accepted for those seeking to join the diocesan Justice and Outreach Year (J.O.Y.) of Formation program, beginning September 2018.

This is an opportunity to broaden your understanding of social justice issues, engage in outreach, and respond to the needs of our community in a way that respects the dignity of each person.

As Pope Francis has said, it is our human responsibility to walk in solidarity with the poor. By exploring and practicing our Catholic Social Teaching, participants are empowered to respond to that baptismal call.

By visiting local service agencies,

meeting with those who work in these social justice fields and being with the people they serve, participants broaden their understanding of the issues involved in each challenging situation, and become equipped with the skills to engage in much-needed service and outreach.

Participants are invited to enter into a process of personal transformation through the program which runs over 10 weekends, monthly from September to June.

To register or find out more, contact Kate O’Gorman, J.O.Y. Program Coordinator, at (306) 659-5847 or email her at: joy@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or see www.joyformationprogram.com

Archbishop Murray Chatlain describes blessings and challenges of Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas during recent hometown visit

BY KIPLY YAWORSKI

Archbishop Murray Chatlain was warmly welcomed home for an information meeting about the Church in the North, held Dec. 11 at St. Anne’s parish in Saskatoon.

The archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas offered images, insights and anecdotes about the gifts and faith of the people of his northern diocese, as well as about some of the challenges they face.

Chatlain’s archdiocese covers some 430,000 square kilometres across northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, and a small corner of northwestern Ontario. The culture of this vast area includes First Nations – Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dene – as well as Métis and non-Indigenous peoples. The archdiocese includes some 43 parishes and missions.

“There is hope for the faith in the North,” Chatlain said, as he shared images of people of all ages in prayer, celebrating sacraments, and participating in pilgrimages in the Keewatin-Le Pas archdiocese.

Gifts of culture

The gifts of indigenous culture are incorporated into the practice of Catholic faith, noted Chatlain, showing a picture of a teepee-styled tabernacle next to a Divine Mercy image of Jesus in one northern community.

The archbishop also described the gift of the sacred drum. “The sacred drum is used in every culture that we have,” he said, describing how drummers will make the sign of the cross before and after a drum prayer. “The drum is not just for games or music, but it is a way we pray.”

He noted: “Part of my hope for tonight is to give a bit of an appreciation for the gifts of the Aboriginal people.”



Archbishop Murray Chatlain with a pastor and several young parishioners in his northern diocese of Keewatin-Le Pas.

- Submitted photo

Those gifts include a strong connection and respect for the land, and for how God speaks through creation, the animals, rocks and water, the archbishop described. Indigenous people model a dynamic and healthy relationship with creation, he said. “They are a gift to us in trying to adopt more humility in how we approach the land.”

The importance of Elders is something we can also learn from Aboriginal people, he said.

Forgiveness

“One of the gifts of the North is forgiveness and acceptance – there is a lot of tolerance and acceptance of people, as they are,” Chatlain added. “There is a sense of openness, and they have to forgive some really tough stuff.”

Visibly moved, the archbishop shared a story of visiting families after the shooting in La Loche, SK, last year, in which four were killed and several others injured. Chatlain described how one bereaved family sent a message to the family of the youth who did the shooting, saying:

“We forgive you, we don’t hold it against you.”

Loss, grieving, trauma, suicide, addictions, family dysfunction, unemployment and poverty take their toll in northern communities, and highlight the need for support and healing.

Chatlain shared a quote from Barbara Brown Taylor, author of *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, about the harm of running away from sadness and darkness. “In the North we are doing a lot of running. There is still a lot of struggle with alcohol, and amongst families, violence. Those are practical issues that we are trying to wrestle with.”

At the same time, the Church also often tends to run away from its own darkness, he said, sharing another quote from Carl Jung: “Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darknesses of other people.”

The legacy of residential schools is “one of the pieces of our darkness,” Chatlain acknowledged.

The archbishop described how there were seven residential schools in the Archdiocese of

Keewatin-Le Pas, and seven in the nearby Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. He acknowledged that the ultimate goal of these schools was assimilation, and that the damage caused is not something that will be easily overcome. “So it is part of our place... this is a tension we will be working through for a lot of years yet.”

Five concrete ideas

Chatlain also had five concrete suggestions for his listeners about how to connect with the Church in the North. “Educate yourself about our North – knowledge is medicine against prejudice,” he said.

Secondly, he invited those who want to help to “Come and see – Jesus used those words quite a bit.” Chatlain described examples of an individual, a family and a retired couple who came to assist with ministry in the North in different ways. “That missionary role is not for everyone... but it could be a call that God puts on your heart.”

Chatlain also suggested developing a twinning relationship between parishes in the dioceses of Saskatoon and Keewatin-Le Pas. This has potential for “building connections in different ways, but starting out by just getting to know each other,” he said.

A fourth idea is to support or sponsor projects or parishes in the North – there are many needs, large and small, he said. “Sometimes helping with a bit of project in the parish, or a renovation, can be a big boost.”

Finally, he suggested: “Invite people from a (northern) parish to your home and parish,” describing the sometimes painful experiences of isolation and rejection that northerners have when coming south for events or appointments.

Chatlain concluded his presentation with a series of images showing beautiful faces, young and old, of Keewatin-Le Pas parishioners, saying: “Here are the reasons we want to keep working and being in our communities.”

A question-and-answer period followed, with Chatlain answering questions about language, climate change, population, medical services, and technology’s impact.

Background

Chatlain was born and raised in Saskatoon, and was serving as a priest at an inner city parish when he began working with Aboriginal people. After taking a sabbatical to learn Dene, he eventually volunteered to serve as pastor at Fond du Lac and Black Lake in northern Saskatchewan. He was ordained coadjutor bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith in 2007, becoming bishop of that diocese in May 2008, before being appointed archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas in 2012.

In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, an ongoing commitment to outreach and support for the northern archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas has included providing a priest – Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB – to serve in the parishes at LaRonge and Southend. A special collection for the *Needs of the North* was also held in the diocese this year, with plans to add support for Keewatin-Le Pas to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in future years.

Key supporters, recognizing the great needs in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, have stepped up to help – some \$440,000 was recently raised for archdiocesan priorities, reports Don Gorsalitz of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.

Evangelization and catechesis are focus for new coordinator

BY BLAKE SITTLER

As of Feb. 1, 2018, Marilyn Jackson is the new full-time coordinator for the renamed diocesan office of Evangelization and Catechesis. Jackson was involved in sacramental preparation for 18 years at St. Ann's Parish in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Jackson said she is excited about working for the diocese and is intrigued by the new ministry opportunity. "I love that my Catholic faith touches every aspect of my life," she said. "I love that I am not just doing a job but that I've been called to a mission."

The newly-renamed Evangelization and Catechesis office was formerly called Christian Initiation and Catechetics and was operated by three part-time staff over several years. Previous to that, the office was known as Rural Catechetics – one of the earliest offices established at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Over the years the work of the office was facilitated by a variety of part-time and full-time staff, either working from the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon or in



Marilyn Jackson is coordinator of the recently re-named diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. - Photo by Blake Sittler

offices based in rural areas of the diocese.

The shift in the office from three part-time, rural-based staff to one full-time staff member working out of the Catholic Pastoral Centre was a response to the changing ways of offering services to the diocese.

"This decision was made after a period of discernment, and stems from the major demographic, sociological and technological shifts that we have seen in the diocese over the decades," wrote Fr. Kevin McGee

in a letter sent to parishes in September of 2017.

In addition to supporting parishes in offering sacramental preparation and RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), the diocesan office of Evangelization and Catechesis will have an increasing focus on what St. Pope John Paul II called "the New Evangelization".

"The New Evangelization is an opportunity for a renewal of faith, not only for those not associated with a religion, but for the baptized who are distant from the Church," said Jackson. "It's all about relationship and sharing the joy."

"Evangelization is sharing the Good News of salvation; although the Good News has not changed, the methods of evangelization must change," she explained. "We must recognize popular culture methods and take advantage of them."

The new title for the office comes directly from the title of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' document On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis of Adults.

To many Catholics, catechesis

and evangelization may sound like two different activities. Catechesis is generally conceived as teaching "head knowledge" about the Catholic faith, while evangelization is often deemed to involve more emotional rhetoric that converts someone's heart to the message of the Gospel. Jackson recognizes that while the terms sound like separate concepts, both work together and serve the same purpose.

"Catechesis and evangelization go hand-in-hand. Catechesis is a learning process through which people discover the history and beauty of the Catholic Church and deepen their Christian faith through initiation rites, instruction and formation," she said. "Evangelization is being in relationship with one another and in relationship with Christ."

She adds "It's walking alongside someone and sharing your encounter with Christ. It's saying, 'Hey, I was starving and this is where I found bread'."

One of the goals of the office is to blend these two facets of ongoing conversion together, but Jackson noted that there is much to do in the first months of orientation.

Evangelization and Catechesis is supported by the



"I have been familiarizing myself with the diocese and parishes and the people who are involved," she said. "I've spent a lot of time on the phone, getting to know some of the needs of the rural parishes, and I have gone out and met a few people ... People have been so patient and kind!"

Jackson envisions the office as being like the lungs of the Body of Christ in the diocese, where there is a sense of drawing people together.

"I would like this office to be a centre of evangelization...a place where we can come together to share our passion for the beauty of Catholicism and share the joy of knowing Jesus," she said. "I'm also looking forward to making my way out to the different deaneries and meeting more of the people who make up our faith community."

Exploring ways to nurture the spirituality of young children

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The spiritual needs of young children were discussed at a recent workshop hosted by three leaders who offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to children ages 3-to-6-years in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Lisette Fontaine, Cynthia Foster and Jane Korvemaker presented the Saturday afternoon workshop to parents, catechists, parish and ministry leaders Feb. 10 at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon, the site of one of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) atriums now operating in the diocese.

An atrium is the sacred space set up as part of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to help young children explore and experience scripture and liturgy as they deepen their relationship with God in a prayerful, hands-on environment.

A teacher in the Catholic school system with experience in a Montessori school, Foster offers CGS at the St. Francis atrium, aided by her two older children.

Korvemaker, who has a BA in theology and is the mother of three



Lisette Fontaine, Cynthia Foster, and Jane Korvemaker (l-r) have established Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atriums for children ages 3-to-6 years at three different locations in the diocese. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

young children, started the CGS atrium at St. Patrick parish in Saskatoon in 2016.

The mother of five children, Fontaine began using the CSG program in sacramental preparation in 2015 and established the bilingual Trinity atrium in 2016, serving the parish cluster of Prud'homme, St. Denis and Vonda.

During the workshop, the three leaders provided an overview of CGS, which was created some 60

years ago in Rome by scripture scholar Sofia Cavelletti and educator Gianna Gobbi, with the developmental needs of children in mind. CGS is grounded in the philosophy of early childhood educator Maria Montessori, with gentle, hands-on and age-appropriate catechesis offered in the atrium designed to nurture a child's inherent awe and connection to God, explained the three local CGS catechists.

Korvemaker described how children often respond differently than adults, because of their particular developmental stage. Children ages 3 to 6 years have a number of sensitivities, such as an attraction to order, a craving for the security and safety of having a fixed point of reference, or a love of repetition, she said.

Children of that age also often have a profound sense of wonder and awe, and a capacity for "listening to God" in stillness and silence, if that is modeled for them, added the catechist.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd uses a number of time-tested scripture passages that particularly resonate with young children, including the infancy narratives (about the birth of Jesus), the Kingdom of God parables, the Good Shepherd, the Last Supper and the empty tomb, listed Korvemaker.

Practical ideas for nurturing the spiritual life of young children include setting up a small prayer area – "a place where we come to be with God" – changing colours of cloth to reflect the different liturgical seasons, placing items of beauty and significance in the prayer space; slowing down to a child's pace and focusing on only one thing at a time; and recognizing that prayer can take many forms for children – including silence, working with hands-on material, and drawing.

"When it comes to Christian mystery, children can take that mystery," Korvemaker said. "You don't have to dumb it down."

The workshop included testimonials from the catechists, from a parent, and from a pastor.

"The founders of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd write that in the covenant relationship there is a meeting between God, who is love,

and the child, who is so rich in love – and they form a relationship," said Foster, describing the joy of being a catechist and helping children to deepen their relationship with God. She is now taking Level 2 and 3 training to provide CGS to older children.

Fontaine shared how her search for sacramental preparation materials led her to CGS after she heard about the program in a moms' group presentation by Linda Funk, who established the first CGS atrium in Saskatchewan at St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox parish in Saskatoon.

In addition to operating an atrium in the Trinity pastoral region, Fontaine continues to use her CGS training and materials in offering sacramental preparation. "The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a gift," she said. "Children are so receptive to God and to God's unconditional love."

Fontaine also stressed how the program has nurtured her own faith. "I have been able to really ponder what God is trying to tell me in my faith journey. As a catechist, I must also be at the children's pace... so I have to ponder. I have to experience silence. It has been such a gift to me to have that opportunity."

Trinity pastoral region pastor Fr. Steve Morrissey, CSsR, is also enthusiastic about the program and the impact it is having on families. "I think it is fabulous," he said. "I think it is a beautiful thing for everybody in the parish to be able to grasp what is going on in Church."

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd impacts the whole family, said one mother, describing the program as "an amazing gift" that helps her child know Jesus, internalize the stories of scripture and understand what is happening at Mass.



Landis Knights honoured for support of children's hospital

At a celebration Feb. 18 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Landis, SK., representatives of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus presented the Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus Council with a commemorative plaque recognizing their contribution to a recent Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus celebrity dinner, held at the diocesan cathedral to raise funds for the new Children's Hospital under construction in Saskatoon. Through the local KC council, the communities of Landis, Handel and area raised \$24,739 towards funding a Knights of Columbus room at the new hospital.

- Photo by Daryl Hasein, Biggar Independent



Daniel Pettipas, Coordinator of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon (right) presents information about the New Evangelization Summit at a recent meeting of parish leaders. St. Anne parish is the Saskatoon April 27-28 host site for the live-streamed conference designed to inspire Catholics to evangelize. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

New Evangelization Summit: Find inspiration and insights at live-streamed event April 27-28

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Baptized to be missionary disciples, Christians are all called to evangelize -- to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Dubbed North America's premier conference on evangelization, the New Evangelization Summit (NES) is an international event designed to inspire and empower Catholics in answering this call.

Beginning Friday evening April 27 and continuing all day Saturday, April 28, the NES main event held in Ottawa is live-streamed to host sites across North America.

The local host site in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon this year will be St. Anne parish, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon.

"The New Evangelization Summit's goal is to provide Catholics with new ideas, programs, and ways of looking at evangelization within your everyday life and inviting others into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ," say organizers.

In addition to the live-streamed speakers, the event at St. Anne parish will include

opportunities to meet and discuss with others who are interested in reaching out and proclaiming the gospel, and creating parishes filled with missionary disciples, says organizer Daniel Pettipas, coordinator of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation at St. Anne parish.

Presenting information to a group of parish leaders, Pettipas recently spoke about his hope that the NES event will inspire more Catholics to reach out and invite others into a relationship with Christ -- perhaps simply by inviting someone new to accompany them to Sunday Eucharist.

Pettipas expressed a vision for NES to be "at the heart of an evangelization movement in our diocese," transforming parish communities "from the inside out." He urged parish leaders to promote NES in their local communities, as a way "to inspire, to form, and to connect."

Sharon Powell, faith formation coordinator at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, expressed a hope that NES might provide assistance in helping more parishioners "become on fire about their faith and about their relationship with God."



Speakers for the 2018 New Evangelization Summit include:

- **Sr. Ann Shields, SGL**, is an internationally-noted speaker, radio host, and author of numerous books including *Deeper Conversion*, and *To Be Like Jesus*.
- **Michael Dopp**, founder of the New Evangelization Summit, has a Licentiate in Sacred Theology with a concentration on the new evangelization, and has been involved in a variety of ministries dedicated to evangelization.
- **Curtis Martin**, is founder and chief executive officer of FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students), and also author of *Made For More* and serves on the Pontifical Council of the New Evangelization. **Topic: "The Power of The Gospel."**
- **George Weigel**, is a Catholic theologian and the author of a best-selling biography on St. Pope John Paul II, and also serves as a fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC. **Topic: "St. John Paul II's Vision for the New Evangelization: 40 Years Later."**
- **Patrick Madrid** is an author, apologist and radio host, whose books include *Surprised by Truth* and *Why Be Catholic*. **Topic: "Evangelizing Families."**
- **Christy Dupuis** of Martensville, SK. served as a lay missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach at the University of Saskatchewan, and is now part of the pastoral team at her parish. **Topic "Five Vital Lessons I Learned as a Missionary."**
- **Fr. Mark Goring, CC**, is a member of the Companions of the Cross and is currently the Director of the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston, Texas.
- **Bishop Terrence Prendergast, SJ**, is the Archbishop of Ottawa, who has served various roles with the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, including as a member on CCCB social communications committee. **Topic: "Popular Devotions in the New Evangelization: the Relic of Saint Francis Xavier in Canada."**

Holy Spirit Youth Ministry coordinator Celena Komarnicki said: "My hope and dream is that we will get pushed out of our comfort zone and that we are excited to speak about our faith."

Don Pion, the coordinator of worship music at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Saskatoon attended NES last year at the host site at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK. "I felt that God was calling me there," he said. "It really set me on fire." Since that first experience of NES, a small group has been getting together to see what next steps they might take, he said. "I think we just need some direction. I hope

more people can come to the Summit this year." One important next step is to "just start praying," Pion added. "We need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

All Catholics -- pastors, lay ministers, and the lay faithful -- will hopefully find inspiration and practical suggestions in the presentations by world-class speakers, said Pettipas. There will also be opportunities for discussion and networking at the local gathering.

Tickets are \$40 (which includes lunch on Saturday), and can be obtained online at www.newevangelization.ca or by calling St. Anne parish at (306) 931-4700.

FacetoFace Ministries offering local sacramental retreats, camps, conferences, and more

SUBMITTED BY FACETOFACE

FacetoFace Ministries has had an exciting start to 2018, travelling across Western Canada to lead retreats in dioceses, parishes, and schools, says executive director Jon Courchene.

The Catholic ministry, based in Saskatoon, strives to help youth "encounter Jesus Christ and embrace the call to be saints."

FacetoFace Ministries has led four sacramental retreats in the diocese of Saskatoon this spring, with more upcoming.

The sacramental retreats focus on helping participants understand what is happening in the sacraments, as well as asking God to pour out His grace through those sacraments when participants celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist later this spring.

The retreats are engaging and faith enriching, according to local organizers. Brianne Schneider, the retreat coordinator at St. Mary's Parish in Fox Valley, said: "All of us were very impressed how the FacetoFace team kept our children's attention through the

entire day with their interactive talks, teaching activities, and prayer moments."

Reflecting on the Fox Valley retreat, Courchene commented, "I think a highlight of that event was that not only did the youth get to say 'yes' to God in the sacraments, but we also challenged the parents to keep saying 'yes' to the sacraments in their lives and how beautifully they responded."

Other retreat coordinators from various parishes in the diocese have also provided positive feedback. For example, Jessica Follick of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Outlook, SK, remarked that she had parents texting her and calling her after the retreat to say how good it was and to say thank you.

One message stated: "Jon [Courchene, the retreat leader] has a way of exposing God's power and beauty and explaining just how wonderful it is to have Him in your life. I can feel God's presence fill the room when Jon speaks."

FacetoFace Ministries also leads other events in the diocese of



Youth write their "yes" to the grace of the sacraments at a recent FacetoFace retreat.

- Submitted photo

Saskatoon. For instance, every November, FacetoFace hosts the United Conference.

A highlight of the 2017 United Conference, with over 370 in attendance, was having Bishop Mark Hagemoen in attendance and giving a talk, said Courchene.

"We were extremely blessed to have him there, especially since it was the week of his installation and the busyness around it. It really

shows how much he cares for his people."

The next United Conference will be held Nov. 17 and 18, 2018.

Another event hosted by FacetoFace are summer Ignite Camps, described as "life-changing events for high school youth who desire to grow in their faith." For more information see the website at www.f2f.ca/ignite or call (306) 381-7789.

The FacetoFace Ministries team is thankful for all that God is doing in their ministry, said Courchene.

"We keep doing our best to be faithful to God and (to) how He is moving the ministry to greater excellence, authenticity, humility, and docility to Him, and the Lord appears to be blessing our efforts. Thanks be to God!"

Diocese will launch Permanent Diaconate Program in fall

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The diocese of Saskatoon is preparing to launch its first-ever Permanent Diaconate Program in the fall of 2018.

“The permanent diaconate has commanded a fair bit of time over the last few months, and I am pleased that we are able to move forward with our first cohort who will enter into formation,” said Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

“Dioceses across Canada have established permanent diaconate programs – not necessarily because of need, but because it is a ministry of the Church. As with any diocese, there are men in our diocese who are discerning the call to the Permanent Diaconate,” he said.

Restored by the Second Vatican Council, the permanent diaconate is open to married men

over 35 years of age, and single men over 25 years of age.

Hagemoen commented that this development is the result of a discernment period that began in the spring of 2013 by then-Bishop Don Bolen, when he commissioned a 12-member committee of clergy, religious, and laity to reflect on how the permanent diaconate would best serve the Diocese of Saskatoon.

“In the fall of 2014, Bishop Bolen accepted the recommendations of this committee to move ahead with a formation program that would feature a strong emphasis on service and outreach. Subsequently, the J.O.Y. program (Justice and Outreach Year of Formation) has provided an opportunity for those interested in

the permanent diaconate to experience ministry and service to persons who live in the margins of our communities,” Hagemoen added.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) have confirmed formational requirements for permanent deacons that are similar to the requirements for formation for the priesthood, featuring not only academic formation but also ministerial and human formation.

“Of course, one of the other big issues with permanent deacons is that many of them have a family, and so formation also must address their family context and specifically involve their wives.”

Hagemoen added that there are fairly rigorous requirements on

the academic front in terms of theological formation.

