



Vocations Discernment

Diocesan Vocations Directors
Fr. Daniel Yasinski and Fr. Colin Roy
recently organized a discernment
evening at St. Therese Institute.

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Parish Elders

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Parish recently honoured three
Elders: Irene Sharp, Sharon
Genaille and Dianne Anderson.

ELDERS • Page 13



The Diocesan Newsletter Diocese of Saskatoon

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Bishops update national guidelines for preventing and dealing with abuse

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon has welcomed the updated and expanded national guidelines for the protection of minors and vulnerable persons, which were unanimously adopted by the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCC) Sept. 27 during their 2018 annual Plenary Assembly in Cornwall, ON.

Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation is the title of the national document publicly released Oct. 4, 2018. It is an update of the previous document *From Pain to Hope* adopted by Canada's Catholic bishops in 1992, as well as a 2007 follow-up document.

"The purpose of this new document, as with the previous ones, is to inform the various policies and protocols of each individual diocese. This is a reference document that helps us do the policy work at a local diocesan level," said Bishop Hagemoen. "So, this is very important and helpful."

Large in scope, the new national document is purposefully focused on the protection of minors, noted the bishop. "Of course, there are other implications of this, which relate not just to sexual abuse, but all forms of abuse, and with a view to making our environments safe for everyone – yes, with a particular focus on minors, but also for all people who are part of the life of our church communities."

The document benefits from a number of learned best practices since *From Pain to Hope* was released more than 25 years ago, he added. For instance, the new document more clearly emphasizes the need to put victims first, and to deal pastorally with those who have been hurt by abuse.

"We must be very victim-focused in our pastoral approach. The document definitely addresses that, as well as naming how our parish communities must be healing communities."

In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, a review and update of the existing Covenant of Care safe environment policies and protocol has been underway since early 2018. Pastors and other parish leaders from across the diocese of Saskatoon heard more about the update at a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 12 (*see Page 2*).

Once the new national guidelines are taken into consideration, the updated diocesan Covenant of Care will be finalized and promulgated in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, said the bishop. "This is an updating of our protocols, taking into account the experience of implementing our safe environment policies, and of giving great care and attention to how we oversee and supervise our people who work with high-risk age groups within our churches."

NATIONAL GUIDELINES • Continued on Page 2



Search retreat participants explored the love of Jesus Christ in a weekend experience Oct. 12-14, facilitated and supported by previous Search graduates and a team of volunteers. Retreat chaplain was Bishop Mark Hagemoen (centre).

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Search retreat presents youth with new paradigm: God's love

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

While a Synod on Youth was underway at the Vatican, in the diocese of Saskatoon, a group of young people was also being challenged to take up their Catholic faith through a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ.

For the fourth year in a row, high school aged youth from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon gathered at Bishop James Mahoney High School and the adjacent St. Anne Catholic Church for the Search retreat. This year, Bishop Mark Hagemoen took on the role of chaplain, journeying with 22 youth through the Search experience, as he provided spiritual direction, celebrated

Youth Ministry
is supported by the



sacraments and led prayer.

"You and I have been part of the beginning of a paradigm shift," the bishop told the Search graduates during his homily at a concluding Sunday Eucharist Oct. 14, which also included former Search participants, families and community members.

It is a paradigm shift that offers a wider, and truer understanding of the reality of God's love, and the realization that Jesus Christ

is always calling us to something deeper, the bishop said, quoting words of Saint Pope John Paul II: "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son."

Reflecting on the canonization of Saint Oscar Romero earlier that day in Rome, Hagemoen noted how the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador underwent a paradigm shift, as he grew into his role of shepherd of a people wracked by a violent civil war.

Similarly, the Rich Young Man of the Sunday Gospel is challenged by

Jesus to go deeper into living his faith.

This challenge to "be rich in God and allow God to be in control" is not easy, he acknowledged.

Bishop Hagemoen then reiterated the call of one Search presenter to consider the real possibilities that grow from the paradigm shift that the Gospel holds out to us: "What if you were able to live giving freely of your talents and gifts, without the fear of not having enough for yourself? What if you could respect yourself as you are, not feeling incompetent, not ungifted, but knowing that you are gifted because you are a child of God?"

SEARCH • Page 2

Study Day speakers reflect on future directions for Church

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A well-known Canadian pollster and a long-time advocate of palliative care spoke at a diocesan Study Day Oct. 19, offering insights and pointing out new directions for faith communities.

Dr. Angus Reid and Sr. Nuala Kenny were guest speakers at the 2018 Study Day.

Born in Regina, Reid worked in the field of market research for some 32 years, before establishing the non-profit Angus Reid Institute to advance public opinion research on social, economic and policy issues in Canada – including matters related to faith and values.

A member of the Sisters of Charity, Halifax, Kenny is also a medical doctor, who worked for some 34 years as a

pediatrician, as well as serving as a medical educator and author. Kenny has worked with bishops in Canada in addressing the issue of sexual abuse by clergy, as well as working nationally on end-of-life questions.

Faith and spirituality are still important to Canadians, said Reid, citing studies on faith, prayer and attitudes toward religion.

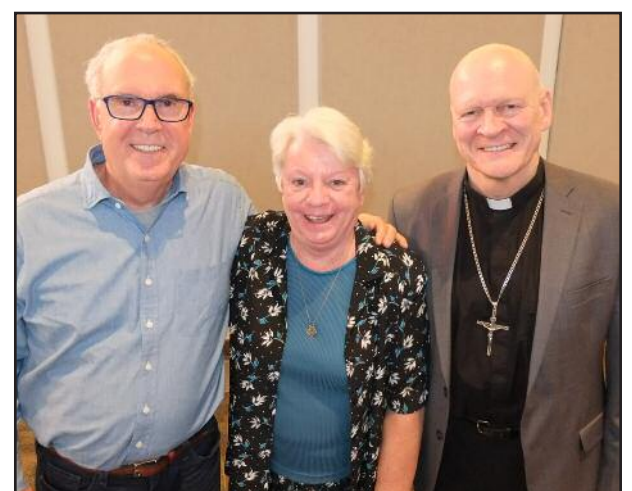
In a 2017 study entitled *Anatomy of Faith in Canada*, seven factors were measured: belief in God or a higher power, belief in life after death, prayer, reading of the Bible or other sacred text, experience of God's presence, desire to have children educated about faith, and attendance at religious services. Researchers used answers to these

questions to create a continuum of faith, with four distinct groups emerging: the religiously committed (21 per cent); the privately faithful (30 per cent), the spiritually uncertain (30 per cent) and non-believers (19 per cent).

Although distanced from organized religion, a majority of those in the "privately faithful" group said they wished for a closer relationship with God and many had a feeling of guilt about not being more involved in faith.

Re-engagement with the Church is most likely to happen for a Catholic in this group when they have a child, said Reid, stressing the importance for faith communities to reach out and engage with people at such key moments.

STUDY DAY • Continued on Page 2



Study Days speakers Dr. Angus Reid and Sr. Nuala Kenny with Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Diocese updating Covenant of Care and safe environment policy

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Addressing the issue of protecting minors and vulnerable persons in Catholic parishes was a large part of an annual Administration Day in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Sept. 12, as pastors, parish and ministry staff and parish leaders from across the diocese gathered with Bishop Mark Hagemoen to launch a new ministry year.

The annual Administration Day also included a number of presentations on Human Resources policy, ministries and programs in the diocese, as well as the launch of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Covenant of Care policies established in the diocese for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults were addressed by Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

The Covenant of Care is one of a number of diocesan policies under review since the bishop arrived in the diocese. A renewed and expanded advisory group started this review early in 2018, he reported.

“Obviously, the present situation – the news (about sexual abuse by clergy) that

has come from the Grand Jury in Pennsylvania and other revelations – makes this issue all the more important – but I wanted to let you know that we had been working on this already,” Hagemoen told the diocesan gathering.

After related discussions by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) at their national plenary gathering Sept. 24-28, the diocese’s own updated policy will be finalized and promulgated, Hagemoen reported.

The existing Covenant of Care in the diocese of Saskatoon has three components:

- a general policy and protocol on **keeping church environments safe and respectful**, especially for children, youth and vulnerable adults;
- a **Code of Conduct** that outlines basic directives for clergy and lay employees;
- a protocol for **dealing with allegations of abuse** or misconduct.

Rather than forming one document as they do now, these three elements will be presented separately in the revised policy, said the bishop.



In addition to the updates about the Covenant of Care, Administration Day Sept 12 in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon included a detailed report from Human Resources Manager Patrick Clarke about a new Personnel Policy for all employees in the diocese and upcoming revisions to the salary grid; reports about Communications, Youth Ministry, Lay Formation, Evangelization and Catechesis, Office of Migration (refugee sponsorship) and Hospital Chaplaincy in the diocese, as well as the launch of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Representatives of Grow Hope and Retrouvaille also provided information about programs, and new priests and parish/diocesan staff were introduced. MC for the day was Cody Redekop, Pastoral Associate at St. Augustine, Humboldt.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

During Administration Day, the bishop circulated the updated Code of Conduct form, reviewing it with those present and asking them to immediately renew their commitment to the directives by signing it before leaving that day.

“It is very important to continue to administer the protocol and to update certain features,” he said.

Reflecting on recent reports of sexual abuse within the Church and the profound harm inflicted on

victims, the current Covenant of Care Director, Blake Sittler, also highlighted the need for vigilance — particularly the need to keep police record checks up to date for all those providing ministry, including staff or volunteers dealing with children, youth or vulnerable adults.

“It is precisely at this time in history where we need to redouble our efforts to say that this needs to be part of who we are as Church – we need to create a safe

place,” Sittler said. “In the church, in the diocese, no matter what your job description is, every single one of us is responsible for this.”

The bishop encouraged clergy and all those in ministry to persevere in the face of the horrific reports of abuse and the failures of church leaders.

“We are called to be ministers of Christ, ministers to the people of God and His Church, and all of this calls us all the more urgently to a

way of holiness,” said Hagemoen, repeating an emphasis on accountability from his Sept. 7, 2018 letter to the faithful about the revelations of sexual abuse in the Church.

“Maybe a better phrase would be ‘a call to Koinonia’, that is, a call to Christian community led by the Holy Spirit,” he said. “I would love to explore that in practical ways as I continue to journey together with you as your bishop... the Holy Spirit is currently with us, active and alive and doing what the Holy Spirit does.”

The bishop added: “This certainly relates to the call to be communities that are safe, respectful and healthy.”

Distributed through parishes, the full text of the bishop’s Sept. 7 letter to the faithful of the diocese of Saskatoon can be found on the diocesan website at <https://rcdos.ca> or contact the communications office at (306) 659-5844 to obtain a copy.

During Administration Day the bishop also reported on a number of other policy and organizational initiatives and gave an overview of his first months in the diocese (*see article on Page 3*).

CCCCB releases updated national guidelines for dealing with sexual abuse

Continued from Page 1

Bishop Hagemoen added that the policy is also a way to help clergy and laity continue to do their good work of ministry with support and confidence, “because our

ministry needs to continue, in fact it needs to expand. Our ministry needs to grow, especially for those who need it the most, including the most vulnerable.”

In addition to a clear

delineation of procedures in cases of sexual abuse, the national document puts forward over 60 recommendations inspired by nine lessons which bishops have learned through their collect-

ive experiences over the past quarter century.

“The document seeks not only to provide guidance for diocesan/eparchial protocols and policies as well as those for religious communities,

but to stimulate a cultural transformation in attitudes about sexual abuse,” states a media release from the CCCC.

The new guidelines apply to all Catholic clergy (bishops,

priests and deacons), as well as members of religious communities and lay personnel working in parishes or church organizations.

In developing the policy, the bishops of Canada had input from a broad spectrum of people, including abuse survivors, lay women and men, as well as professional consultants with experience and expertise in psychology, social work, child protection, and Church and civil law, stated the CCCC release, noting that the majority of experts consulted also have specific experience in protecting minors and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse.

“With this document, Canada’s bishops reaffirm their commitment to continue improving practices in their dioceses/eparchies with an emphasis on long-term prevention and pre-emptive action,” said the release.

The new document can be found on the CCCC website at: www.cccb.ca in both French and English. It can also be purchased in book form from CCCC.

Search retreat enlivens faith

Continued from Page 1

The bishop continued: “What if you didn’t have to be afraid of failure or have a fear of missing out – including fears regarding your future – because God holds your life? What if you could live bravely through your life, watching challenge after challenge, knowing that in Him there would always be victory, even at the cross?”

Hagemoen urged the Search participants to continue their journey, and to think of the conclusion of the retreat as a beginning.

“Let the journey continue, because frankly, if the journey doesn’t continue in your life, you won’t be happy; you won’t be satisfied, because you are people who hunger and thirst for what is right and what is true.”

He concluded by thanking participants, parents and families, the Search support team, volunteers and organizers, as well as the hosting school and parish.

The revival of Search retreats in the diocese of Saskatoon is having an impact as each new group goes forth, and then continues the faith journey

sparked by a deeper realization that who they are is defined by God’s love, says Colm Leyne, coordinator of Youth Ministry in the diocese of Saskatoon, who works with a large team of former Search participants and volunteers to organize the weekend.

“I think one of my favourite experiences of Search is the sharing with the parents at the end,” he said. “It is powerful just to see the tears in the parents’ eyes, as they realize how loved their children are by God, and that they are not alone in that journey either,” said Leyne. The fruits of the Search retreat spills out into deeper commitment to faith and service, and at times visibly impacts families who return to Church or take up their faith more actively, he noted.

Two former “Searchers” helping with the latest weekend retreat were siblings Cascilla and Jaiden Christopher, who recently shared their testimony as part of this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Search has changed her life and deepened her faith, said Cascilla. “Faith really makes a difference in my life: in the way that I interact with others, with more of a focus on loving them



Search had a big impact on siblings Jaiden and Cascilla Christopher.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

the way that Christ loves them, rather than a selfish love of seeing what can they give me.”

Jaiden added that faith changes everything. “It changes the way you look at the world. It changes your priorities. If it wasn’t for faith I wouldn’t be volunteering at the church or considering priesthood as a vocation, but the love that Jesus has for us, and the eternal importance of living with Him, helps me to see the value in serving Him, and in serving His people and helping others come to know Him the way I have been blessed to come to know Him.”

Study Day features reflections from Dr. Angus Reid and Sr. Nuala Kenny

Continued from Page 1

Reid also gave an overview of trends and forces expected to affect the future of religion, faith and Catholicism in Canada, including immigration, aging, science, economics, Church history and leadership, and the battle for religious freedom.

The clergy sexual abuse crisis and residential schools have had an effect on how church leaders are viewed, said Reid. “But there is a potential for the emergence of a new era of lay Catholic leaders who can speak to and re-orient the Church to

some of the important messages of the gospel... a social justice treatment of issues,” he said.

Later in the day, Sr. Nuala Kenny urged Catholic faith communities to step up and reclaim the baptismal call to care for and accompany the vulnerable – including the sick, the suffering, and the dying.

Kenny provided an overview of the legalization of Medically Assisted Death in Canada, as well as offering a reflection on what constitutes “a good death,” and the difference between pain and suffering.

She urged her listeners to advocate for the preservation and expansion of hospice palliative care, which offers good medical care for treatment of symptoms and pays attention to the spiritual needs of the dying.

With the legalization of Medically Assisted Death, there is a great fear that hospice and palliative care will be forced to abandon its philosophy of not hastening death, and that long-promised resources and funding for palliative care will not materialize, she said.

Kenny pointed to studies that show that most people do not request Medically Assisted Death because of pain or other symptoms, but because of feelings of loss of dignity, fear of dependence and loss of control, guilt at being a burden to others, isolation and loneliness, uncertainty regarding future care needs, and hopelessness.

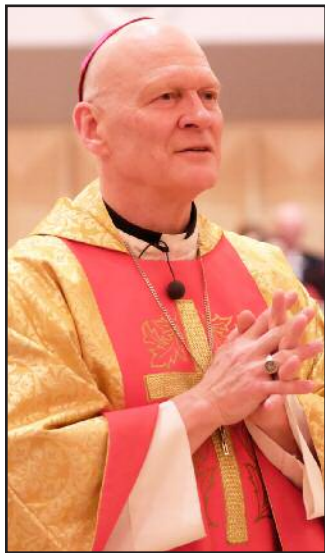
Suffering can be physical, emotional or spiritual – but the response to suffering must be more than abandoning people to Medically Assisted Death, she insisted, calling for Catholic faith

communities to find new ways to care for and accompany the vulnerable.

Among those who need such accompaniment, Kenny listed the acutely ill and hospitalized, the chronically ill and handicapped, the mentally ill, the frail and dependent elderly, those with dementia, the bereaved, and the poor – all those “on the peripheries.”

For more about these Study Day presentations, check out the complete articles on the website: www.rcdos.ca/news

Message From Our Bishop



Bishop Mark Hagemoen: blessings and challenges

Dear People of God of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

As I complete my first year here in the diocese, I am thankful to Almighty God for a very robust and faithful Catholic community. I have had the opportunity to visit most of our parishes, many of our Catholic schools and health care centers, and various organizations dedicated to service and outreach, life and family, and ongoing training and formation. I have spent much of this first year renewing our various diocesan councils that assist the diocese in carrying out visioning, planning, and stewardship of our diocese. I now look forward to working with our new Diocesan Pastoral Council to reflect on a pastoral vision to support our parish communities. There are of course many challenges ahead.

These include: the support and growth of our rural parish communities; stewarding Catholic education and health care; ongoing reconciliation and healing work with our Indigenous brothers and sisters; support to our young people and families in an increasingly secular environment. However, I am encouraged to face these and other challenges as I experience very gifted and generous people across our diocese.

I conclude by thanking you all very much for your welcome and support to me. I commit myself, heart and soul, to working with you to realize God’s vision for our diocese.

**In Christ,
+ Mark Hagemoen**

Check out the Bishop’s Blog online at www.rcdos.ca -- click on home page item to link to the blog in which Bishop Mark Hagemoen chronicles some of his activities in recent weeks:

- Attendance at the Anglophone safeguarding conference in Rome as a CCCB representative
- Visits to Saskatchewan pilgrimage sites
- Confirmations (in particular: St. Mary, Lanigan; St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral, Saskatoon; Sacred Heart, Denzil and St. Mary, Macklin)
- 100th Anniversary of St Denis Church
- Visit to Poundmaker and Sweetgrass communities
- Spending time at Blackstrap youth camp, and FacetoFace Ignite camp
- Visit to St. Joseph Care Home, Macklin
- Highlights from a “Bishop’s Trail” canoe trip
- Attendance at a marriage renewal weekend and a men’s retreat organized by the Filipino Catholic community



Macklin visit

Bishop Mark Hagemoen visited St. Joseph’s home in Macklin this September as part of a pastoral visit to the area, which also included celebrations of Confirmation and First Eucharist at Denzil and Macklin parishes.
- Submitted photo

Bishop Hagemoen reports on busy first year in the diocese

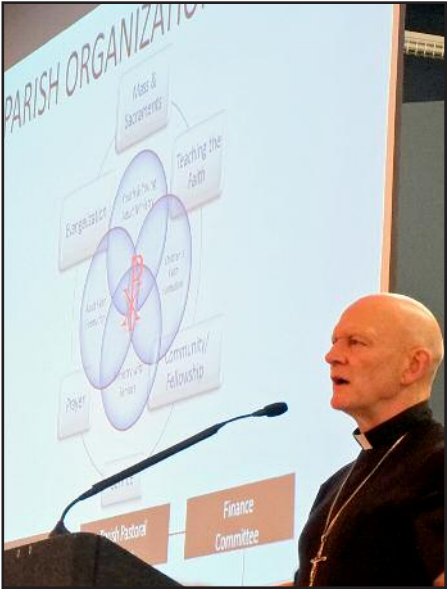
By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

In addition to getting to know the people and parishes across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon during his first year as bishop, Bishop Mark Hagemoen has launched reviews and updates of statutes, policies, and advisory bodies.

At a recent diocesan Administration Day, the bishop described some of the tasks that have been undertaken since his installation Nov. 23, 2017.

This has included renewing the four main consultative bodies that exist in every diocese:

- **the College of Consultors**, consisting of between six and 12 priests, who are mandated to serve for a term of five years;
- **the Council of Priests, or Presbyteral Council**, a much wider body of priests from across the diocese;
- **the Diocesan Finance Council**, also canonically mandated, with each member serving for five years; and
- **the Diocesan Pastoral Council**, which includes clergy representatives, those in consecrated life, and laity.



Bishop Mark Hagemoen described roles of various consultative bodies in the diocese as part of the “Bishop’s Forum” at a diocesan Administration Day.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

“Three of those four are now in place, with new statutes,” reported Hagemoen. “The last to be formed is the Diocesan Pastoral Council. It has taken the longest to form, because it has depended on the appointment of clergy Deans... and it has taken the longest because it is the largest body, so it has to be assembled according to regional representation and skill sets.” He noted that the Diocesan Pastoral Council will be in place “very shortly.”