“On the ministry and human formation side, there needs to be an initial and an ongoing experience and support for how to live and do ministry. This is probably why a decision was made in our diocese for those interested in the permanent diaconate to participate in the JOY program,” he said.

“I look forward to working with the team involved to provide a robust formation program that will meet the requirements of the norms, and will serve the development of ministry and service so important for the People of God of our vibrant diocese,” said Hagemoen.

Bishop encourages vocation “callers”

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Vocations must continue to be a priority for the diocese of Saskatoon, says Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

“We are blessed in having a number of young clergy; we are also blessed by having many international missionary clergy who bring a larger perspective of the world and we are grateful for their service – and we must also continue to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, as well as areas of the lay apostolate, marriage, and so on – not just for function and need, although those are great, but because God is calling, and we need to be part of supporting those calls.”

The bishop said he has asked vocation directors Fr. Colin Roy and Fr. Daniel Yasinski to draft a vocations plan, with Colm Leyne

Vocation promotion is supported by the



also continuing to work on vocations promotion through the Vocations/Youth Ministry Office.

“I think that the biggest thing that we need are ‘callers,’” said Hagemoen. “Clergy are key callers, the bishop is a key caller, and so are laity – in families, in schools, in church communities. And when we call, we need to have a culture of support for vocations and those who respond.”

For more information about vocations, contact Colm Leyne in the Vocations and Youth Ministry Office at (306) 659-5843 or: youthmin@saskatoonrcdiocese.com



Priest Study Days

Priests from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon recently gathered with Bishop Mark Hagemoen for Study Days, featuring guest speaker Fr. Robert Christian, OP. Diocesan clergy explored the theme “The Priest and The Laity.” The annual event was held March 12-15, 2018 at Elk Ridge, just outside of Prince Albert National Park. - Submitted photo

After 10 years in diocese, Fr. Enwerem, OP, will return home to Nigeria

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The parish communities of St. Michael and St. Peter the Apostle in Saskatoon are preparing to bid farewell to their pastor, Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, this summer.

After 10 years in the diocese of Saskatoon, in which he also served in parishes in the Watson-Englefeld-St. Gregor parish cluster, and St. Mark, Langham/Immaculate Heart of Mary, Martensville cluster, the Dominican scholar has asked his superiors to recall him home to Nigeria.

“In July, I will have been 23 years away from home,” says Enwerem. He is looking forward to being close to family, and to returning to teaching.

A celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination and to say farewell to Enwerem will be held July 8, with Mass at 2 p.m. at St. Michael parish in Saskatoon, followed by a program and reception starting at 5 p.m. at St. Peter the Apostle parish.

An academic and noted administrator who established the Dominican Institute in Ibadan, Nigeria, and worked with the Catholic bishops of that country to liaise with government and monitor nationwide elections, Enwerem came to the diocese of London, ON on a two-year sabbatical in 2004. He worked in parish ministry for the first time there as pastor of St. Michael the Archangel, Brights Grove, ON, and eventually took a teaching position at St. Peter’s Seminary in London.

While teaching at the seminary, he came



Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, (left) the first Dominican priest to serve in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, with fellow Dominicans Fr. Madonna-Godwin Aghedo, OP, and Fr. Emmanuel Aziike, OP, (l-r), at this year’s Chrism Mass. Fr. Enwerem will end his time as a missionary priest in the diocese of Saskatoon this summer, returning to Nigeria to teach. A farewell and 40th anniversary celebration will be held July 8, which is also the exact day of his ordination to the priesthood in 1978. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

to know Fr. Gerard Dewan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, who introduced him to the late Monsignor Len Morand, and then-Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt.

Morand said that there was interest in having Dominican priests come to the diocese of Saskatoon, and so Enwerem put LeGatt in touch with his Provincial Superior in Nigeria.

In the summer of 2007, Enwerem’s superiors asked him to go to Saskatoon to have a look at the place, and report back. “That was my first time on the Canadian Prairies.”

Enwerem wrote a report to his superiors, and a contract was drawn up between the Dominicans and the diocese for members of the “Order of Preachers” to serve in the Saskatoon diocese.

Enwerem was surprised when his superiors then asked him to be one of the Dominicans to go to Saskatoon. “I never expected that. As a matter of fact, I wanted to go home,” he said, noting that his mother was not well at the time. (She has since died.) Asked to give just one year, Enwerem has now served 10.

Although for a time he taught at St. Thomas More College (STM), his service in the diocese of Saskatoon has primarily been in parish ministry, which he says he has thoroughly enjoyed. “Now my Seminary students cannot tease me as one without parish ministry experience.”

“I will never regret being in parish work, but I am a scholar,” Enwerem says, sharing his plans for returning to university teaching. He has no plans to retire, he emphasizes.

“God has been wonderful to me. God has given me good health, and as long as I have good health, I will work.”

Reflecting on his time in the diocese of Saskatoon, Enwerem stressed the importance of Catholic priests “returning to the schools” and building relationships with children and the youth. “We can never abandon the young people. The young people are starved for faith, starved for relationship.... the future of Church of Canada is in the schools.”

As well, Enwerem suggests the diocese invite missionary orders of sisters (and not just priests) to assist with ministry here – perhaps to teach in the schools or to provide youth ministry.

Enwerem would also like to see more outreach to the African-Canadian community in the diocese of Saskatoon. Enwerem and other priests from Africa have taken it upon themselves to offer a monthly “African Mass” at STM, but this is not reaching everyone, he says. “We don’t know what is happening with our immigrant families in terms of their faith,” he said. “How do we nurture them?”

Major milestone anniversaries of ordination celebrated in 2018

During the banquet preceding the annual Chrism Mass, March 26, Bishop Mark Hagemoen continued the tradition of recognizing priests in the diocese of Saskatoon who are celebrating milestone anniversaries during the year. The 2018 list

for anniversaries of 25 years & up includes:

• **60 Years:** Fr. Bernard de Margerie; Fr. Syl Lewans, OMI; Fr. Albert Ulrich, OMI; and Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB.

• **55 Years:** Fr. Ron Beechinor; Fr. Ralph Kleiter; Fr. Mauro Gutierrez; CSsR;

Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI; and Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB.

• **40 years:** Fr. George Chatholil, VC; and Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP.

• **30 years:** Fr. Gerard Dewan.

• **25 years:** Deacon Edward McLeod.

Thousands venerate major relic of St. Francis Xavier in Saskatoon

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Organizers of a national tour with the forearm of Saint Francis Xavier identified several blessings they hope will flow from the veneration of the relic by thousands across Canada, Angèle Regnier said Jan. 18 at a public event at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Conversion to Christ, a missionary abandonment to God's will, and healing were three graces expected from the relic pilgrimage, described Regnier, who along with her husband André, founded the Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) university evangelization movement in Saskatoon in 1988.

CCO organized the pilgrimage in conjunction with the Jesuits of Canada and the Archdiocese of Ottawa as a way to mark CCO's 30th anniversary, as well as the 150th birthday of Canada. Along with Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Francis Xavier is one of the patron saints of CCO.

Regnier challenged those who came out to see the relic to ask for the missionary saint's intercessory prayers.

Some 4,700 attended events in Saskatoon during the relic pilgrimage – including public veneration and school visits at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, a presentation on campus and an event for CCO members/alumni held at St. Francis Xavier parish, as well as a closing Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen Jan. 19, also held at St. Francis Xavier parish (see coverage on the website news page www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news).

During the day of public viewing and veneration at the cathedral, the evening program included testimony, talks, the sacrament of reconciliation, music and prayer. Those in attendance heard how the relic pilgrimage attracted a lot of interest, discussion and media coverage across the country – an opportunity to speak about Jesus Christ and God's glory to many who are hungry for meaning, said Regnier.

Regnier stressed the importance of Christians being missionary disciples in their own lives. "Even if you are not called to India, every one is missionary by virtue of their baptism," she said.

"This world today needs more missionaries. We need more people who will witness to their faith in their actions and in their words. For the most part, those words are going to come through real, heart-to-heart conversations, with your family, with your friends, with your neighbours, with strangers," she stressed.

"The aim of every human heart is to know that they are loved by God, and to love God. And if we don't tell them, how will the ache in their hearts ever be healed?"

She and other speakers also spoke about the impact that praying with the relic is having in their own lives and across the country.

"Tens of thousands of Christians of all cultures, of all generations, in all our cities have come out to venerate this particular vessel of grace: the arm of Francis Xavier which baptized 100,000 people, which would have been extended with the words of absolution... which gave the body and blood of Christ to so many as well," said Fr. John O'Brien, SJ, of Regina, during the program at the Saskatoon cathedral.

The Jesuit priest gave an overview of the life of Saint Francis Xavier, who is considered one of the greatest evangelizers since St. Paul.

In 1540 Francis Xavier became a missionary to Goa, to India, and eventually beyond to Indonesia and Japan. He died on Dec. 3, 1552 on an island within sight of China, which he also had hoped to evangelize.



Vicar-General Fr. Kevin McGee venerates the relic of St. Francis Xavier at a celebration of Mass Jan. 19 at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon.
- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Francophone Catholic youth retreat

Games were part of a retreat at Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens Francophone Catholic parish in Saskatoon Feb. 9, attended by some 110 Grade 7-9 students from seven different French schools across the province. Speakers included Amanda Chan, Joseph Wacholtz, Sr. April Mireau, PM, Daniel Denis and Nicholas Gerwing, with music led by Monique Mireau and assistance provided by a team of volunteers. In addition to games, the schedule featured talks focused on deepening a relationship with Jesus Christ, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and prayer, as well as a panel discussion and question/answer session that included Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

- Photo by Kiply Lukon Yaworski

L'Arche Saskatoon celebrates tenth anniversary: first home in the city opened in 2008

By WYNDHAM THIESSEN,
L'ARCHE SASKATOON

L'Arche Saskatoon will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2018. L'Arche is an international federation of communities in which people with and without intellectual disabilities live, work, and pray together.

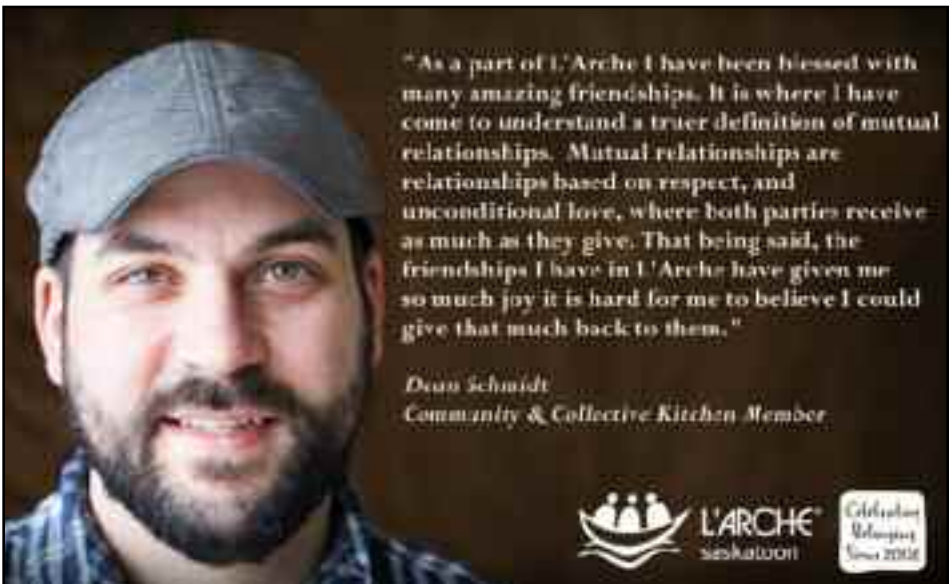
L'Arche began in 1964 when Jean Vanier welcomed two men with disabilities who had been institutionalized to share a home with him in the village of Trosly-Breuil, France.

L'Arche Saskatoon opened its

first home in 2008, and now has two homes – Christopher House and Alma House, both located in southeast Saskatoon – as well as operating a day program, and several other initiatives that provide supports and meaningful opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities.

A public anniversary celebration is being planned for a weekend in July (date yet to be confirmed).

Find more info about L'Arche Saskatoon on the website at: <http://larchesaskatoon.org>



École St. Paul School first to install Treaty 6 medal



Bishop Mark Hagemoen offers a prayer at the Treaty Medal dedication. - Submitted photo

BY DERRICK KUNZ

The École St. Paul School community has become the first school in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools — and the first provincial school in Saskatchewan — to install a Treaty 6 medal as visible recognition of an ongoing relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Working closely with staff at the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, principal Ted View and the school community spent months consulting with the division’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team laying the groundwork to make the installation possible.

“After Bishop Don Bolen (now archbishop in Regina) installed a medal at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and our school parish, St. Anne, installed a medal last year, I started asking questions about how

we could recognize treaties in our building,” said View.

Treaty education has been part of curriculum in Saskatchewan since 2008, but View considers the installation as something more significant than a supplement to classroom instruction. “We have spent a lot of time learning and preparing as a whole school community. Not all parents and guardians have the same knowledge, so we started education of families about treaties in our newsletters, and we had an education evening leading up to the event.”

“The treaty medal being present in schools is part of the education about treaties, the relationship and the obligations. This medal conveys the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship,” said Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson.

“This crucial foundation cannot be forgotten; it is through this visual reminder

of the relationship and its significance that this message will be conveyed for as long students, their parents, visitors and educators walk through these doors.”

View mentioned that families have been receptive: “There’s a real interest in learning more, in having a more rounded perspective of history, Indigenous culture and treaty relationships. There’s a recognition that this is an important step toward reconciliation.”

Bishop Mark Hagemoen and First Nations elders blessed the medal in a ceremony before the public event.

First Nations Chiefs, Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson, a representative from the Ministry of Education and Saskatoon’s Mayor Charlie Clark shared remarks.

Students shared some of their learning, and the school held a round dance after the event to celebrate.



Mother Teresa School welcomes bishop

As part of getting to know his new diocese, Bishop Mark Hagemoen has visited a number of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, including Mother Teresa School. Students heard a bit about the bishop, asked questions and offered advice. The bishop also thanked some students from the school who earlier sent him a special gift cupcake, and he had an opportunity to meet with school principal Guy Werbicki and faith formation facilitator Shelley Twa.

- Submitted photo



Visit winds up with prayer

Bishop Mark Hagemoen recently visited every grade at École St. Gerard Catholic School to thank students and staff for their prayers and support. At a recent school retreat St. Gerard students and staff put together a booklet featuring a spiritual bouquet of prayers offered as a welcome to the new bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Treaty 6 flag raising held at École St. Gerard School

BY DERRICK KUNZ & K. YAWORSKI

École St. Gerard School students, staff and community held a Treaty 6 flag raising ceremony to recognize progress along their journey of learning about treaties and the need for reconciliation.

Community leaders from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and the city of Saskatoon joined Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools leaders and the Catholic school community for the celebration on March 20.

The process of planning the special event gave school staff and the school community an opportunity to grow in knowledge of treaty relationships, according to organizers.

“There was a realization within our community that we needed to know more about this to move forward, and we are able to bring in the expertise of our elders and knowledge keepers to come in and guide us, to share, and to walk along with us in the journey,” said Cristin Dorgan Lee, a teacher who has been instrumental in the process. Other members of the team were Lisa Evans, Annette Finstad and Principal Gisele Jean-Bundgaard.

“From a Catholic perspective, we incorporated the act of reconciliation—with ourselves, others and with God—in making



Fiddlers from St. Michael Community School were part of a recent Treaty 6 flag raising celebration at École St. Gerard School, along with a drum group and a flute group from St. Frances Cree Bilingual School.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

sure this is the best world,” said Dorgan Lee. “We undertook studying and learning more about treaties. We brought in speakers to come and share their knowledge of treaties and how we can grow in understanding of our own treaty relationships.”

The celebration opened with a prayer in Cree by Elder Reg Bugler of Red Pheasant Cree Nation, and in English by Myron Rogal, an alumnus of St. Gerard School who now serves as coordinator of the Office of Justice and Peace in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

St. Gerard students sang the national anthem in French. Students in the fiddle program at St. Michael Community School (which Dorgan Lee also teaches), played the Métis National Anthem. Also participating in the

celebration were Native American flute players from St. Frances Cree Bilingual School and the St. Frances Wolves Drum Group, who accompanied St. Gerard students in singing a Treaty 6 song.

Delvin Kanewiyakiho, of Little Pine First Nation, who serves as GSCS First Nations and Métis cultural consultant, described the preparation that went into the day. “This is really a big deal for us, because we are all treaty people,” he told the school assembly.

Kanewiyakiho burned sage in a sacred ceremony to bless the Treaty 6 flag, before slowly raising the flag in four stages on a pole in the gymnasium, accompanied by the St. Frances Wolves Drum Group, and singers from St. Gerard School. “You young people made my heart fly like an eagle,” Kanewiyakiho said. “Now that

song is in your blood, part of your being.... Maybe some day you will teach it to your great grandchildren.”

Those assembled for the celebration heard how the Treaty 6 flag will now join other flags in front of the school — along with the Canadian, Saskatchewan, and the Métis flags — in a place of honour.

Milton Tootoosis brought greetings from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, telling the story of Chief Poundmaker. Shirley Isbister of CUMFI (Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.) spoke about her own time as a student at St. Gerard School, before treaty education was introduced.

“I look at the school now and I think how fortunate you children are,” Isbister said. “I am so proud to be here to see the diversity... this in a spirit of Reconciliation and how we need to move forward.”

GSCS Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko brought greetings and spoke to the students about the importance of promises such as the promises of the treaties and of the importance of building relationships with each other and with God. She urged students to look at the flag when they walk up to the school and remember the special day of the flag raising.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon described recently attending the ordination of a new bishop for the northern diocese of

Mackenzie-Fort Smith, who chose as his motto “Truth and Reconciliation” — which are important words that reflect what has been happening in Canada through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“We are on a renewed path and journey together,” Hagemoen said. “It is about looking at our history and how we are brothers and sisters, and how we grow in friendship and relationship.” He thanked the students, the teachers and the school community “for reminding us, as we celebrate this Treaty 6 flag, what it means to be treaty people, moving forward together in truth and reconciliation

Saskatoon City Councillor Troy Davies brought greetings and described his experience as a paramedic, working with a partner from Mosquito First Nation, and all that he learned from his partner. “You students know more today than I knew at the age of 25,” he said. Davies also gave students “homework,” urging them to speak to someone at home “about what you experienced here today.”

To conclude the celebration, École St. Gerard students from different grades shared what they had learned: the spirit and intent of treaties, treaty relationships, treaty promises and provisions, and the historical context of treaties.

Dorgan Lee summarized: “I think we’ve created a place where we are even more proud of everyone’s heritage.”

Kambeitz honoured for contributions to Catholic education

BY CATHY JAMES

Reprinted from www.ccsta.ca

A lifetime of dedication to faith and education has earned Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, of Saskatoon recognition at the national level – she has been named the 2018 Higgins Award Winner by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA).

In memory of a distinguished Canadian jurist and Catholic school trustee, Justice James Higgins (1913-1974) of St. John's, Newfoundland, the Board of Directors of CCSTA annually presents the award to a person or group that has made an outstanding contribution to Catholic education in Canada.

Nominated by the Board of Education of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), Sr. Teresita Kambeitz is the seventh woman to receive the honour since the national award's 1975 inception.

Sr. Teresita's 56-year career spans from 1959 when she began teaching in Tramping Lake, SK, through to the present day in her role as Assistant Director of Religious Education for Newman Theological College, Edmonton's Saskatoon extension site.

Over 26 years, from 1959 to 1985, she taught Grades 8 through 12 and fulfilled many roles, including principal, 15 years as a teacher of Christian Ethics, and ten years in campus ministry and as a sessional lecturer at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan.

She served 22 years on the governing board of St. Angela's Academy at Prelate, SK, including eight years as chair. She gave summer courses for teachers in the Caribbean, Latvia and South Africa and the University of Regina. She has been the guest speaker at over 300 educational conferences and events and has published articles in several leading Catholic journals.

In the nomination letter, the GSCS board showcased her vocation as Catholic teacher, as a teacher of teachers and as a leader and advocate for Catholic education.

"Sr. Teresita was the consummate Catholic teacher – deeply faithful, talented, brilliant, and possessing a charisma that inspired in her students a desire to deepen their faith," states the GSCS nomination.

After a distinguished teaching career, Sr. Teresita focused her attention on supporting the



St. Thomas More worshipping community in Saskatoon held a celebration March 11 honouring parishioner Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, for winning the prestigious national Higgins Award for contributions to Catholic education. A congratulatory cake, refreshments, and accolades from former colleagues and students were part of the joyful event at STM.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

development of lay Catholic teachers, recognizing that the teacher is foundational to the Catholic school's ability to realize its mission. In 1988, she established the Master of Religious Education Degree Program at Newman Theological College and served as its director and professor for 11 years. She also developed the College's Certificate Program in Catholic School Administration.

"The impact of this work was not only felt in Alberta, but throughout Western Canada," the nomination letter declares.

"Sr. Teresita deeply understands the unique demands placed on a Catholic teacher."

The board's nomination outlined how she successfully advocated to develop undergraduate courses in religious education for credit at the University of Saskatchewan as well as procuring accreditation for graduate courses in theology and religious education with government agencies in both Alberta and Saskatchewan for teacher classification purposes.

"Our board of education has witnessed the profound impact of Sr. Teresita's life-long dedication on Catholic education and believe it worthy of the Higgins Award."

Saskatoon Catholic school

trustees were not alone in their support. Fr. Ron Beechinor and Ken Loehndorf also wrote letters of support for Sr. Teresita's nomination.

"In her 56 years of outstanding service to Catholic education in Canada, Sr. Teresita has made significant contributions in a wide variety of capacities," wrote Loehndorf, a past executive director of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association. "She has been recognized as a true leader in Catholic education and has constantly embodied the true spirit of servant leadership in all that she does."

When she first learned that she was to receive the award, Sr. Teresita says her feelings were rather muted and mixed. "Immediately there came to mind several people who were extremely significant in offering new opportunities to me in educational ministry," she says.

These mentors and leaders include Rev. Wilf Murchland, CSC, who, as president of Newman Theological College in the 1980s, invited her to join the faculty and establish the MRE degree program (only the second Catholic MRE in Canada at the time). "That was an undertaking of which I could never have dreamed," she says.

***"Every subject – physics, history, literature, etc. – takes on new depth of meaning when undergirded by and integrated in the light of Catholic faith. Students are thereby not only informed but also formed and transformed into all-around authentic human persons."* - Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU**

Then, in 2009, as Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association, Loehndorf asked Sr. Teresita to establish the MRE degree for teachers of this province, even "in light of what at the time seemed to be an insurmountable hurdle to get it recognized by government authorities."

Prior to Murchland's invitation, Sr. Teresita's religious superior, Sr. Rose-Anne Engel, OSU, had urged her for several years to pursue a Ph.D. degree.

"So you see, if it had not been for the prompting of others, I would probably have remained happily as a high school teacher," she explains. "Obtaining a Ph.D. opened unimaginable opportunities for me."

"Thus, my positive reaction to [CCSTA] President Gazzola's call was mixed with a recall of the Gospel words, 'But I have only been doing what I've been invited or commissioned to do,'" she says, paraphrasing Luke 17:10.

When asked why it's so important to integrate Catholic teachings into the school experience, she responded with a clear passion for the subject.

"Each school subject opens a pathway of truth – the truth about ourselves, about our world, about creation, about God. Catholic teaching shines light into the ways these paths converge, thus providing direction and meaning to the whole academic pursuit," Sr. Teresita says.

"Without this faith base, each subject might remain simply an isolated bit of information, 'an inert piece of knowledge' to quote Alfred North Whitehead. Every subject – physics, history, literature, etc. – takes on new depth of meaning when undergirded by and integrated in the light of Catholic faith. Students are thereby not only informed but also formed and transformed into all-around authentic human persons."

Growing up in a pre-Vatican II church which, as she says, was wonderful in many ways but rather narrow in perspective, led her to struggle profoundly as a young

sister with the intellectual and spiritual stretching demanded by her initial studies in Vatican II theology.

"It was in this state of turmoil that I was assigned to teach high school Christian Ethics, encountering considerable confusion not only among students but also among teachers," she explains, adding that making the 30-day spiritual exercises was a "gift beyond words," as the experience of encountering the Christ of the scriptures (as distinguished from her personal devotion) shifted her understanding of religion from an ideology to a scriptural/experiential-based faith.

"With a deeper and broader appreciation of Catholicism and also with further theological studies, I found myself being invited to assume new leadership roles in Catholic education as mentioned above. The doors of opportunity just kept opening and opening."

Sr. Teresita reflects on what Catholic schools can do to help build a student's overall experience in learning and growth.

"If Catholic schools are to contribute to the well-being of the common good in our increasingly pluralistic society, it is imperative that the teachers in Catholic schools offer religious education in a manner that teaches critical reflection as well as tolerance and respect for all faith traditions," she says.

"It is necessary that they (teachers in Catholic schools) be offered opportunities to grow in a Christocentric faith perspective that avoids indoctrination and encourages critical reflection and openness to other faiths," says Kambeitz. "This is the educational goal to which I am committed. I believe that our schools are genuinely 'Catholic' only if their administrators and teachers are Christ-like role models, grounded in Gospel values and sound Vatican II theology."

The Higgins Award will be presented to Sr. Teresita Kambeitz in June at the Annual CCSTA Conference in Kelowna, BC.

Students use art as symbol of reconciliation

BY DERRICK KUNZ

Students at Bishop Klein Catholic School in Saskatoon have expressed their learning about Treaty education, residential schools in Canada and reconciliation through art.

The entire school community presented their works of art to Saskatoon Police Service's Centre for Children's Justice at an event March 14 at the school.

For several weeks, students in 12 classes painted stars that will become part of a larger mural depicting a star blanket. The star blanket represents the eternal protection, support, comfort and love in the eye of the Creator.

"This star blanket mural symbolizes the beginning of a new day where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people start walking on a path that has mutual respect for one another," said Jamie Arcand, the school's Aboriginal Student Achievement Coordinator, who spearheaded the project.

"The mural becomes an act of remembrance – an

act of continuing our ability to talk and heal from our histories, and of learning to do the right thing, said Arcand. "We hope it will comfort children when they are at the centre with its vibrant colors and its feeling of a cozy quilt."

"We are honoured to have the students of Bishop Klein School recognize the work that is done at the Centre for Children's Justice," said Saskatoon Police Chief Troy Cooper.

"They are now our partners in healing, and their contribution will help us build a safe, healthy and respectful community."

The mural will be installed at the entrance of the Centre for Children's Justice at a later date.

The Centre for Children's Justice and Victim Services (once called the Saskatoon Child Center) offers a child-friendly facility where members of helping professions can interact with abused children or child victims as a part of the investigative and criminal justice process.



Traditional blessing

Fr. Ephraim Mensah of St. Philip Neri Parish in Saskatoon offers the traditional blessing of the throat for the Feast of St. Blais, using two candles blessed on the Feb. 2 Feast of the Presentation.

- Photo by Timothy Yaworski

St. Joseph parish hosts two Treaty Elder sessions

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Parishioners and visitors gathered in a circle at St. Joseph Parish Hall in Saskatoon after Sunday Mass Feb. 4 and again on Feb. 11, sharing soup and bannock, listening to the experiences and the wisdom of Indigenous leaders.

At the first session, Mike Broda of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council offered a traditional welcoming gift of tobacco to knowledge-keeper Lyndon Linklater and Elder Agnes Desjarlais, to open the gathering, part of a Treaty Elder Series in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Linklater and Desjarlais both work at the Regional Psychiatric Centre, where they provide traditional ceremonies as a path of healing.

Linklater, who is also a member of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner's Speakers Bureau, described his background and growing up years. Both of his parents – and their parents before them – attended residential schools – his Anishinaabe (Ojibway) dad Walter Linklater in Ontario and later in Saskatchewan, and his Cree mother Maria in Saskatchewan, until she ran away from the school she hated, to be hidden and cared for by her grandmother.

Shared trauma

“Like many, many First Nations people, we suffered as a result of impact from these residential schools,” Linklater said. “There is a common story that starts to emerge, when you talk to those who attended

residential schools; when you talk to their children and grandchildren.” The aftermath has included damaged families and communities, addiction, and dysfunction.

“Today we recognize this illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD,” said Linklater, noting that trauma will impact a person physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. “If you have PTSD, all these sociological factors will plague you,” he said. “And every single person who went to these residential schools — they suffered from PTSD, in one form or another.”

Linklater described how his father was taught to reject his traditions, his language, and his identity, to the point where he did not even know that he was Ojibway.

Damage to children

Linklater also reflected on the profound damage caused by removing children from their families. “In the schools, they were so very lonely. I can't imagine what it must have been like – to be five years old and your mom and dad aren't there for you, to comfort you, to care for you, to nurture you,” he said.

“We know what it is like to have children, to have grandchildren, and how important it is to have young children feel loved. It is so critical, vital, imperative – if that child grows up without feeling loved, that child is going to be messed up when they get older.” And in Saskatchewan, residential schools were not around for just a few years, but for 122 years, he stressed. “So it is multi-generational.”



Mike Broda of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council, Myron Rogal of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, Lyndon Linklater of the Office of Treaty Commissioner speakers' bureau, and Elder Agnes Desjarlais (l-r) at the Feb. 4 Treaty Elder Series. - Photos by Kiply Lukon Yaworski

The Truth and Reconciliation process has offered a path of healing – for residential school survivors and their descendants who did not always even recognize this obstacle that has been in their path – and for the entire country, which made profound mistakes in its history, said Linklater.

Making Canada better

“This is my Canada, this is your Canada, this is our Canada – Canada is the best place in the whole wide world, but it can even be better. And it is up to us as Canadians to make that happen,” he said. “How are we ever going to know where we are going as a country, if we don't know where we have been? How are we ever going to know not to make the same mistakes, if we don't even know we made mistakes in the first place?”

Linklater expressed appreciation for the parish event, noting that “for too long we haven't been able to do this We talk about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 94 Calls to Action – you are doing it right now. You are actually participating in it right now.”

Elder Agnes Desjarlais also spoke about trauma and healing, sharing her own life story and insights. A member of the Muskowekan First Nation near Lestock, SK, Desjarlais and her parents attended Muscowequan Indian Residential School.

At the second session a week later, Lyndon's father, Elder Walter Linklater was also a guest speaker.

Myron Rogal, who coordinates the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace and serves on the Diocesan Council for Truth and



Elder Walter Linklater shared prayer, songs, his life story, experiences and insights at the Feb. 11 session of the Treaty Elder Series.

Reconciliation (DCTR), provided an overview of the Treaty Elder Series, which is a diocesan reconciliation initiative offered in collaboration with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

As one response to the Calls to Action by the national TRC, parishes have been invited to hold events to enhance awareness and understanding of Treaty history and Indigenous spirituality from the perspective of community elders, he explained.

“It is an act of reconciliation itself to be here today,” Rogal said.

For more information about the series or about reconciliation efforts in the diocese, contact Rogal at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon at (306) 659-5841 or justpeace@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

For more coverage of the two St. Joseph Treaty Elder Series sessions, see the news page on the diocesan website at: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news



St. Joseph parishioners and visitors gathered in a circle for lunch before the presentations.

STR8 UP facilitates healing as the way out of gang lifestyle

By FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB

“Those who are in jail, are they the bad people? That's the label on our members: they're losers, lock them up and throw away the key,” said Fr. André Poilièvre of Saskatoon, describing his work with former gang members.

“It is not a question of being good or bad. It is a question of being healthy, about healing people who are broken, not punishing them. Let the courts, the police do that,” he said to a group of students and faculty at a noon luncheon March 16 at St. Peter's College (SPC) in Muenster, SK. The event was sponsored by SPC Campus Ministry.

Poilièvre, 81, is the founder of STR8 UP – 10,000 Little Steps To Healing, an organization that assists young men and women leaving gangs and criminal lifestyles. STR8 UP has helped some 450 former gang members who wanted to change their lifestyles. Many have returned to high school and university or



Devan Napope and Fr. André Poilièvre described the STR8 UP - 10,000 Little Steps to Healing gang recovery program at a recent St. Peter's College Campus Ministry event. - Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

enrolled in trade and parenting programs. Others have completed rehabilitation and addiction recovery programs, and received counseling and psychiatric assistance.

STR8 UP came about some 17 years ago, when Poilièvre was working with the First Nations community in his ministry. He was approached by two people who wanted to leave their gangs

but did not know how.

With a small group of former gang members in Saskatoon, Poilièvre worked with the larger community to develop a strategy for helping people leave gangs. Their ideas developed into STR8 UP, which helps individuals begin new lives by promoting positive relationships, and encouraging healing, honesty and humility.

Devan Napope, 30, a STR8 UP

member and spokesperson told the group that he came from a background of rejection, neglect, and physical and sexual abuse. He was abandoned by his father and raised by a mother and grandmother who were both alcoholics and had few parenting skills. Incarcerated by the age of 12, he spent eight years in prison.

“From the day I was born, I did Napope said.

“I did not ask to be put into this struggle I see every day around me. I did not ask to be born into a skin colour I would be hated for. I did not ask for addictions, violence and welfare. They were there. It seemed, in all of this, my fate was sealed. It took me years to realize I had to get out of that lifestyle. I had to change my ways.”

Most STR8 UP members grew up in poverty, in households where there was violence, and where destructive lifestyles were the norm. Most have struggled with mental illness and have been incarcerated at some point

Healing is the focus of STR8 UP, Poilièvre said.

Members learn about the meaning of positive relationships and are encouraged to begin an inward journey.

Addicts become locked into addictions that keep them in their past and hopelessness. Healing is a process, and STR8UP has the goal of helping people to begin anew with courage and hope, he said.

People of diverse faith backgrounds have entered STR8 UP, Poilièvre noted.

Every person is spiritual, he stressed, even those who claim to be atheists. It is important to have a positive spirituality that fosters honesty and humility. The opposite is arrogance, Poilièvre said.

Members of STR8 UP must write an autobiography as part of growing in self understanding, and must meet five conditions: walk away from gangs, address addictions, work at being honest, learn to be humble, and dedicate four years of healing to STR8 UP.

West Central Reconciliation - working together to find a new path

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For the past nine months, members of the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR) have met with community leaders west of Saskatoon, working together to come up with a concrete way to address division and bring about greater understanding and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

A range of community partners are now working on a newly-created West Central Reconciliation Committee, planning an event aimed at Grades 7 and 8 students from schools at Red Pheasant Cree Nation, Mosquito First Nation, and Biggar, SK.

The group is planning a day-long immersion experience of dialogue and awareness for youth, which will hopefully serve as a witness to the wider community, explains Myron Rogal, diocesan coordinator of Justice and Peace in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, who serves on both the DCTR and the new West Central Reconciliation Committee.

“We are hopeful that the youth can come to know each other, and that something of their experience will be shared with their parents,” says Rogal.

Established as part of a promise by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon made in June 2012 during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event, the DCTR has been doing a range of good work around healing and reconciliation over the past five years, says Rogal.

“But often, that work is preaching to those who are already sold on the message of reconciliation. So we felt called and challenged to really get into the trenches and try to address and perhaps alleviate the divisions happening in our community.”

DCTR members were inspired by the documentary film *Reserve 107*, which tells the story of concrete reconciliation and healing among Mennonites, Lutherans and the Young Chippewyan First Nation in one Saskatchewan community.

The area west of Saskatoon, between Biggar and North Battleford, has been the focus of much attention and emotion since area farmer Gerald Stanley was charged and recently found not guilty in the August 2016 shooting death of a young Indigenous man Colten Boushie, notes Rogal. Those events have also heightened the DCTR’s desire to concretely address divisions that plague many areas of the province.

“Last year we called a committee together of Elders, representatives of the Catholic school board, the University of

Justice and Peace
is supported by the



Saskatchewan, ecumenical partners and other stakeholders – who later became partners – and held a meeting with local pastors of different Christian denominations, to listen to what they were doing, and to gather their thoughts and insights on divisions in their area.”

Need for reconciliation

At the fourth meeting, a feeling of hesitation and uncertainty about whether to keep going was ultimately dispelled when an Elder spoke up and urged the group to go ahead – saying that reconciliation is a profound need that must be addressed.

The group asked for a meeting with the band council at Red Pheasant Cree First Nation, and were invited to attend a regular Red Pheasant/Mosquito Inter-Agency Meeting on Oct. 25, 2017.

This monthly inter-agency gathering includes a range of community partners, including Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre, BATC (Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs) Social Development, Kanawayimik Child and Family Services, Clifford Wuttunee School, Mosquito School, the RCMP, BTC (Battleford Tribal Council) Justice, the City of North Battleford, as well as Red Pheasant and Mosquito First Nations. Issues regularly addressed by this inter-agency group include health care, education, employment, childcare, transportation, community leadership, and barriers to services, Rogal explains.

“We went to the community, because, from day one, we did not want this to be a program that we brought out and imposed. Instead we wanted this to be something that could be developed from the grass roots – something that we could then assist with, something that was led by the community,” he describes.

Answering a need

“We discovered that definitely there was a need, and the inter-agency group we met with indicated it would be helpful for an outside group to be involved.”

The inter-agency group and representatives of the two First Nations encouraged the committee to “have a brave and a bold conversation, focused on youth.”



Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation

Bishop Mark Hagemoen attended his first meeting of the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation Jan. 25 at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon. DCTR members in attendance were (back, l-r) Gordon Martell, MaryAnne Morrison, Blake Sittler, Fr. André Poilièvre, Gertrude Rompré, Carol Zubiak (front, l-r) Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Fr. Graham Hill, CSsR, Myron Rogal, Elder Gayle Weenie, and Irene Sharp.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

After much discussion, dialogue and visioning, the West Central Reconciliation Committee ultimately decided to focus on youth in Grade 7 and 8, and met with principals of local schools.

Day of sharing

“We decided we wanted to have a day focused on traditional teachings – the culture and values of both groups – a day in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous students could come together and share.”

Rogal adds that, in exploring culture, knowledge and values, Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural youth have the potential to realize that they share much in common.

It is envisioned that the project will include a preparation event held beforehand in the individual schools involved (including an information package for parents), as well as an after-event education and debriefing session.

The main event itself would bring together some 50 young people from throughout the area, hosted at a First Nations school, and experiencing hands-on activity and teachings, as well as taking part in facilitated sharing circles.

The vision is that this will not just be a one-time event or effort, adds Rogal.

“We have been asked by the local community there to have this be a long term relationship – not a one-time thing and then move on.”

Because some of the communities involved are located in the Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert, two deacons from that diocese are also offering input into the committee, adds Rogal. “They have long-

standing relationships in the area.”

Key insights and leadership have also been provided by Harry Lafond of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner’s Office, and Elder Reg Buglar of Red Pheasant Cree First Nation, an Elder at St. Frances Cree Bilingual Catholic School in Saskatoon.

Building connections

The West Central Reconciliation Committee is hoping the experience will build connections among young people that will “reset the needle” on racism, and have an impact on young participants.

“We are hoping that students from the different schools will find commonalities in the love of the land – perhaps even in the feelings of marginalization on both sides – we hope that there will be encounter, dialogue, and relationship-building in the listening circles.”

Rogal notes that the challenges facing First Nations and rural communities are often similar.

“Both communities are losing young people. Both want to pass on traditions, operations and care of the land on to children. Both communities are dealing with complex issues – including grief – and both are facing barriers of marginalization, and of not being able to pass down values to family members.”

When reflecting on why it is important to make this effort, Rogal comes back to the gospel call.

“We have a responsibility as a church to open ourselves to this pain and this division, and to listen.”

Returning to Spirit part of outreach at Saskatoon Correctional Centre

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Each month, lives are being transformed through a Returning to Spirit program provided to men at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre by Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office.

Calling forth and working with volunteers from parishes in the diocese, Anderson provides ongoing outreach, prayer and programs at the local prison, funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Anderson recently began using the Returning to Spirit reconciliation model to help men in prison find healing, offering a process for moving from blame and despair to hope and connection.

“If you could see the men when they start, and then again as they leave the program, you can actually see the change it makes in them,” says Anderson. “It starts them on a new path.”

Participants who have shared the impact about the program say

Prison outreach
is supported by the



it is not what they expected. “It was informal, educational, knowledgeable and it made me aware of many things,” said one participant. He said he finally realized “how my past or ‘story’ controlled every aspect of my life and how that affected the people I love.” The program provides a tool for change, others noted.

Comments from the men have included:

- “It got me to love myself, (and) to let other people love me.”
- “It brought some things to light, and (is) giving me the tools to push forward.”
- “It is going to help with many different aspects of my life... as a partner, a father, a brother, and as a son.”
- “I feel strong and like a new



The Returning to Spirit program coordinated by the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre is offering the men a new path of healing and change.

- Photo by Dianne Anderson

person, ready to tackle life and all the challenges that comes with.”

• “Dianne has a way with words and how she carries herself. She made me feel special, like I was human. (She) gave me valuable tools that I can use once I leave here...for my new beginning.”

• “Knowing I’m not alone, and people know what it’s like, and they can help me move forward.”

• “I feel like I have been reborn again.”

Easter worship

Highlights of the liturgical year, such as the Easter Triduum and Christmas, are celebrated at the prison, with Anderson assisted by local priests and volunteers.

This year, Fr. Mark Blom, OMI, presided at Holy Thursday Mass, washing the feet of prisoners. A Way of the Cross was again held Good Friday in the prison yard, while Bishop Mark

Hagemoen presided at Easter Sunday Mass at the prison.

Thanks to donations, a chocolate Easter bunny was also given to each of the men at the Correctional Centre as a way to share the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to let the men know they are not forgotten. The outreach of giving small gifts at Easter and Christmas has an impact on the men, and for some, is part of a healing journey of turning their lives around, says Anderson.

Meanwhile, at the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon, Fr. Steve Morrissey, CSsR, provides chaplaincy services, spending time with men and women in their respective units, celebrating Mass and the sacraments, and providing a listening ear. This year at the RPC, he also baptized five people at Easter, as well as welcoming one already-baptized candidate into the Catholic faith community. “God was so present,” said Morrissey.

For more information about prison outreach contact (306) 659-5845.

Letter from Bishop: Emphasis on reconciliation continues beyond news that Pope Francis is not coming to apologize

Bishop Mark Hagemoen's pastoral letter March 28, 2018 to clergy, religious, lay leaders, and the faithful of the diocese:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am contacting you given the recent release of a letter to the Indigenous Peoples in Canada, written by Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, with regard to Pope Francis not coming to Canada to apologize for the Catholic Church's role in the Indian Residential Schools system.

TRC Report

As you are no doubt aware, one of the Calls to Action in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) called upon the Pope to come to Canada to issue an apology to residential school survivors, their families and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools.

Among those bringing that Call to Action #58 to the attention of the Holy Father have been a number of bishops – including the Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan, and myself, when I was serving as the bishop of the northern diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

In making the announcement that the Holy Father will not personally respond with a visit to Canada at this time, the President of the CCCB describes how Pope Francis is putting the emphasis on the bishops and the local churches to continue to provide and build concrete initiatives, and engage in an ever-deeper path of reconciliation and healing, in the spirit of the TRC.

Here in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the broader community of Saskatoon, the commitment to journeying together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is not new, and continues to inspire ongoing initiatives at relationship building. This community was the site of one of the national Truth and Reconciliation

gatherings, held at PrairieLand Park in Saskatoon in June 2012. The accounts of what happened to children, families and schools in the flawed Residential Schools system were heard and witnessed by many – including many from the Catholic community. The bishop of this diocese at the time, Donald Bolen, spoke in a circle of reconciliation at that gathering, and along with diocesan Justice and Peace Chair Carol Zubiak and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Elder Gayle Weenie, placed a diocesan pledge in the TRC Bentwood Box as a gesture of reconciliation. That pledge established the Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation or DCTR, a dialogue and advisory circle of Indigenous and non-Indigenous representatives charged with raising awareness, addressing justice issues and furthering the work of reconciliation.