The bishop expressed appreciation for those who have already agreed to serve on these important diocesan councils.

“People have responded very generously in the diocese to serve on these bodies,” he said. As an example, the bishop noted that the new Diocesan Finance Council has an expanded membership and six working committees: Budget; Salaries and Benefits; Audit; Building and Properties; Cemeteries; and Development and Advancement.

When the Diocesan Pastoral Council moves forward, a key task for the new body will be “to help me as a bishop come up with a ministry visioning plan for the next three years.”

The New Evangelization was cited as a particular priority at the time of his appointment as bishop of Saskatoon.

“Those convictions need to be very much informed by becoming familiar with the diocese – I have only been here a year. I have been to almost every parish, but that doesn’t mean I know a parish. The New Evangelization will be informed by having the right bodies in place to help me. I am looking forward to that. I really am.”

The bishop compared the work of the Diocesan Pastoral Council with the kind of visioning called for by Parish Pastoral Councils, who determine priorities and directions for the parish for which the Parish Finance Committee then finds resources.

Hagemoen described how a parish’s pastoral vision includes children’s faith formation, youth and young adult ministry, adult faith formation, and ministry with seniors. “The focus of the ministry life of our parish – or of our diocese – is the People of God,” he summarized.

“And the source and summit of that is the celebration of the Eucharist, which is both a gathering and a sending into the life, mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.”

Areas of focus include Mass and the Sacraments, catechesis or teaching of the faith, community and fellowship – including healing, prayer and service opportunities, he listed, noting there is a lot to discern when considering “How is God calling our local faith community?”

Other undertakings by Bishop Hagemoen during his first year shepherding the diocese of Saskatoon have included:

- **the update and renewal of the diocesan Covenant of Care policy** for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable persons (*see related article on Page 2*);

- reviewing and **updating the statutes** for Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees;
- an updated **Personnel Policy** (presented at Administration Day by Human Resources Manager Patrick Clarke);
- a revised **Salary Grid**;
- a continuing reflection on initiatives in the diocese regarding the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action**;
- a review of the mandate and goals of the **Diocesan Council for Truth and Reconciliation (DCTR)**;
- the establishment of a new **Reverence for Life** committee.

Further discernment on implementing a **permanent diaconate formation program** in the diocese has also been undertaken, with plans underway for the first cohort of candidates.

This year also included many meetings, visits and celebrations around the diocese for Bishop Hagemoen, including Confirmation and First Eucharist celebrations in 40 communities, involving 50 parishes.

“There is very good work and stewardship that is going on in our parish communities, urban and rural,” Hagemoen told those gathered for Administration Day.

“I am really impressed by the rural communities... the stewardship and the ministry in many of our rural parishes is great to see and I look forward to building on it.”

At Administration Day the bishop also had words of praise for the Catholic education system, and encouraged pastors to strengthen parish relationships with Catholic schools in their boundaries.

In particular, the bishop noted the positive steps being taken by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to build partnerships for Indigenous education. “They are doing great things,” he said.

“I think that it is very important, frankly, in this day, age, culture, to foster increasingly healthy relationships with young people and their families, and the schools are an important place for that – they are not the only place, but a very important environment.”

For more insights into the bishop’s first year in the diocese check out the Bishop’s Blog, posted on the diocese of Saskatoon website at: <https://rcdos.ca/blogs/bishop>

Diocesan Congress Day

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in three locations

Saturday, Nov. 3 - St. Augustine, Humboldt

Thursday, Nov. 15 - Holy Family Cathedral, Saskatoon

Saturday, Dec. 1 - Assumption of Our Lady, Kerrobert

Come and meet Bishop Mark Hagemoen and hear about priorities and happenings in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

All are welcome!

Topics include: • Truth and Reconciliation •

- Covenant of Care and the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons •
- Finance & Benefits • Human Resources • Communications •
- Stewardship and Leadership - Parish Pastoral Councils •
- Bishop’s Forum with time for Q & A.

Mass will be celebrated with the Bishop at 11:45 a.m. at each location.

Cost: \$30 each (includes lunch). Register online at www.rcdos.ca or contact Andrea Alas at (306) 659-5831 or aalas@rcdos.ca

Catholic imagination calls for more than vengeance

DIRECTOR’S CUT
BY BLAKE SITTLER

My dad hated “church.” My father, Delroy, was born and raised Catholic. His imagination was shaped by his Catholic faith. But celebrating the Mass, or as he said, “going to church,” drove him nuts. Sometimes, the happiest moment of his week was stepping on to the steps of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Landis, lighting a cigarette and visiting with his neighbours, knowing that he didn’t have to go to church for another six days and twenty-three hours.

Yet my dad was a strong believer in God because his imagination had been shaped by scripture and even the liturgy that he found so boring. In one of the last years he was alive, a few of my brothers went fishing with my dad at Chitek Lake. It was a beautiful calm day and my dad proclaimed, “Look at this: It’s a sunny day out on the lake, I’m fishing with my boys, we got Spitz and beer. Who can say there isn’t a God in heaven?”

Dad did not appreciate liturgy, but his Catholic imagination gave him the ability to see God everywhere. He saw God in a glorious day fishing, in picking up the last swath of a field in October, and in his boys throwing a football around on the lawn.

The great Catholic writer, Andrew Greeley, first articulated for me the idea of the Catholic imagination. He described it as the way we see God hidden in everything around us and unhidden in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Acclaimed author Flannery O’Connor described the Catholic imagination as the way we are able to see the divine source of all sensual, concrete things.

The Catholic imagination is not limited to simply an aesthetic theology though. The Catholic imagination helps us to critically and faithfully understand concepts differently from the rest of the world.

Take the concept of justice. When a violent crime is committed — rape, assault, murder — our initial reaction is anger. Anger very quickly ripens into vengefulness and a desire to even the cosmic score. This is nothing more than the lines we



Blake Sittler
Director of
Pastoral Services
Diocese of Saskatoon

“Jesus, in his dying breath, took away all of the power and authority that vengeance has in our world by modeling a justice that seeks to restore our humanity...”

remember from Exodus 21:23-25 and Leviticus 24:19-21: “...if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...”

Our Catholic imagination challenges us to be more than reactionary and violent.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenges the juridical, retributive justice and enlightens his followers, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (*Matthew 5: 38-42*).

Every week in the news there is a story of crime or brokenness that elicits a reaction. A man kills someone. A man assaults his wife. A priest or a bishop is charged with the sexual abuse of a child. Our initial reaction is a primal desire to even the score. Why? Because we are hardwired for justice: we have an innate sense of what justice necessitates, because we are all in the unique position of being both a victim and – *I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters* – a perpetrator.

Does God support our desire for vengeance? Is our initial, emotional reaction always the right answer? Is our first thought always the best, final choice?

As my brother Quentin said to me in reaction to a first draft of this column: “Sometimes you are only human when you take a moment to think about it.”

Our Catholic imagination is shaped by Jesus’ call to think and pray from a perspective much higher than the justice we form out of mud.

The Micah Mission witnesses to this well. The Micah Mission is a group of people who offer support to men coming out of prison.

Their motto is “Tough on crime—one friendship at a time.” They offer support by forming Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA).

In these circles, men who are fresh out of prison, who are generally trying to make a fresh start, are accompanied by men and women who support them simply by listening, and helping them make better decisions.

The volunteers and staff of Micah are not pie-in-the-sky, naïve dreamers. They are people who have visited men in jail and who build relationships with people coming out of correctional centres. They know first-hand the challenges that face someone coming out of prison: the stigma, the fear, the isolation, the temptation to return to old addictions and criminal associations. Those who come out of jail and who desire to make a fresh start often have to do so with little family support, no job and with little or no money.

If only from a pragmatic stance, when a person has committed a crime and served their time, do we want them to come out more isolated, more angry, more broken? Or do we want them to come out more connected to healthy communities, more hopeful, more healed?

Now forget pragmatism. Jesus has formed our imagination to be people who want God’s justice, which is a justice that heals; not merely an act of government-sponsored revenge.

From the cross, Jesus looked down on the very people who were killing him and he forgave them. He was looking down on the worst perpetrators and the most vulnerable victims.

Jesus, in his dying breath, took away all of the power and authority that vengeance has in our world by modeling a justice that seeks to restore our humanity *through* our humanity, not in *spite* of our humanity. He looked at the victims and, with tears streaming down his face, said, “I am one of you. I do this for you.”

We have all heard the idiom, “Forgive and forget.” I offer that it is also legitimate to forgive and remember. The power of forgiveness is not amnesia, it is anamnesis – the active remembering of how God saves us.

We wear a cross around our neck not to remember to hate, but to remind us to forgive. When a man comes out of prison after serving time for pedophilia, we can both forgive *and* limit his ability to run a daycare in his house. When a priest abuses his authority and vocation by violating a child or a vulnerable person, we can support him because he is still a member of the family, *but* he cannot simply return to a parish. Even with forgiveness, there are consequences.

The next time you hear a report on the news, and your righteous anger is kindled, take a deep breath and ask what Jesus proclaimed from the cross. Take a deep breath, look out on the water, and see God.

Stewardship: that dreaded word is really a way of life

BY JOCELYNE HAMOLINE
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Stewardship seems to be a word that many Catholic Christians dread. We experience fear, panic, frustration, and are often turned off when we hear this dreaded word.

Why is this? Do we think that stewardship is only about money? Is it because we are afraid that stewardship demands a response from us – to do something or be involved?

The word Christian is used three times in the New Testament (according to the New Standard Revised Version, NSRV, in Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). Followers of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” in Antioch because their behaviour, activity, and speech were like Christ. The word “Christian” literally means “belonging to Christ.”

A disciple is a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher. We, as people belonging to Christ, are followers of Christ – we are students of his life and how he lived. We adhere to the teachings of



Jocelyne Hamoline
Planned Giving Officer
Diocese of Saskatoon
Catholic Foundation

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

Christ. A Christian disciple is someone who learns from Jesus and desires to live like Jesus — someone who, because of God’s awakening grace, conforms to the words and ways of Jesus.

So, what is a steward? In Jesus’ time, the steward was the manager of the household. The steward was not the owner of the assets, but a responsible administrator of the owner’s property.

Stewardship began in the beginning when God said, “Let us make humankind and let them have dominion over all” (Genesis 1: 26-28).

Scripture proclaims in the Old and New Testament that everything belongs to God and all who live in it belong to God (Psalm 24:1). All of creation – man, woman, child, nature, and all of “our stuff” – belongs to God. And how should a person care for what belongs to someone else? With love, care, and gratitude.

Stewardship is a grateful response and a way of life. As people who belong to Christ and who are students of Christ, as stewards, we recognize and receive God’s gifts and then share these gifts out of love for God and neighbour.

Gifts from God that we receive and share include prayer (time), vocations, creation itself, care of the church, care of our neighbour, the dignity of each person, the Gospel, natural resources, ministry (talent), finances (treasure), faith, and so on.

Stewardship implies relationship – with Jesus and with others, our relationship with money and our stuff, our relationship with our Church and our workplace, our receiving and our giving.

Stewardship is an act of love, a response to God’s love. We are called to live with gratitude, sharing our blessings, giving back to God from the first fruits from our labour, and sharing our giftedness. We belong to Christ, we are followers of Christ, but are we adhering to Christ’s way of life – a life of stewardship?

If you wish to learn more about the spirituality of stewardship and a stewardship way of life, or to obtain more information for your parish, consider attending the **2019 Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference to be held June 6-8, 2019** at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon, sponsored by the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

All are invited: clergy, lay persons, parish staff, diocesan staff, religious, development officers – all of God’s children. The theme of the conference is “Go, Make a Difference.”

Watch parish bulletins for more announcements and opportunities to participate. More information is also available on the Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship website at: <https://wccsc.ca>

Reflecting on Life & Faith

Why do I believe in God? For more reasons than I can name

IN EXILE
RON ROLHEISER, OMI

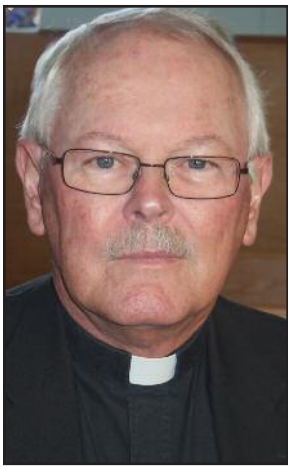
Some of my favorite authors are agnostics, men and women who face life honestly and courageously without faith in a personal God.

They're stoics mostly, persons who have made peace with the fact that God may not exist and that perhaps death ends everything for us. I see this, for example, in the late James Hillman, a man whom I greatly admire and who has much to teach believers about what it means to listen to and honor the human soul.

But here's something I don't admire in these agnostic stoics: While they face with courage what it should mean for us if God doesn't exist and death ends our personal existence, they don't, with the same courage ask the question of what it should mean for us if God does exist and death does not end our personal existence. What if God does exist and what if the tenets of our faith are true? They need too to face that question.

I believe that God exists, not because I have never had doubts, or because I was raised in the faith by persons whose lives gave deep witness to its truth, or because perennially the vast majority of people on this planet believe in God.

I believe that a personal God exists for more reasons than I can name: the goodness of saints; the hook in my own heart that has never let me go; the interface of faith with my own experience, the courage of religious martyrs throughout history; the stunning depth of Jesus' teachings; the deep insights contained in other religions, the mystical experience of countless people; our sense of connection inside the communion of saints with loved ones who have died; the convergence of the anecdotal testimony of hundreds of individuals who have been clinically dead and resuscitated back to life; the things we sometimes intuitively know beyond all logical reason; the constant recurrence of resurrection in our lives; the essential triumph of truth and goodness



Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“Our lives and our universe have a deep, innate, non-negotiable structure of love and justice written into them, one that can only be underwritten by a living, personal, divine mind and heart of love...”

throughout history; the fact that hope never dies, the unyielding imperative we feel inside of ourselves to be reconciled with others before we die; the infinite depth of the human heart; and, yes, even the very ability of atheists and agnostics to intuit that somehow it still all makes sense, points to the existence of a living, personal God.

I believe that God exists because faith works; at least to the extent we work it. The existence of God proves itself true to the extent that we take it seriously and live our lives in face of it.

Simply put, we're happy and at peace to the exact extent that we risk, explicitly or implicitly, living lives of faith. The happiest people I know are also the most generous, selfless, gracious, and reverent persons I know. That's no accident.

Leon Bloy once asserted that there's only one true sadness in life, that of not being a saint. We see that in the story of the rich young man in Gospels who turns down Jesus' invitation to live his faith more deeply. He goes away sad. Of course, being a saint and being sad are never all or nothing, both have degrees. But there's a constant: We're happy or sad in direct proportion to our fidelity or infidelity to what's one, true, good, and beautiful. I know that existentially: I'm happy and at peace to the exact extent that I take my faith seriously

Growing up at Cactus Lake, and attending St. Donatus parish in our diocese, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser was ordained a priest in 1972 as a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is an acclaimed author, theologian and teacher, and is known to readers of the now-closed *Prairie Messenger* Catholic newspaper for his weekly column, *In Exile*. Fr. Rolheiser has given permission for *In Exile* columns to appear in our Diocesan Newsletter. A link to the weekly column is also posted on our diocesan website, or you can find them on his website at www.ronrolheiser.com

and live it out in fidelity; the more faithful I am, the more at peace I am, and vice versa.

Inherent in all of this too is a certain “law of karma,” namely: the universe gives back to us morally exactly what we give to it. As Jesus worded it, *the measure you measure out is the measure that will be measured back to you*. What we breathe out is what we're going to inhale. If I breathe out selfishness, selfishness is what I will inhale; if I breathe out bitterness, that's what I'll meet at every turn; conversely, if I breathe out love, graciousness, and forgiveness, these will be given back to me in the exact measure that I give them out. Our lives and our universe have a deep, innate, non-negotiable structure of love and justice written into them, one that can only be underwritten by a living, personal, divine mind and heart of love.

None of this, of course, proves God's existence with the kind of proof we find in science or mathematics; but God isn't found at the end of an empirical test, a mathematical equation, or a philosophical syllogism. God is found, explicitly or implicitly, in living a good, honest, gracious, selfless, moral life, and this can happen inside of religion or outside of it.

The Belgian Benedictine, Benoit Standaert, submits that *wisdom is three things, and a fourth*. Wisdom is a respect for knowledge; wisdom is a respect for honesty and aesthetics; and wisdom is a respect for mystery.

But there's a fourth – wisdom is a respect for Someone.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com or follow him on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser

Bruised & Wounded is a new book by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI: Recognizing that there is still a stigma, in both the Christian and secular world, surrounding death by suicide, Fr. Rolheiser takes his spiritual understanding of the woundedness of those whose lives end in this pain, and “breathes out the compassion and peace of God.” Many, many people in the world have been touched by suicide. Fr. Rolheiser's writings provide hope, consolation, and empathy to those left behind, providing a new way of understanding death by suicide. This is a valuable resource for pastors, pastoral care ministers, parishes and individuals. To purchase a copy, call JoAnne at (306) 222-2819, or e-mail: info@ronrolheiser.com

Beyond criticism and anger – the invitation to a deeper empathy

IN EXILE
RON ROLHEISER, OMI

Recently I attended a symposium where the keynote speaker was a man exactly my age.

Since we had both lived through the same cultural and religious changes in our lives, I resonated with much of what he said and with how he felt about things. And in his assessment of both the state of affairs in our politics and our churches today, he was pretty critical, even angry. Not without reason.

In both our governments and our churches today there isn't just a bitter polarization and an absence of fundamental charity and respect, there's also a lot of seemingly inexcusable blindness, lack of transparency, and self-serving dishonesty. Our speaker was plenty eager to point these out.

And for the most part, I agreed with him. I feel the same way that he does. The current state of affairs, whether you're looking at politics or the churches, is depressing, bitterly polarized, and cannot but leave you feeling frustrated and accusatory at those whom you deem responsible for the blindness, dishonesty, and injustice that seem inexcusable.

But, while I shared much of his truth and his feelings, I didn't share where he landed. He landed in pessimism and anger, seemingly unable to find anything other than indignation within which to stand. He also ended very negative in

terms of his attitude towards those whom he blames for the problem.

I can't fault his truth and I can't fault his feelings. They're understandable. But I'm not at ease with where he landed. Bitterness and anger, no matter how justified, are not a good place to stay.

Both Jesus and what's noble inside of us invite us to move beyond anger and indignation.

Beyond anger, beyond indignation, and beyond justified criticism of all that's dishonest and unjust, lies an invitation to a deeper empathy.

This invitation doesn't ask us to stop being prophetic in the face of what's wrong, but it asks us to be prophetic in a deeper way. A prophet, as Daniel Berrigan so often said, makes a vow of love not of alienation.

But that's not easy to do. In the face of injustice, dishonesty, and willful blindness, all of our natural instincts militate against empathy. Up to a point, this is healthy and shows that we're still morally robust. We should feel anger and indignation in the face of what's wrong. It's understandable too that we might also feel some hateful, judgmental, thoughts towards those whom we deem responsible.

That's a beginning (a healthy enough starting point) but it's not where we're meant to stay. We're called to move towards something deeper, namely, an empathy which previously we did not

access. Deep anger invites deep empathy.

At the truly bitter moments of our lives, when we're feeling overwhelmed by feelings of misunderstanding, slight, injustice, and rightful indignation and we're staring across at those whom we deem responsible for the situation, anger and hatred will naturally arise within us. It's okay to dwell with them for a time (because anger is an important mode of grieving) but, after a time we need to move on.

The challenge then is to ask ourselves: *How do I love now, given all this hatred?*

What does love call me to now in this bitter situation?

Where can I now find a common thread that can keep me in family with those at whom I'm angry?

How do I reach through, reach through the space that now leaves me separated by my own justified feelings of anger?

And, perhaps most important of all: *“From where can I now find the strength to not give into hatred and self-serving indignation?”*

How am I called to love now? How do I love in this new situation? That's the challenge. We've never before been called upon to love in a situation like this. Our understanding, empathy, forgiveness, and love have never before been tested in this way. But that's the ultimate moral

challenge, the “test” that Jesus himself faced in Gethsemane. How do you love when everything around you invites you to the opposite?

Almost all of our natural instincts militate against this kind of empathy, as does most everything around us.

In the face of injustice our natural instincts spontaneously begin, one by one, to shut the doors of trust and make us judgmental. They also invite us to feel indignation and hatred. Now those feelings do produce a certain catharsis in us. It feels good. But that kind of cathartic feeling is a drug that doesn't do much for us long range.

We need something beyond feelings of bitterness and hatred for our long range health. Empathy is that something.

While not denying what's wrong, nor denying the need to be prophetic in the face of all that's wrong, empathy still calls us to a post-anger, a post-indignation, and a post-hatred.

Jesus modeled that for us and today it's singularly the most needed thing in our society, our churches, and our families.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com or follow him on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser

Bishop’s Annual Appeal: Our Faith in Action

By CATHY GILJE
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

To date, funds raised for this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal total \$384,418, and gifts continue to arrive at the office of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation. Contributions have now been received from 44 of our 94 parishes, and two parishes have already surpassed their BAA goals.

Once again, the generosity of the people of the Saskatoon diocese is overwhelming. Parishioners are opening their hearts and putting their faith in action.

Funds raised for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal aid those in need through the ministries of Hospital Chaplaincy, Restorative Ministry (prison outreach), Justice and Peace, and Migration (refugee sponsorship).

Donations also support the faith journeys of seminarians (Vocations), of youth receiving sacramental preparation (Evangelization and



Catechesis) and of young adults getting to know Jesus (Youth Ministry). Gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal also support adult faith formation through programs such as Lay Formation and the Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) of Formation. Ecumenism, Communications and many other essential services, ministries and outreach in our diocese are also supported through gifts to the Annual Appeal.

Support will also go to three new initiatives this year: capital funds for both the building of new churches and the restoration of existing church buildings, as well as help for the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, a geographically vast northern diocese of faith-filled people with limited

resources, shepherded by Archbishop Murray Chatlain.

It is not too late to make a one-time gift or a monthly pledge to this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Online giving is a quick, easy and secure way to donate: visit www.dscf.ca to make a gift using a credit card. Cash, cheques, direct debit or credit card gifts are also accepted through your parish or to the office of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1. Gifts of stocks or shares can also be made through the Foundation Office. For more information, call (306) 659-5851.

Many thanks to those who have made a donation to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and to all the volunteers and pastors who each year assist in the Appeal.

Every gift, no matter the size, has value, and we are grateful for your generosity of heart. This is, indeed, *Our Faith in Action*.



Children preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist at St. Peter’s Parish in Unity, SK, this spring participated in a day-long retreat beforehand. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Sharing Jesus Christ is goal of Evangelization and Catechesis

Supporting parishes in their challenging mission to evangelize and to teach the faith – that is the goal of the Evangelization and Catechesis office in the diocese of Saskatoon, affirmed coordinator Marilyn Jackson in a report to parish representatives at a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 12.

“How do we connect to those who are spiritually hungry, but are not coming to the church for help in satisfying that hunger? How do we catechize families who only want the minimum of faith formation for their children? The list of pressing questions is long, and I want to work with every one of you who are involved in accompanying families to figure out the answers.”

Jackson said that the diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis office is “deeply informed by the New Evangelization,” and exists to offer practical tools and support. “It is all about ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that our culture can understand and respond to,” she said. “It is about building bridges; it is about building relationships.”

Jackson described plans for the diocesan office to offer a spring and a fall event each year, and the upcoming launch of a diocesan retreat for parishes to use as part of preparing children to receive the initiation sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Evangelization and Catechesis is supported by the



On the administrative front, Jackson noted that sacramental preparation forms will be going out in the near future, with plans to set next year’s Confirmation schedule as soon as possible.

“You have heard the old saying ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ and that has never been more true than it is today,” Jackson said.

“It is the responsibility of all of us to nurture the faith of our children, to make sure they are building a relationship with Jesus Christ. That falls on the office of Evangelization and Catechesis, on the pastors, on the catechists, on the parents, and the entire parish,” she said, adding this is true not only for catechesis and sacramental preparation for children, but also for RCIA, marriage preparation and faith growth for all ages.

“If you need help finding program resources, workshops, or training – or maybe you just want to chat about practical ways for sharing the gospel in your ministries or in everyday life – I would be happy to assist you. I am just a phone call away.”

For more information contact Marilyn Jackson at mjackson@rcdos.ca or at (306) 659-5836. - KLY

Appeal now includes two capital funds, plus support for northern archdiocese

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Mark Hagemoen has identified three new areas of support for in this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Two new capital funds are being created, to be supported by gifts to the BAA – one for the long-term establishment of new church buildings, and the other for the ongoing restoration of existing churches across the diocese.

Last year, Saskatoon had the highest growth rate of any city in Canada, the bishop noted at the launch of the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (BAA) during a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 12 in Saskatoon.

“There is a need for us to anticipate the growth of the Saskatoon urban community. Saskatoon Catholic schools are already doing this, and we need to have the same foresight on the Church level as well,” Hagemoen said. “If we leave it until later, it will be far too expensive to get into it.”

A new parish fund to assist in acquiring property for future church buildings, and to assist in construction through a still-to-be determined funding formula, is therefore a prudent undertaking, the bishop said. “It might be 20 years out, but if we don’t start now, we won’t come at it at all.”

For rural communities, the demographics are often the reverse, with declining populations struggling to maintain existing church buildings, he noted.

“I am really impressed overall at how well our rural communities take care of their churches. However, there is a common lament, with people saying to me: ‘Bishop, we have fewer people trying to take care of the physical resources of our church building – we may need help in the future,’” said Hagemoen. In response to that concern, a capital restoration fund was established, to be supported through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, to eventually generate income to assist a local community in dealing with restoration.

The third and final new area to receive support through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is support for the Church in the North – namely, the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, which covers northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In January 2016, Pope Francis asked all the Catholic dioceses of Canada to take over mission support for six northern Canadian dioceses that previously came under the Roman Curia’s *Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples*, explained Hagemoen.

“Pope Francis basically said: ‘Canada, you are a relatively rich nation. Can you extend support to some of the dioceses in the north, so that we can focus on many dioceses in other parts of the world, generally in the south of the globe, that really need help?’ The Canadian bishops said yes. So, in this diocese, our support is being extended to Keewatin-Le Pas.”

Another change this year will see parishes that exceed their BAA goal keeping 100 per cent of the overage for parish priorities, minus a 14 per cent fund-raising administration cost. Previously, parishes that exceeded their goal kept 75 per cent of the overage.

Describing the Bishop’s Annual Appeal as a “vital and needed resource for undertaking the pastoral mission of the diocese of Saskatoon,” Hagemoen thanked parish leaders for their support.

Cathy Gilje, Development Manager with the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, also spoke at Administration Day about the logistics of the Appeal. This year the goal is to raise \$1,295,000.

Don Gorsalitz, Director of Development for the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation gave an overview of the BAA and of fund-raising strategies. “The Bishop’s Appeal is all about doing things together that we can’t do on our own,” he said.



St. Denis 100th Anniversary

The communities of the Trinity pastoral region gathered July 22 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Denis Church -- one of many well-loved rural church buildings in the diocese of Saskatoon. After a mid-afternoon Sunday Eucharistic celebration, there was a Marian procession to the cemetery. Prayers were offered for deceased members of the community, and the graves were blessed. A meal followed in the community hall. Present for the 100th anniversary celebrations were Bishop Mark Hagemoen, current Pastor Fr. Stephen Morrissey, CSsR, and former pastors, Fr. Bernard de Margerie, and Fr. Emile April.

- Photo by Bishop Mark Hagemoen

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is an important source of funding for pastoral services in the diocese, Gorsalitz reported.

Gorsalitz stressed the importance of strong local leadership and support from pastors, of having a fixed timeline for the Appeal, and of inspiring dedicated volunteers who understand the impact of the ministries and outreach that the Appeal supports.

“Donor inspiration, engagement and passion” are what will ultimately make the biggest difference in the Appeal, he said, noting that people respond generously when they understand what they are being asked for, and why it is important.

Gorsalitz ended by quoting Pope Francis: “We are called to become more fully who we are, the people of God. The call to holiness is at once personal and communal — pushing us to actively build the kingdom of God.”

For more information about the BAA or to donate online, visit the website at: <https://dscf.ca/bishops-annual-appeal> or contact Cathy Gilje at (306) 659-5851.



Diocesan coordinator of Evangelization and Catechesis Marilyn Jackson met with Josh Canning, national Catholic coordinator with Alpha Canada during a follow-up session to the New Evangelization Summit held at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon this spring. Canning described the powerful impact of Alpha in providing a welcoming place for people to find answers to life’s biggest questions, and to learn more about Jesus. See: www.alphacanada.org - Photo by K. Yaworski

“We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this message of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing.”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #273

Lay Formation nurtures faith and forms disciples through learning, prayer, community

Three streams of Lay Formation recently started the second year of a two-year process of faith growth that challenges adult Catholics to live out their baptismal call to be disciples of Jesus.

“What we really do is: we educate, we evangelize, we inspire, and we test – testing meaning that we push people towards their faith. We nudge. We heal. We share. And we pray,” described Blair Carruthers in a report about Lay Formation presented to parish leaders from across the diocese of Saskatoon at a Sept. 12 Administration Day held at Holy Family Cathedral.

Lay Formation learning includes a wide-range of topics presented by qualified and inspirational speakers, covering topics such as scripture, theology, Church teachings, sacraments, ecumenism, justice, etc. Participants experience a wide range of prayer forms during their two-year journey, and are challenged to deepen their prayer life, spirituality, and personal relationship with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Lay Formation is also a



Lay Formation coordinators from three streams – (l-r) Blair Carruthers, Sr. Marijka Konderwicz, Marlene Hansen, and Jennifer Carruthers – board the bus for a pilgrimage to the St. Laurent shrine Sept 8.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

powerful experience of community, with participants sharing faith and life experiences, and walking together in a journey of faith growth.

Lay Formation is held at Queen’s House, on one weekend a month, from September to June, over two years.

The diocesan Lay Formation stream operates alongside a Ukrainian Catholic eparchial stream, and an Indigenous stream involving First Nations and Métis Catholics from three dioceses: Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Keewatin-Le Pas.

Blair and Jennifer Carruthers are coordinators

of Lay Formation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Sr. Marijka Konderwicz, SSMI, and Sr. Bonni Komarnicki, SSMI, coordinate the Ukrainian Catholic eparchial stream, and Marlene Hansen of Buffalo Narrows is coordinator of Indigenous Lay Formation.

As a result of a consultative re-evaluation process, some changes have been made in the diocesan program, noted Blair Carruthers. For instance, the program now ends Saturday evening for diocesan participants, rather than running until Sunday afternoon.

“We are working under



Scripture scholar Deb Rolfes leads a reflection during a session on the Bible held during the Sept. 7-8 Lay Formation opening weekend this fall.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Lay Formation and Aboriginal Lay Formation are supported by the

Bishops
ANNUAL APPEAL

the direction of Bishop Mark Hagemoen’s guidance to make sure that this 31-year-old program is continuing to do what it set out to do, and also to meet the needs of our diocese going forward,” he said. “We are journeying together and have learned so much, especially with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.”

There are presently six Indigenous participants from Keewatin-Le Pas, as well as three aspirants for the permanent diaconate from the diocese of Prince Albert participating in the Indigenous Lay Formation



Tickets on the Lay Formation bus to St. Laurent were made available to others in the community, ensuring a full bus load for the evening pilgrimage.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

program. The diocesan stream has 12 participants, and the eparchial stream 7. The next opportunity to enroll in Lay Formation will be in September 2019.

Carruthers described a recent highlight on the first weekend of Lay Formation this fall – after a full day of learning, participants boarded a bus Sept. 8 and travelled to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Laurent, SK, to experience the pilgrimage

celebration for the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“We celebrated Mary’s birthday with hundreds of brothers and sisters, as Catholics, and it was absolutely amazing,” he said. “At the end of the day, what we are hoping to accomplish is to inspire people in their Catholic faith.”

For more info contact jcarruthers@rcdos.ca or call (306) 659-5846. -KLY

“Go therefore and make disciples...” - Matthew 28:19

Personal story, love, prayer – insights into sharing faith offered by New Evangelization speaker from Martensville

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

St. Anne parish was the Saskatoon host site for a New Evangelization Summit (NES), broadcast this spring from Ottawa to gatherings across North America.

“The theme of the New Evangelization Summit, the three values, that we bring to the table each year are to inspire, to form, and to connect,” local organizer Daniel Pettipas told the crowd that filled the Father Paul Donlevy Hall at the Saskatoon parish.

NES speakers described how the New Evangelization

is about proclaiming the Gospel and introducing Jesus Christ and His saving mission in a modern world where even the baptized are not necessarily evangelized.

Christy Dupuis, who provides pastoral ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Martensville, SK, was one of the NES speakers this year. Drawing upon her experience with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), Dupuis shared her own conversion experience and what she has learned over the years about being a missionary.

She stressed the power of personal testimony. “Our stories are one of the most powerful tools that we have as missionaries,” she said.

“More than anything, people need to hear an authentic witness, an authentic telling of God’s presence in our lives today. That he is active, that he is real... that he brings joy beyond comparison... Your stories have power to communicate the reality of Christ.”

Authentic love must guide every effort of evangelization, not guilt or

judgment or fear, Dupuis stressed.

“Love is going to be the doorway for conversion.” She challenged participants to prayerfully reflect on their motivation when it comes to sharing faith, and to consider how they are loving authentically.

Building a relationship, trusting and being open with each other are needed, she said. “As missionaries we need to spend a lot of time listening, understanding the people we are getting to know.”

Evangelization is best undertaken one person at a time, as a journey of accompaniment, Dupuis said.

“We need to rely on the Holy Spirit,” she stressed. “Get up and root yourselves in the scriptures. Pray. We cannot do this work without that.”

Finally, Dupuis urged her listeners to “push the ignition switch,” be persistent, and to finally take action to do the work of an evangelist.

“Do not be afraid to pour yourself out in service so that others may receive the fullness of who they are called to be,” she concluded.

Talks from NES 2018 are available on audio and video, and can be borrowed from the diocesan office of Evangelization and Catechesis – contact Marilyn



Christy Dupuis was a speaker at NES 2018, which was broadcast to sites across North America.

Jackson at (306) 659-5836 or mjackson@rcdos.ca

The next New Evangelization Summit will be broadcast to host sites on May 4, 2019, including at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Watch for details in the new year.



Vacation Bible School in Wilkie

St. James Parish in Wilkie, SK, hosted their first Vacation Bible School in August 2018. There were 27 children, ages 4-12 years, in attendance. All took part in a range of activities

including crafts, games, music and faith formation. “The whole community came together to make this a truly wonderful experience by volunteering their time, donating snacks and spreading the word. We hope this will have been the first of many Vacation Bible Schools to come,” said Adriana Viale.

- Photos by Dianne Karstens



Vacation Bible Camp at the Cathedral

“Cathletics” - Training to be Champions for Christ was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family parish July 9-13 with 85 campers, 35 junior youth volunteers, 19 senior youth volunteers, and 25 adult leaders in attendance. Parents provided cookies, watermelon, and veggie trays. The Vacation Bible Camp week was action-packed with loads of faith, food and fun. The week concluded with a hot dog lunch provided by the Holy Family CWL.

- Photo by Patsy Pohler

JOY helps participants put faith into action

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Ten graduates of the Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) of Formation were sent forth June 9, after completing the program designed to assist in putting faith into action.

JOY is an experiential learning program that connects Catholic Social Teaching with the real-life challenges experienced by people living on the margins.

During 10 weekend sessions from September to June led by diocesan coordinator Kate O’Gorman, participants explore various issues of social justice including: international development, economic injustice, poverty and peace; human dignity; refugees and newcomers; the Indigenous experience; health and elder



Graduates of the 2018 Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) program were sent forth in June. A new group began the program in September, experiencing ways to put Catholic Social Teaching into action. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

care; hunger/food security; restorative justice; youth and family; and care of the earth. By visiting local service agencies, meeting with those who work in these social justice fields and being with

the people they serve, participants broaden understanding and become equipped to engage in service outreach.

JOY graduate Paul Wheeler of St. Augustine

parish, Saskatoon, describes how the program pushed him out of his comfort zone — first by his placement as a volunteer hospital visitor, and then through encounters at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

At the prison, he witnessed some of the outreach provided by diocesan coordinator of Restorative Ministry Dianne Anderson and her team of volunteers.

Wheeler was profoundly affected by seeing the overcrowding and the lack of programming or training for men in prison. “There is a lot of work that needs to be done to help these young men come out in society with a chance of not reoffending and not going back to prison,” he observes.

Inspired by the JOY program’s call to put faith into action, Wheeler drew upon his own experience and role as an instructor in the Culinary Arts program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic to propose the creation of a new training program for men leaving prison, enabling them to learn basic food preparation skills, earn a certificate, and have some tangible skills to put on a resume.

Sask Polytechnic, the John Howard Society and the provincial Corrections department have responded positively to the idea, and the program is now being developed. It is expected to be in place within a year, says Wheeler.

“The JOY program has been instrumental in showing me that when you see an issue where people are suffering or people are experiencing injustice or anything, our call is to jump

Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) of Formation is supported by the



Paul Wheeler: reaching out to men in prison. - Photo by Tim Yaworski



Nicole Turner: bringing insights into classrooms. - Photo by Tim Yaworski



Jason and Rachelle Brockman of St. Philip Neri parish: new understandings of service and solidarity. - Photo by Tim Yaworski



Prison ministry

Bishop Mark Hagemoen and Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry office stand with men who participated in celebration of the Eucharist on Easter Sunday at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. Restorative Ministry offered at the prison includes celebration of Mass, regular prayer times, Returning to Spirit healing programs, and parenting programs. Currently, the Restorative Ministry office is collecting children’s pajamas (size 2 up, with a great need for larger sizes, 10-14) and small back packs as part of a project in which men in prison are videotaped reading a bedtime story to their children or young family members, as a way to strengthen parenting skills and foster stronger family connections. Donations can be dropped off at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call Dianne Anderson at (306) 659-5845. - Photo submitted

Restorative Ministry is supported by the Bishops' ANNUAL APPEAL



Volunteers in diocesan Restorative Ministry gathered for a barbecue to reflect on the year, enjoy some fellowship, and hear words of appreciation from coordinator Dianne Anderson. Some 40 dedicated volunteers have assisted in outreach, ministry, and liturgies at the Correctional Centre this past year. - Photo by Teresa Bodnar-Hiebert

in there. It might not be comfortable at first, but there are little things that we can do,” says Wheeler.

Nicole Turner of St. Philip Neri Parish undertook JOY as part of her faith formation commitment as a teacher with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

“As a teacher, I don’t just want to teach to my children’s heads but I also want to teach to their hearts. So how can I make the world small enough for them to understand that we’re all connected and that we should be there for each other,” she says. “Going through the JOY program really helps to highlight the different issues ... and the different ways we can help.”

JOY graduates Jason and

Rachelle Brockman of St. Philip Neri Parish say the program was an incredible experience. “After the JOY program, three words resonate for me as far as faith in action: sympathy, empathy and compassion,” says Jason.

“Not only did we need our faith in this journey, it absolutely confirmed our faith,” adds Rachelle.

The 2018 JOY program graduates are: Rachelle Brockman, Jason Brockman, Arnel Mendoza, Holly Lyrette, Jana Lalach, Paul Wheeler, Mark Lich, Amy McDonald, Debbie Hittel and Nicole Turner.

A new group of JOY participants started the program in September.

Reflecting on Life & Faith

Christian initiation at Regional Psychiatric Centre brings many blessings

By FR. STEVE MORRISEY, CSSR

I have been a priest since 1996. Over those almost 23 years I have been gifted to witness a few incredible ministry moments. One such ministry experience revolves around sharing faith, growing in faith, and the RCIA process.

A year ago, in the fall of 2017, a young man who lives at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC) approached me to ask about being baptized. He came to me because I am one of the chaplains at the Regional Psychiatric Centre, a ministry that began when I started looking after the weekend celebration of the Eucharist at the RPC when

a previous chaplain moved on to other pastoral endeavours.

After this first gentleman approached me about the sacrament of baptism, a few others also stepped forward.

As the leaves were beginning to fall from the trees and the temperature was beginning to fall as well, six inquirers at the RPC were asking about baptism and what the faith life is all about.

I love ministry at RPC and the enthusiasm that is so evident behind those walls. The Regional Psychiatric Center is filled with faith and these six gentlemen really wanted to take their faith deeper, so an

RCIA process – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – was started.

Following an autumn inquiry period, a commitment to learn even more was voiced, and so a regular class was established. Questions were asked and answered, and education about our faith was set in motion.

RCIA in the RPC, due to availability and accessibility, meant a few changes in how things were run, but flexibility is at the heart of what we do and living the faith proved to be the number one priority.

Months of regular classes got the gentlemen to the point of being ready to celebrate the Easter sacraments. Months of

questions and answers made it very evident that these gentlemen were at a point where they could live the faith.

I have been very impressed by their desire to serve and their desire to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Having walked with these gentlemen and attended liturgy with them and visited with each of them I have grown in my faith. RCIA and the RPC go very well together.

To inquire about becoming a volunteer at the RPC and helping with the RCIA process, contact Fr. Steve Morrisey, CSSR, at (306) 321-5387.

Chaplains highlight need for spiritual care

BY DARLENE POLACHIC
(This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in The StarPhoenix, used with the author's permission.)