DCTR initiatives

Since then, the DCTR has led a number of initiatives, including working with Bishop Bolen on a pastoral letter about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and initiating a community awareness event held at Mayfair United Church in the spring of 2015. In conjunction with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the DCTR has also developed ways for parishes to take steps toward increasing awareness and healing – such as hosting Indigenous elders and OTC speakers to provide learning and insights about treaties and about First Nations spirituality to Catholic parishes, or placing Treaty Medal Plaques in parish buildings to acknowledge their location on Treaty 6 land. In addition, the DCTR has prepared a parish plan for reconciliation, outlining practical steps for faith communities to take in response to the TRC Calls to Action.

The DCTR has also reached out to communities struggling with recent events involving the shooting death of a young Indigenous man in a farmyard near North Battleford. The establishment of a West Central Reconciliation Committee has led

to plans for an event to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from that area together for a day of awareness-building, conversations and dialogue.

Diocesan efforts

Other diocesan ministries are also playing an active role in bringing about reconciliation and healing. The coordinator of Restorative Ministry, Dianne Anderson, regularly holds Returning to Spirit sessions with Indigenous men at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, an initiative that is changing lives. For many years, First Nations spirituality and the experiences of Indigenous Catholics has been part of our Lay Formation program, and in 2007, an Aboriginal Catholic stream of Lay Formation was added to the program. The bishops of the Prince Albert diocese, Keewatin-Le Pas archdiocese and the diocese of Saskatoon work together to provide the program for the Aboriginal people of their three dioceses.

In addition, our diocese is blessed to have Our Lady of Guadalupe parish actively ministering to First Nations, Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, and Métis Catholics, living out the truths of our Catholic faith in harmony with Indigenous spiritual traditions. Their invaluable outreach and leadership

immeasurably enrich our diocese.

I am also extremely proud and impressed with efforts by our Catholic health facilities, our Catholic schools and St. Thomas More Catholic College to take steps toward reconciliation and healing, and make progress in reversing systemic injustice with programs, initiatives, awareness, and most of all - relationship-building.

Moments of joy

In addition to addressing issues of justice, outreach and care, this journey of reconciliation has also involved times of sharing our lives, our prayers and our celebrations. One moment of shared joy was the diocesan celebration of the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in October 2012 – the “Lily of the Mohawks” is the first North American Indigenous woman to be declared a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike rejoiced at this recognition of her beautiful life of holiness and love for Jesus.

I also recall with joy my own installation as your bishop in November 2017, when I was honoured to be accompanied by drummers offering an honour song, led by Indigenous dancers as I entered the Cathedral of the Holy Family to bless the assembly.

Another highlight was celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December with Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners, elders and leaders, alongside Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon and visiting Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas. The incorporation of First Nations traditions into the liturgy, and the feast that followed were important moments of sharing and connection.

These are only a few examples of how we build relationships and grow in understanding. This is part of our gospel call to reconciliation and solidarity. We must walk in love and friendship as sisters and brothers.

As disappointing as it is to many that Pope Francis will not be coming to Canada any time soon, I was humbled and encouraged to hear from Indigenous people in this community. They told me that the desire to receive and welcome the Holy Father is always here.

I ask us all to renew our ongoing commitment to building relationships of honour and respect, and to continue to take concrete steps on this journey of healing that must involve all of us.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon

“We renew our commitment to pursue meaningful, respectful dialogue and the building of positive relationships between all peoples.”

A Message from the Anglican, Catholic, and Lutheran Bishops of Saskatchewan

The events surrounding the tragic shooting death of Colten Boushie in August 2016, and the subsequent trial of Gerald Stanley and recent jury decision, have re-surfaced profound pain to families and communities. They have also raised enormously important questions and challenges for our province and our country.

As bishops who serve Christian communities in our province, we join all those who are longing to escape the slavery of prejudice, racism, anger, frustration, violence and bitterness. We wish to join all those who are re-dedicating themselves to work for reconciliation and peace among all people in our communities and in our nation.

We continue to offer our prayers for all of you, and remain committed to the spirit and principles of truth and reconciliation as we learn to walk together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The path of peace is more than simply avoiding conflict – it is a call to active engagement and to concrete action that builds right relationships. Our biblical tradition highlights that violence breeds violence; that the path forward encompasses acting honourably and seeking mutual respect as we address difficult issues together.

We acknowledge the message many of us are already hearing from Indigenous people across this province and beyond: “Be the change you want to see.”

Building right relationships has been the goal of the Truth and Reconciliation process that Canada has embarked on in recent years, and all are now being challenged and called to pursue that goal with renewed passion and commitment.

As Saskatoon Tribal Chief Mark Arcand and Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark said in a recent statement: “we must continue to work with each other in a good way, in a respectful way.”

As representatives of our churches, we call our own communities, and the wider community, to take concrete steps, in words and actions, in a spirit of humility and good will, rooted in profound prayer. We renew our commitment to pursue meaningful, respectful dialogue and the building of positive relationships between all peoples. We reject the evils of racism and division, and strive to work for peace and reconciliation for a renewed future. *(Signed Feb. 15, 2018)*

Bishop Bryan Bayda
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon

Archbishop Donald Bolen
Catholic Archdiocese of Regina

Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Catholic Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

Bishop Mark Hagemoen
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Bishop Adam Halkett
Anglican Indigenous Bishop of Mississippi

Bishop Robert Hardwick
Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle

Bishop Sid Haugan
Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop Michael Hawkins
Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan

Bishop David Irving
Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon

Bishop Albert Thévenot
Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert



Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR

The new Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese blesses the people during his episcopal ordination held March 16 in Yellowknife, NT. Bishop Jon Hansen served for six years in Saskatoon at St. Mary's Parish, and as a pastor in the north since 2015. The new bishop's episcopal motto is “Veritas et Reconciliatio” – Truth and Reconciliation – inspired by the national commission charged with responding to the harmful legacy of the Indian Residential School System. The motto also echoes the continuing work of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, through whom all things are reconciled to God.

- Photo by B. Currie

Not guilty verdicts in deaths of Indigenous youth

Prayers for community divided by recent events

BY KIPLY YAWORSKI AND MYRON ROGAL

People of many faiths and backgrounds came together Feb. 25, 2018 to pray for a community struggling and divided after two recent trials in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The events surrounding the deaths of two Indigenous young people – Colten Boushie and Tina Fontaine – and the subsequent not-guilty verdicts for those on trial have caused profound pain, fuelled racial tension, prompted protests, and brought calls for justice reforms, said Rev. Scott Pittendrigh, Dean and Rector of St. John's Cathedral, which hosted the event.

"Much of this has, once again, pointed to the larger story of the history of colonization; of residential schools and countless examples where Indigenous people have been marginalized," he said in his opening remarks, citing many recent calls for justice, respectful dialogue, and concrete steps for peace and reconciliation.

Pittendrigh described how community leaders were consulted about the idea of the community prayer vigil, including Harry Lafond, executive director of the Office of Treaty Commissioner and Shirley Isbister, president of the Central Urban Métis Federation. "I thank these and the many leaders in our community – our elders, civic leaders, and community leaders - for their wisdom and guidance."

In his opening words, he acknowledged "the history, spirituality and culture of the peoples with whom Treaty 6 was signed and the territory and traditional lands where this cathedral resides – and our responsibility as Treaty members. I acknowledge and honour the ancestral homeland of the Métis Nation and the heritage and gifts of the Métis people."

Opening Prayer

He also offered the opening prayer for the service that followed. "God of love, open our eyes to see the suffering of all our sisters and brothers. God of justice, open our ears to hear those who cry out. God of healing, open our hearts to acknowledge and share our own pain and the pain of others. In the power of the Spirit, let us know the truth, and may the truth set us free from all bondage and blindness," he said.

Mary Culbertson, the new Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, presented a reading from the biblical book of Habakkuk, "written by a prophet of God while living in the midst of a time of confusion and pain, when the people feared they had been forgotten by God."



Lyndon Linklater, a Cultural Advisor and Treaty Presenter with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, was among those leading prayer at a vigil Feb. 25 in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Sarah Donnelly

Sarah Donnelly, pastoral assistant at St. John's Cathedral, led a prayer response after the reading. "Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound. Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss," prayed Donnelly.

Sitting with the pain

"Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together," she said. "Instead... Let us pray for our indigenous sisters and brothers, and all minorities in our country, whose lives are too often devalued and discarded by a nation whose sins have been too quickly forgotten. Let us lament the suffering of those who live in poverty, and

"We mourn with those who are suffering the loss of precious members of their family. We pray for those whose lives have been irrevocably changed – those residents of the Red Pheasant and Mosquito communities, the communities of Biggar, and the Battlefords, and for all our communities – rural and urban – who live with suspicion, tension, fear and racism."

those who fear their neighbour. Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is often neither blind nor just," said Donnelly.

"Let us be men and women willing to mourn and rend our garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin. Let us be silent when we don't know what to say. Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbours and friends."

Cecilia Rajanayagam, a community-based educator and member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, and Seth Shacter, a member of the board of trustees of Congregation Agudas Israel both read selections from the book of Lamentations.

Lives irrevocably changed

Myron Rogal, coordinator of the Office of Justice and Peace in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, offered a prayer after the first of the readings from Lamentations.

"We mourn with those who are suffering the loss of precious members of their family. We pray for those whose lives have been irrevocably changed – those residents of the Red Pheasant and Mosquito communities, the communities of Biggar, and the Battlefords, and for all our communities – rural and urban – who live with suspicion, tension, fear and racism," Rogal prayed.

"We pray with all churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, Indigenous Elders and all places of worship, for Canada to not become polarized at this moment in our history as a Nation," he said.

"May we all proclaim, with words and with action, that Indigenous lives matter, and that the lives of all citizens are precious. May privilege and power be used as a means to raise awareness, demand justice, and may we recommit ourselves to building communities of peace and reconciliation."

Prayers were also lifted up for those who serve the community – teachers, social workers, police officers, health care workers, politicians and other leaders. "Give them wisdom and strength as those whom we rely on to maintain composure, fairness, and a

commitment to the common good. Come alongside them, Creator. Empower them to serve justly and with compassion," said Rogal.

"We pray for healing in communities that carry the weight of generations of broken down relationships between law enforcement and the people they are called to serve. We lament our country's history of racism and pray for love in the face of violence."

Lamentation prayer

Lyndon Linklater, a Cultural Advisor and Treaty Presenter with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, offered a prayer after the second reading from Lamentations.

"God of the reserve and the city, of the jail cell and the street corner, of the classroom and the police car, look upon the world you have made. See how hatred and violence mars your creation. Gunshots ring out under the heavens that declare your glory, singing the destruction of your children," Linklater prayed. "The clanging of cell doors ring out, tolling the lives stolen by systemic oppression and unspeakable violence."

The assembly then prayed together: "Arise, O God and defend the cause of your heart. Raise up in us the cries of outrage. Raise up in us commitment to the long struggle for justice. Raise up in us the determination to drive out racism. Raise up in us the grief that cannot be comforted. Raise up in us the courage to speak truth to power, and hope to hatred."

Prayer for Peace

After a time of silent prayer, Kumar Balachandran, member of the Hindu Society of Saskatchewan, led a prayer for peace in Sanskrit and English, followed by a reading from the biblical book of Micah by Sheila Cameron-Hopkins, elder of Calvin Goforth Presbyterian Church.

"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" concluded the reading by Cameron-Hopkins.

Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz, a minister serving the Saskatoon Unitarians, led a prayer calling on the Creator to "be near to us in our lament."

"We pray now for all communities of faith in our country, that we may be a voice of peace, a light of love, working for reconciliation and unity, working for justice. May we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters – all races, all skin colours, all ethnicities. May we stand against racism and injustice. May we stand for love," prayed Fraser Gitlitz.

Together the assembly then asked God for forgiveness, followed by a traditional prayer song by Lyndon Linklater.

Pittendrigh offered the closing prayer: "O God, true source of wholeness and peace, in a world bearing fresh wounds of suffering and grief, you call us to be a people of healing. Help us to reach out to neighbours in need, to bear one another's burdens, to weep with those who weep. Help us to hold in our hearts and show in our lives what we proclaim with our lips: goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; and hope is stronger than despair."

At the conclusion of the vigil, those in attendance were invited to come forward and light a candle and to continue in silent prayer if they wished.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Pastoral Team

Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Villeneuve, Elder Gayle Weenie, and Pastoral Associate Sheila Ledoux (front, l-r), along with Pastor Fr. Graham Hill, CSsR, and Deacon Paul Labelle (back, l-r) work together to serve parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon. The parish will host an Indigenous Awareness Training Session on Wednesday, May 30 beginning at 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Lower Hall, 20th St. West and Ave. O South, Saskatoon. Topics to be covered include Residential Schools and the TRC, the legacy of destroyed trust and many hurts, myths and misconceptions, as well as an overview of cultural differences, insights into kinship, ceremonies and family obligations. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call (306) 653-4945.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Dying Healed stresses importance of caring

BY PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB

The legalization of suicide and euthanasia in Canada is more of a sign of the culture of “dying for lack of love” than of a nation being more open to choice, Jackie Saretsky said Nov. 15-16 at a Dying Healed workshop offered at St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt.

The sick and elderly may now actually have less choice and feel pressure to end their lives prematurely, said Saretsky, chaplaincy co-ordinator for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Attitudes about independence and success have led many to believe that their lives are worthless or have less value as they age or become ill, she said. Some feel they have become “burdens” to their families or society when they are unable to work or need the assistance of others.

Saretsky recalled a conversation with a patient who had been diagnosed with a terminal cancer and was terrified over the side effects of the disease and its treatment. The patient felt humiliated at the thought of needing help to bathe or use the bathroom. The idea of wearing a diaper was considered humiliating.

“At what point in life do we become undignified?” Saretsky asked the patient. That concept had not been considered.

The legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide is being

Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by the



interpreted by some as proof that humans have less dignity when they age, have a terminal illness, or suffer from depression or other physically or mentally debilitating illnesses, Saretsky remarked.

When conditions seem hopeless, pressure is felt to choose a premature death. The decision to end a life is easier to accept when it is softened with terms such as “dying with dignity.” Premature death may mistakenly be understood as the only option for people who are vulnerable, isolated, alone and unable to express their fears and needs, Saretsky said.

Physical pain can make life feel unbearable, especially when the situation seems hopeless, Saretsky added, saying that the issue is pain and how to effectively control it. Health care must be designed to relieve pain and not kill the person, she said.

Palliative care is centred on helping ease pain, she said. Palliative care is also an excellent way of affirming the life of the person, helping them to live as



Jacqueline Saretsky, diocesan coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

fully as possible with their particular condition, said Saretsky.

Caregivers can make a tremendous difference for people facing life-changing illnesses. By offering a loving presence and affirming someone’s dignity and self-worth, it is possible to make a profound difference in someone’s ability to navigate illness, she said.

“Volunteers need to witness to the fact that those with poor physical or mental conditions are wanted, loved, possess dignity and deserve respect. The sick are an integral part of our human family, precisely because they call us to

“The sick are an integral part of our human family, precisely because they call us to compassion, to love selflessly and to go the extra mile.”

compassion, to love selflessly and to go the extra mile,” she stressed.

Suffering and end of life situations can be meaningful because they bring people to reflect on choices they have made in the past, to acknowledge previous failures and conflicts, and to find healing and forgiveness. Spiritual healing is possible when there is surrender to the past, and preparation for the next life with God, said Saretsky.

“Dying Healed volunteers have the immense opportunity to be a part of that healing process by reminding the suffering of their inestimable worth and dignity,” she remarked.

The suffering person may understand for the first time that dignity is not attached to autonomy.

The very presence of compassionate volunteers will communicate the value of the suffering person, Saretsky said.

Many people do not have a relationship with God and do not understand why God allows suffering. God does not necessarily take our suffering from us, said Saretsky, but He joins us in our suffering. This mystery gives meaning to the Incarnation in which God became one of us and

lived fully as a human who suffered, she said.

“Suffering produces intimacy with God. We experience God at a profound level,” said Saretsky. “A heart that has suffered and healed is a good caregiver.”

The Dying Healed program tackles end-of-life issues, as well as concepts related to suffering, dignity, and the power of human presence.

Produced by Life Canada, the program emphasizes that physical and cognitive powers are not the source of human dignity; that human life does not lose its inherent value in the face of disability, illness, aging or dying; and that ordinary people can make a difference by providing a loving, caring presence to those who are suffering.

The diocesan office of Hospital Chaplaincy provides pastoral and spiritual care to Catholic patients at Royal University and Saskatoon City Hospitals, funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

For more information about the Hospital Chaplaincy Office or the Dying Healed program, contact Jacqueline Saretsky at (306) 659-5839 or (306) 292-5531 or e-mail: hospitalchaplaincy@saskatoonredioc.ese.com

Life will be enriched by renovations at St. Ann’s Home in Saskatoon

BY HEATHER MACDONALD

Just as in other small communities, life at St. Ann’s Home in Saskatoon involves coffee with friends, celebrations like weddings, and interactions with pets.

“Like the retired men who go down to the coffee shop and chat for the morning, we try to replicate that here,” says Rae Sveinbjornson, Executive Director of the Saskatoon long-term care home operated by Emmanuel Care (formerly known as Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan).

Last fall, 14 couples recalled their own wedding day by renewing their vows in the St. Ann’s chapel, then joining their families for a reception with music, dancing and cake.

“It was really special to see,” says Carla Eager, St. Ann’s Director of Recreation, adding participating residents and their families embraced the joyful occasion.

Welcoming Squirrel, a rescue dog, into the home recently added yet another special dimension to the quality of life for senior citizens living there.

Residents enjoy watching for their friendly, furry neighbour throughout the home. Visitors, especially the younger ones, enjoy playing with the community pet.

St. Ann’s employees strive to ensure residents of the long-term care home live life to the fullest in an environment that treats them with dignity and respect.

The range of recreational and social activities are seen as just as essential to residents’ lives as nursing and personal care.

“I like to look at their life here



Outings, activities and special events help keep days meaningful.
- Submitted photo

as still a life. Many people view a nursing home as their last place,” says Eager. “I try to keep their days meaningful.”

Those living at St. Ann’s Home can choose whether to join the popular “hymn sing”, attend daily Mass, ride in the bus to check out crops, participate in a wiener roast, help with activities for visiting school children, interact with a volunteer, or spend quiet time by themselves.

Employees also ensure a resident is respected upon his or her death. The body is covered in a special dignity quilt and as many staff members as possible form an honor guard. “We welcome them at the front door and honour them as they leave through the front door, surrounded by friends,” says Sveinbjornson.

Over 60 years ago Bishop Klein, along with lay leaders of the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Sisters of St. Elizabeth from Humboldt, formed a “circle of care” and promised the Saskatchewan community that

quality, faith-based care would be available to them in their senior years. Their vision for St. Ann’s included:

- providing quality housing and health care for the sick and elderly;
- recognizing the spiritual and physical integrity and dignity of each person;
- providing care in a compassionate and loving manner;
- affirming the spiritual and corporeal needs of St. Ann’s residents, enabling them to live in dignity with the respect and companionship of their peers.

While the employees focus on nurturing fulfilling lives and providing compassionate faith-based care, the 80 residents presently sleep, visit and eat surrounded by aging bricks and mortar. Plans are now underway to renovate and improve the aging facility to enhance the comfort and safety of residents.

Leaking 40-year-old windows chill resident rooms, most of

which contain commodes because the bathrooms are not presently wheelchair accessible. Both challenges will disappear with the planned renovations to St. Ann’s Home.

Upgrades include installing new windows that open easily and are less drafty, and making every resident’s bathroom wheelchair accessible, which will increase privacy and eliminate hallways cluttered with commodes.

Many people’s lives will change for the better for many years to come.

Comfort, privacy, mobility, ease with daily tasks, safety and communication will be improved for residents, their loved ones, employees and volunteers with

upgrades that will make all 80 resident rooms more home-like.

Recreational, spiritual, social and educational experiences will be enhanced for residents, their families and friends, employees and volunteers with renovations to common areas.

Anyone wishing to enrich the lives of residents of St. Ann’s Home are asked to contact Sveinbjornson regarding contributing to the Spirit of Renewal Campaign. He is available via email at rae.sveinbjornson@saskhealthauthority.ca or phone (306) 374-8900, extension 223. “Your support will make a real difference to countless people today and well into the future.”



Samaritan Place volunteers

Volunteers regularly assist in the celebration of the Eucharist at Samaritan Place, a Roman Catholic long-term care home in the Stonebridge neighbourhood of Saskatoon. Volunteers, including musicians, are presently needed to assist with 11 a.m. Mass on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Contact Simon Lasair Director of Spiritual Care and Mission Effectiveness, at slasair@samaritanplace.ca or (306) 986-1460 ext. 1410 for more information.
- Submitted photo

Saskatoon Friendship Inn programs assist those who are struggling

BY HEATHER MACDONALD

Almost everybody is just one unexpected event away from living in poverty. Social worker Lorraine Scott has seen it happen.

Take the woman whose life changed drastically when her husband, who had a good job and salary, died unexpectedly, and she was forced to sell their home to pay debts. The family is still struggling several years later.

Then there's the man who keeps hoping he can return to work after he finds the right medications to manage his post-traumatic stress disorder. He's among the people that Lorraine knows are unemployed because of physical or mental disabilities, rather than personal choice.

Through no fault of their own, many are experiencing challenges that lead them to the Saskatoon Friendship Inn for meals, warmth, comfort and companionship.

"You can't judge somebody," says Scott, who offers a hand-up to guests of the Inn, which strives to be a caring, safe, non-judgmental place.

As the Friendship Inn's Family Worker, Scott also meets people whose wages are falling short of supporting them. These guests may eat breakfast at the Inn or grab a bag lunch to consume at work.

"We all have a different story



Lorraine Scott is the Family Worker at the Friendship Inn in Saskatoon.

- Submitted photo

that got us to where we are," says Scott, who strives to help the Inn's guests to keep "doing healthy things for their minds and their bodies."

Donors and volunteers are vital to ensuring the Friendship Inn is able to provide children, youth, adults, seniors and families with meals, support programs, and such essentials as diapers or socks, 365 days a year.

To donate items such as winter gloves for adults or children, or offer other support call (306) 242-5122 or check out the website: www.friendshipinn.ca



Bishop's day at Friendship Inn

As a welcome gift for his installation as the new bishop, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon sponsored a day of meals at the Friendship Inn Dec. 8 in the name of Bishop Mark Hagemoen. As is the tradition for sponsors of a "Fill the Plate" Day at the Inn, the bishop was on hand to help serve a meal that day, along with several representatives from the diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre. Open for breakfast and lunch 365 days a year in Saskatoon's core, Friendship Inn feeds between 500 and 1,000 people each day.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Christians invited to build relationships with foster families: reach out

BY MYRON ROGAL

"Who will walk with me through my pain?"

This essential statement which drills into the core of human need, is one of the questions that speaker Lynn Chotowetz of Hands at Work asked the audience Jan. 28 at St. Philip Neri Church in Saskatoon, as some 40 participants gathered to learn more about a growing ministry by Saskatoon and area churches to reach out in support of vulnerable families.

The Foster the Foster Families event was a joint effort involving the Office of Justice and Peace for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Time Out for Moms,

and Hands at Work, along with support from Pure Witness Ministries, which offered a youth component to the evening.

Andi Early, who serves on the executive of Time Out for Moms, opened the evening with words of welcome and an introduction of Chotowetz, who spoke at a recent session of the Catholic mothers' group.

Chotowetz opened the evening by introducing a model of care for vulnerable families, saying that the model for this kind of care is "Christ the King, who was first and foremost a servant."

The background of this model, founded on friendship and

relationship, was born through Chotowetz's experience of serving in South Africa during the African AIDS crisis. The pull to enter this crisis for Chotowetz and his wife stemmed from a desire to be with "the most vulnerable of the vulnerable."

It was there that the need for families to support families became clear. Although services to meet vital and basic needs began to be made available in the area, depression, suicide and family breakdown rates remained high. There is a need deep within the hearts of the people that even the very best services cannot fulfill, Chotowetz explained. There is an

urgent need to break down isolation through relationship and friendship.

"It was the gift of hope changing lives in the midst of pain," stressed Chotowetz. Today, Hands at Work builds this hope in 68 villages throughout South Africa. As Chotowetz started to plan a transition back to Canada, he and his wife Jamie began thinking about who are the "most vulnerable of the vulnerable" in this country.

They discovered that, despite having a child welfare system filled with competent and caring professionals doing the best they can, many foster families lack basic relationships and connections that can help sustain them in their foster work. "But" exclaimed Chotowetz, pausing before adding: "we won't let the story end like that – there is a huge opportunity for us!"

For foster parents there can be a sense that they are under many daily pressures and yet, "when we are most in need is when we are least likely to ask for help," said Chotowetz, citing his ongoing Africa experience. This sense of failure is not a fault of the foster parents, nor can a direct line be drawn to a system that, like any system, cannot work exceedingly well when it is overburdened.

Because policy and resources cannot ultimately solve this deeper need for connection, Chotowetz focuses on the opportunity that remains for churches and families who can share in these burdens and respond. For some, this may eventually lead to a call to become

foster parents, but for most it involves building a friendship.

There are many basic needs that can be met in acts of friendship and support – such as bringing meals, offering mom and dad a break, or becoming mentors. Chotowetz expressed his confidence in the ability of churches to take on this outreach, pointing out that the government's mandate is not to love, and that love cannot be "outsourced" by Christians.

"Christ did not pay someone to go on the cross for him," he said.

The final challenge offered by Chotowetz was for "families to become something bigger than ourselves," quoting St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta: "The problem with the world is that we make the circle of our families too small."

Following the event, Early noted that the Time Out for Moms group strives to encourage a greater understanding of the Catholic faith – and enhance and support Christian living and family life.

"Lynn's presentation on his mission experience and fostering foster families in our community did just that. We are grateful to have heard his story and many of us were called to help in whatever way we can. There are so many children outside of our families that need our help and our love."

For more info on how to become connected with this movement of change, contact the Office for Justice and Peace at justpeace@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or call Myron at (306) 659-5841.



De Margerie Series for Christian Reconciliation and Unity

The 2018 De Margerie Series for Christian Reconciliation and Unity was held during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon, featuring guest speaker Rev. Dr. Susan Durber, moderator of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, theology coordinator for Christian Aid in the UK, and a minister of the United Reformed Church. Leaders at the De Margerie Lecture Jan. 25 at St. Thomas More College (STM) included (l-r): STM President Dr. Terrence Downey, St. Andrew's College Professor of Church History and Ecumenics Rev. Sandra Beardsall, STM Director of Mission Gertrude Rompré, local ecumenist Fr. Bernard de Margerie, guest speaker Rev. Dr. Susan Durber, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism Director Dr. Darren Dahl, and Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Find more coverage of the De Margerie Lecture and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/news - Photo by Kip Yaworski

Forming spiritual directors: plans underway for next program

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A program that prepares and forms spiritual directors is offered periodically at Queen’s House of Retreat and Renewal in Saskatoon.

The next opportunity to take the Spiritual Direction Formation Program will begin January 2019.

“The experiential nature of the Spiritual Direction Formation Program distinguishes it from strictly academic programs,” says Gisele Bauche, who co-directs the program along with Dianne Mantyka and Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI.

Participants gain knowledge and skills for ministry, while also integrating all learning into their own self-awareness and spiritual journeys, Bauche describes.

The goal of the program is “to prepare mature, adult Christians in the ministry of spiritual direction, mentoring, and prayer companionship of leaders and laity in parishes and congregations, ministries and vocations.”

Beginning with an extended weekend orientation retreat in January 2019, the live-in Spiritual Direction Formation Program (SDFP) will run from Friday evening to Saturday evening monthly, concluding in July 2020.

Topics include prayer and discernment, contemplative prayer, faith stages, eco-spirituality, the mystics as guides, Biblical spirituality, the spirituality of the Psalms, art as spiritual expression, dreams, grief and loss, intimacy/sexuality, bio-spiritual focusing, 12-step spirituality, co-dependency, Ignatian spirituality, ecumenism, First



Recent graduates of the Spiritual Direction Formation Program (SDFP) which is offered at Queen’s House in Saskatoon. The next session begins in January 2019. - Photo by E. Klaassen

Nations spirituality, and social justice, as well as a six-day silent Ignatian retreat practicum.

Past participants enthusiastically describe the impact and benefits of the program.

“The SDFP was an intense learning experience regarding my relationship with self and others, and a deepening of my relationship with God,” says graduate Eileen Klaassen.

“Through the caring of those in our group and new insights gained, the grace of God abounded - and I am most grateful to have had this rich opportunity for learning and growth.”

The program was enriching both personally and professionally, says Rebecca

Gilbert. “The 19-month program provided skills, resource material, prayer forms and a rich circle of kindred participants to share, explore, and learn more about faith in an ecumenical group. We were transformed through the months to become more of who we are called to be... Ultimately, we were healed, transformed, and energized by going deeper into the heart of the mystery of an ever-loving, compassionate God.”

Gilbert adds: “The program is a must for all who want to journey with others in a more prayerful, loving, listening, compassionate way.”

Graduate Mona Goodman says the program expanded her understanding of God.

It was “graced time to listen and be with others as we deepened our relationship with God,” she describes.

“During the 19 weekends, various presentations, articles, and concrete spiritual direction experiences enabled me to grow in trust and rest in the darkness where God transformed my heart,” says Goodman.

Alyson Lauber says the program held many gifts, including: “the opportunity to increase my understanding and compassion for others, to make deep connections with people I would not have otherwise met, and to experience God in new and life giving ways. But most importantly, the SDFP increased my capacity to listen in a culture where people are longing to be heard.”

The deadline to apply for the program is Aug. 31, 2018. Cost is \$5,800, which includes tuition, as well as room and board (there is a schedule for spreading payments over the duration of the program).

Pre-requisites for taking the SDFP include regularly seeing a spiritual director, taking the Introduction to the Enneagram program (offered at Queen’s House), and completion of an intensive spiritual retreat (such as the seven-day silent directed retreat beginning June 29, 2018 at Queen’s House, or a 19th Annotation or 30-day Ignatian Retreat, or Soul Stream’s Living from the Heart, Jubilee I, or other equivalent).

For more information about the SDFP or to apply for the program, contact Dianne Mantyka at dimantyka@sasktel.net or (306) 514-2193.

Weddings and funerals as moments for ecumenical sensitivity



Dr. Darren Dahl, Executive Director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism spoke on ecumenical sensitivity Nov. 14 in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kate O’Gorman.

By KATE O’GORMAN

The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (PCE) recently offered a public event at St. Matthew’s Anglican Church in Saskatoon entitled, “The Uncomfortable Pew: Ecumenical Sensitivity at Weddings and Funerals.”

The Nov. 14 event drew clergy and lay people from a variety of Christian traditions and offered a friendly and hospitable environment to reflect on experiences of ecumenical etiquette and sensitivity.

In his introduction, PCE Executive Director Dr. Darren Dahl invited participants to recall a time when Christian church services – such as weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations – would exclude family and friends belonging to another Christian denomination.

“Just a generation ago, it was common that one simply didn’t participate in the services of other denominations. It just wasn’t an option,” explained Dahl.

Many in attendance shared stories and lamented memories that highlight this history of Christian division.

Despite this painful past, Dahl emphasized that, thanks to our ecumenical conversations, particularly at the local and regional levels, we no longer think the same

way about our relations to other churches as we did a generation ago.

“We give thanks that, for the most part, we aren’t there anymore,” said Dahl. “It’s fairly common practice now, especially when it comes to life-cycle services (funerals, weddings, etc.), that we find ourselves being invited into our neighbour’s churches.”

He went on to say that because Christians are no longer apart in the same way, when we do find ourselves in churches that are not familiar to us, we now face a new set of challenges.

“Part of the ecumenical journey is learning and understanding that we remain diverse even in our attempts to be united,” explained Dahl.

“Being a good ecumenical friend in a church that is not our own requires one to recognize that there is an etiquette to adhere to, such as in various denominational practices around the Eucharistic table. There are expectations around what it means to be a good guest and what it means to be a good host and when those expectations bump up against the theological and liturgical boundaries that still exist between us, things can get awkward.”

“The challenge we face now is how to

live together, celebrating our ecumenical accomplishments while recognizing the boundaries and sensitivities that exist and the etiquette that is required to navigate our ecumenical life together.

“Unfortunately, many of these practical modes of ecumenical etiquette are often discovered by trial and error, thereby creating experiences of the ‘uncomfortable pew’,” explained Dahl.

“What could we do in our home parishes to make guests from other traditions feel welcome at services such as weddings and funerals, while also helping them navigate modes of appropriate practice and etiquette?”

With a desire to facilitate open dialogue for cross-denominational learning, those in attendance were invited to share their own experiences of navigating ecumenical etiquette, followed by a robust conversation around how to be a good ecumenical host.

The PCE plans to offer more such events in 2018 to help foster practical ecumenical conversations.

For more information about upcoming PCE events, visit www.pcecumenism.ca or call (306) 653-1633.

Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation will be offered July 10-13

The Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation 2018 takes place July 10-13, 2018 at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, 10 Grosvenor Crescent, Saskatoon. Visiting scholars this year are Dr. Sandra Beardsall and Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina.

The Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation offers participants who attend the annual event over three years a certificate in ecumenical studies and formation from St. Andrew’s College and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (PCE). The Program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation is of particular interest to ecumenical officers, those training for ministry, those engaged in ministry in an ecumenical setting, and lay people wishing to increase their knowledge of the ecumenical movement. Local

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism & the Education of Laity Fund are both supported by the



scholars, ecumenists and international visiting scholars lead the program.

Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsall is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada. Since 1997 she has been Professor of Church History and Ecumenics at St. Andrew’s College, Saskatoon. She is a member of the Faith and Order Commission

of the World Council of Churches, and co-chair of the national Anglican-United Church dialogue group.

Most Reverend Donald Bolen is Archbishop of Regina, who served as Bishop of Saskatoon from 2010 to 2016. Formerly on staff with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome, where he worked on Anglican-Roman Catholic and Methodist-Roman Catholic dialogues, he is now a member of that same Pontifical Council. He presently serves on the International Consultation between the World Evangelical Alliance and the Catholic Church and is Co-Chair of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission and the Joint International Commission for Dialogue

between the World Methodist Council and the Catholic Church.

Registration deadline for the program is June 15; cost is \$350.

Find registration forms and more details by e-mailing programs@pcecumenism.ca or calling (306) 653-1633, or see the website at www.pcecumenism.ca

Participants from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon can apply for financial assistance from the diocesan Education of Laity fund for educational programs and training. Contact Director of Pastoral Services Blake Sittler by e-mail at director@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or call him at (306) 659-5842 for information about how to apply. Early registration is \$275 until May 31.



Theresa Winterhalt and Shannon Granger (l-r) are administrators at St. Angela Merici Residence.

- Photo by Helen Zimmer

St. Angela Merici care home open to new residents

BY SANDRA KARY

St. Angela Merici Residence, located at 125 Cree Crescent in Saskatoon, was licensed as a personal care home as of Jan. 1, 2018.

Having been home to the Ursulines of Prelate since 1986, the residence is now opening its doors to the public to enjoy the care and community that the religious order has offered their own Sisters for many years.

"We have completed the modifications and renovations to our residence, not only meeting, but exceeding the requirements set out by the Ministry of Health," says Theresa Winterhalt, Executive Director of St. Angela

Merici Residence. The residence retains its uniquely Catholic flavour – holding daily mass, holy hour and the rosary – however people of all faiths (or of no faith) are welcome.

"At this time, many of the residents here are Ursuline Sisters, but we have welcomed our first new resident, and have room for more who have need of this level of personal care – men or women," states Winterhalt.

An already strong staff care team now includes a new Community Social Coordinator, Helen Zimmer.

Exercise programs, crafts, and seasonal activities such as gardening are just a few of the

offerings in place to enhance the warm and hospitable home that the residence has always been. Home-cooked meals, a beautiful chapel and green atrium spaces help to draw the community together.

High school students from Bishop Mahoney School are also involved as volunteers and companions to the residents.

Another added benefit at St. Angela Merici Residence is the staffing structure. As a larger-than-usual care home, they have full-time kitchen, laundry and housekeeping staff, which allows care aides to be more focused and interactive with the residents.

"We have a really dedicated staff, it's more than a job here for

them – they truly care for our residents," adds Winterhalt.

The care staff are also equipped with Gentle Persuasion Approach (GPA), which is a higher level of education and skilled care than would be found in most other personal care homes. Added to the staff complement is the expertise of a Registered Nurse for 24 hours a week, along with a dedicated physician who regularly comes on site to tend to the needs of residents.

For information regarding admissions to St. Angela Merici Residence, contact Theresa Winterhalt or Shannon Granger at (306) 242-5566, ext 5, or e-mail: stangmerici@sasktel.net

Upcoming CWL events include diocesan convention in Kindersley

BY ADELE GIBLIN, CWL

The Saskatoon Diocesan CWL 83rd Annual Convention will be held Monday, April 23 at St. Joseph's parish in Kindersley, SK.

The guest speaker will be Carla Carlson, author of *Everyday Grace*. There will also be a speaker from National CWL Council on "Planning Strategically for the Future."

The presider at the Eucharistic celebration at 4:30 p.m. will be Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

This year's CWL theme is "Inspired by the Spirit, Women respond to God's call."

The Prince Albert diocesan CWL convention was held April 14 in Rosthern, and the Regina archdiocesan convention will be held April 29-30 in Yorkton.

The Our Lady of Good Council group will gather at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon, for Mass at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26 (with Bishop Mark Hagemoen presiding), followed by a potluck supper.

April 30 is the deadline for young women ages 18 to 35 years to apply for the provincial CWL Social Justice Award – a prize of up to \$1,000 to be used in pursuing a reputable social justice project at home or abroad. For more information about applying for this provincial award, contact Mary Nordick at m.nordick@sasktel.net or call (306) 374-5612.

June 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the Saskatchewan Catholic Women's League. The focus for the Saskatchewan CWL this year is on supporting Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC). The provincial CWL convention will be held June 3-4, 2018 in Regina.

The national CWL convention will be held in Winnipeg Aug. 12-16, 2018.

The national CWL 100th anniversary will be marked in 2020 with a national convention in Montreal.

Check out the provincial and diocesan CWL websites for more information, or see the national website at: www.cwl.ca



Saskatoon Regional CWL Quilters

In January 2015, a group of Catholic Women's League members and friends got together to make quilts for the CWL Clothing Depot. The fabric is donated, with the group only having to purchase batting and some fabric for quilt backs. The group has now created over 300 quilts, as well as Christmas stockings and other items. Organizations receiving quilts now include the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Egadz, the Crisis Nursery, YWCA women's shelter, the Lighthouse, and Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre. The quilting group meets on a drop-in basis at Holy Spirit Church in Saskatoon two Mondays a month (no meetings are held from May to August, nor in December.) Participants come for an hour or for a day; some sew, some iron and some sort fabric. For more information or to donate fabric, call Margaret Schwab at (306) 374-4214.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Pregnancy Options Centre provides support for all aspects of pregnancy

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

Growing numbers and lack of space have been daily challenges at the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre for the last couple of years and that doesn't appear to be changing in 2018.

SPOC provides support for all aspects of pregnancy. Crisis counseling happens in a variety of ways – in person, over the phone or texting for options for unplanned pregnancies, offering a place to talk for post-abortive women who have no one to talk to, and providing information and education for mothers and fathers who need physical and emotional help to support an ongoing pregnancy.

"In 2017 there were 1,149 client visits, up from 825 visits in 2016," says Executive Director Cathy LaFleche. "By this time last year we had 50 new clients and 11 new babies born – in 2018 we have seen 67 new clients and had 17 new babies born. We definitely need more space."

While having the counseling rooms busy with pregnant moms and new parents taking educational programs is great, it can be difficult to find space for the pregnancy tests and options for clients who need immediate care and are often very emotional.

"If an options client walks in off the street, we still have a quiet place in my office," says LaFleche. "But we are bursting at the seams many days."

Clients find educational support through an Earn While You Learn Program, a one-to-one peer counseling session where participants watch videos, with printed teaching materials and homework, to earn Baby Bucks that can be spent in the centre's Baby Boutique, a new clothing and supply room. "We also have a gently-used supply room that's all free of charge, but clients



A number of family and friend rinks participated in a St. Patrick's Day Curling Funspiel in support of Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre: (standing from left to right) Jessica Carruthers, David Anaka, Rebecca Carruthers, Bernie Chantantier, Meagan Renneberg, Brandon Carruthers, Blair Carruthers, Jennifer Carruthers; and (in front) Amanda Carruthers.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

really enjoy a sense of pride in educating themselves and improving their parenting skills for the added benefit of 'buying' new baby clothes, diapers, formula and many other items," says LaFleche.

Fatherhood and male mentorship have also become part of the program in the last year. Boyfriends, husbands, mothers, sisters or friends are encouraged to accompany the client if they are part of her support system and more couples have been attending together. This led to resources being developed specifically for fathers. They can attend education sessions as a couple or on their own to meet with a male mentor to talk about being a dad.

Brad Banman has been volunteering at the centre for almost a year. "In many of these situations there is a real lack in male mentorship about how to be a father. I remember starting out as a dad with this newborn and it was all new and unfamiliar. Even (with) being married and having extended family around, it was tough," says Banman. "These men make a huge first step coming in here looking for help. Wherever possible we need to support that and help build a family."

There have been increases in referrals from other agencies like Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby and Egadz. "Healthy Mother, Healthy Baby refers clients to us for maternity

clothes and baby supplies. They also send mothers over who may not fit into the timeline for group classes and are beyond 36 weeks," says Client Services Coordinator Tracy Unger.

"We have so many new immigrant clients from Nigeria, Afghanistan and the Ukraine. We started a Syrian Mothers Drop In with an interpreter. They meet once every three months," explains Unger.

The centre has also expanded its outreach to new groups of supporters, recently organizing a fund-raising curling event.

"We wanted to have a fun activity to build community with supporters who don't usually come to galas and want to show their support for the centre with their families," said Joan Hoerdt Lukan, committee chairperson.

The 16 spots were filled with mostly family curling teams. The most funds were raised during a pie auction held after supper. "Joe Sikora used his live auctions skills and really added excitement to the event," said Lukan. "We had a great turnout of people under 25 who had a great time."

The centre is completely dependent on donations from individuals and churches. There is no government support. "We have really great monthly and yearly donors and also had over 400 attend our Fall Gala which is our major fundraiser," explains LaFleche. "To move and expand will require more fundraising and asking the community for help," she notes.

"We have mothers who come in two weeks before their due date and clients who come for post-abortion support decades after their experience; women who call to talk and decide to have an abortion and then come in soon after to deal with regret and emotional pain they didn't anticipate happening. There is no timeline for helping," says LaFleche.

Mother-daughter team writes spiritual resource for families

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Creativity and spiritual insights from two generations went into the creation of a family-friendly Lenten resource used this year across Canada and the United States.

Mother and daughter team Leah and Robyn Perrault of Holy Family Cathedral parish in Saskatoon worked together to produce the content for the booklet of daily reflections, activity and prayer, entitled *Practicing Love*.

Author and theologian Leah Perrault has written other books published through Novalis, and it was one of her former editors who recommended her to Creative Communications, when that U.S.-based publisher was seeking someone to write a family resource for Lent.

“They described what they were looking for – something really practical for families. And I asked ‘Would you mind if I did it with my daughter? She is super creative and I think she would be able to help think up the activities,’” explained Leah.

Robyn, 10, said she enjoyed working on the project, providing input into the daily reflections and ensuring that the examples and ideas would resonate with children, as well as with adults.