When provincial budget cuts eliminated funding for spiritual care in Saskatoon's hospitals, faith communities were left to pick up the slack. "Spiritual care is every

person's right," says Len Bachiu, pastor to seniors at Cornerstone Church. "It addresses the needs of patients, friends and family members when they're seeking hope, meaning, comfort and strength, especially during life crises." The lack of spiritual care personnel in local hospitals was never more evident than

a recent "code orange" emergency at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, says Jackie Saretsky, a chaplain hired by the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon (with funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal.) "When that Code Orange was called at RUH, there was no Spiritual Care department staff to alert," says Saretsky. "No clergy were notified." The lack of Spiritual Care personnel on hand to respond to the emergency or notify denominational chaplains, meant that no minister or priest was present to offer comfort and prayers. "Families involved were left without spiritual support," she describes.



Dave Feick, SCACS chairman and a Mennonite Church representative; Jackie Saretsky, coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; and Len Bachiu, pastor to seniors at Cornerstone Church, (l-r) are among those lobbying for spiritual care in hospitals.
- Photo by Darlene Polachic

Hospital patients encouraged to ask for pastoral visits

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
If a patient at a Saskatoon hospital wishes to have a pastoral visit, wants to receive holy communion, or longs to have someone to pray with, Jackie Saretsky hopes that they will ask.

Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by the
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Although provincial government funding for spiritual care has been cut, pastoral visits are still available from denominational chaplains and volunteers, stresses Saretsky, diocesan coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy, an office supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. The Grey Nuns and St. Paul's Hospital Foundation donations fund the spiritual care offered at St. Paul's Hospital.

However, the elimination of spiritual care funding and departments in hospitals has led to the elimination of patient lists for clergy and volunteers, which means patients must actively request pastoral visits.

Patients at Saskatoon City or Royal University Hospitals can contact Saretsky at jsaretsky@rcdos.ca or (306) 292-5531 to ask for Catholic chaplaincy services. Patients at St. Paul's Hospital can ask at the nursing desk or call (306) 655-5000 to request spiritual care.

At a recent diocesan Administration Day, Saretsky encouraged pastors and parish leaders to build awareness about the need to actively request spiritual care services, given recent cuts to spiritual care funding in the province.

"If more people who are registered patients in the hospital ask for a chaplain, the health authority has to provide chaplains... we need to keep advocating for that."

Saretsky is also actively involved in promoting and presenting the Dying Healed program. The workshop addresses how to respond to suffering, deal with end-of-life issues, and provide compassionate care in an era of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Dying Healed workshops have so far been offered in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Unity. Saretsky has also given several presentations about the need to provide good palliative care.

"We need to set hearts on fire; to get people to the bedside to offer care and support, long before MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) is called in."

Advisory Council

That lack underscores the importance of SCACS, the Spiritual Care Advisory Council of Saskatoon, which was formed following the budget cuts.

The council is composed of representatives from Christian denominations plus Muslims, Hindus and Baha'is. Its purpose is to advocate for spiritual care in hospitals, to explore ways to compensate for the current funding loss, and to be a support team for churches and spiritual care volunteers who must fill the gap.

The withdrawal of funding eliminated two paid spiritual care positions from City Hospital and three from Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Two Aboriginal spiritual care positions continue to receive funding through the Representative Work Force department.

Saretsky says the situation is a bit different at St. Paul's Hospital, which is a faith-based institution. "The founding Grey Nuns left a legacy to ensure spiritual care would be ongoing at St. Paul's. It is now supported by SPH Foundation."

Lobbying

SCACS meets monthly to share updates and

brainstorm ideas. "One of big things we discuss is ways to lobby the government and the Health Region to bring back funding for spiritual care in hospitals and keep spiritual care footings in place," Saretsky says.

"The changing policy on clergy lists is always part of the discussion."

Loss of clergy lists

In the past, patients admitted to hospital were asked their denominational or faith preference. Lists were compiled and forwarded to appropriate spiritual care workers.

Patients are no longer being asked their religious preference, since doing so is now deemed a breach of privacy. Instead, anyone wanting a visit from a spiritual care volunteer must give informed consent. In effect, they must request a visit.

"SCACS is printing cards for patients with information on spiritual care services in Saskatoon hospitals," Bachiu says. "The cards will be displayed in each room at every bed. They'll be laminated so they can be wiped clean and kept germ-free."

"We encourage people who have a personal faith or belong to a particular congregation or faith group to inform their spiritual

leader or faith representative about their admission to hospital. The leaders of faith traditions are welcome at the hospital and encouraged to visit and conduct activities such as spiritual counselling and prayer."

Out of town patients

Bachiu is especially concerned about spiritual care for out-of-town patients.

"Without the clergy lists, if a patient is here from Kerrobert, for instance, the person will have no spiritual support whatsoever unless some person from Kerrobert alerts somebody here," says Bachiu

Denominational and multi-faith chaplains, as well as Saskatchewan Health Authority management continue to be involved in on-going discussions regarding the "clergy lists," reports Saretsky.

Holistic health care

SCACS members stress that a person doesn't have to be "religious" to benefit from spiritual care.

As Saretsky puts it, "A spiritual care provider can listen to concerns and provide support. Spiritual care isn't only for people who are dying, it's for anyone seeking personal growth or anyone who needs help coping with change,

illness or loss."

Bachiu says spiritual care is an essential part of the holistic approach to health care.

"Hospitals aren't here just to mend broken bones. They need to deal with the spiritual aspect, as well. We want to partner with the health system to provide holistic care, especially end of life care. Lots of patients are dealing with end of life issues and everyone has questions. They need to talk. They need support."

Dave Feick, SCACS chairman and a Mennonite Church representative, says, "When publicity arose last year around the issue of funding being pulled, I had people tell me the government shouldn't be funding religion anyway. But this isn't religion. This is spiritual care. This is help for people to deal with what they're going through."

The Spiritual Care Advisory Council of Saskatoon invites participation in exploring avenues of action. Many have written letters to government lobbying for a reinstatement of support for spiritual care in hospitals.

To learn more about SCACS, its work and activities contact Dave Feick at feick.dave@gmail.com or (306) 270-5031.



Pastoral Care Appreciation

Long-time volunteer visitor Joanne Regnier spoke at an annual Pastoral Care Appreciation event April 25 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, describing the blessings she has received by volunteering to bring communion to patients and assisting with hospital worship services. The appreciation event also included a prayer service led by hospital chaplain Fr. Rhéal Bussière. The reception that followed included words of welcome and appreciation from Jackie Saretsky, coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and entertainment by local musician Garth Horn, featuring music from the 60s and 70s.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Compassionate Healers Mass

Fr. Nestor Gregoire, OMI (left), and Bishop Mark Hagemoen anoint the hands of those providing care and outreach to the sick, the elderly, the suffering, and the dying. The ritual was part of the annual Compassionate Healers Mass, held Sept. 19 at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon. Offered for all those involved in health care in any way, including medical and health care staff, administrators, spiritual care providers, nurses, students, volunteers, parish ministers, and family caregivers, the annual Mass is organized in dioceses across Saskatchewan by the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. CHAS was formed in 1943 to be a voice for Catholic hospitals and long-term care facilities, and to protect and promote Catholic health care. The 75th annual CHAS provincial convention was held Oct. 22-23.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Share the Journey reaches out to migrants and refugees

By LOUISE BITZ

“Hope is what drives the hearts of those who depart,” said Pope Francis Sept. 27, 2017 as he opened the Caritas ‘Share the Journey’ two-year global campaign for awareness and action on the growing reality of forced migration and refugees.

He said: “Hope is also what drives the hearts of those who welcome: the desire to meet each other, get to know each other, to dialogue. Hope is what drives ‘sharing the journey of life’, as the Caritas campaign we are inaugurating today reminds us. Brothers and sisters, we are not afraid to share the journey! We are not afraid to share hope!”

The campaign emanates from the spiritual truth that we are all connected; we are one Body in Christ. Pope Francis often uses the language of building a culture of encounter: a culture that slows down, becomes more aware of the other, and reaches out to welcome. We are part of one another’s life journey. This campaign promotes building a culture of encounter with forced migrants and refugees.



Participants in a Development and Peace/Caritas Canada workshop at Columbian Place in Saskatoon Sept. 22 reach out with arms open wide after learning more about Pope Francis’ call to join the international Share the Journey campaign. Development and Peace is one of hundreds of groups around the globe who are answering the Holy Father’s call to build a “culture of encounter” as a way to build empathy and solidarity for migrants and refugees.

- Photo by Louise Bitz

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis said, “If we bond with refugees and migrants, we will break down the barriers with which some are trying to separate us. The campaign reaches out to recognize, restore and share our common humanity.”

Some parish and school communities are taking it one

step further. Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon, for one, this year is embracing the call to build a culture of encounter and share the journey as a way of being church, the People of God.

Led by Fr. Darryl Millette and the Pastoral Council, the parish will be invited to engage in various initiatives throughout the year that have

the spirituality of “encounter” at the core.

Celena Komarnicki, Parish Youth Ministry Coordinator, is working in close collaboration with the parish’s six elementary schools to support building a culture of encounter and sharing the journey in the schools.

As part of the visible action in the campaign, Pope

Francis made a “reach out” gesture — opening his arms wide. The gesture was echoed by participants at a Development and Peace/Caritas Canada workshop Sept. 22 in Saskatoon (see photo, above). Development and Peace/Caritas Canada is one of the groups around the world taking up the Share the Journey campaign.

Cathedral hosts yoga fundraising event to help upcoming refugee sponsorship

By DIANE WALDBILLIG

The Cathedral of the Holy Family is expecting a refugee family in the next year, a single mother with five children.

Our parish has obtained furniture, household items and a house to rent as part of the sponsorship. The date of the family’s arrival is not certain: it could take a long time, or the family could quite suddenly be here. Therefore, the parish is fundraising.

Holy Family held its third Yoga for Refugees



A yoga event raised funds for refugee sponsorship at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

- Photo submitted

event Sept. 15. Participants brought donations and practised Christ-centred Holy Yoga. The event also included door prizes and refreshments, and an opportunity to buy “Centimental Jewelry: Bracelets with a Message,” an ongoing fundraiser for Holy Family’s refugee program.

A delightful surprise at this year’s event was the participation of a group of recent newcomers from Pakistan who were sponsored by St. Philip Neri parish. The young women brought beautiful fused glass crosses that they had made in order to help raise funds.

There has been a lot of discussion about refugees in recent years, because there are so many in the world.

The United Nations Refugee Agency reports that some 25 million people are refugees in our world today. Internet reports add that some five million are living in refugee camps, some for as long as 14 years.

Imagine being a child growing up in a tent with no possessions, no education,

no work for the parents, and little food.

Most people are very generous but some have commented that there are too many refugees, that we can’t afford to help them all, or that they are taking jobs away from Canadians.

According to the “way of the world,” it does not seem financially feasible, not economically sound, not humanly possible, to take care of all the refugees in the world – but what would Jesus do?

Almost all of us are descended from immigrants coming to Canada. We have been given so much and so we are called to share with others.

In Mother Teresa’s words, we can’t do great things; we can only do small things with great love. We will help one family at a time.

James 1: 27 says it best: “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”



Family reunited through St. Philip Neri sponsorship

Two young children were welcomed July 20 at the airport by family members and by members of the refugee sponsorship committee at St. Philip Neri parish in Saskatoon. The children were joining other family members who have been here since 2016, also sponsored by St. Philip Neri.

- Photo by Dale Scott

Office of Migration creating a framework to protect all involved in refugee sponsorship

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
Migration Office Coordinator Sofia Berumen provided an update about refugee sponsorship in the diocese of Saskatoon during a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 12 at Holy Family Cathedral.

“The diocese functions as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) before the Canadian government. We bring refugees and we are legally responsible for their financial and settlement support for a year. To do that, we rely on the hard work of more than 20 sponsoring groups, mainly parishes, and co-sponsors who are (often) the refugee’s family members,” she described

Literally hundreds of refugees have been saved with strong sponsoring

The Office of Migration is supported by the
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groups created in the diocese, Berumen said. Sponsorship in the diocese stretches back nearly 40 years.

There have also been a number of significant changes to the sponsorship process over the years.

“In 2018, the federal government shifted its approach to private sponsors like us, creating very clear and stringent rules and monitoring,” she described. “We are quickly adapting by meeting and training sponsoring groups and

sponsors, creating more functional databases, elaborating protocols and creating procedures that were non-existent before, ... we are also creating a framework to protect refugees, sponsors, diocese and parishes through agreements between all parties, including now, refugees.”

Assessing financial capacity, monitoring settlement, undertaking criminal record checks for all volunteers, and improving communications with parish committees and pastors are now underway.

A part-time staff person – Jan Bigland-Pritchard – has also been hired to audit pending cases. Another part-time collaborator is helping to track settlement progress, described Berumen.

Grow Hope’s urban and rural partnerships help Canadian Foodgrains Bank feed the hungry

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DONNA SHULZ

“Growing hope through partnerships” by Donna Shulz was originally published in Canadian Mennonite, Sept. 10, 2018 edition.

“I’ve never been this close to agriculture before,” said Ingrid Lamp. “It’s quite exciting.”

Lamp and her husband travelled four hours from their home in Swift Current to attend the Grow Hope Saskatchewan Field Day.

The Aug. 25 event saw some 100 Canadian Foodgrains Bank supporters gather in Rosthern, SK for a barbecue lunch and a time of learning about food security issues, both locally and globally.

Olympic gold medallist Cindy Klassen was the featured speaker. As the first Canadian to win five medals at a single Winter Olympics, Klassen said that she understands the value of partnerships.

“I had my teammates who pushed me to work my hardest, coaches who developed programs for me,

“When you have more than you need, build a bigger table, not a higher fence.” - Cindy Klassen

support staff like strength trainers, nutritionists and sports psychologists,” said Klassen. “All of them came together to help me do my best.”

Similarly, it is partnerships that make Grow Hope possible.

Grow Hope is a Canadian Foodgrains Bank program that invites individuals – particularly those from urban or non-farming backgrounds – to partner with farmers to help feed the hungry by sponsoring an acre of farmland.

A \$300 donation covers input costs for an acre of land. This includes things like seed, fertilizer and fuel. When the crop is harvested at the end of the growing season, it will be worth as much as \$500 per acre.

The money raised from

the sale of the crop is then donated to the Foodgrains Bank to support food programs around the world.

The government of Canada matches funds donated to Foodgrains Bank at a ratio of up to four-to-one, meaning that a \$300 contribution could grow to as much as \$2,500.

Nathan and Jeanette Janzen devote one of the fields they farm west of Rosthern to the Foodgrains Bank each year.

Together with Nathan’s parents, Vic and Shirley Janzen, they have raised crops for the Foodgrains Bank for many years.

This year, through Grow Hope Saskatchewan, urban “farmers” like Lamp and her husband are covering some of the Janzens’ input costs, making it easier for them to



Olympic gold medallist Cindy Klassen, right, stands with farmers Nathan and Jeanette Janzen and their sons Evan and Bradley at the Grow Hope Saskatchewan field day Aug. 25 near Rosthern. Crops grown through an urban-rural Grow Hope partnership are being harvested for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which will use the money raised to feed the hungry around the world.

- Photo by Donna Schulz

continue to give to the Foodgrains Bank.

While the Grow Hope program is not new to Ontario and Manitoba, this is its first year of operation in Saskatchewan.

Mennonite Central Committee established the Foodgrains Bank in 1983 and remains its largest sponsoring agency. In the years that followed, however, the Foodgrains Bank has grown into a truly ecumenical movement, with sponsoring agencies now

representing fifteen different denominations.

The Grow Hope Saskatchewan project is also a partnership, involving MCC Saskatchewan, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Caritas Canada.

Another theme Klassen explored was hospitality. “When you have more than you need, build a bigger table, not a higher fence,” she said, citing a message being shared on the Internet and through social media.

“We are building a bigger table that reaches from Saskatchewan to Syria and Lebanon, to Bangladesh and Nepal, to Ethiopia and Congo and South Sudan,” she said.

“We are demonstrating our care and compassion for people we will probably never meet, and we want them to know that they are not alone. They are welcome at our table. And the table can continue to grow as more and more people choose to grow hope.”



Rick Block of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Myron Rogal of the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Justice and Peace Office, and Rick Guenther of Mennonite Central Committee (l-r) spoke about Grow Hope Saskatchewan at a recent diocesan Administration Day.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Grow Hope presentation at diocesan event

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An ecumenical partnership between Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Caritas Canada and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is bringing together urban and rural donors to feed the hungry around the world.

The vision behind Grow Hope Saskatchewan was shared with leaders from across the Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon during a Sept. 12 Administration Day.

Myron Rogal of the

diocese of Saskatoon, Rick Guenther of MCC and Rick Block, regional director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank described the project which sees donations going to cover input costs of farmers who have dedicated acres and labour to harvest a crop.

Proceeds from the sale of the crop are then donated to the Foodgrains Bank to address hunger and food security around the world. Donations are matched up to five times by the federal government.

“Grow Hope Saskatchewan is about connecting urban and rural,” said Rogal. “And it is about a basic passion and need that we all have, which is food.”

Block described the history and mission of the Foodgrains Bank, which strives to be a Christian response to hunger. At one time, the Foodgrains Bank actually collected and shipped donated Canadian grain to places of need – but now participating farmers grow the grain and sell it, donating funds.

That financial support is used to implement programs, provide emergency food relief and undertake long-term work to build food security, said Block.

The format of Grow Hope is unique in how it brings together urban and rural, farmers and non-

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farmers, said Guenther. “From the 160 acres provided by farmers and the funds coming in from donors, it can turn into as much as \$400,000 in support of food security,” he said. “Next year it will start all over again.”

For more information about Grow Hope Saskatchewan, including how to get involved as a farmer or as an urban supporter of farmers, contact Myron Rogal in the Justice and Peace Office of the diocese of Saskatoon at (306) 659-5841 or e-mail him at: mrogal@rcdos.ca



Alliance for Life annual walk

The annual Alliance for Life walkathon was held in Saskatoon Sept. 29, raising funds and awareness about the need to protect life at all stages. Alliance for Life provides resources and educational materials about a range of pro-life issues. For more information, see their website at: www.allianceforlifesaskatoon.ca

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



New staff

Among the new staff introduced at Administration Day Sept. 12 in Saskatoon were Andrea Alas (left), the new Executive Assistant to the Curia in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and Melissa Anaetoh (right), Development Assistant with the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Eparchy event features prayers of praise to God for creation

BY TERESA BODNAR-HIEBERT
An inaugural *Season of Creation* gathering was hosted on Sept. 19 by the Human and Environmental Development Program of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon at Steve Patola Park/St. George’s Senior Citizen’s Centre in Saskatoon.

The evening began with a traditional welcome of bread and salt in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition, and with smudging in the First Nations and Métis tradition.

All gathered outdoors for celebration of the traditional Ukrainian Catholic Akathist Prayers in Praise and Care

for God’s Creation. Representatives of several faith communities attended and prayed together for creation.

Following the Akathist Prayer, Dr. Lesya Sabada led a panel discussion with representatives from various Christian denominations.

Representatives of the Islamic, Baha’i, Hindu, Tibetan Buddhist, Christian, Indigenous and Unitarian communities offered prayers from their spiritual traditions and spoke about how their faith is contributing to overcome the environmental crisis.

Fifteen faith traditions were represented. Bishop



Leaders and representatives of different faith communities participated in the Seasons of Creation event organized by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon: (back, l-r) Dr. Michael Pollet, Rev. Brian Maitland, Rev. Karen Fraser Gittletz, Lori Petruskevich, Fr. Antony Ploggen, Mae Popoff, Louise Bitz, Stephanie Siemens, Dr. Chris Hrynkow, Dr. Lesya Sabada; (front, l-r) Bishop Bryan Bayda, Dr. Nawal Sharma, Iman Ilyas Sidyot, Fr. Jakob Palm, Sandra Harper, Gerri Madill and Elder Irene Sharp. - Photo by Teresa Bodnar-Hiebert

Bryan Bayda, CSsR, offered concluding remarks and thanks to the more than 100 in attendance. Fellowship was shared late into the evening.

The *Season of Creation* is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation, which begins on Sept. 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs

through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

Dr. Lesya Sabada is the coordinator of the eparchy’s Human and Environmental Development Program and also teaches at St. Thomas More College. The objective of the new eparchial program is to help the

faithful understand and explore the connection between our personal habits of consumption and the impact this has on the lives of people and the environment throughout the world.

Sabada is available to do workshops on the papal document *Laudato Si’* about

caring for creation. She focuses on the need to change our lifestyles to help address the present ecological crisis. For more information, e-mail her at: l.sabada@usask.ca

For a longer article about the Seasons of Creation event see the news page at: www.skeparchy.org

New inter-faith group will focus on the environment

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
A group of Christian churches who have been collaborating on environmental undertakings is expanding the movement to include other faiths.

The Churches for Environmental Action group has expanded its membership and scope, becoming a new multi-faith group – Communities Inspired for Environmental Action, said Myron Rogal, coordinator of Justice and Peace in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The new Communities Inspired for

Environmental Action group is also affiliated with a national inter-faith body, Faith and the Common Good, he noted.