The resource had a one-page entry for each day of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, which includes a scripture verse from the readings for Mass that day, a short reflection, a one-line prayer, and a “Practice Love” activity for family members – such as a hands-on craft or action, a ritual of asking for and receiving forgiveness, or finding concrete ways to show love or offer service.

“The goal was to write something that could be deeply meaningful to adults as well as children,” explains Leah.

“And still have fun,” adds Robyn.

“We tried in the writing and also in the activities to make sure there were examples for adults and children. Both so that it was relevant.... and also to help both children



Leah Perrault and daughter Robyn (holding baby brother Atticus) of Holy Family Cathedral parish in Saskatoon recently worked together to write a Lenten resource for families entitled *Practicing Love*.
- Photo by Kiply Lukon Yaworski

and adults imagine how a practice or a principle is applicable for all ages,” says Leah. “For instance, Robyn knows how hard it is for kids to be patient, but maybe she sometimes forgets that it is also difficult for mom and dad to be patient.”

It was Robyn who suggested that the resource use the same simple prayer every day of the Lenten season – “Jesus, I give you my heart with my acts of love today” – in order to help families learn and remember it.

Focusing on love as a Lenten practice resonated for the authors, who undertook the project in the summer of 2017, which was a difficult time for their family, in the midst of grieving the miscarriage of a baby girl, and the death of Leah’s sister.

“When I was thinking about what our family needed from Lent, it wasn’t penance,

it wasn’t pain... rather it was finding ways to practice the love that Jesus does, walking toward the cross,” explains Perrault.

“For me the most meaningful Lenten practices have always been practices... and in looking for places where that practice shows up in my life, and having it sometimes show up where I didn’t expect,” says Leah of the “practicing love” theme of the book.

“Maybe our family could be a little more peaceful, a little more loving, experience more forgiveness,” she says of using the resource, noting how many of the scripture passages this year dealt with forgiveness. “I even thought a couple of times, maybe families are going to think we got bored... but, you know, our family has needed every day that came up (with a reflection) about forgiveness.”

The booklet’s introduction encouraged families to use the resource in a way that works best for them. “When you practice, be gentle with yourself and each other,” wrote Leah and Robyn. “If you cannot read the reflection in the morning, then read it at night and practice tomorrow. If you miss a day, don’t let that stop you from coming back the next day. If you love one idea for practice and can’t do another, repeat an activity or make up your own.”

The authors also noted that love never goes out of season. “Practicing love for Lent can deepen your faith in times of difficulty just as much as in times of great joy,” notes their introduction, with the authors expressing a hope that families will join “in practicing love at home so that it can spill out into a world longing for God’s love.”

The arrival of the books in early January was “kind of a nice surprise,” says Leah, noting that in the busyness of life – including the arrival of baby Atticus Daniel on Feb. 5, 2018 – she had actually forgotten all about the project.

Asked if she likes the way the book turned out, Robyn emphatically replies: “Yes, yes, yes, yes,” and relates how she autographed copies for her grandmothers.

Response to the resource has been positive, says Leah, with many people sending affirming messages to the writing team. The *Practicing Love* resource sold out before Lent began, with some parishes disappointed when orders could no longer be filled.

Although this year’s resource was designed so that it could easily be used during future Lenten seasons, the mother-daughter writing team says they would be willing to do it again next year, if the publisher also proves interested. “Maybe we could think about practicing hope,” says Leah to Robyn.

As for Robyn’s hope for the resource: “I just hope people enjoy doing it as much as we enjoyed writing it.”

Certificate program in leadership introduced for Catholic women in Canada

By ADRIENNE CASTELLON, EDD

A new Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation program will begin this spring in Canada.

Women have always had a significant role in the Catholic Church. Historically, women held roles as educators, philosophers and doctors in the Church. Others have had a tremendous impact on the world through their service of the sick, poor and hungry. Biblically, stories of women range from acts of charity, hospitality to spreading the Good News with the Apostles themselves.

Today, Catholic women are at the forefront of the Church – serving in administration, engaging in speaking events, involved in social justice – and spreading their faith in the workplace, their home, and the world.

Over the past few decades, there has been a growing need for Catholic women to fill leadership positions – roles where they are able to share their values, gifts and talents in powerful and meaningful ways – not just in service to the Church, but in the wider society, in workplaces, in the community, in the world.

Founded with gifts from the Sisters of Service and the Catholic Women’s League of Canada, the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation was created to serve the needs of Catholic women in supporting their leadership aspirations.

In meeting the vision to create a

“just, merciful, and compassionate world nurtured by the genius of women,” the Foundation, in partnership with the Providence School of Transformative Leadership at St. Paul University in Ottawa, will be offering an annual leadership program for Canadian Catholic Woman starting in May 2018.

This certificate program has attracted Catholic women from across the country who have a genuine desire to make a difference in today’s secular society in their communities and places of work.

The philosophy of the program is based on transformative leadership, characterized by practical, trans-disciplinary and creative frameworks. Leaders are encouraged to serve their people well, while engaging in efforts that transform the organization.

The program aims to educate leaders who serve communities of faith and the public interest, both domestically and internationally. The goal is to foster critical analysis, authentic presence, vision, expertise and compassion for leadership equipped to address the challenges in society and in our daily lives.

The program includes:

1. Prayer and reflective practice – time and processes to integrate new ideas and develop leadership skills;
2. Facilitators to accompany participants and guide time and process;

3. Spirituality and a Catholic faith perspective to inform all activities;

4. A diversity of accomplished women leaders and educators as speakers and panel members;

5. Timing that accommodates women who may be working full-time.

6. A schedule that allows time for networking and connecting with other Catholic women leaders across the country.

The program’s introductory module and seven online study modules (10-15 hours per month) are offered online, guided by

trained facilitators, with a five-day residence session in Ottawa in June 2018, and a four-day residence session in May 2019.

Program content explores themes of transformative leadership, women and community, spirituality and emotional intelligence for leadership, leadership and Catholic Social Teaching, conflict and social change.

The first cohort of 14 participants are all professional women from all regions of Canada, with different careers and social/cultural backgrounds who range in age from early 20s to late 50s. They are all active in their

communities in areas of social justice and advocacy.

In the fall of 2018, new applications will be accepted for the 2019 program.

The Foundation funds each chosen participant to cover the education elements and all travel and living costs. Program participants demonstrate their commitment to the program not just through their valuable time but also through their treasure, with a \$1,000 contribution to the Foundation.

Additional information can be found at <https://cwlfcanda.ca>



St. Therese welcomes bishop

Students in the Faith Formation Program at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK recently welcomed the new bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for a visit. Bishop Mark Hagemoen (front row) joined students and staff for Mass, a tour, and an overview of the nine-month program of faith formation. The program includes daily prayer and sacraments, community living and a curriculum that consists of classes in theology, Church history, philosophy, and scriptures, lived out in a spirituality of humility, surrender and trust in the Lord through St. Therese of Lisieux’s “Little Way of Holiness.” Through the year events such as a recent Lenten retreat with Dr. Scott Powell on the background of the five sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary, and a Springtime of the Faith series of week-long conferences are also open to the public. More information can be found at www.sttherese.ca
- Photo by Veronica Skuban

Sharon and Colm Leyne emphasize importance of family faith

Editor's note: Recently asked by a reporter from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints about their family's focus on faith, Colm and Sharon Leyne of Warman, SK worked together to prepare a testimony about living as a Catholic family. Colm and Sharon are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Saskatoon and are the parents of Jacinta, 8, and Ezra, 3. Colm is the director of Vocations and Youth Ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and Sharon works part time as an administration assistant at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

BY SHARON LEYNE

Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is vital in how we function first as individuals, second as a couple, and third as parents.

This faith – this relationship – is the foundation of our family and when either of us is weak in this area of our life, it bleeds into our family life and everything else that we do. We are less patient, understanding, and we tend to be more selfish and less loving to one another when our faith is lacking.

However, when we are intentional about working on our faith with more prayer and deepening our relationship with God, there is a clear difference in our home, mainly that of a sense of peace. Not everything is perfect, there are still tons of time-outs, but we are a lot better at loving our children and each other even at our worst.

Our personal growth and constant effort to keep our relationship with God healthy and as our centre, is critical. We cannot give what we don't have.

Colm attends men's groups which challenge him to continue to grow in his faith and have that community of men to support him, while I volunteer at our church to not only help others come to know the gospel but to be surrounded by constant learning and opportunities to deepen my faith life.

Our children being secure and knowing that they are loved unconditionally by us is a beautiful gift that we can give them because



Sharon and Colm Leyne recently reflected on the importance of faith in their family, and hopes for their children Jacinta and Ezra.
- Photo submitted by the Leyne family

it will be essential in their understanding of how God loves them. Helping our children build a strong foundation of faith is a beautiful gift we can give to the world, because it will hopefully help them to grow into people who will seek out ways to serve, to love, and to bring Christ to others.

We want to raise people who look outside of themselves and ask "Where is God calling me? Where am I needed? How can I love as Jesus loves?"

We hope to pass on the faith to our children, but we know, in the end, the decision to remain faithful adults will be theirs. With this in mind, we are striving to help them to develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We can pass on the tradition and teaching, but the relationship has to come from within.

The desire to want to live a life for Christ has to be authentic and is ultimately their

responsibility when they are older. With that said, as their parents, it is our duty and our privilege to nurture and guide them as they navigate what it means to have faith and to be in a relationship with Jesus.

We are adamant about giving them every opportunity to grow in their faith life, through youth groups, bible studies, retreats, prayer time at home and most importantly celebrating the sacraments and attending Mass.

This relationship is just like any other relationship: it needs work. So the more time they can have to experience God, the deeper that relationship gets, and the stronger it will become.

When our children no longer live with us, we hope that they will continue to take those opportunities to grow on their own because Colm and I know how amazing it is to have a constant in our life, no matter what changes.

As Catholics, the Eucharist is the centre from which everything stems. Our understanding of Mass, especially for our family, is that this is what nourishes and strengthens us and reminds us of how much God loves us.

Our kids don't sit there perfectly; they don't understand it all, in fact, many Sundays it would be easier just not to go — especially when dealing with our extremely vocal three-year-old — but we do go, and we help them to understand.

We go to Mass because we need it, and our family needs it. We go because God and the community lift us up, and when we leave, we are always better than when we arrived.

It's not just what happens in the church — it is about carrying that Eucharistic experience with us into our home and out in the world.

The sacraments have and will continue to be the one constant in our lives; they will always be the pinnacle of every celebration, especially during the Christmas and Easter season, when we essentially live at the church!

We have been very deliberate in making sure that the church feels like a second home for our kids: the more we are there, the easier it becomes for them to feel as though they belong, and that feeling, especially for teenagers, is crucial.

We have both spent years working in youth ministry, and we have seen that at the root of every choice teens make there is a need to feel loved, to feel welcomed, to feel as though they belong.

Knowing this, we want our children to know that if for some reason we have not been able to give that assurance to them at home, or if they are not receiving that at school, they will have experienced it at church and they will know they can always go there.

I honestly cannot even imagine what our family would look like without our faith at the centre. It really has been a wonderful blessing and we hope others can experience that blessing as well.

Search for meaning leads to St. Therese formation program

BY REBECCA SKUBAN WESTLOCK, AB

"You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." These words of St. Augustine have rung with profound resonance in my own heart since I ambitiously picked up his *Confessions* at age 13 and read them on the first page.

These words speak of an intrinsic longing that I have experienced intensely, even in the brief years of my life — the desire to draw closer to God. I have long known — in theory — that God loves each and every person, and that each and every person is called to love God.

That said, the question I wrestled with was how exactly I was supposed to grow in this relationship. As a young woman on the brink of life, I was not sure of my own identity. I wasn't sure how to give of myself, because I didn't know who I was called to give. As I neared the end of high school, I began to search for something that would quell the restlessness of my heart. I planned to spend a year travelling Europe and hoped that somewhere in my wanderings I would find myself.

All was well, plans were made; that is, until two of my cousins — who were attending the first-year of the nine-month Faith Formation Program at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission — somehow



Rebecca Skuban (left) with cousin Veronica Skuban — Rebecca found the answer to her longing to draw closer to God when she visited her cousin at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK. She is now completing her first year of the Faith Formation Program at St. Therese.
- Photo by Faith Ortmeier

persuaded me to ride a bus for several hours from Edmonton to Saskatoon and visit them in the *Middle of Nowhere*... I mean, Bruno, SK.

Of course, my reasons for braving this trip into the unknown were very exclusively focused on visiting my dear cousins. I had no intention whatsoever of even considering the possibility of attending St. Therese. I knew what I was looking for, and I wasn't going to find it in this little corner of the world — or so I told myself. The Holy Spirit had different ideas.

Much to my surprise, I was won over almost instantly by the atmosphere as I entered into the way of life at St. Therese. The encounters I had with the students and staff revealed a deep-seated peace and love in their hearts and a confidence in identity that I had never witnessed before. Here it was! Somehow, I knew that this rambling old building contained within it the answer to the heart cry that had been echoing within me for so long. Something in me clung to this place, knowing that God waited to meet me here.

At the end of my stay, and on the drive back to Alberta, I came to the striking realization that during this short visit, St. Therese had become my home. In light of this knowledge, the day after I returned I called off all previous plans and began to fill out application forms for St. Therese's first-year program.

A year later, and here I am, two months away from the end of that nine-month formation program.

Stillness is found in abundance at St. Therese, even beneath the liveliness of community life and all that it entails. It is present in the beautiful relationships that I've formed with my brothers and sisters in community, in the classes that we take, and in the Truth I've fallen in love with through them, as well as in the everyday beauty which makes itself manifest in simple things such as washing dishes, the early-morning walk to Mass at St. Bruno parish, and the mealtime conversations that always prove to be edifying and uplifting.

We often speak about the "duty of the moment" at St. Therese — the vocation to love in whatever way I am being called to *right now*. It is in these small things that this duty of the moment is lived out.

I had always believed that I would find God by running around and searching for Him. In this place, however, I have learned that

in being present to the duty of each moment — whether it is waking up before the crack of dawn to attend morning prayer, studying, or simply having a conversation that I feel prompted to have — God finds me.

The way of life that we strive to live at St. Therese is the Little Way that St. Thérèse of Lisieux taught: the way of childlike abandonment. The Father has taught me who I am, in all of my littleness — my identity is found as His daughter. In accepting my own weaknesses and surrendering them to Christ, I find peace. I am shown how to love by resting in the arms of Love itself. That earnest search for my own identity and relationship with God finds its rest every time I choose to live and love in every moment, encountering Jesus in my own stillness.

Of course, the journey has only begun. There will always be a longing in my heart for God, just as there will be a longing in each person's heart until we all find our eternal rest. I will always have more to discover about who I am, and who God is in me.

As I look forward to returning to St. Therese next fall for a second year of formation, I find joy in the knowledge that there is an unfathomable amount of growth that is waiting to take root in me as God calls me deeper into the mystery of His love.

Connecting, informing, evangelizing - communications is key. But what next?

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Changes to methods and means of communication in recent years have transformed the way people connect, and how they get their news and information.

Long-standing news vehicles such as newspapers and magazines are waning, and electronic communication, the Internet and social media platforms now dominate.

Among the casualties are both secular and faith-based newspapers and magazines, including the Prairie Messenger, which is about to cease publication.

The Catholic newspaper, published by the Benedictines at St. Peter's Abbey, was launched within nine months of the monks arriving at Muenster in May 1903. First



published in German, the newspaper was a way to publicize the new colony and attract German Catholic settlers, says Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, the current editor. But from the start, it was also a way to chronicle the life of the growing settlement, and to nurture faith.

First called St. Peter's Messenger, the newspaper was published in both German and English, and then in English only –

eventually becoming known as the Prairie Messenger. Through the years, the award-winning weekly continued to keep the Catholic community informed, connected, and, often challenged. For instance, the Prairie Messenger played a big role in communicating the news and changes in the life of the Church both during and since the Second Vatican Council.

For generations, the Prairie Messenger has covered matters of faith, doctrine and theology, along with news and commentaries, never shying away from current issues and controversies, and always in dialogue with the world.

However, financial losses, declining subscriptions, and other factors have led to the decision to

close the Catholic newspaper in May, the Abbot has announced.

Although not a diocesan publication, the Prairie Messenger has been a long-standing communications vehicle for the diocese of Saskatoon. Considering how its closure will affect communications in the diocese of Saskatoon has prompted a larger reflection on our entire communications strategy.

Increasingly, communication is about a lot more than providing information to the community. People today are actively engaging with social media, videos, podcasts and more – this new reality and these tools have great potential when it comes to offering ministry or sharing faith.

And ultimately, evangelization

is about effective communication. As part of determining next steps, a Diocesan Communications Survey has been prepared and is being shared in several forms - in print (below), as well as via e-mail and online (see the Survey Monkey link, below as well).

Let us know what you think. Tell us how your prefer to get information. What are you looking for when it comes to Catholic news and faith-based communication?

As an added incentive, those who respond by Pentecost Sunday, May 20, will be entered into a draw to win \$100.

In the meantime, why not visit the diocese on Facebook, follow @saskatooncath on Twitter, or check out the diocese on YouTube?

Diocesan Communications Survey

We want to hear your preferences and your ideas for communication in our diocese!

You are invited to provide your insight by completing our communications survey before May 20, 2018 -- either mail or drop off this completed survey to: Communications Office, Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd floor, Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK. S7S 1H1 or complete this survey online in an easy-to-use format at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/Diocese_Communications

Prize draw

As an added incentive for participating in our Diocesan Communications Survey, we will enter your name in a draw to receive a \$100 prize!

Section A - Parish communications

1. For parish news and events, rank the following communications methods in order of your own personal preference, with 1 being the most suitable to you and 7 being the least suitable to you. (NOTE: There's no requirement to use all seven choices, you can simply indicate your favourites!)

- Announcements at mass by priest or speaker
- Printed weekly bulletin
- Church or hall notice/bulletin board
- Parish website
- Text/SMS
- E-mail parish bulletin or parish newsletter
- Parish social media outlets (eg. Facebook / Twitter / Instagram)

Section B - Diocesan communications

2. For Diocesan news and events, rank the following communications methods in order of your own personal preference for diocesan news/events, with 1 being the most suitable to you and 9 being the least suitable to you. (NOTE: There's no requirement to use all nine choices, you can simply indicate your favourites!)

- Diocesan Bulletin distributed at parish
- E-mail Diocesan Bulletin / diocesan updates
- Diocesan Website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Diocesan Newsletter (printed newspaper)
- Diocesan Newsletter (electronic version)
- Videos available online
- Printed materials (posters, brochures)

3. What kind of information do you most like to access in diocesan publications and on diocesan platforms? Please check any that interest you:

- Upcoming events
- Coverage of past events
- Parish news
- Bishop news
- Ministry news and initiatives
- Inspirational stories
- Justice and Peace issues and news
- Ecumenical news and initiatives
- National-International news
- Profiles about people
- Faith formation / info on Catholic faith
- Prayer and Scripture resources or columns
- Other -- what else is of interest to you?

4. The Diocesan Newsletter is a tabloid-style newspaper published twice a year (spring and fall). It is distributed with parish bulletins and through Catholic elementary schools. Do you read the Diocesan Newsletter?

- Yes, I read every word
- I flip through and read bits here and there
- No, I drop it in recycling without looking at it

5. Please rate how informative / valuable you find the Diocesan Newsletter on a scale of 1 (no value) to 5 (extremely valuable).

6. The Diocesan Newsletter should be:

- Twice a year (as it is now)
- Monthly (as a smaller publication)
- Four times a year (as a smaller publication)
- Discontinued
- Other:

7. Do you prefer to read the Diocesan Newsletter online rather than in print?

- Yes
- No
- I would, if it was easier to find/navigate online

8. Have you visited the Diocesan Website (www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com) ?

- Yes
- No

9. Do you read articles posted online on the Diocesan Website news page?

- Yes
- No
- I would, if they were easier to find/navigate

10. Do you have any comments, concerns, or recommendations about communication in our parishes or in our diocese?

Section C - Other sources of news, connection and information

11. Please check off and/or share with us your favourite examples of general news or information media that you regularly read, follow, or visit:

- Newspaper(s). Example:
- Magazine(s). Example:
- Website(s). Example:
- Twitter account(s). Example:
- Blog(s). Example:
- TV channel(s) / program(s). Example:
- Radio station(s). Example:
- Other. Example::

12. Please check off and/or share with us examples of your favourite Catholic or faith-based media that you read, follow, or visit:

- Newspaper(s). Example:
- Magazine(s). Example:
- Website(s). Example:
- Twitter account(s). Example:
- Blog(s). Example
- TV channel(s) / program(s). Example:
- Radio station(s). Example:
- Other. Example::

13. When it comes to connecting with Catholic news, resources, faith enrichment, or groups, which social media platform would you prefer?

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Pinterest
- YouTube
- Other:

Section D - About You

14. Your Age range is (please circle): Under 18 19-35 years 36-55 years over 55

15. Your Parish / Community is:

16: Optional - If you wish to be entered into the survey draw to win \$100, please provide your name and e-mail or phone number: :

We welcome any other comments or concerns you might have about communications in the diocese either through this survey or by e-mail to communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or call coordinator Kiply Lukan Yaworski at (306) 659-5844.

Collaborative spirit ensures preservation of precious archives

BY MARGARET SANCHE

When the new Saskatoon Diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre opened in 2012, there were a number of opportunities for members of the community to take “open house” tours of the second-floor facility located at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

One of the areas which held particular interest for many was the newly-constructed dedicated space for the diocesan archives -- with its compact shelving, acid-free document boxes, temperature and humidity controls, and extensive fire protection measures.

During the tours, visitors were invited to come right into the restricted-access archives storage area to observe and try out the moveable shelving units.

They were also able to learn more about the archives, which holds historical records of the past works and ministries of the bishops, priests, parishes, faith communities and Catholic lay organizations within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

After a long physical separation, the new Catholic Pastoral Centre facility has brought together the diocesan archives and the working offices of the bishop, the chancellor and the pastoral ministries of the diocese. This truly represented a “homecoming” for the historical records, which had been housed in locations distant from the Catholic diocesan offices for almost 20 years.