Communities Inspired for Environmental Action will focus on listening, sharing gifts, peace-building and prayer as they work together to highlight care for creation, Rogal said. The new group will continue a mandate to hold two events per year related to environmental action and awareness

Over the past five years, the original group hosted 10 events, including workshops on solar energy, on our addiction to “stuff,”

and on the economics of happiness.

The first such event to be organized by the new group will be held at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at Agudas Congregation Israel community centre, 715 McKinnon Ave., Saskatoon, said Rogal.

Entitled “Spirited Environmental Action: Why, How and by Whom,” the Nov. 29 event will feature panelists from five different faith traditions sharing insights into their communities, why they are interested in care for creation, and initiatives they have worked on, Rogal described.

“Both membership and consultation is wide open” for the new group, added Rogal. Dr. Christopher Hrynkow is the chair of Communities Inspired for Environmental Action.

“This is a way for the community to come together to see that faith traditions have something to say about care for creation, and that we are taking environmental action in different ways,” said Rogal. “We hope to connect people to their own traditions and also to show that there is a greater voice that can also speak to these challenges together.”

Reflecting on Life & Faith

Brief visit to the North brings new insights and blessings

BY TIM YAWORSKI
This summer I was privileged to spend a few days travelling with Archbishop Murray Chatlain as he visited and celebrated with the faithful of the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas in northern Saskatchewan.

While collecting images and footage for a short film about the northern church, I saw parts of the province I had experienced in name alone. Visiting Beauval, Patuanak, Canoe Narrows, Cole Bay and Wollaston Lake, I met people who have lived great joys and hardships in their remote northern communities.

I was a stranger, often only there for a few hours, so the people were shy around me, but their affection for their archbishop was obvious right from the start. Everywhere we went – suppers, Confirmations, celebrations of the Eucharist, home visits, pilgrimages – Archbishop Murray Chatlain was welcomed, not just as a spiritual leader, but as a friend.

Travelling to the annual Sandy Island Pilgrimage, I had a small glimpse into the realities of reaching the faithful in this remote area.

I travelled from



Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor of the diocese of Saskatoon joined Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas to celebrate the annual Sandy Island pilgrimage northwest of Wollaston Lake, SK in August, experiencing something of the vast distances of the North and the faith of the Dene people in that region. Challenges facing the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas include costly travel over vast distances, poor or non-existent roads, adverse weather conditions, poverty, limited resources, a shortage of priests and lay leaders, as well as a great need for healing and for youth outreach. Beginning this year, the diocese of Saskatoon will raise funds to assist the northern archdiocese as part of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

Saskatoon with the archbishop. Also travelling with us was Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor of the diocese of Saskatoon, who serves at St. Mary parish in Lanigan, SK and Holy Rosary parish in LeRoy, SK. The priest who serves the Wollaston Lake community, Fr. Joji Chandamala, had been delayed in returning from a visit overseas to visit his dying father, and was unable to attend the pilgrimage.

The three-hour turbo-

prop flight included stops in Prince Albert, La Ronge, and finally Wollaston Lake.

During refuelling in Prince Albert, Archbishop Murray spent time visiting with many of his flock who were on their way home to their own communities in the North. The same scene repeated itself in the wooden shed that is the airport in Wollaston Lake.

Upon our arrival at Wollaston Lake, we squeezed into an open

motorboat along with an Elder, and a couple from the community, for the 90-minute trip west across the lake, then dodging the islands in Fond Du Lac River, to finally arrive at Sandy Island, the site of the annual pilgrimage.

As the boat entered a small bay, sounds of drums, cheers, fireworks and rifle shots rang out in welcome.

The shoreline was a wall of joyful Dene First Nations faithful greeting Archbishop

Murray Chatlain at the start of his four-day visit.

Once we settled in, it became obvious why Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor was along for the trip. Nearly every spare moment of the four days, the priest from the diocese of Saskatoon and the archbishop were kept busy celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a steady stream of the faithful.

After a day of shyly watching me wander around the island with my cameras,

the people began to welcome me into their circles.

As we talked, I learned about the faith of their ancestors and the healings that led to the establishment of the annual pilgrimage on this remote island.

They described faith-filled priests of the past who devoted their lives to bring the Word of God to the remote villages and trap-line cabins, often travelling by foot and by dog sled.

Most of all, I witnessed the profound faith of the people at the many Masses, vigils, rosaries and prayer sessions of the pilgrimage.

I was struck by the strength of their devotion to Mother Mary, and learned how Marian devotion strikes deep and reflective chords in the Dene people’s spiritual history and tradition.

One clear night, I headed out on the trail with my camera and tripod to capture the Milky Way.

Under the darkest night sky I have ever experienced, under an endless blanket of stars, on a remote northern island holding a faith-filled and welcoming people and the priests who serve them, I had a hard time remembering when I have ever felt so close to God.

Three Elders called forth for Our Lady of Guadalupe parish

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Three new Elders were called forth by Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Saskatoon on Sept. 30. Sharon Genaille, Dianne Anderson and Irene Sharp were called forth by the community to serve, to pray and teach, and to share traditional teachings and Indigenous spirituality, grounded in the Catholic faith.

The joyful celebration was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Saskatoon, where Our Lady of Guadalupe parish holds weekly 1 p.m. Sunday Mass.

Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux spoke about how a process of deep prayer and discernment went in to the calling forth of the three new Elders, after the retirement of parish Elder Gayle Weenie.

Ledoux introduced the three to the assembly, emphasizing their spirit of prayer and humble service.

"I know that Creator God has sent them to us," she said.

Reflecting on readings that providentially included an account of the elders



Elders Irene Sharp, Dianne Anderson and Sharon Genaille (l-r) of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish are blessed by Fr. Graham Hill, CSSR, during a celebration on Sept. 30.

- Photos by Tim Yaworski

assisting Moses in his prophetic ministry, pastor Fr. Graham Hill, CSSR, stressed the importance of holding tight to tradition.

Hill described how Our Lady of Guadalupe parish serves First Nations and Métis people in Saskatoon,

striving to help all "to see with two eyes, to hear with two ears, to breathe with two nostrils, to walk with two feet: one in our First Nations traditions and one in our Catholic faith."

The installation included an honour song led by

drummers, blessing by the parish priest, as well as traditional smudging by Elder A.J. Felix of Sturgeon Lake First Nation, and the presentation of symbolic gifts to the three new Elders by Elder Gayle Weenie.

The gifts included an

eagle feather, a blanket, sweetgrass, a four-coloured cloth (signifying the four directions), tobacco, and a Bible.

Elders Felix and Weenie shared insights into the role of an Elder. "What is happening here today is needed. It is much needed," said Felix.

He described the Elder's role as one of prayer, of kindness and of being a role model that "walks the talk."

"Tread lightly," he advised the new Elders. "Go and do what you have to – don't take too many side roads or you will get tired. Our Lord God will look after you."

Weenie described the role of an Elder, which she said involves being present to people who need someone to listen and to pray. "It is not a nine to five job. You go wherever you are needed," she said.

Felix stressed the importance of faith, and of bringing children back to church. "I have walked with all the faiths," he said, listing many of the faith communities he has visited. "I have found that in all their

churches, I have found God there."

Each new Elder also addressed the assembly, speaking with emotion, expressing thanksgiving and their commitment to serve the community.

At the conclusion of Mass, those in attendance came forward to greet the three new Elders and then joined hands in a round dance that stretched throughout the worship space.

Visit the Our Lady of Guadalupe parish website at: <http://www.olgp.ca>



Elder Gayle Weenie holds an eagle feather during the celebration. She recently retired from parish ministry.



African-Canadian Catholic Community

The African-Canadian Catholic Community gathered with Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon this spring at St. Michael Church, for a culturally-rich celebration of the Eucharist and an information meeting about the history and hopes of the community. Mass parts and hymns were in various dialects from countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, and South Sudan. Seven missionary priests from African countries were also on hand for the celebration, including Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, one of those who initiated a monthly Mass for the African-Canadian community in Saskatoon some six years ago. Anthony Olusola, the group's president, said members are hoping for recognition of the community within the diocese, with an assigned chaplain, and approval to use St. Michael as the host parish for regular Masses.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Fr. Iheanyi Farewell

Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP, holds up the Papal Blessing presented to him by Bishop Mark Hagemoen (right) on the occasion of the Dominican priest's 40th anniversary of ordination. An anniversary celebration July 8 organized by the parishes of St. Michael the Archangel and St. Peter the Apostle was also a farewell for Enwerem, who has returned home to Nigeria after serving 10 years in the diocese of Saskatoon.

Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Corpus Christ celebration

Incense, flowers, bells, and singing helped those in attendance honour Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist during a Corpus Christi celebration in May. For the past three years, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass Community has held a High Mass and procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ). This year, some 100 people participated in the Solemn Mass and Eucharistic procession, including some religious of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy and two priests from the Order of Saint John Cantius in Chicago. "We were happy to have brought Our Lord to the streets and to honour Him in public in such a beautiful celebration," said Julie Abernethy. The Latin Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Czestochowa church on 20th Street and Avenue Y. For more information about the Latin Mass in Saskatoon, visit: <http://saskatoonlatinmass.com>

- Photo by Mary Hatcher



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Feast Day

A celebration for the Feast of St. Kateri was hosted by Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon April 17. The event included a rosary procession from Guadalupe House parish office to St Mary's Church with a statue of the saint, followed by supper in the church hall. Parish youth then presented a play about the life and holiness of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks. St. Kateri was born in 1656, and died April 17, 1680, at the age of 24. Born in what is now New York state, she became a Christian as a young woman, and moved to the Jesuit mission village of Kanawake, south of Montreal, where she was known for her virtue and her devotion to Jesus. She was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, and canonized by Pope Benedict on Oct. 21, 2012.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Célébrations du bicentenaire des Filles de la Providence

PAR SOEUR DOLORÈS BUSSIÈRE, FDLP

Les fêtes du bicentenaire de la Congrégation des Filles de la Providence ont baigné dans un climat de simplicité, d’humilité et de gratitude.

La première Célébration eu lieu à la cathédrale du Sacré Cœur à Prince Albert. Les six premières Filles de la Providence quittent St Brieuc France et arrivent à Prince Albert le 15 mai 1897. Une deuxième célébration a eu lieu à la paroisse Saints Martyrs Canadiens à Saskatoon.

Dans chaque paroisse ce fut d’abord la Célébration Eucharistique suivie d’un repas Buffet et un vidéo qui permis de visiter les lieux d’implantation et de mission des Filles de la Providence pendant leurs 120 ans de présence en Saskatchewan.

À Prince Albert Mgr Thévenot a donné à toute la Communauté Chrétienne une mission: « Vous avez la responsabilité de porter l’héritage des Filles de la Providence: ce legs n’appartient pas seulement au passé mais au présent et au futur. »

Dans son homélie, l’abbé Bernard de Margerie a paraphrasé: Ézéchiél (17,22) de la première lecture, de la façon suivante : « Vous êtes une petite branche sur un grand arbre de l’Église, qui porte beaucoup de fruits et sur laquelle les oiseaux peuvent trouver refuge ». Il nous a rappelé que si le Seigneur gratifie plusieurs d’entre nous d’un grand nombre d’années, le ‘vieil âge’ est appelé à être le berceau de la sainteté.

Pour clôturer nos Célébrations du bicentenaire, nous avons eu la grande joie d’une Célébration Eucharistique spéciale le 11 juillet 2018, avec l’Archevêque Donald Bolen de Régina, venu célébrer avec nous et nos amis de Trinity Manor pour cette occasion.

Comme Filles de la Providence nous voulons exprimer notre gratitude aux nombreuses personnes qui ont aidé avec la préparation et sont venues célébrer dans la simplicité et dans la joie.

Des retrouvailles, des souvenirs échangés, étaient signes des liens tissés au cours des années entre les Sœurs et les personnes avec qui nous avons vécu et vivent encore notre mission.



Congrégation des Filles de la Providence (FDLP) – the Daughters of Providence –held two Saskatchewan celebrations to mark the order’s 200th anniversary in June 2018.
- Photo by Brigitte April

Bicentennial celebrations held this summer for the Daughters of Providence

BY SR. ADELIN M. BEHM, FDLP

The Daughters of Providence (FDLP) bicentennial celebrations held in June 2018 were one big, joyous family reunion of “Prairie Providence.”

The first celebration took place at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince Albert. Six Daughters of Providence from Brittany in France first arrived in Prince Albert on May 15, 1897. (The congregation was first formed in 1718 in France.)

The second celebration took place at Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens parish in Saskatoon, which became the home parish of the sisters in Saskatoon in 1961 with the opening of a private French kindergarten at the church.

Members of the Congregation from France, England, Uganda and Montreal came to join the Saskatchewan celebration.

Each of the two celebrations started with Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a lunch and a power point slide show of past memories.

Bishop Albert Thévenot gave the homily in Prince Albert. He said an occasion like this is a time for pondering on our legacy, whether it is that of a family, a parish community or a religious congregation. Together we build a legacy for the future generations, said the bishop. “Legacy is not in the past, but in the present, (and) into the future.”

In his homily at Sts- Martyrs parish in Saskatoon, Fr. Bernard de Margerie spoke about the gifts and challenges of aging.



Symbols of the anniversary were carried in procession: the congregation’s mission, a bust of the founder, and a photo of the first sisters to arrive in Saskatchewan.
- Photo by Brigitte April

“Old age is the cradle of holiness, of single heartedness and a time for the healing of memories.”

Many memories were shared on both occasions, and the community went away with new memories to nurture spirits. Together we create a legacy of deep trust in Providence.

The Daughters of Providence express deep gratitude for the many who gave a helping hand for the bicentennial, whether it was behind the scenes, during preparations or through participaton. Together we add to a legacy of sharing and celebrating.

“You know how to celebrate” was the consensus of the visiting sisters.

As the Daughters of Providence continue to share the blessings of the bicentennial celebrations, our deep desire is to continue “to live among you, our brothers and sisters, in simplicity, humility and gratitude. Our loving care is rooted in contemplation of the Word and in Prayer.”

Colleagues from two traditions share 60th anniversary

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A celebration was held at St. John’s Anglican Cathedral in Saskatoon to mark the 60th anniversary of ordination of both Fr. Bernard de Margerie of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and his Anglican friend and colleague, Fr. Colin Clay, who was ordained in London, UK, on the same day as de Margerie: June 1, 1958.

De Margerie and Clay both renewed their priestly commitment at the joyful ecumenical gathering on June 3, 2018, with Fr. Bernard de Margerie standing before Catholic Bishop Mark Hagemoen, and Fr. Colin Clay standing before Archdeacon Ken Watts, representing Anglican Bishop David Irving.

Earlier in the day, friends and family, colleagues and

former parishioners gathered at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Francophone parish in Saskatoon to celebrate the contributions and faithfulness of de Margerie through 60 years as a priest.

The son of Agnes and Anotonio de Margerie, Fr. Bernard grew up in the Vonda area, studied at Saint Boniface and Montreal before being ordained as a diocesan priest

on June 1, 1958 at Saint-Philippe-de-Neri parish at Vonda, SK.

De Margerie’s passion for ecumenism was inspired in the early days of his priesthood, ignited by Pope John XXIII’s call in launching the Second Vatican Council.

In addition to parish ministry in various communities, he coordinated ecumenism in the diocese for many years, and was instrumental in the founding of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon, where he served as director for some 10 years.

De Margerie has also been active in inter-faith outreach efforts, including building relationships with the Islamic community in Saskatoon.

He also recently authored a book, entitled: *In God’s Reconciling Grace*, a compilation of prayer and reflection texts for Christian reconciliation and unity.



“Spiritual twins” Fr. Bernard de Margerie (Roman Catholic, front, left) and Fr. Colin Clay (Anglican, front, right) were both ordained on June 1, 1958: one in Vonda, SK, and one in London, UK. A joyful celebration of thanksgiving for their 60th anniversaries of ordination was held at St. John Anglican Cathedral in Saskatoon. Bishops in attendance were (back, l-r) Anglican Bishop Emeritus Rod Andrews, Catholic Bishop Mark Hagemoen, and Anglican Bishop Emeritus Thomas Morgan.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Warm welcome on a chilly day

Two priests who recently arrived from the Diocese of Konongo-Mampong in Ghana to serve in the diocese of Saskatoon stand on either side of Bishop Mark Hagemoen during a recent visit to the Catholic Pastoral Centre wearing their warmest jackets, given cold fall temperatures on the Canadian Prairies. Welcoming the newcomers were three brother priests, also from Ghana, who have been serving here for a number of years (l-r): Fr. Augustine Osei-Bonsu, pastor at Wynyard, Wishart and Foam Lake; Fr. John Abban Bonsu, who is the new pastoral associate at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon; Bishop Mark Hagemoen; Fr. Clement Boachie, who has been appointed as the new pastor at St. Peter the Apostle and St. Michael parishes in Saskatoon; Fr. Francis Akomeah, pastor at Watson, Englefeld and Quill Lake; and Fr. Clement Amofah, Chancellor and Adjutant Judicial Vicar in the diocese of Saskatoon, as well as pastor at Asquith. The arrival date of a third priest, Fr. Habila Musa of the diocese of Kano, Nigeria, is still uncertain. Fr. Musa will serve as pastor at parishes in Rosetown, Beechy and Elrose.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Candidates at Abbey

At Vespers Sept. 21 Edmundo Cruz, left, and Robert Janiga were formally accepted as candidates for St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster by Abbot Peter Novocosky (centre) and the monastic community. The period of formation involves six months as a candidate, a year of novitiate and three years of temporary vows. Both men are from the Toronto area.

- Photo submitted

Building a structure of support, stability, strength as St. Therese Institute starts its twelfth year

By JAMES RILEY

For the last 11 years, St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK has been striving to sustainably provide adults with transformative, faith-enriching encounters and programs. As year 12 begins, St. Therese has reached a milestone in that development.

STAY Program

Much has been discussed of late on the subject of accompaniment as central to the call of missionary discipleship, as expressed by Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel*.

St. Therese Institute is taking a step forward in its mission by introducing the **St. Therese Apostolic Year (STAY)** — a third year of community life focused on the art of accompaniment within the student community of St. Therese.

STAY participants are young adults who have completed both the first and



Inaugural St. Therese Apostolic Year (STAY) students are (l-r): Rhéal Chartier of Lorette, MB, Veronica Skuban of Westlock, AB, Alison Fox of Calgary, Dominique Skuban of Westlock, AB, Kaitlyn Deck of Unity, SK, and Peter van Leeuwen of Langley, BC.
- Photo by Natalie Aguilar

second year formation programs offered at St. Therese, and have expressed a desire to continue to live the “Little Way” of St. Thérèse of Lisieux as missionary disciples.

As active members of the student community, they participate in on-going formation classes and receive practical experience in the art of accompaniment as they help in leading the journey of the other students. They also assist in many aspects of the apostolate of St. Therese Institute – from carrying out office tasks to planning events, presenting talks and promoting St. Therese Institute at other events, and more – thereby receiving practical experience in the workings of the lay apostolate.

Six STAY participants, along with 20 first-year and 15 second-year students, together make up a record 41 young adults living and studying at St. Therese this year.

The acronym “STAY” is significant to the purpose of the program as well, as it describes both the being and the doing of the Apostolic Year student.

Most obviously, stay means to remain, and apart from the fact that these men and women are remaining at St. Therese to continue formation, it also brings to mind the primary activity of the disciple, that of being with Jesus. Another meaning of the word stay is nautical: a stay is a rope or a cable on a ship that runs from the hull to the mast, providing support, stability, and strength.

New staff

This year, St. Therese has added support, stability, and strength at the operational level in hiring two young men, Nicholas Pierlot and Andrew Hildebrandt.



Nicholas Pierlot
Assistant Director
of Faith Formation

Nicholas Pierlot, the Assistant Director of Faith Formation, works alongside Jim Anderson, Director of Faith Formation, instructing and facilitating programs at St. Therese.

Born and raised in Eastern Canada, Nick Pierlot has a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Prince Edward Island and an MA in Catholic Applied Theology from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, UK. He is passionate about Catholicism’s intellectual and spiritual traditions and is dedicated to building Catholic evangelical culture. Nick and his wife, Denise, have an infant daughter, Rosé Zélie.

Andrew Hildebrandt is serving in Office Administration at St. Therese, after what he describes as “a miraculous conversion back to Christ and to the Catholic Church.”

Last year he left his career as an engineer with the City of Saskatoon in order to journey deeper into his understanding of the faith. Andrew says that he sees working at St. Therese Institute as a God-sent opportunity to enter into this journey, while also pursuing a Masters in Theology online through Augustine Institute, Denver, CO. Andrew and his wife Shancelle (St. Therese Class of 2009) have five children: Marshall, Emerich, Élisée, Camden, and baby number five due in January.