In the archives facility, the diocesan archivist provides security, arrangement and physical care of non-active records – and assists with the research use of these documents, photographs and other media which provide information about the works of the bishops and the chancery over past years.

The diocesan archives is one of the works of the church which is mandated by canon law and comes under the authority of the chancellor — at the present time in our diocese, that is Fr. Clement Amofah. In most dioceses, the care of the archives is delegated by the chancellor to a trained diocesan archivist and that has been the case in the diocese of Saskatoon since 1992.

The earliest and oldest records in the Saskatoon diocesan archives date back to the early years of Catholic settlement in Saskatoon and area in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

With the establishment of the first Roman Catholic parishes and missions, the early archival records were retained in the chancery offices of the vicariate apostolic of Prince Albert.

When a separate diocese of Saskatoon was officially formed in 1933/34, the relevant parish and sacramental records were transferred to Saskatoon from Prince Albert and our diocesan archives collection had its beginnings.

In the ensuing years, as the number of



Sr. Phyllis Kapuscinski, NDS, represents one of the women's religious congregations working with Diocesan Archivist Margaret Sanche to house materials at the diocesan archives facility at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

“Archives are places of memory of the Christian community and storehouses of culture for the New Evangelization. Thus they themselves are a cultural good of primary importance whose special merit lies in recording the path followed by the Church through the centuries in the various contexts which constitute her very structure.”

-“The Pastoral Function of Church Archives” (PFCA) - Circular letter of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, Feb. 2, 1997

parishes and the works of the diocese increased, the archival records – financial, administrative, legal and historical – necessarily required more space.

For a time, the documents were stored in file cabinets and storage boxes in St. Paul's Cathedral rectory. Later, when the construction of the downtown Saskatoon Catholic Centre (established in 1960) was completed in 1964, most of the archival records were moved to various locations within that building.

Some organizational work was done on the records over the years from time to time, but in general the diocesan archival documents were regarded more as an annoying storage problem than as an important and precious resource supportive of the ongoing work of the diocese.

The awareness of the need for a change in attitude began in the 1980s. Two history projects requiring extensive use of archives were undertaken, and it was during the research in Catholic historical records that concerns were raised regarding the care of the archives of the diocese – and of other local Catholic institutions and organizations.

The first of these projects was the research and writing of the history of the diocese by Duncan F. Robertson. The book, *The Sword of St. Paul: A History of the Diocese of Saskatoon 1933-1983*, was completed and published in 1982, in

anticipation of the diocese's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1983.

I was the author of the other history publication: *Heartwood: A History of St. Thomas More College and Newman Centre at the University of Saskatchewan*, published in 1986. In the next few years, I completed my MA in History and in 1989 I began work as the archivist / historian of St. Thomas More College.

At some point, Duncan Robertson and I had begun to “compare notes” about our experiences in using the diocesan and other Catholic archival records – and we shared concerns about the shortcomings in the care and security of these important historical documents. In our informal discussions, usually over coffee at STM, Duncan Robertson and I were joined from time to time by STM faculty members Jean-Guy Quenneville and John Thompson.

In 1991, we four, plus then vice-chancellor of the diocese, Fr. Paul Donlevy, formed the Ad Hoc Catholic Heritage Committee, with STM President John Thompson serving as chair.

Others were invited to participate, including representatives of religious congregations, the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, and the Saskatoon Catholic School Board.

The Ad Hoc group's initial purpose was to find out what was happening (or not happening) with regard to the care of Catholic historical records of all kinds and from all sources within the diocese of Saskatoon.

After gathering and evaluating the information, the committee members agreed that the first and most immediate need was the preservation of the diocesan archives.

The group presented briefs to Bishop James Mahoney, to the Diocesan Finance Committee and to the Priests' Council, pointing out the importance of the historical records and offering assistance in formulating a plan for their care.

With the approval of the bishop and his advisors, plans began to take shape for the Ad Hoc committee to find a suitable location and employ an archivist to deal with the records.

In the spring of 1992, the Saskatoon Catholic School Board offered the temporary use of space in the school board offices across from the Catholic Centre and Bishop

Mahoney appointed retired librarian/historian Duncan Robertson to serve as diocesan archivist.

Robertson offered to work as a volunteer to gather the records from their various locations and to begin the process of cataloguing and re-housing the documents in archival document boxes – and the Knights of Columbus provided financial assistance for the purchase of shelving, office furnishings and a computer.

Robertson carried out this work until his 70th birthday in June 1994, at which time he “re-retired,” and I was appointed diocesan archivist in addition to my STM archives work.

The search for a suitable location for the diocesan archives continued. After various possibilities were explored, the records were eventually transferred to the former St. Pius X Seminary building on the University of Saskatchewan campus in the summer of 1994. (It was later deemed timely and providential that both an archives facility and a professional archivist were in place by the time of Bishop James Mahoney's death in March 1995 -- and thus, his 27 years of episcopal records could be collected, stored and cared for in the diocesan archives.)

In September 1994, a consortium of Saskatoon Catholic archives, in which three collections housed in separate locations and cared for by one archivist, was formed. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate (St. Mary's Province) had asked to participate in the Catholic archives group – and I agreed to take on the care of their records, housed in Mazenod Residence, in addition to the archives of STM and the diocese.

In 1998, following the enlargement of the territory of the Diocese of Saskatoon to include the former St. Peter's Abbey and parishes from the Archdiocese of Regina and the former Diocese of Gravelbourg, a Diocesan Archives and Heritage Commission was established by chancellor Fr. Paul Donlevy to look at what changes would be needed regarding the historical records.

One decision taken at that time was that most of the pre-1998 records of the former abbacy at Muenster would continue to be housed in the archives at St. Peter's Abbey – they are currently cared for by archivist/historian Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB.

The tri-partite Catholic archives consortium arrangement ended in 2010, at which time the care of the STM archives was transferred to the Catholic college's library staff.

The collaborative arrangement between the diocese and the Oblates of St. Mary's Province continued, however, and, in December 2014, the Oblate records were transferred to the new diocesan archives facility in the Catholic Pastoral Centre, where I continue to care for them.

During the planning for construction of the new Catholic Pastoral Centre, the diocese received requests from a number of congregations of women religious for assistance with the long-term care of their archives.

Eventually, seven congregations based in the Saskatoon diocese were given space and archival assistance in the new facility, and all have now transferred some or all of their records to the diocesan archives. Financial contributions from the congregations assist with the long-term preservation of these important historical records.

With the diocesan archives now well-housed within the Catholic Pastoral Centre facility in Saskatoon, the spirit of cooperation and collaboration in preserving our local Catholic history thus continues on into the future in new ways.

“Archives, while preserving the witnesses to religious traditions and pastoral practices, have their own intrinsic vitality and validity. They contribute efficiently towards the growth of a sense of ecclesial belonging in every generation and they show the Church's effort in a certain territory.” - Pastoral Function of Church Archives 1.3



Diocesan archivist Margaret Sanche oversees the protection of important historical materials, which are carefully catalogued and stored at the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

Local youth participates in pre-synodal meeting at Vatican



Jacob Genaille-Dustyhorn of Saskatoon was a Canadian delegate to a pre-synodal meeting in Rome.
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Jacob Genaille-Dustyhorn, a young Cree man from Saskatoon, was one of two Canadian delegates to an international pre-synodal meeting of youth held March 19-24 at the Vatican.
The other Canadian delegate was Emilie Callan, a bilingual television producer and writer with the Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation.
The gathering of youth in Rome was part of preparations for an October 2018 Synod of Bishops that will address “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.”
Genaille-Dustyhorn, a 22-year-old education student at the University of Saskatchewan, said

he was honoured to be a delegate, and to share a First Nations perspective with youth from around the globe. “My dad went to residential school, and I have been learning how to deal with those effects in a positive way. As part of this trip to Rome, I hope to share my personal experience,” he said.
Raised by a “super-positive” Christian mother, Genaille-Dustyhorn is not Catholic, but faith is an important part of his life. He points to truths that people of all backgrounds can share in common. “We all look up to God, to the Creator, a Greater Spirit,” he says.
There were also a number of other non-Catholic youth participating in the pre-Synod meeting in Rome, although most of the 300

youth from across the globe were practising and engaged young Catholics.
Input from youth at the recent gathering was added to some 15,000 youth responses to online survey questions to produce a Pre-Synodal Meeting Document.
Distilled and compiled by youth at the pre-synodal gathering, the document will be one source for the *Instrumentum Laboris* (“working instrument”) for the Synod of Bishops in October.
The pre-synodal document addresses several main areas: “challenges and opportunities of young people in the world today” - including the formation of personality, relationships with other people, young people and the

future, the relationship with technology, and the search for meaning in life; as well as “**faith, vocation, discernment and accompaniment**” – including young people and Jesus, faith and the Church, the vocational sense of life, vocational discernment, and young people and accompaniment; and “**the Church’s formative and pastoral activity**” – including the manner of the Church, young leaders, preferred places, the initiatives to be reinforced, and instruments to be used.
The entire Pre-Synodal Meeting Document – along with more information about the October Synod – is available online in several languages at www.synod2018.va

Catholic Students’ Week closing celebration held at STM

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
An evening Mass and social gathering with the new bishop of Saskatoon concluded this year’s Catholic Students’ Week at St. Thomas More College (STM) in Saskatoon.
Observed across Canada Jan. 28 to Feb. 4, Catholic Students’ Week began with an annual Newman Retreat at St. Peter’s Abbey, facilitated by STM’s Director of Mission and Ministry Gertrude Rompré.
At the wind-up celebration Feb. 4, Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon presided at the Eucharist with Fr. Mark Blom, OMI. In his homily, the bishop explored the scriptural theme for this year’s Catholic Students’ Week, taken from Judges 6:14: “Go with the strength that is within.”
Hagemoen began by asking some big, existential questions, such as: “What is the end you have in mind?” and “What is the source of the strength, how long do you have it, and are you on your own in this?”
These are extremely practical considerations, said Hagemoen – “perhaps most especially when we are at our wits’ end, or have run out of energy.”
The bishop pointed to the scripture readings, including the first reading from the book of Job, which tackles the question of suffering. “When you are doing everything right, as you understand what God wants of you, and things go wrong nonetheless: what is going on?”
Job appeals directly to the fundamental love of God, despite terrible and unexplained desolation, Hagemoen said. “I suggest one of the blessings of our scriptures tonight on the theme of ‘go with the strength that is within



Bishop Mark Hagemoen joined students, staff and parishioners at St. Thomas More College Feb. 4 for Mass and a social gathering to mark the close of Catholic Students’ Week.
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

you’ is that we see there is a strength that is present, (and) persists, no matter what... despite – or maybe especially because of – dark times.”
The gospel demonstrates that Jesus Christ’s strength “comes from a dynamic of intimate relationship with God, his Father, and in loving service to his sisters and brothers – there is an interplay of prayer and loving service.”
This is a strength that directs itself not just to 70 or 80 or 100 years of life, but to

eternity, he added, sharing insights into the Paschal Mystery and its impact on the lives of individuals who may have seemed to be at the end of their strength. “That is the strength of our Lord, who truly goes where no one has gone before.”
Newman Club executive members provided music for the celebration, and the college’s Knights of Columbus council sponsored pizza afterwards.
During the social gathering, four members of the STM Just Youth group spoke about their recent experiences attending a Justice Generation conference organized by Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry (CCCCM) Jan. 26-28 in Montreal.
Accompanied by Madeline Oliver of STM Campus Ministry, the student delegates from Saskatoon were Ana Meckelborg, Alyssa McCullough, Grace Rath and Katherine Luneng.
The four delegates took turns describing elements of the Justice Generation conference, which included presentations on Catholic Social Teaching, as well as information about the work of Development and Peace/ Caritas Canada.
Participants also visited the Kahnawake shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and a Mohawk Cultural Community Centre to learn more about First Nations spirituality and Truth and Reconciliation in the area.
Finally, a conference presentation about a Jesuit canoe pilgrimage of relationship and reconciliation in the summer of 2017 has inspired the four Saskatoon participants to consider the possibility of organizing a similar experience on a smaller scale in Saskatchewan.

“Busy Person’s Retreat” among creative offerings of STM Campus Ministry

BY MADELINE OLIVER
St. Thomas More College Campus Ministry offers a number of specialized retreats for students, faculty and staff.
The Online Busy Person’s Retreat (first semester), The Study Retreat (first and second semester), The Newman Retreat (January) and The Busy Person’s Retreat (second semester) are each tailored to respond to the needs of the academic year, mindful of the highs and lows that exist in the institution of Catholic higher education on the University of Saskatchewan campus.
Campus Ministry held another successful Busy Person’s Retreat March 5-9. This retreat is unique in that it is designed for people to take part in during the most hectic time of the academic year.
Students and faculty often feel like they are overwhelmed with



STM Campus Ministry offers a number of retreats during the academic year for students, faculty and staff.
- Submitted photo

assignments and deadlines. Adding another commitment to their already demanding schedule would seem counter-productive. However, this retreat is organized so it fits the participants’ schedules, helps them better focus on their academic tasks, and creates a sense of community.
Remarking on the flexibility of the retreat, one student declared, “It helps one realize what one can do in half an hour with the Lord.”
With dates and times advertised in various ways on campus, the retreat began with an orientation held to set the tone, to hand out scripture passages, to match each participant with a spiritual mentor and to encourage a shared journey.
Each retreatant was instructed to spend a half hour privately with their assigned scripture and then meet for another half hour with their spiritual mentor to discuss how the scripture is speaking to them.
The scriptures chosen were

from the lectionary. This was beneficial for those who also attended daily Mass at 11:30 am at STM college. The orientation and the end of the retreat were the only times when the group was gathered as a whole.
Coffee and fellowship at the concluding session provided a debriefing opportunity at the end of a busy week.
Participants included undergrads, graduate students and faculty members from a variety of disciplines. STM Campus Ministry offered a wide range of mentors so that people from different religious backgrounds and denominations would feel welcome. The five mentors were a combination of campus ministers, an ecumenical chaplain from the U of S and a religious sister.
The value of the retreat was expressed in feedback from the

participants. One person stated, “It was a gift from heaven to participate in this retreat.”
Another commented, “I like how the retreat gave me an opportunity to sit down and find moments of peace during this chaotic time of year with papers and assignments, etc.”
Creatively integrating spirituality into the life of the students and faculty in a university setting can lead to many positive outcomes. For some, it is a first time encounter with spiritual direction, others discover they can connect scripture to the struggles of life, and some learn that they are not alone in the search for spirituality.
For more information about STM Campus Ministry or retreats offered during the year, email moliver@stmcollege.ca or call (306) 966-8940.

Micah Mission volunteers work with ex-offenders

BY BLAKE SITTLER

When a person goes to jail, several things happen: a person loses their privacy, their dignity, their job, their home and in many cases, their family and friends. And when that person serves their time and gets out of jail, they get back some of their freedom, but many of the things and people that they lost do not return.

The Micah Mission is an ecumenical ministry in Saskatoon that was born out of the recognition that when a person who is just out of prison tries to reintegrate into society, if they have no friends or family, no home, and no job, then there is an incredibly high statistical chance that they will reoffend.

Staff and volunteers of Micah offer their time to sit with ex-offenders and give them a healthy friendship, and that friendship might be the only thing that keeps a person from re-offending.

The board and staff of the Micah Mission organized a volunteer appreciation event Jan. 27 for their 64 volunteers and for many of the men who benefit from the various offerings of their ministry.

It was reported that 2017 was



Volunteers at the Micah Mission were highlighted at a recent appreciation gathering – in the last year, 64 volunteers donated 5,334 hours.

- Photo by Blake Sittler

a difficult year for Micah. After serving as Community Reintegration Chaplain, Peter Oliver's position was discontinued for financial reasons. Oliver's leadership was noted and a round of applause followed.

There has been some financial turnaround with funding from the federal government through the Federal Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

This was announced last May by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale under the National Crime Prevention Strategy. This has allowed Micah to hire a part-time person, Adrianna Appleton, to do more work in coordinating Circles of Support and Accountability, or CoSAs, in the region.

CoSAs are small gatherings of volunteers along with a person who

has recently been released from prison. The volunteers are not counsellors or therapists. They are simply people who gather for coffee to talk and listen.

This reflects the Micah Mission motto: "Tough on crime, one friendship at a time".

The effectiveness of the CoSA model of friendship, support and accountability in lowering recidivism has been studied often, but not at any level large enough to be able to state reliable statistics. One such study by Dr. Kathryn J. Fox out of the University of Vermont in 2014 reported that only one in 21 core members reoffended during their participation with a CoSA, which is a rate much lower than the general population of those who did not seek the support of a CoSA.

Dave Feick, the executive director of the Micah Mission, spoke during the appreciation gathering, bidding farewell to Colleen Rickard who was a volunteer who then became a staff person, serving as bookkeeper for several years. "We are very sorry to have her leave us and are extremely grateful for all she has done with and for Micah," Feick noted.

Joan Boldt has volunteered to do some of the bookkeeping for which Rickard was responsible.

Many volunteers were highlighted and remembered, including Abram J. Hiebert and the late Keith Lapsley, as well as Edna Zacharias who moved out of the region to be closer to family.

Appleton shared some simple statistics about the value of the volunteers in the room.

"In the last year, 64 volunteers have donated 5,334 hours," she explained. "The value of the time you give as an advocate, a compassionate listening ear, guidance, career planning and housing support could easily be valued at \$133,350."

"This list does not even begin to describe everything our volunteers do," she continued. "In this room we have a collection of individuals with a high capacity for empathy, a strong sense of compassion and a commitment to helping others".

The Micah Mission also recently expanded to partner with students at St. Thomas More College to form Micah on Campus. Several students now volunteer in person-to-person visits in prison as well as sit on some CoSAs.

Book chronicles experience with Parkinson's disease

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

"Please, God, help the Parkinson's people to keep faith and go on. I accept, Lord. Give me the strength to go on."

So wrote Sr. Adelaide Fortowsky, OSU, in her diary in 1909.

An Ursuline nun of Prelate, SK. for 65 years, Sr. Adelaide Fortowsky drew on her decades of teaching, clowning, worship, and life experiences to bolster her hopeful perspective on living with Parkinson's disease before her death in July 2016 at the age of 86.

Her reflections and day-to-day experiences with this debilitating disease have been published in a book entitled *My Soul Still Dances: Living with Parkinson's*. The book consists of excerpts from her "Parkinson's Story" diary entries, produced with assistance from her long time friend, Sr. Rosetta Reiniger, OSU.

"Sr. Adelaide and I were friends for 60 years. I was her caregiver for the many years she lived with Parkinson's disease," says Reiniger.

"Her creativity helped her cope with

her deteriorating health, but it was her faith in God that kept her living with vitality through the most difficult times, focusing on service to others with her 'little acts of magic' and to bring joy to others," Reiniger summarizes.

"She developed a dream that what she called her 'Parkinson's Story' would be printed to assist families and caregivers in grasping what is happening to their loved ones suffering from the disease and to help in finding positive ways of living with Parkinson's," writes Reiniger in the forward of the book.

Sr. Adelaide's diary entries cover a wide range of emotions, including times of struggle with the disabling effects of the disease.

Reiniger notes Sr. Adelaide's prayer: "May the Lord dance with me through it all – at least do a slow waltz."

Born Bertha Fortowsky, she entered the Ursulines of Prelate in 1951, and became known as Sr. Adelaide, OSU, making her temporary vows in 1953 and her perpetual vows in 1956.

She attended Teacher's College in Saskatoon, and taught elementary grades for 29 years in the towns of Barthel, Prelate, Richmond, Macklin, and Quinton, joining the staff at St. Angela's Academy in Prelate in 1985, and teaching there until 2003.

It was as Allelu, the clown, that she "stayed young at heart," creating a prayerful, joyful spirit, notes Reiniger.

"She further ministered through her gifts of poetry and creativity by posting notes on her 'Sunshine Board' with affirmations for the Academy girls and staff, and later, to the parishioners in Prelate. She continued these 'sunshine notes' when she lived at St. Angela Merici Residence" in Saskatoon, where she spent the last six years of her life, writes Reiniger.

My Soul Dances can be purchased for \$19.95 (or \$25.95 with shipping and handling) by contacting Sr. Rosetta Reiniger, 125 Cree Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 7J1 or by phone at (306) 361-8034.



Even as Parkinson's disease took its toll, Sr. Adelaide Fortowsky, OSU, brought joy as Allelu the clown, writes friend and caregiver Sr. Rosetta Reiniger, OSU. Sr. Adelaide's story is told in a new book.

- Submitted photo

Community makes pilgrimage to local Ukrainian Catholic shrine dedicated to martyred nuns

BY JULIE ABERNETHY

The Latin Mass community in Saskatoon recently went on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Nuns Olympia and Laurentia, established by the Ukrainian Catholic Sisters of Saint Joseph on Ave. M in Saskatoon.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph also operate Saint Joseph's Home for the elderly.

On Jan. 13, some 60 members of the Sacred Heart Latin Mass community gathered to sing Christmas carols for the residents at St. Joseph's home, before making the pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Olympia and Blessed Laurentia. These two nuns, beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 2001, were Sisters of Saint Joseph who were martyred in 1952, during the communist occupation of Ukraine.

Major relics of each sister are preserved in large reliquaries in the Saskatoon shrine.

Although this shrine has been in Saskatoon for several years, most of those

participating in this local pilgrimage had never been inside, and had only admired the building's beauty from the street. The incredible icons and iconoclast amazed the group.

One of the Ukrainian Catholic priests of the Eparchy of Saskatoon spoke about the Divine Liturgy which, although similar in many ways, also has many different elements than a Roman Mass.

He shed much light on how the art and architecture of the building are created for the liturgy, having thus an essential role to play, and forming a perfect unity within it.

The tour continued with a visit to the nearby Ukrainian museum and to the sisters' display of nativity scenes from all over the world.

The event concluded with a feast where participants discussed what they had experienced.



Members of the Sacred Heart Latin Mass community learned more about Ukrainian Catholic Byzantine rite traditions during a recent visit to the Saskatoon shrine of Blessed Laurentia and Blessed Olympia who were martyred in 1952 in Ukraine.

- Photo by Julie Abernethy

This event was a great chance for those of the Roman rite to experience some of the traditions, art and culture of the Ukrainian

rite -- as well as to visit this hidden gem in Saskatoon, which was well worth a pilgrimage.

Universal Church Supplies marks 20 years in Saskatoon

By KATE O’GORMAN

With a mission to provide trusted, biblically-based resources and products that help individuals to know, love and serve God, Universal Church Supplies in Saskatoon has been owned and operated by Gerry and Lisa Holst for 20 years.

The Holsts opened the doors to their retail venture on the suggestion and encouragement of Lisa’s aunt and uncle who own a sister store in Edmonton and mentored them along the way.

“It’s not something we ever expected to do,” explains Lisa. While Gerry was an entrepreneur with a printing business, Lisa was a former teacher and stay-at-home mom at the time. “Neither of us had any retail experience, so it was a big change.”

With encouragement from family and recognizing that the store would be filling a need in



Lisa and Gerry Holst serve the Catholic community and the wider community in and around Saskatoon, providing faith-related books and music, religious articles and liturgical supplies. - Photo by Kate O’Gorman

Saskatoon, the Holsts stepped out in faith. “When the opportunity came, we were ready for it,” say the couple.

While the primary focus of Universal Church Supplies is to serve the Catholic community in and

around Saskatoon, Lisa says the reach of the store is broader than that. “We serve all churches with liturgical needs. The store is ecumenical. We carry things for all Christian communities.”

Through their interactions with customers, the couple say they have learned the nuances that exist between denominations. “From a church supply perspective, I think we’ve become sensitive to the different worship styles of various faith traditions,” adds Gerry. “We try to provide everyone with what they need.”

Beyond the opportunity to become immersed in the wider Catholic and ecumenical communities, Lisa and Gerry say that owning and operating the store has strengthened their marriage vocation.

“It’s nice getting to work together,” says Lisa. “We each bring different gifts and strengths to the business. We work well collaboratively.”

As business owners, the couple have noticed trends and experienced industry challenges over the years.

“Online shopping has affected us,” Lisa notes, “but I think the advantage of [the store] is that people can come in, hold a book and look at it before they make a purchase.”

The Holsts take special care to the make the atmosphere of the store one of peace and welcome.

“We see it as a ministry,” she continues. “When people come into the store, we try to help them find what they need to grow and explore their faith. It is a blessing to walk with people as they journey.”

“As a local business, we really appreciate the support from all of the customers and churches,” says Gerry. “We are here to be a resource and we welcome the opportunity to serve.”

Universal Church Supplies is located at 437 - 2nd Ave North in Saskatoon. Visit them online at www.ucssask.com



Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage

The Eparchy of Saskatoon’s fourth annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City included Saskatoon Eparchial Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, and Bishop Mykhaylo Bubniy, CSsR, from the Exarchate of Odessa (Ukraine). The next eparchial pilgrimage and tour will be in 2020, after a break in 2019 for World Youth Day in Panama. Find more details at: www.skeparchy.org

- Photo by Teresa Bodnar-Hiebert

New Zealand winter stay a unique option for snowbirds

By MINISTRY TO TOURISM

Recently, Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism explored some of the southern hemisphere, along with Fr. Denis Phaneuf of Saskatoon.

One highlight was a visit to Africa, that included several wildlife game reserves and the discovery that to “see by sea” was an ideal way to be exposed to some of Africa’s wildlife, via the various ports in southern Africa.

The travellers returned home via Australia and New Zealand, with a special focus on Waiheke Island, NZ, with its beaches and vineyards, some 35 minutes from Auckland.

Kleiter commented that “this destination is a place for snowbirds like no other.”

Kleiter is presently planning a 2019 program for those who wish to spend extended time away during the Canadian winter. The Ministry to Tourism program will offer a vacation home stay on Waiheke Island, NZ, along with an option to spend time on a cruise “down under” and in the South Pacific, either before or after the



Fr. Denis Phaneuf and Fr. Ralph Kleiter get a close-up view of a cheetah during a recent trip to Africa. - Submitted photo

island stay. Contact Kleiter for more information, assistance and necessary early planning.

A land program in Portugal and Spain Oct. 31 to Nov. 13, 2018 is also being offered.

“Lisbon and Fatima in Portugal along with the interesting sights in the Barcelona area, such as Gaudi’s La Sagrada Familia basilica and Montserrat Shrine, makes this program especially attractive to Catholics,” says Kleiter.

After the land program, it will be possible to return home to North America by sea, aboard the Oceania cruise ship Riviera, from Nov. 13 to Nov. 27, with ports of call along the Spanish coast, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, and across the south Atlantic to the Caribbean Islands of Puerto Rico and Nassau.

Visit www.pilgrimjourneys.ca for details or call (306) 244-3747 or e-mail: kleiter@shaw.ca



In 1897, six Sisters from St. Brieuc, France arrived in Prince Albert, with the mission “to make Jesus Christ known and loved.”

Prairie Providence

**BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION JUNE 2018
THE DAUGHTERS OF PROVIDENCE
LES FILLES DE LA PROVIDENCE**

In 1818, the dream of the order’s founding Sisters, Anne-Marie Cartel, Marie Conan, Fanny Chaplain and Esther Beauchemain, guided by Father Jean-Marie de la Mennais, was to provide an education for the very poor: the many homeless children in Brittany, France.

In 1897, six sisters from Saint-Brieuc, France, arrived in Prince Albert, Canada, which was then in the Northwest Territories, with the Mission to “**Make Jesus Christ Known and Loved**”, firmly rooted in God’s Providence, with The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph as companions and models.

For 120 of these 200 years, there have been a total of 225 prairie women who have ministered as Les Filles de la Providence throughout Canada and beyond, including the United States, Europe, South America and Africa. At times these Daughters of Providence have partnered with other congregations, including the Brothers of Christian Instruction, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the Grey Nuns, the Maryknolls and most recently the Daughters of Providence of Nebbi Uganda.

“Today it is with grateful hearts that we seek to live with simplicity the reality of our presence among you, our brothers and sisters. Our loving care is rooted in contemplation of the Word and in prayer.”

- Les Filles de la Providence

Come and celebrate the Bicentennial!

June 10, 2018 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert
Mass: 11:00 a.m., followed by cold buffet /program
(English with some French)

June 17, 2018 at Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish, Saskatoon
Mass: 10:00 a.m., followed by cold buffet /program
(Bilingual with translation)

Info/RSVP: contact Sr. Dolores Bussière, FDLP,
306-954-1830 or email: dbussiere2@shaw.ca

Serena hosts Medieval Feast fundraiser

By ANNETTE BENTLER

Serena Saskatchewan hosted a gala fundraiser Feb. 10, 2018 continuing a tradition of exploring



Jackie Couture won a prize for "best dressed."

creative themes at the annual social event. This year's event was a Medieval Feast.

Long-time caterer Agar's Corner produced a feast that was eaten medieval-style. Collegium Cantorum provided entertainment, presenting angelic medieval-era Latin polyphony music.

Many of the guests dressed the part, making it a challenge to pick the "best dressed" winners. There were over 70 silent auction items to bid on.

Guest Eileen Materi said: "The food was beyond delicious, the guests were like old friends we just met, the music was beautiful and inspiring, and the costumes and decor added to the feel of a medieval castle. Thank you for a delightful evening and the chance to support a wonderful ministry."

One teenager commented that he was not very keen about coming to the event, but was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed the evening.

Run for the Family

Serena Saskatchewan's next major event is the seventh annual Run for the Family, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, starting at 10 a.m. at Meewasin Park North in



Youth at the Feb. 10 Medieval Feast examine the giant chess set that added to the evening's atmosphere.

Saskatoon. Participants of all ages can choose from 1-km, 3-km, or 5-km routes (run or walk: strollers are welcome).

Register for this family event online at: www.runningroom.com (click on "races – province SK – search by date or name – register.")

What is Serena?

Serena is a natural family planning method that provides a safe, healthy, and effective way to achieve or avoid pregnancy, without the use of harmful



Dustin Crawford and Rob Florizone (l-r) were among the "best dressed" winners at the Medieval Feast hosted by Serena. - Photos by Lorraine Sturgeon

hormones, chemicals or devices. Serena's natural family planning method keeps track of a woman's naturally occurring signs of fertility and is 99 per cent effective.

Serena is effective for regular or irregular cycles, and is backed by research, medical professionals and organizations.

Volunteer couples are trained

locally, and then accredited by Serena Canada. The national team consists of medical advisors and program managers.

For more information about Serena and/or natural family planning, see the website at www.saskserena.ca or e-mail: sask@serena.ca or text/ call: (306) 934-8223.

Upcoming Events

Pro-Life Holy Hour in Saskatoon -

The evening before the March for Life is held in Regina, a Holy Hour of Adoration, Scripture, Rosary and Benediction will be held at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. (Reflection presented by Bishop Mark Hagemoen.)

Van transportation is available to

Regina May 8 for the March for Life: Vans will depart for the March for Life in Regina, leaving from the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, and returning that same day after the final remarks at 4 p.m. Cost: \$25/person. To book a seat e-mail campaignlifesk@gmail.com or call John at 306-477-1748

March for Life in Regina Tuesday, May 8 - March for Life begins at 12 noon with Pro-Life Rally at Christ the King Parish, Regina; March to the Legislative Grounds starts at 1:30 p.m.; prayerful, silent witness on Albert Street begins 3 p.m.; closing remarks at 4 p.m.

Mother's Day Walk for Life along College Drive in Saskatoon (University Dr. to Wiggins Ave.), from 2 to 3 p.m. **Sunday, May 13.**

GSCS Foundation Swing into Spring Gala -

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) Foundation presents 'Swing into Spring' Fashion Show and Dinner **May 3** at Prairieland Park Hall B, Saskatoon. Fun, food, fashions, camaraderie and great prizes. Support school division employees as they walk the runway in the latest spring fashions. See the Foundation website at <https://foundation.gscs.ca> for more details or call (306) 659-7003.

Getting married? An Engaged Encounter Weekend gives couples planning marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together. The weekend is designed to deepen and enrich relationships with one another, God, the Church and the world. Couples engage in deep and meaningful one-on-one discussions dealing with all aspects of married life. Next opportunity at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, SK. will be **Oct. 19-21, 2018**. Cost is \$480 for the weekend and this includes all meals and accommodations. Registration is online at www.ceewest.com or for more info contact Heather and Craig Stomp at (306) 682-3326.

Queen's House

retreat & renewal centre

For the past 60 years, Queen's House has served as a home of Oblate Mission, Retreat and Renewal. Queen's House serves our diocese, our local, extensive and vibrant faith community, and folks from across our prairies and the North. In addition, we serve many guests who seek space and place for their work and planning that is beyond an explicit faith focus. The many diverse conversations, the powerful spiritual reflection, the good work of our community and the celebration of gift is supported and nurtured in this place of warm and sincere Oblate hospitality. Many expressions of faith and community continue to find a home at Queen's House, where they can share, strengthen and celebrate their work in the world.

The advisory board and staff at Queen's House are presently in decision-making dialogue and planning with our national Oblate Leadership Team to select the path forward for optimal ministry and renewal at Queen's House well into the future. It is an exciting and hopeful time for all of us. Queen's House is, indeed, very much a reflection of the vibrancy and commitment of our prairie folk. Thank you for the encouragement and support as we move forward. We invite you to consider engaging in this ministry in a practical way by supporting Queen's House fund-raising initiatives.

We rely heavily on the support of our patrons and donors to sustain our work.

Scheduled events in 2018 include:

- **Spring Fling:** tickets on sale now for draws every day in May.
- **Oblate Scramble Golf Tournament:** registering players, teams and sponsors for June 24.
- **Bike-A-Thon:** accepting pledges now for the September 16, 2018 ride.
- **Gala Dinner:** scheduled for the evening of November 21, 2018.

See the website at www.queenshouse.org for programming information and as a source for updates on the planning front. To our many patrons and visitors: a humble thank you, and to those who have been away for a while – or who have never had the opportunity to drop in – we look forward to seeing you. On behalf of our beloved Oblates, our Oblate Associates and Board, our community of support and our staff: *God bless!*

Queen's House is located at 601 Taylor St. W., Saskatoon. Register at (306) 242-1916 or E-mail: receptionist@queenshouse.org For more info see: www.queenshouse.org

Upcoming at Queen's House:

Knights of Columbus Brothers' Keeper Men's Breakfast at 7 a.m. **May 8 and June 12.** Donation: \$10.

Iconography Retreat with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **May 28-June 1.** Commute \$525 (includes lunches). Contact Queen's House at (306) 242-1916 for live-in pricing.

Eucharistic Adoration in the Queen's House Chapel on **May 28-29 & June 25-26** (noon Monday to noon Tuesday) call Sally Danchak for more info: (306) 373-2621.

And So We Wait: Our Spiritual Journey of Transformation - A retreat for women with Sarah Donnelly from 7 pm. Friday, May 18 until Sunday, May 20 after lunch; \$180 (includes meals).

Transitions: Your Journey of Transformation Through Grief and Loss with Sarah Donnelly, from 7 pm. on **June 7 to June 10** after lunch. Grounded in Christian Spirituality and Prayer, this supportive program offers hope, encouragement, companionship and insights into the often confusing, painful and lonely experience of grieving. Cost: \$475. Call (306) 717-3707 to register.

Seven-Day Silent Directed Retreat: "Come Away With Me..." facilitated by Dianne Mantyka and Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI from 4 p.m. **Friday, June 29 until Thursday, July 5** at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$995, which includes meals, room, and spiritual direction. Please register by June 19 by calling (306) 242-1916.

Summer Stillness Retreat with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, begins with a public lecture at 7 p.m. **Monday, July 9**, "Rising Up: from living by good will and dogged willpower to drawing upon the Resurrection and grace"; cost \$20 or \$35 with supper. Retreat **July 10 to July 12:** "Insane for the Light: Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years"; commuter \$200; commuter-plus \$260; or live-in \$410.

Triumph: Freedom Through Healing Retreat is a nine-day Christ-centered journey of inner healing and discovery fueled by the transforming power of God's merciful love, rooted in Scripture, tradition and prayer and anchored by teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese of Lisieux: **July 27 to August 5** at Queen's House; cost \$1,395 (includes meals and room): www.triumphretreat.com

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Pilgrimages in Saskatchewan: following in faithful footsteps



The Blumenfeld Pilgrimage Site is located 16 km south and 6 km east of Leader just off Hwy 21.
For more details see: <http://blumenfeldheritage.jigsy.com>

Blumenfeld Pilgrimage Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Blumenfeld, SK Sunday, June 10

3:00 p.m. - Celebration of the Eucharist
Mass is traditionally preceded by devotions such as the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary.
Supper is available after Mass, everyone welcome.
Now closed, the historic church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. In 1936, the shrine grotto was constructed.

For generations, summer pilgrimages have been a popular spiritual tradition across the province of Saskatchewan.

In addition to three pilgrimages to shrines in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – at **Blumenfeld** June 10, **Reward** July 8, and **Carmel** July 22 (details to the left on this page) – pilgrimages in Saskatchewan include the St. Laurent pilgrimage in the Diocese of Prince Albert (information at bottom of page), a number of pilgrimages in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, as well as across the Archdiocese of Regina.

In the province's north, in the **Diocese of Keewatin Le Pas**, pilgrims will undertake the long journey to **Sandy Island on Wollaston Lake, SK** Aug. 6 to 13 for a pilgrimage that started in 1992-93.

“For at least seven years now, the Sandy Island celebration happens in the second week of August. The celebrations at the pilgrimage go on for a week every year. People will be dwelling in tents and camps during this time,” describes Fr. Joji Chandamala.

“The people consider Sandy Island as a spiritual place of destination,” he adds. “We have candlelight Rosary around the bay every day. In the evenings, we have daily Mass and we also pray Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy prayer. We have special time for adoration. People love to sing and enjoy spiritual music.... The children and the young people love this place, where they get their spiritual orientation for a week. Every year children receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation sacraments.... For most of children who grow up in Wollaston lake, Sandy Island pilgrimage is an unforgettable place, close to their hearts.”

In the **Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon** a **Yorkton Vidpust** will be held June 21-24 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton with Bishop Emeritus Michael Wiwchar, CSSR. A pilgrimage will also be held to the Shrine of Our Lady of Zarwanytsia in **Canora, SK** with Divine Liturgy celebrated in English at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 24. An annual pilgrimage to the **Pro-Life Millennium Cross** 10 km northeast of Aberdeen, SK on Highway 41, will be held this year at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16.

Pilgrimages in the Regina archdiocese include:

- Our Lady of LaSalette Shrine, **Forget, SK** on Sunday June 10;
- Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine, **File Hills, SK**, on Sunday June 24;
- Mary, Queen of Hearts Shrine, **Lestock, SK** on Sunday, July 15;
- Notre Dame d'Auvergne / Our Lady of Sorrows Shrine, **Ponteix, SK** on Monday, July 16;
- Calvary Memorial Shrine, **Candiac, SK** on Sunday, July 22;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, St. Peter's Colony, **Kronau, SK** on Sunday, Aug.12;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, **Rama, SK**, Aug. 14-15;
- Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, **Kaposvar, SK** on Sunday, Aug. 19.

More details about the many pilgrimages in the Catholic Archdiocese of Regina can be found at: <https://archregina.sk.ca/archbishops-office/annual-pilgrimage-sites>



Reward Pilgrimage Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary Holy Rosary Church, Reward, SK Sunday, July 8

2:00 p.m. - Adoration and confessions in the historic church, with anointing of the sick and praying of the Rosary to follow
5:00 p.m. - Celebration of the Eucharist
Supper is available (*freewill offering*)
Part of St. Joseph's Colony, the Church of the Holy Rosary was built in 1918. In 1920 Count Berthold von Imhoff created 15 paintings for the church of the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Holy Rosary Church is located 3 kilometres south of the hamlet of Reward, SK which is about 30 km southwest of Unity, SK on Grid 675 (south of Highway 14).

Mount Carmel Pilgrimage Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Sunday, July 22

9:30 a.m. - An Hour with Mary - Marian hymns, Rosary, Sacrament of Reconciliation
10:45 a.m. - An Hour with God's Family - Sunday Eucharist and the blessing of fields
12:00 noon - An Hour with our Diocesan Family - Lunch and quiet time with the Blessed Sacrament
1:30 p.m. - An Hour with the Lord - Hymns, Stations of the Cross, procession with the Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of the Sick
Part of St. Peter's Colony settled around St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey at Muenster, the land for the Mount Carmel Shrine was donated in 1921 and dedicated in 1922, On the same occasion Mary was chosen as patroness and protectress of St. Peter's Colony, and all the people present, about 3,500, dedicated themselves to her, according to a history of Marian shrines in the province written by the late Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is located about 5.2 km north of Carmel, SK (east of Humboldt).



St. Laurent Pilgrimage Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Laurent, SK. Sunday, July 15 & Monday, July 16 Feast of the Assumption - Wednesday, Aug. 15 Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Saturday, Sept. 8

Sunday - July 15

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Opening procession (log church to grotto)
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Charismatic Prayer Time (log church)
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Talk by Fr. Doug Jeffrey OMI
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Priests available for individual confessions
7:00 p.m. - 7:25 p.m. - Marian devotion, Rosary
7:30 p.m. - Celebration of Eucharist / candlelight procession
9:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Private adoration (log church)

Monday - July 16

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Pipe Ceremony / Cree Eucharist (pieta)
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Priests available for individual confessions
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - French Eucharist (grotto)
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - English Eucharist with Anointing of the Sick

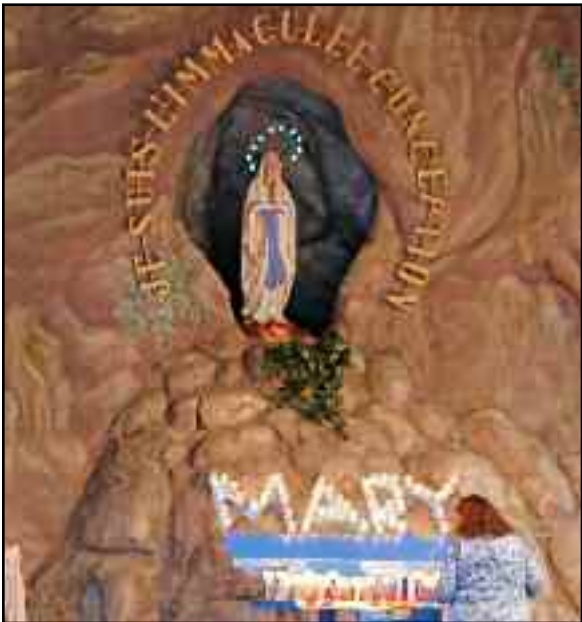
Wednesday - August 15

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Priests available for individual confessions
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration (grotto)
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Marian prayer / Rosary (grotto)
6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - Talk by Fr. Mark Blom OMI
7:30 p.m. - Celebration of Eucharist and candlelight procession

Saturday - September 8

4:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Priests available for individual confessions
6:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Exposition / Divine Mercy Chaplet Presentation of Roses
6:15 - 7:00 p.m. - Talk by Fr. Milan Sojonas
7:00 p.m. - Celebration of Eucharist, closing procession

St. Laurent shrine site is 12 km directly east of Duck Lake on grid road; or alternately, take the road from the statue landmark on Highway 11 (the landmark statue is approximately 5 km northeast of Duck Lake). For more info see: www.stlaurentshrine.com



In addition to the pilgrimage days, daily Mass and Novena prayers are held July 6 to July 14 at the St. Laurent Shrine: 7:30 p.m. weekdays and 4 p.m. Sundays.

Eucharist is celebrated at 4 p.m. every Sunday from July 8 to Sept. 2.