St. Therese thanks all the members of our diocesan family for the continued support, stability, and strength provided through prayers and donations ever since we reopened the doors of the former St. Ursula’s Academy in Bruno in September 2007. Please consider continuing that support. Donate online at: www.StTherese.ca/giving



Andrew Hildebrandt
Office Administration
- Staff photos by James Riley



Class of 2018-19 at St. Therese Institute

St. Therese Institute’s first- and second-year students recently visited the National Shrine of the Little Flower at St Theresa Parish, Wakaw, SK: (Fourth row, l-r) Dean Hamm*, Daysland, AB; Christian Bekolay, Derwent, AB; Daniel Lashyn. Saskatoon; Remi Lambert*, Southbank, BC; Maxime Champagne, Lorette, MB; David Asuquo, Calgary; Levi Sterzer, Winnipeg; Jacob Dusterhoft*, High Prairie, AB; (Third row, l-r) Nikki Hiatt, Yellowhead County, AB; Rebecca Skuban*, Westlock, AB; Angela Berube*, Sherwood Park, AB; Danielle Gallant, Drayton Valley, AB; Courtney Buhrke, Williams Lake, BC; Jessica Banadyga*, Saskatoon; Gloria Bator*, Grande Prairie, AB; Ellie Rosario*, Lac La Hache, BC; Natalia Aguilar*, Winnipeg; (Second row, l-r) Gabriella Debusschere*, Clyde, AB; Michelle Berube, Sherwood Park, AB; Meghan Darling*, Saint John, NB; Beth Reitzel, New Hamburg, ON; Amanda Vansevenandt, Clyde, AB; Nicole Podmoroff, Prince George, BC; Yoona Shin, Aldergrove, BC; Emma Hamm, Daysland, AB; Valeria Aguilar*, Winnipeg; (Front row, l-r) Danielle Gueret, La Broquerie, MB; Gabby Marshall*, Saskatoon; Phylcia Vandermeer, Woodstock, ON; Victoria Doucette, Alfred, ON; Lorissa Hohmann*, Quesnel, BC; Moo Klee April, Regina; Kasmira Warawa, Sturgeon County, AB; Janelle Ryan, Agassiz, BC; and Natalie Godin*, Westlock, AB.

* indicates second-year student

- Photo by Andrew Schwark

Vocation discernment night: offering a time to reflect, to listen, and to pray

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Fr. Colin Roy opened a Priest/Religious Vocations Discernment Night at St. Therese Institute in Bruno Sept. 13 by reflecting on the universal call to holiness, quoting St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

“You cannot be half a saint. You must be a whole saint or no saint at all,” said the cloistered Carmelite nun, who died in 1897 at the age of 24. Canonized in 1925, St. Thérèse has been recognized as a Doctor of the Church, and her “little way” of love has inspired many.

In addition to this universal call to holiness, God has a very particular call for each person, added Roy, who serves as a vocation director in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, along with Fr. Daniel Yasinski.

“God loves each of us in a very unique way,” said Roy. In order to be aware of God’s particular call for us, time and space must be made for listening to the Lord, but also for sharing, discussing, and discerning with others, he stressed.



Fr. Colin Roy (right) opens Vocation Discernment Night held Sept. 13. - Photos by Kiply Yaworski

The vocation discernment night was an opportunity for just such listening and sharing, opening with the Rosary, followed by speakers, and small group discussions, concluding with Eucharistic Adoration.

The St. Therese event was open to the public, with a number of young adults joining students there to hear speakers, including Fr. Colin Roy, Fr. Daniel Yasinski, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Sr. Lucie Hamel, PM, and Sr. Cindy Lewans, PM.

Bishop Hagemoen began by addressing the entire

group. He too reflected on a quote from St. Thérèse, which he encountered during his own vocational discernment: “To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul.”

“When I came across that line for the first time, I realized that vocation wasn’t about function, it wasn’t about title. It was about God calling me to be consistent in loving him and loving others,” said the bishop.

Hagemoen pointed to the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary (introduced in 2002 by Saint Pope John Paul II) as a resource for vocational discernment, with their focus on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, namely: His Baptism in the Jordan, the miracle of the wedding at Cana, the proclamation of the Kingdom of God, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist.

“If you reflect on the journey aspect of vocation, and all that means – no matter what the vocation – the Luminous Mysteries are a marvelous collection to keep coming back into, to be immersed in, and nourished by,” Hagemoen said.

The bishop then led a session for men in the group, entitled: “Why the ministerial priesthood matters.”

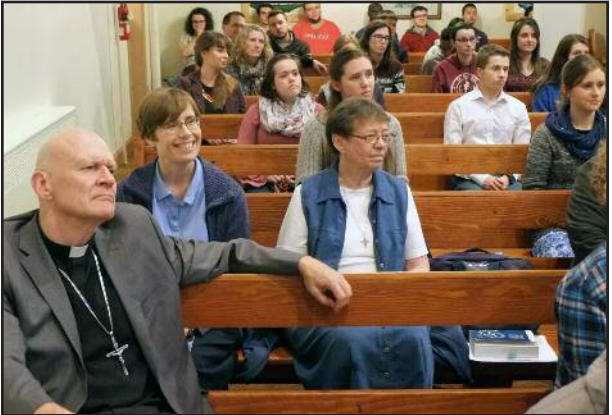
Meanwhile, the young women attended a session entitled: “Why religious life matters,” led by Sr. Lucie Hamel and Sr. Cindy Lewans of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary.

Beginning with a reflection on the Annunciation, and Mary’s “yes” to God, the two sisters described the importance of listening, and of being open to God, even in small everyday moments.

Lewans quoted 13th-century theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart: “We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born in our world.”

As for our response to God’s call in our lives, it is about trying to love as God loves, she continued.

“It is about striving to be in right relationship with God and with others, living in community... and finding God in all things,” Lewans said. “We have to be really attentive to how God is present in the moment.”



Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Sr. Cindy Lewans and Sr. Lucie Hamel (front, l-r) spoke at the event. - Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Humanae Vitae 50th anniversary marked

BY MARCY MILLETTE
ONE MORE SOUL

The 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life) was marked at the beautiful shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Rama, SK by One More Soul Canada and the Rama parish of St. Anthony.

The papal encyclical was released in 1968 by Pope Paul VI (who was canonized a saint of the Church on Oct. 14, 2018 in Rome.)

Parents, clergy and professionals sought support and guidance in Christian marriage and family life during the conference held at Rama July 13-15, 2018, while children in attendance enjoyed crafts, entertain-ment, sports and games supplied by Rama’s balloon man, Steven Halifax, the Myriam Sisters of Regina and Saskatoon diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, Colm Leyne.

The celebration focused on the keys to a happy, healthy marriage described by Saint Pope Paul VI in his letter. *Humanae Vitae* clarified and restated 2,000-year-old Church teaching.

“We are deeply convinced that this is truly a great work, both for the world and for the Church, since man cannot find true happiness, toward which he aspires with all his being, other than by respecting the laws inscribed by God in his very nature...”, wrote the Holy Father.

Although *Humanae Vitae* is often associated with Natural Family Planning (NFP), the prophetic document was much more, as the conference speakers attested.

Dr. Brett Salkeld, theologian for the Archdiocese of Regina, referred to his YouTube talks on Couples Connect at: <https://youtu.be/iHhZr1ple-I>

“Marriage makes us holy by forcing us to see God more perfectly,” he said.

Salkeld explained the various levels of intimacy, which include social, emotional, spiritual and physical. The key to happiness is to fulfill each level at the right time, he said.

Salkeld’s stirring words on the blessings of children encouraged the families present



Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated Eucharist at the grotto at St. Anthony’s parish in Rama, SK, during a 50th anniversary conference organized by One More Soul. - Photo submitted

as they pondered the Church’s healthy attitude toward children. “Children are not a commodity,” he said. “Children are not a product to be made, but a gift to be received. Using NFP helps us to see them as gifts.”

Dr. Martin Owen recalled the history of Natural Family Planning in this country. “In the early 1950s, NFP was making progress throughout the world and even enjoyed some financial support of Health Canada.”

Humanae Vitae, promulgated on July 25, 1968, “gave affirmation to the researchers” who were working on various methods at that time. The birth control pill, however, turned the world upside down and it has been a difficult road these past 50 years, Owen said.

Owen continued with hope: “This culture, through the use of the smart phone, is now surprisingly embracing the ‘natural solution’ largely thanks to environmental concerns.” He spoke about the newest app on the market: Fertility Education and Medical Management (FEMM) which now boasts over 400,000 users.

While FEMM pales in comparison to the billion-dollar contraception industry, this fertility awareness app may inspire increased respect for women, which has been seriously lacking since the onset of the pill, participants heard.

Article 17 of *Humanae Vitae*

prophetically listed three serious consequences of artificial contraception which have been proven many times over:

1. Artificial contraception, such as the pill and/or sterilization, would increase the probability of conjugal infidelity and a general lowering of morality. (Divorce, co-habitation and abortion rates confirm this prophecy);

2. The pill and other contraceptives would be a dangerous weapon placed in the hands of public authorities which would have little concern for morality. (This has been seen in China with their draconian one/two-child policies);

3. Saint Paul VI said it best: “It can also be feared that the man who becomes used to contraceptive practices may finally lose respect for the woman, and, no longer caring about her physical and psychological equilibrium, come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion.”

Testimonies given at the end of the day offered examples of the damage caused in the wake of this societal disaster.

Nancy Garez’s personal testimony on abortion gave hope and healing to all those who may have suffered from past abortions. Garez’s pro-life work continues in the

classroom and at numerous events throughout the country.

Percy and Roseann King attested to the humbling and merciful love of God’s forgiveness following the grave sin of sterilization in their marriage. “By far the biggest cross that we’ve had to bear in our marriage was sterilization. What we thought would be our sexual freedom became our sexual bondage. That ‘freedom’ led to a mindset of lust and personal satisfaction.” Percy ended with these poignant words: “Sterilization plays with a person’s manhood. I was fearfully and wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God, and I chose to mess with that perfection.”

Due to illness, Fr. Jeffrey Stephaniuk was unable to speak at the conference. A hand-out he provided offered a summary to take to heart: “What the Church wishes above all is to help Christian husbands and wives to perfect one another, to purify their love, to taste the happiness of a married life lived in the sight of God and in complete respect for His law...They must then be persuaded that it is possible, with the help of God, who never exposes man to trials superior to his strength, to progress in chastity just as in the other virtues.” Then, directed to clergy, he exhorts, “In the confessional and in the pulpit,...every necessary pastoral effort needs to be made that no ambiguity exists among the faithful or in public opinion concerning the Church’s position in this serious matter.”

Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated Mass at the shrine during the conference, sharing profound insights. Fr. Michal Pajek, St. Anthony’s parish priest, led the attendees through Stations of the Cross and Adoration as well as presiding at Mass to close the weekend. Desiree Nieckar emceed the weekend’s talks. Mary and Joseph Kowalyshyn and St. Anthony’s parish have worked ceaselessly to make this Shrine one of the most beautiful in the province.

Find parish and family resources at: www.omsoul.ca. Call (306) 862-2338 for 50th anniversary discounts.

Scholarships and bursaries totalling \$74,155 presented to students at St. Peter’s College

BY ALISON HINZ
STUDENT SERVICES ADVISOR
ST. PETER’S COLLEGE, MUENSTER

More than 130 people gathered in the St. Peter’s College gymnasium Sept. 22, to celebrate the St. Peter’s College annual awards ceremony.

By the time lunch was served, \$74,155 in scholarships and bursaries had been awarded to students. The criteria for these awards included personal initiative, community involvement, high academic achievement, volunteerism, and/or financial need.

Thanks to growing community and donor support, these awards offer help in funding the education of those who might otherwise not have had the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education.

St. Peter’s College awards come from donations – whether from local families or businesses, former St. Peter’s College students, members of the monastic community at St. Peter’s Abbey, or staff and faculty belonging to St. Peter’s College.

Students attending St. Peter’s College while still in high school received accelerated scholarships, while entrance scholarships were awarded to students entering their first year at St. Peter’s College directly from high school. In addition, exiting scholarships were given to students who previously attended St. Peter’s College during the 2017-2018 academic year, and have now moved on to the main campus at the University of Saskatchewan or other post-secondary institutions.

A new award this year is the \$2,000 Werner and Helga Hoing Legacy Award. This award will be presented annually to a young person who best demonstrates the attributes that personify Werner and Helga Hoing: hard work, spiritual strength, entrepreneurship, and honesty.

The awards were as follows:

Abbot Severin Gertken Scholarship: Jessi Sperling	Hartman Family Bursary: William Brooke	Thiem Family Bursary: William Brooke, Zacharie Brown, Emma Hinz, Troy Martinka, Mykenzie Taphorn, Tristen Thimm
Anne Junk Fine Arts and Linguistics Scholarship: Amy Fedak	Joseph and Sophie Urbanoski Memorial Scholarship: Sydney Odelein	
Cecilia Poole Memorial Bursary: Craig Martinka	Loehr Family Bursary: Troy Martinka	Thomas and Marie Clandinin Scholarship: Jessi Sperling
City of Humboldt Award: Joel Zimroz	MNP Business Scholarship: Jordan Glasman	
Clem and Hedy Gerwing Bursaries: Dayo Oyinseye, Mercedes Robinson, Molly Salmon, Shelby Reschny, Alyssa Wuchner	Most Reverend Archbishop James Weisgerber Scholarship: Rhiannon Brady	Werner and Helga Hoing Legacy Award: Lesia Linder
Dr. James Raab Scholarship: Emma Hinz	Paul J. Hoenmans Bursary: Mason Hoeflicher	
Elizabeth Saretsky Memorial Bursary: Adam Eichorst	Roger DeMong Memorial Bursary: Mason Hoeflicher	2017-2018 St. Peter’s College Writing Diploma Graduates: Cooper Neufeld and Brandon Fick
Fostering Benedictine Higher Education: Naomi Olmstead	St. Peter’s College Alumni Award: Kale Dobrohoczki	
Fr. Albert Ruetz Mathematics Scholarship: Payton Zimmerman	St. Peter’s College Merit Award: Hannah Moellenbeck	Humboldt Broncos Scholarships: Winners to be announced at a later date
Frank and Elizabeth Weber Scholarship: Nicole Neriuka and Cheyenne Wylie	St. Peter’s College Scholars’ Awards: Sydney Aylward and Georgia Edwards	St. Peter’s College Accelerated Scholarships: 13 awarded in total to students at the following schools: Bruno School, Englefeld School, Humboldt Collegiate Institute, Lake Lenore School, Muenster School, Naicam School, St. Brieux School.
George Mackey Foundation Award: Tristen Thimm	SPC Student Government Bursary: Braydon Bentley and Keara Leong-Machielse	
Hans and Mary Louise Selnes Scholarship: Seth Schuler	St. Peter’s College Faculty Awards: • Humanities and Fine Arts: Brandon Fick • Math, Computer Science, and Business: Brett Muyres • Natural Sciences: Theodore Kolkman • Social Sciences: Jewel Delos Santos • Spirit Award: Dylan Haussecker	The following awards were also presented to students who were unable to attend: the Islay Ehlert Award, the Fr. James Gray Academic Centre for Excellence Scholarship, the Charles and Edward Weninger Memorial Award, and the Abbot Peter Novocosky Jubilee Award.



Scholarships and awards were preesnted Sept. 22 to St. Peter’s College students. Founded by the Benedictine community at St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster, St. Peter’s College is affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, permitting students to begin their post-secondary studies in a smaller, picturesque, faith-based setting. - Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

New home for Pregnancy Options Centre announced at Gala

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

Big announcements, gratitude for the last year and an invitation for all attendees to come and join in the work of the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre were features of the centre’s 2018 Gala held Sept. 28 at TCU Place.

The theme of the 2018 Gala was “Come with me into the fields,” based on the song by Dan Schutte. “Your arms may grow weary but come and join us, as it is a blessing for all involved,” said Cathy LaFleche, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre.

LaFleche has been making plans to deal with increased numbers, new client needs and changing circumstances, with even the smallest support of government programs no longer being available. Gala 2018 involved staff, volunteers and supporters gathering to hear about the year’s work, thank major supporters, enjoy entertainment and fellowship, and give generously, acknowledging the funding needed for this work to continue.

Some 400 attended the Gala in the new, larger location. “Our table hosts came through and we had a full room with space left to grow in the future,” noted LaFleche.

“We have been talking about the increase in crisis calls for unplanned pregnancy and also in our support programs that provide assistance for parents over the long term,” said LaFleche.

“We have been looking for more square feet to meet the needs of both options and post-abortion clients who need more privacy, and longer-term parenting clients who come in with children and as a family with more energy and a higher noise level. Parents come over time and are supported through one-on-one education, and physically through used and new items, like clothing, diapers, and sometimes furniture.”

Donors have been very supportive with these increases, especially this year when there was no funding for summer students from the federal government. “Our application was denied, but we had a summer student anyway through the support of people who realize the importance of this work,” LaFleche said.

Summer student Hannah Browns had already been interviewed when the federal funding was denied. Having worked at a Pregnancy Centre in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Browns brought more experience than a summer student usually has. “Good summer students make it possible for staff to take holidays and cover the increased foot traffic that often comes during the summer. Without this support, the centre has to limit holidays of staff, or close for a few weeks and only deal with crisis calls. Prenatal education, new mother support and Mom’s drop-in programs have to stop for a while,” said LaFleche

The biggest announcement of the evening was that the centre has found a new home with the space and facilities to better serve clients.

“We have been adopted!” announced LaFleche. “Keystone Paving has invited us to become part of the businesses leasing space at a new building on Dudley Avenue.”

Colin Enns approached the centre after the 2017 Gala when it was announced they were praying for a place with more space. Plans for the new facility were on display at the 2018 Gala and participants were excited to look at the architect’s visualization of the building.

“They were great, and made an effort to ask us what the needs of the Pregnancy Centre were and designed a building that could accommodate those needs: things like main floor access and a separate entrance and space for crisis and post-abortive clients who have different needs than young families,” explained LaFleche.

“We are so privileged to work in this ministry, said LaFleche,” We invite anyone who has a heart for the ministry and for working with vulnerable moms to come with us into the fields.”

Find more information about Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre online at <http://www.saskatoonpregnancy.com> or call (306) 665-7550.



Regular volunteer Connie Unger presents donations to Pregnancy Options Centre collected at her birthday lunch.

- Photo submitted

20th anniversary of change to diocesan boundaries in Sask.

“FROM THE ARCHIVES”
BY MARGARET SANCHE AND
KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Twenty years ago this year, the boundaries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon changed when five Roman Catholic dioceses in the province were amalgamated into three. A number of parish communities formerly within the diocese of Gravelbourg and the Muenster Abbey became part of either the diocese of Saskatoon or the archdiocese of Regina on Sept. 14, 1998.

The papal order for the re-drawing of boundaries was made on the recommendation of Saskatchewan’s bishops, and approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

As a result of the boundary changes, the *Abbey Nullius* of St. Peter’s, Muenster was dissolved, as was the diocese of Gravelbourg, with some of Gravelbourg’s parishes going to Regina archdiocese. Other parishes, which had been part of St. Francis Colony in the early years, were transferred to Saskatoon diocese. In addition, a number of parishes of the archdiocese of Regina were transferred to the diocese of Saskatoon.

Saskatoon diocese grew to include the western part of Gravelbourg diocese (including parishes in the area of Leader and Fox Valley), the territory covered by the abbacy (parishes at Humboldt, Muenster, Bruno, Cudworth, Watson, etc.), and a fairly large part of what formerly fell within the

Regina archdiocese, including parish communities in Outlook, Davidson, Kenaston, Lanigan, Imperial, Wynyard, Foam Lake, Kelvington and Wadena. In total, some 44 new parish communities were added to the existing 60 parishes in the diocese of Saskatoon (see list below, right).

Saskatoon’s bishop at the time, Bishop. James Weisgerber, explained that the reorganization was the result of a combination of demographics and timing.

Demographically, the diocese of Gravelbourg no longer had the population base to support a separate diocese.

In Muenster, the territorial abbacy of St. Peter’s had operated for some 77 years with the Abbot of St. Peter’s taking on the pastoral duties of bishop. The decision to make the abbacy part of the diocese of Saskatoon came about as a result of both a decline in rural population and a decline in vocations to the Benedictine congregation of St Peter’s, Bishop Weisgerber explained at the time.

A celebration of unity was held at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Muenster in September 1998 to mark the historic occasion, with Weisgerber welcomed as the new bishop of the former abbacy by Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB.

“We are two groups, each with its own story, but which are now called on to build a stronger, richer diocese,” Weisgerber said during the Eucharistic celebration in Muenster.



A new executive for the Diocesan CWL Council was installed at the diocesan CWL convention this spring in Kindersley: (standing, l-r): Connie Crichton, treasurer; Edna Hodgson, president elect/organization; Arlene Rey, Our Lady of Grace Region; Margot de la Gorgendiere, resolutions and legislation; June Gorgchuck, community life; Marlene VanDresar, past president/archives; Audrey Zimmerman, spiritual; Wendy de Sa, Christian family life; Claire Heron, spiritual advisor. (seated, l-r): Ingrid Eggerman, president; Mary Kehrig, education and health; Paula Haubrich, communications.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

CWL 83rd annual diocesan convention held in Kindersley

Parish delegates from across the diocese of Saskatoon attended the 83rd annual diocesan convention of the Catholic Women’s League (CWL) April 23 at St. Joseph parish, Kindersley.

The convention included the election of a new diocesan executive, discussion of a proposed national strategic plan for the CWL, guest speakers, and committee reports, as well as Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen and a number of priests from across the diocese. A banquet concluded the event. The 2018 convention theme was *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call*.

Former national CWL president Barb Dowding led a strategic planning workshop, and Carla Carlson of Swift Current gave a keynote address.



A lively group of organizers invited members to next year’s diocesan convention to be held May 11, 2019 in Watson.

A motion calling for CWL council to write letters to government expressing concerns about the legalization of marijuana and the minimum age of consumption (19 years) was also passed.

Parishes that became part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in September 1998:

St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster: (Now in Humboldt deanery)		Archdiocese of Regina: (Now in Wadena deanery)	Diocese of Gravelbourg: (Now in Eatonia Deanery)
Annaheim	Liberty	Archerwill	Burstall
Bruno	Marysburg	Foam Lake	Fox Valley
Burr	Middle Lake	Fosston	Lancer
Cudworth	Muenster	Kelvington	Leader
Englefeld	Naicam	Lintlaw	Liebenthal
Humboldt	Peterson	Nobleville	Prelate
Imperial	Pilger	Perigord	Richmond
Lake Lenore	St. Benedict	Quill Lake	
Lanigan	St. Gregor	Rose Valley	
LeRoy	Watson	St. Front	
		Wadena	
		Wishart	
		Wynyard	

Artist-in-residence project at St. Mary’s involved collaboration, learning and joy

By Derrick Kunz, GSCS

For a large part of the 2017-2018 school year, St. Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre unofficially added “cultural-arts centre” to its name thanks to the unique artist-in-residence Kitohcikewin/Listen Up! program involving the Gryphon Trio and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO).

A performance at the school May 3, 2018 celebrated the culmination of the collaborative journey.

Kitohcikewin/Listen Up! (Kitohcikewin is Cree for making music) is a mentorship program that had members of the Gryphon Trio, SSO and the local arts community work with students at St. Mary’s to develop their artistic abilities in four distinct modules: writing original poetry and lyrics; working with composers to put the words to music; creating visual art to be showcased; and a final performance and art installation to conclude the process.

“Teachers would oversee the day-to-day aspects of the project,” said Katrina Sawchuk, principal at St.

Mary’s. “Our partners — who were all fantastic working with our students — would come in for workshops, instructing students and guiding teachers throughout the process.”

First Nations Elders and knowledge keepers, as well as the school’s Catholic School Community Council, were consulted and played an active role throughout the process.

Sawchuk noted that the project helped keep students interested in learning. “Students would get excited to learn, to participate in something different,” she said. “Being engaged in learning is such an important step in student success. To them, it wasn’t learning to read or write or curricular outcomes, it was about creating something they could be proud of. And I think being reminded of that is important to students, to our families and to us as educators.”

“It was an honour for the SSO to be involved in this project” says Mark Turner, executive director of the Saskatoon Symphony Orch-

estra. “Several of our guest artists and orchestra members were able to perform for, and work with, the kids throughout the year. Everyone commented on how much they loved working with the students at St. Mary’s and how it was an absolute joy to share in their music.”

There was a repeat performance in the evening so the students could share their artwork, poetry, and music with the community.



Benedictine celebrates 94th birthday

Fr. Joe Ackerman (left) celebrated his birthday on Sept. 20 at his retirement residence in Bruno. Abbot Peter Novecosky joined him for the occasion. At age 94, Fr. Joe Ackerman is the oldest member of St. Peter’s Abbey Benedictine community.

- Photo submitted by St. Peter’s Abbey



Youth victorious in Bishop’s Cup basketball final

After an evening of enthusiastic mini games featuring mixed clergy-youth teams, an all-star team of youth defeated the clergy led by Bishop Mark Hagemoen in basketball action this June, winning the coveted “Bishop’s Cup.” The diocesan youth event was held at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Saskatoon.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Foundation funds enhance Catholic programming in schools

By JANICE NEPJUK
GSCS FOUNDATION

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation was established in 1994, and since that time, has raised and disbursed almost \$9 million to enhance Catholic education programming within the Catholic school division.

The mission of the foundation is to provide funding to support spiritual growth, educational excellence, and enhanced learning opportunities for the students and staff of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS).

One example of this mission in action is the foundation’s support of the Sacred Space Program of the school division.

Last year, six new Catholic schools opened their doors in Saskatoon and



The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation raised funds for the sacred space at new Catholic schools, such as St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Saskatoon.

- Photo submitted

area, and the foundation assisted each of these schools with grant money to be put toward their sacred spaces. These spaces are a big part of what make our Catholic schools uniquely Catholic. They stand as an outward symbol of our faith and are unique in each school.

Sacred spaces in

Catholic schools provide an important place for prayer, reflection and celebration.

Sacred spaces within the schools have been used for class liturgies, silent prayer and reflection time, as a space to organize and carry out acts of charity and social justice, as well as a place to host visits from each school’s parish team. In

addition, last year many of our existing schools also applied for and received grant money to enhance or create sacred spaces in their schools.

The foundation runs three main fundraisers each year: the Schools Wins Twice Raffle in the fall (see related article below), the Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Dinner, and the Share The Spirit Golf Classic in August.

This year, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation has also launched the “Come to the Table Annual Campaign.” This is a campaign to help address the tremendous financial strain that our Catholic school system is facing.

Especially in recent years, in order to remain faithful to the division’s

mission and vision to provide a faith-based learning environment of excellence, the school division has had to incur expenses that are not supported by provincial funding. At times, the school division compensates for this funding shortfall by diverting money from other areas of need.

Each dollar raised by the foundation will be fully utilized to help preserve and enhance our precious gift of Catholic Education.

“Catholic schools are a privilege, and our foundation board is energized and committed to ensuring that they remain so. We invite you to join us in preserving, protecting, and strengthening this precious gift,” says Laurie Karwacki, chair of the foundation.

In addition to Chair

Laurie Karwacki, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Board of Directors includes Vice-Chair Patricia King, Secretary Karen Lloyd, Treasurer Matthew McCullough, as well as: Bishop Bryan Bayda, Ron Boechler, Joshua Dawes, Sonia Gerard, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, David Hardy, Maria Monteiro, John Rayner, Alice Risling, and Kamal Verma.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the work of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. No gift of time, talent or treasure is too small to make a difference for our children.

For more information please visit the website at <https://foundation.gscs.ca> or contact the GSCS Foundation office at (306) 659-7003.

Fundraising raffle supports school projects in two ways

By JANICE NEPJUK, GSCS FOUNDATION

The “Schools Win Twice” fundraiser was started in 1995. Since then nearly \$2.9 million has been raised and has helped support the mission of the Catholic school division and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Inc.

Each year, 55 per cent of ticket sales are returned to the school. These funds can be used for anything that supports the mission of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Inc.

The remaining funds are distributed through a grant application process based on school enrolment. These funds are to be used in partnership with the school community for faith-development initiatives. Examples of projects supported in the past can be found under projects on our website and commonly include funding a school wide retreat for students or religious art projects. The schools really do “win twice.”

Purchase “Schools Win Twice” tickets at a Catholic School near you or contact the foundation at (306) 659-7003.

Visit the website <http://foundation.gscs.ca> to see what is happening at the foundation and in our Catholic schools.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Inc.

Schools Win Twice

2018 RAFFLE

Sponsored by your local Catholic school and the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Inc. Committed to EDUCATION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

1ST PRIZE Disneyland, CA Vacation 2 adults, 2 kids, air, hotel, 7 nights, 5-day Disney Pass		2ND PRIZE Varadero Cuba Vacation 2 people, 7 nights, air, hotel, transfers		3RD PRIZE Puerto Vallarta Mexico Vacation 2 People, 7 nights, air, all-inclusive resort, transfers	
	4th Prize: West Edmonton Mall Weekend - 2 adult, 2 kids, 2 nights, car rental, Fantasyland Hotel, waterpark passes 5th Prize: Mini Max Big Green Egg BBQ 6th Prize: Samsung 49" Smart TV 7th Prize: Martin 5 Bike 8th Prize: Martin 5 Bike 9th Prize: iPad Mini 4 WiFi 10th Prize: Samsung 32" TV 11th Prize: B&O BeoPlay A1 Bluetooth Speaker 12th Prize: BOSE Wireless Headphones 13th Prize: Pizza, Pasta or Wings for a year (1/mo) 14th Prize: Pizza, Pasta or Wings for a year (1/mo)	15th Prize: BOSE Revolve Bluetooth Speaker 16th Prize: B&O BeoPlay H2 Headphones 17th Prize: Cineplex Entertainment Card 18th Prize: Cineplex Entertainment Card 19th Prize: BOSE Colour Bluetooth Speaker 20th Prize: JBL Hip 4 Portable Bluetooth Speaker 21st Prize: Inaigo Gift Card 22nd Prize: The Center of Circle Gift Card 23rd Prize: SportChex Gift Card 24th Prize: Best Buy Gift Card 25th Prize: Midtown Plaza Gift Card			

Prizes partially donated by Bruce's Cycle, D&D Travel, James Frost Luxury Outfitters, Krazy Kiley's, NeuralNet Interactive and Pizza Hut.

Draw Date: 12:00 noon, November 15, 2018 at Bishop Klein School — Tickets Only \$2.00 each

St. Michael Community School releases Métis fiddle album

By DERRICK KUNZ, GSCS

Thanks to a Saskatchewan Arts Board “Artist in the Schools” grant, Grade 5-8 students at St. Michael Community School in Saskatoon worked with Juno-award-winning artist Karrnel Sawitsky during the 2017-18 school year, creating Métis fiddle music.

The unique Métis fiddle program at St. Michael first became part of the arts curriculum at the school in 2016 thanks in large part to a donation of fiddles from award-winning artist Natalie MacMaster.

“The change in students because of this culturally-responsive program is absolutely amazing,” said teacher and fiddle program coordinator Cristin Dorgan Lee. “They don’t want to miss school on fiddle days, and that level of involvement leads to better attendance, participation and engagement in all subject areas. And to work with roles model like Karrnel, or fiddle master John Arcand, helps students see that anything is possible.”

Saskatoon-native Sawitsky has returned from his home in Toronto several times to work with students and co-compose their own songs. “We’re not trying to make 60 professional fiddle players. The goal is get them excited about learning and to give them something they can be proud of. There are lessons beyond music — communication, math — and if those are the skills students take away from this experience, that’s a great thing.”

Sawitsky, Dorgan Lee and students spent a day in the recording studio at the end of May, and the school community celebrated with an official CD release party on June 15. The CD features songs students wrote, as well as the Métis National Anthem, and other songs composed and performed by Sawitsky and John Arcand.

This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture and the Government of Saskatchewan.



Teacher and fiddle program coordinator Cristin Dorgan Lee works with students at St. Michael Community School in an innovative Métis fiddle program. In June, the school community celebrated the release of a CD featuring student musicians. - Photo by Derrick Kunz



Bishop celebrates with schools

Bishop Mark Hagemoen celebrated a school opening Mass in September at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon with two area elementary schools: Father Robinson Catholic School and Saint Nicholas Catholic School. He also presided at the Aug. 31 opening Mass for the staff of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Saskatoon Tribal Council and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools launch First Nations fitness and wellness academy

By DERRICK KUNZ, GSCS

Officials from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Saskatoon Tribal Council recently unveiled plans for a new fitness and wellness academy at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School.

The miyo machihowin Academy (Cree for healthy living) is geared toward First Nations students and complements existing Indigenous language and cultural programming at the school.

“We already have academic programming in place, and being a Catholic school we help students grow spiritually too. We’ve done a lot of work over the past two years to offer better language and cultural instruction for our Indigenous learners,” said Diane Boyko, chair of the school division’s Board of Education. “Partnering with Saskatoon Tribal Council to add wellness and fitness rounds out our mix of programming really well.”

Boyko mentioned that offering First Nations students a hands-on, land-based program that includes

fitness, wellness and nutrition makes another aspect of classroom instruction more culturally-relevant for them.

STC Tribal Chief Mark Arcand said, “As a result of our people being sent to residential schools, many generations have been affected; we lost our identity, culture and language. In the spirit of reconciliation, this partnership offers an extraordinary opportunity to put the Indian back in the Indian by working side by side with our partners at Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to launch this unique First Nations fitness and wellness academy that centers on elite training and incorporates our First Nations’ culture.”

“The more that students can see themselves, their culture, their Indigenous identity in their learning, the better chance we have of getting them interested in their learning,” said Boyko. “Ideally, that leads to better graduation rates for our Indigenous students.”

Thanks to a significant donation from an anonymous donor, professional fitness training and equipment will be available in the

soon-to-be renovated small gym.

Students registered in the academy will be part of a cohort that learns together for part of the day.

Courses such as English Language Arts and Social Studies will have an enhanced cultural focus and remain consistent with provincial curriculum.



GSCS signs agreement with Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Representatives of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, which serves First Nations, Métis, Indigenous and non-Indigenous parishioners in Saskatoon, signed an Agreement in Faith April 25, agreeing to establish regular communication and to work together. The two organizations pledged to collaborate on sharing knowledge and professional development; to build closer connections; to promote awareness of how traditional Indigenous spirituality and Catholic faith provide complementary teachings; to establish regular communication and dialogue as Catholic entities focused on improving the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical development of Indigenous families; and to explore opportunities for sharing space, knowledge and resources in order to foster increased Indigenous participation within the Catholic Church. - Photo by Arliss Coulineur

Remembering the Holodomor that killed millions in Ukraine

By DERRICK KUNZ, GSCS

It took place 85 years ago.

It was the Stalin regime’s forcible confiscation of all grain and food stores, including seeds, in Ukraine. It caused the death of millions of Ukrainians. It was a genocide that is loosely translated as death by starvation.

It is the Holodomor.

On Sept. 24, Students at Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School joined millions of people to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor by lighting a candle of remembrance.

The Ukrainian World Congress and other partners lit a remembrance flame in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sept. 1, typically the first day of school in Ukraine.

The flame will make an 85-day journey across five continents to raise awareness and remember the millions of lives lost. Bishop Filevich was one stop during a three-day tour in Saskatoon. During the commemoration, the names of 85 children who died in the Holodomor were read, as a way to remember those who did not



A student at Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School lights a candle of remembrance. - Photo by Derrick Kunz

return to school in 1933.

“For our school community, this is much more than learning about world history or being good global citizens or even basic curriculum,” said Shelly Lord, principal at the province’s only Ukrainian bilingual school.

“This is deeply personal for our students, our staff and our parents. Many people in our community came from Ukraine, and their families have been

directly affected by the tragedy of the Holodomor.”

The 85-day commemoration will conclude Nov. 24, 2018, in conjunction with the Ukrainian national commemoration of the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor in Kyiv.

Follow the international journey of the flame, and learn more about the Holodomor and the global initiative, on the website: www.holodomor85.com

FacetoFace Ministries makes a splash with first Road Trip

SUBMITTED BY
FACETOFACE MINISTRIES

To say that the 46 high school youth and nine adult leaders who went on the FacetoFace Road Trip got wet is an understatement. After a day of white water rafting and cliff jumping this summer, they were drenched from head to toe.

But water was not the only thing these youth were soaking in during the seven-day adventure filled trip across Western Canada. Everyone was also soaking in the richness of the Catholic faith.

Summer 2018 was the first time that FacetoFace Ministries offered the Road Trip.

“We really wanted to offer an event that would catch someone’s attention no matter how important their



White water rafting, and a retreat day of reflection and prayer were favourite moments on a FacetoFace Ministries Road Trip, offered for the first time this summer. - Photo submitted

faith was,” explained FacetoFace Executive Director Jon Courchene. “Our Ignite Camps already offer an amazing opportunity for faith enrichment to those desiring holiness, so we wanted to create an event for those who are still searching

for Jesus Christ, whether they know it or not.”

The Road Trip group traveled through Jasper, Banff, and Fernie, BC. The first days were spent having fun and building trust. Each day added a few more elements of faith, until the

“spiritual climax,” when the group spent an entire day on retreat. The retreat day with keynote talks, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharistic Adoration was rated the second favourite part of the trip. It was second only to white water rafting,

and participants ranked it above the West Edmonton Mall Water Park, Maligne Canyon, Hot Springs, climbing a mountain, time on the bus with friends, and more.

Ryan Mitchell, a FacetoFace team member, described the retreat as awesome. “You could tell that God was moving and was going to do big things. In Adoration it was like the Holy Spirit came with a tidal wave of grace. Many people needed time to reflect and unpack how amazing the evening was. It is such an honour to be part of moments like that,” he said.

Youth participants were also quick to share their thoughts on the FacetoFace Road Trip. Some responses were:

“The trip showed me that God will always be there to

help you no matter what.”

“The Road Trip allowed me to say yes [to God]! I grew in my faith during the trip due to the amazing people and amazing opportunities! Thanks for the fantastic time!”

“My faith improved during the day of retreat and all the people on the bus! I got way closer to God during this trip.”

Courchene summarized: “Overall, I think it was a huge success. Some of the youth went on to our Ignite Camp and some have continued coming to other events like our monthly E3 (Encounter, Equip, Empower) events.”

Planning for the 2019 Road Trip has already started. More information will be available soon at www.f2f.ca/roadtrip

Pure Witness introduces two new discipleship programs

BY LAURA RICE, PURE WITNESS

This year Pure Witness has launched two new programs of intentional discipleship based in Saskatoon.

Reach is for young adults, ages 18-25, and they meet on Mondays. Anchor is for Grades 10-12, and they meet on Tuesdays.

The goal in each program is to provide a transformational year for youth and young adults by forming them as leaders in the Church through faith formation, outreach, and community.

More information about these programs is available on the Pure Witness website.

Along with these new programs, Pure

Witness continues to offer regular YEPs and family events throughout the year, as well as a Family Camp next summer. Save the dates for these upcoming events in Saskatoon:

- **YEP for Grade 7 and Up** (followed by a family dance): Nov 3, Jan. 19, June 1.
- **Family events:** Dec. 16, April 14
- **Table Mountain Ski Trip:** March 17.
- **Annual Fundraiser:** March 24
- **Family Camp 2019:** Aug. 19-23

Stay up-to-date with events or find more details about Pure Witness online at: www.purewitness.com or contact Laura Rice at laura.rice@purewitness.com or (306) 717-7868.



Prayers for Humboldt Broncos

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon presided at celebration of the Eucharist April 20 at St. Augustine Parish in Humboldt, held to pray for all those killed, injured or affected by the Humboldt Bronco bus crash. The bishop and St. Augustine pastor Rev. Joseph Salihu were also joined by Rev. Daniel Muyres, OSB, Rev. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB, and Rev. Paul Paproski, OSB. Since the April 6 tragedy in which 16 died and 13 were injured, the Broncos and the Humboldt community have been the focus of prayers and outreach from around the world. - Photo by Heather Novecosky



A mural telling the story of St. Paul’s Hospital’s commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation process was unveiled earlier this year. Speakers at the ceremony included hospital and community leaders, a traditional knowledge keeper, and a residential school survivor. - Photo submitted

St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation impacts patient care thanks to donations in 2017

BY SANDHYA PARDMANABH

St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation recently reported that through the generosity of donors, the foundation raised \$7,819,930 in 2017.

“Without support from our community, we would not be where we are today,” said St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation Board Vice Chair Neil Weber.

“Donor generosity has a tremendous impact on patient care, bringing much needed medical equipment, programs, services and professional development opportunities to St. Paul’s Hospital that would simply not be feasible otherwise.”

At an Annual General Meeting in April, the

foundation reported on their allocations of more than \$3.1 million in 2017 to help bring state-of-the art equipment to the hospital, including an EPIQ 5 ultrasound, advanced new laboratory equipment, hemodialysis chairs, and a new reverse osmosis water treatment system.

Highlights of the year also included completion of advancements in all eight operating rooms and the grand opening of a new Patient and Family Medical Library.

St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation also welcomed three new board members this year: Doreen Howlett, Kevin Sharfe, and Nicholle Povhe.

The foundation board of directors also includes Chris Boychuk (Chair); Neil Weber (Vice-Chair), John Agioritis (Past Chair), Shari Watson (Secretary), Alan Koop (Treasurer); Arlene Jorgenson, Dr. Vivian Walker, and Jean Morrison (SPH President and CEO).

Retiring board members this year are Colleen Cameron-Bergan, Darlene Cooper, Lise de Moissac, Mercedes Montgomery, Dr. Arne Paus-Jenssen, and Candace Wasacase-Lafferty.

Since the St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation was formed in 1982, it has allocated more than \$63 million to St. Paul’s Hospital.



Bishop’s Dinner

Representatives from the Macklin-Denzil-St. Donatus area were among those who attended the 2018 Bishop’s Dinner at the Cathedral of the Holy Family this spring. Held to raise funds for the highest priorities in the diocese, the 2018 event featured Bishop Mark Hagemoen speaking about his vision for ministry and mission. Read more about the May 11, 2018 event in an article posted on the website news page at: <https://rccdos.ca/news>

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



CWL presentation on work of Caritas

CWL members from St. Peter the Apostle Church in Saskatoon gathered Oct. 2 to hear Kyala Mutongolo tell about the assistance with digging wells that her village received from Caritas, the international Catholic aid agency, in her home country of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Bernice Daratha, diocesan chairperson for Development and Peace/Caritas Canada, further informed the group about the work of the organization and the Share the Journey fall action campaign which is focusing on forced migrants and refugees. Kyala shared about her family’s three year experience while living in a refugee camp in Zambia prior to coming to Canada. - Photo by Bernice Daratha



STM students “Share the Journey”

A Just Youth advocacy and action group at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon organized a fund-raising walk Oct. 14, joining an international Share the Journey campaign to reach out and journey in solidarity with millions of refugees and displaced individuals and families around the world. Caritas International launched the global campaign last year with Pope Francis. Find more information at: <https://www.sharejourney.org>

- Photo by Louise Bitz



Master of Religious Education graduates

A Master of Religious Education degree from Newman Theological College in Edmonton was awarded May 12, 2018 to participants in the second Saskatchewan extension-site program coordinated by Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU. Those honoured at the convocation celebration were (back row, l-r): Wendy Lang, Cristin Dorgan Lee, Brennan Uhyn, Roberto Godoybaca Arauz, Angela Kunz; (front row, l-r) Becky Lynn Page, Deanna Pellatt, Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU (Coordinator of Saskatoon Extension-Site of Newman Theological College), Valerie O’Grady, and Jennifer Chevrier. A third group is now journeying through the Saskatchewan Extension-site Master of Religious Education program.

- Photo by Gilbert Chevrier



Dr. Terrence Downey, who served as president of St. Thomas More College for seven years, was honoured at a farewell reception, along with his wife Margaret. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

STM bids farewell to President Downey

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Dr. Carl Still has been named interim president of St. Thomas More College, after the recent retirement of Dr. Terrence Downey, who served seven years as president of the federated Catholic college at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Still will be installed as interim president at a Eucharistic celebration in the STM chapel Nov. 3, 2018.

A farewell for Dr. Downey and his wife Margaret was held May 22. Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at celebration of the Eucharist, along with Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, and Fr. Andre Lalach. A reception and program followed in the cafeteria.

During the program, representatives of St. Thomas More College, the

University of Saskatchewan and the wider community paid tribute to Downey’s leadership, noting his integrity, faith and humility, his commitment to academic excellence, his collaborative leadership and his community engagement.

Accomplishments under Downey’s leadership included establishment of the endowed Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies, responses to the TRC Calls to Action, and the construction of major new facility additions and renovations at St. Thomas More College, including classrooms, student study and research areas, and administrative offices.

Responding to the praise of the many speakers, Downey in turn offered praise, saying accomplishments are shared by all, the result of meaningful

and respectful collaboration. “Places like this are like a symphony orchestra that makes music which is much greater than the sum of its parts,” he said.

“I leave here confident in the vitality of the vision that animates and sustains St. Thomas More College, a vision enlivened by the Catholic intellectual tradition,” Downey said. “We welcome debate and reason, not only because that’s what you do at any good university, but mainly because God gives us minds with which to think, and we have an obligation to use them to the full.”

He added: “Our vision demands that we model for students the truth that we are not simply producers or consumers. We are spiritual beings and there are ethical and moral dimensions to what we do.”

Campus ministry representative attends Catholic bishops’ plenary

SUBMITTED BY

STM CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) met Sept. 24-28 in

Cornwall, ON. St. Thomas More (STM) College Campus Minister Michael MacLean of Saskatoon attended the Plenary for two

of those days as one of a limited number of observers invited to attend.

“Usually, our national association, Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry (CCCCM), is represented at the Plenary by our National Coordinator, but since we are currently without an NC, the CCCB invited the board chair of the CCCM executive to attend, and I

currently serve in that role,” said MacLean, after his return home. MacLean has been serving as part of St. Thomas More College’s Campus Ministry Team for 20 years.

“It is really amazing to see all the bishops of Canada, gathered in one place, for prayer and for discussion,” he said.

The issue at the forefront

of discussion was the protection of minors, and the update of the document, *From Pain to Hope*, which was written following a lengthy period of serious reflection, in June 1992, by the CCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Child Sexual Abuse.

Bishop Daniel Miehm, from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough, acts as the episcopal liaison

to CCCM, and presented a report on Campus Ministry to the English sector bishops later in the week.

“It was an honour to attend, especially on the occasion of the CCCB’s 75th anniversary,” said MacLean, noting that it was great to see “friends of Campus Ministry” such as former CCCM episcopal liaison Bishop Fred Colli (Thunder Bay), and Saskatchewan leaders Archbishop Don Bolen (Regina), Bishop Mark Hagemoen (Saskatoon), Bishop Bryan Bayda (Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy), Bishop Albert Thevenot (Prince Albert), Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, (St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster) and Archbishop Murray Chatlain (Keewatin-Le Pas).

“Actually, Archbishop Murray was the first person I encountered at the incredibly large and complex NAV Centre, providing both a welcome, and welcomed directions to the meeting room,” said MacLean.

This wasn’t MacLean’s first visit to the bishops’ plenary: he also accompanied CCCM National Coordinator Rick Benson to the plenary in 2004, while in his first term of leadership as board chair for CCCM.



STM Academic Mass

The annual Academic Mass at St. Thomas More College stems from the long-standing tradition of celebrating Michaelmas or the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel at the beginning of the academic year. At this time, the College faculty and staff come together as a community to pray for blessing upon and guidance throughout the upcoming year. The 2018 Academic Mass was held Sept. 30, with Bishop Mark Hagemoen presiding, along with Fr. Mark Blom, OMI, Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, and Fr. Andre Lalach.

- Photo by Jacquie Berg



STM panel discusses call to holiness

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and St. Thomas More College representatives Dr. Cynthia Wallace of the Department of English, Director of Mission and Ministry Dr. Gertrude Rompré, and Dr. David McGrane of the Department of Political Studies (l-r) recently offered insights and perspectives on Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness: *Gaudete et Exsultate* at a panel discussion Sept. 18. The first Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies event of STM’s 2018 fall term included audience questions and a reception.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Queen’s House Retreat & Renewal Centre – 60 years and counting

BY BRENDAN BITZ
QUEEN’S HOUSE

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 continue a planning and decision-making dialogue with the national Oblate Leadership Team to select the path forward for optimal ministry and renewal at Queen’s House well into the future.

To this end, Queen’s House is undertaking a complete and thorough review of its facility and grounds in order to more fully inform and assist with renewal planning.

Queen’s House is in the midst of a technology renewal plan that will assist in managing communications with, to, and for our community, to increase our efficiency with respect to financial responsibilities and to assist us with the operational work of our ministry.

Queen’s House has hired Sarah Donnelly to serve as



Sarah Donnelly is programming director.
- Submitted photo

programming director as we renew our efforts to serve our wide and diverse faith community in the best ways possible.

And all of this as Queen’s House turns 60 years young: 2018 is our 60th anniversary, and we share mixed emotions of gratitude and excitement as we move forward in



faithful commitment as a place where the ‘Culture of Encounter’, so joyously proclaimed by Pope Francis, can continue to be our way of being.

It is an exciting and hopeful time for all of us. We recognize and celebrate the youth and vitality of our city as it continues to grow, and we are grateful for our Oblate community’s affirmation of the need for retreat ministry.

Queen’s House is, indeed, very much a reflection of the vibrancy and commitment of our prairie folk. Thank you for your support, encouragement and generosity as we move forward.

The Queen’s House Annual Gala Dinner will be held Wednesday, Nov. 21. This is a special time for Queen’s House as we are celebrating our 60th year of ministry, a wonderful and blessed occasion.

The Gala begins at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21, with cocktails, appetizers and a silent auction, followed by dinner and program at 6:45 p.m., with a performance by the Greystone Singers at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$125 each (includes a \$75 charitable receipt and a raffle ticket). Tables of 8 or 10 are available.

This year’s raffle prize is a commuter package for two people to attend our annual Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI,

retreat at Queen’s House (July 15-18, 2019 - a value of \$430). For tickets or to become a sponsor, please contact Queen’s House at (306) 242-1916.

Visit the website at www.queenshouse.org for the latest programming information and planning updates.

A humble and sincere thank you to our patrons and visitors. To those who have been away a while or who have never had the opportunity to drop in: we look forward to seeing you. On behalf of the Oblates, Oblate Associates and Board, our community of support and our staff, God bless!



Light of the Prairies
Light of the Prairies community members sang together to wind up a 30th anniversary program held Sept. 30 during a brunch at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Light of the Prairies operates a number of group homes and a day program for those with intellectual disabilities based on a model of loving relationships. For more information see the website: <http://lightoftheprairies.ca>
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Ministry to Tourism will again offer a pilgrim journey to the Bavarian Alps in Germany to see the world famous Oberammergau Passion Play

SUBMITTED BY
MINISTRY TO TOURISM

Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism in Saskatoon recently unveiled the highlight in celebrating 60 years of group travel, 1960-2020. Central to the anniversary celebration will be an opportunity to attend the once-in-a-decade performance of the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, nestled in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps south of Munich, Germany.

Since 1960, Kleiter has included Pilgrim Journeys to this epic celebration (sometimes for more than one performance) while touring Europe.

Kleiter said participants have never tired of experiencing this once-a-decade performance even if they have been privileged to be in Oberammergau during a previous year.

“People are moved by the music, chorus and the dramatic presentation of the Passion tracing Jesus’ life,

death and resurrection,” he said.

Some 2,000 locals from Oberammergau are involved in the production offered only at the beginning of each decade.

The townspeople have fulfilled a vow to perform the Passion Play every ten years: a promise dating to the early 1600s when they were spared of any deaths from the Bubonic Plague that devastated much of Europe.

“Over the years, I have noticed a change in the texts which have eliminated any anti-Jewish tones just as we have done in our post-Vatican II liturgical texts,” noted Kleiter.

The event is “a Passion Play of death and life, not to be missed,” he said.

Ministry to Tourism has once again selected the family-owned company, Collette Vacations, to provide carefully crafted arrangements. Most of the superior seats and accommodations have been blocked by reputable travel operators and they all include touring in the area. Collette Vacations has brought thousands of guests to Germany for what is regarded as the most

important Passion Play in the world.

Kleiter emphasizes that when you choose to join a Ministry to Tourism group with Collette you will not only receive a Category 1 (the best available) ticket to the performance but also a two-night stay at a hotel conveniently located in the beautiful Alpine setting. During the break in the performance, people join fellow participants for dinner, returning to the performance in the early evening for the dramatic conclusion.

Last fall, Ministry to Tourism announced the program with Collette of Germany’s cultural cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen to Munich via the “Romantic Road” and finally to Oberammergau, June 1-13, 2020. This initial offer was quickly sold out.

Kleiter reports that he was able to complete the group with ten more tickets available until Nov 5, 2018 or until all are sold. A deposit of \$500 is required and the cancellation insurance is \$550 (the booking may be cancelled for any reason). The full package costs \$8,849 per person sharing from Saskatoon (round trip)



Costumes and props from the world-famous Passion Play.
- Photo submitted

and it includes a \$200 saving before Nov 5, 2018.

Kleiter points out that this pricing reflects 2020 projected airfares, land arrangements in Germany during peak season and the difference between the Euro and Canadian dollar.

For those who find the 2020 dates (June 1-13) not possible, contact Kleiter and he will attempt to find space for you with another group during the May 16-October 4, 2020 season.

For those wanting to extend their stay in Europe or those not wanting to participate in the Oberammergau program Ministry to Tourism will offer two options.

Fly to Heathrow for Spotlight on London and area June 13-19, 2020 and Cruise into the Midnight Sun June 19-July 3, 2020 (Summer Solstice beyond Fjords and the Arctic Circle to North Cape, with a



Fr. Ralph Kleiter is organizing a pilgrim to Germany in 2020.
- Photo submitted

possible Baltic cruise extension including 3 days in St. Petersburg July 3-14, 2020. For details contact: Fr. Kleiter, Ministry to Tourism kleiter@shaw.ca or call (306) 244-3747 or visit the website online at: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca



Clergy Sports Day

Priests, deacons, seminarians and bishops from across the province gathered July 16-17 at St. Peter’s Abbey, hosted by the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus for a time of fun, relaxation and competition. Clergy Sports Day included indoor and outdoor games, and many opportunities for fellowship and fraternity.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

“Because of Retrouvaille” marriages are saved and hope is rediscovered

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A presentation at a diocesan Administration Day about the work of Retrouvaille to save marriages in difficulty began with a litany of video testimony from couples describing how their lives changed for the better “because of Retrouvaille.”

“Retrouvaille can really make a difference for struggling couples. It can change lives,” said Fr. Colin Roy, pastor at Cudworth, St. Benedict and Middle Lake, who has assisted at Retrouvaille weekends for the past three and a half years.

Married for 14 years, Anastasia Winterhalt and Anthony McCarthy shared how Retrouvaille was a lifeline for their marriage.

“A few years ago our marriage was at a breaking point. I didn’t think that we could possibly fix what was broken. We had no communication and I was ready to divorce my husband. I believed that all

Marriage and Family Life is supported by the



was lost, and that is when we discovered Retrouvaille,” said Winterhalt.

“Lack of communication, resentment, fighting, and living separate lives while married are just some of the common factors responsible for the breakdown of many marriages,” listed McCarthy.

“The main emphasis of the program is on communication and building relationships. Retrouvaille gave me a new language. I was never much of a talker, especially when it came to the hard stuff. The program was intense, but it got to the root of things. It has given me the confidence to express my emotions with my wife, and the rest of my family.”

Winterhalt also describ-



Anthony McCarthy, Anastasia Winterhalt and Fr. Colin Roy (l-r) gave a presentation about Retrouvaille to leaders attending a diocesan Administration Day. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

ed the huge impact saving their marriage has had on their family, in particular on the happiness and security of their two young sons.

“The word Retrouvaille is a French word that means to rediscover. And the first time I helped to present on the Retrouvaille weekend, I realized why the program was given this name,” said

Roy. “I really saw a transformation in some of the couples who attended the weekend.... from despair and hopelessness to renewed hope.”

McCarthy described the program, which consists of a full weekend followed by six weeks of follow-up sessions. “You are not asked to share your problem, but simply to

take the time to explore yourselves as individuals and to learn how to communicate and move past the hurt.”

No one is ever turned away because of finances, stressed Winterhalt.

There is a huge need to let people know about the program, the couple added.

Roy encouraged pastors

and parishes to continue to advertise Retrouvaille, and to pass along information to any couple that might benefit from it.

Winterhalt shared a list of questions on the Retrouvaille brochure that might help someone identify whether the program could help their marriage, including an inability to find solutions for problems, having the same fights over and over again, or dealing with infidelity.

“A marriage doesn’t need to be where we were to see the benefits. Goodness knows had we seen or known about Retrouvaille earlier on, we could have saved a lot of grief,” she said. “The gifts that Retrouvaille offer are so profound.... Who else do you know that deserves the chance to say “because of Retrouvaille?””

For more information about Retrouvaille, e-mail: retrouvaille@sasktel.net or call (306) 652-7155 or see: www.helpourmarriage.org

Serena hosts Run for Family

BY ANNETTE BENTLER

The 7th annual Serena Run for the Family was held Saturday, Sept. 15 in Saskatoon – the event was blessed with temperatures perfect for running.

A large group of runners came from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, as well as many from out of town, and others (more than ever) who discovered the Run randomly (for instance, on running websites).

There was a mix of ages, with some children bringing siblings, parents, and grandparents to participate. Families said they enjoy coming out for exercise, fun, food, spectacular autumn scenery, and above all, as a way of connecting with other amazing families.

Priests have participated in the Serena Run for the Family in the past, but this year, a bishop joined the run.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen blazed to the finish line through bubbles blown by cheerleading children. He started to veer off the course, thinking he was done, but the bystanders yelled to direct him back to the finish line. Realizing that Paul Bentler, who was right behind him, might steal the 4th place title, the bishop burst to the finish line. All cheered as the two runners crossed together.

Race results were:

• **5 kilometres:**
Gold - Jerome Montpetit;
Silver - Mike Halpenny;
Bronze - Gerald Montpetit.

• **3 kilometres:**
Gold - Luc Montpetit;
Silver - Eli Jalbert;
Bronze - Charles Robertson.

• **1 kilometre:**
Gold - Vanessa Montpetit;
Silver - Gianna Jalbert;
Bronze: Elisha Sidloski.

Prizes for fund-raising pledges went to Rachelle



Winners in the 1-kilometre race were (l-r): Vanessa Montpetit (gold), Gianna Jalbert (silver), and Elisha Sidloski (bronze).

- Photo by Jim McLane

and Aimée Bentler (who together raised \$2,245), the Schidlowsky Family (who raised \$210), and the Jalbert Family (\$45).

For more information

about Serena, including more photos from the run, e-mail sask@serena.ca or visit “Serena Saskatchewan” on Facebook. Watch for next year’s event Sept. 14, 2019.

Une nuit à Paris – Serena SK Fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 in Saskatoon

- Tickets are free, yet we hope our guests will be generous so that we may cover costs of the meal, decor, honorariums, etc. Donations over \$40/plate will receive a tax receipt.
- French banquet catered by Agar’s Corner
 - Silent Auction
- Pay a dime to be first in line (*bring pocket change!*)
 - Door prize
 - For each person you invite to the gala (and indicates so when they register), your name will be entered into the draw to win a prize.
 - How you can help: be an event sponsor; make a silent auction donation; donate some wine; invite friends to fill a table; volunteer to help set up, serve and/or clean up.

For more information, contact Serena at sask@serena.ca or to register, go to www.picatic.com and search “Serena” or “Une Nuit à Paris.”

Events & Announcements

Women’s Diocesan Mini Retreat mornings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral, 720 Spadina Cres E, Saskatoon, including **Nov. 10** and **Dec. 8, 2018**. Coffee starts at 9:15 a.m.; and the retreat runs from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with confession and noon-hour Mass following. All women are welcome to attend. For more information, contact: Donna at (306) 341-9444.

United - Catholic Youth Conference with Adult Track: The FacetoFace United Conference will be held **Nov. 17 and 18** at Holy Family Cathedral, Saskatoon. Come to experience the joy and peace of Jesus Christ with 370+ other Catholics, as together we spend time laughing, growing, and praying. Inviting all youth grades 9-12 and adults who hunger for more out of their faith. Find more info at www.f2f.ca/united

Triumph: Freedom Through Healing, facilitated by a team led by Jerry and Donna Kristian, will be held **Nov. 9-17** at Queen’s House, 601 Taylor St. W., Saskatoon. This is a nine-day Christ-centered live-in journey of inner healing and discovery fueled by the transforming power of God’s merciful love, rooted in Scripture, tradition and prayer; anchored by the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese of Lisieux. The retreat equips and empowers participants with the tools needed to make noticeable and lasting changes in their lives – a path to true freedom through healing in Christ. Cost is \$1,395 which includes program, meals and accommodation. Register at Queen’s House: (306) 242-1916 or receptionist@queenshouse.org or find more info at www.triumphretreat.com

Hope not Fear: Building Peace in a Fractured World will be presented by Hon. Douglas Roche, OC, 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Nov. 15** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon. Douglas Roche is an author of 22 books, parliamentarian and diplomat. He was a special advisor on disarmament for the Holy See and received two special citations from Pope John Paul II. He received the Peace Award of the Canadian Islamic Congress, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In spite of the daunting obstacles to peace, Roche brings a message of hope. Questions with discussion are encouraged. Please register online at <http://academyofdiscipleship.org> or call Walter Klaassen at (306) 975-0062. There will be an opportunity to make a free will offering.

Applications for the 2019-20 Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation Program are now available. The certificate program, facilitated by the Providence School of Transformational Leadership and Spirituality at Saint Paul University (Ottawa) runs from May 2019 to June 2020, with both face to face and online courses. For more information visit www.cwlfcanada.ca The application deadline is November 9, 2018. All Catholic women of any age are invited to apply.

St. Paul’s Hospital gift shop in Saskatoon is looking for volunteers. Would you like to give back to your community through volunteer service? Do you have friends or family who want to help make a difference at St. Paul’s Hospital? Volunteers are needed to work in the St. Paul’s Hospital Gift Shop for three hour shifts, Monday through Saturday. No experience is required – just a caring and compassionate attitude and the desire to support our patients and staff at St. Paul’s Hospital. Contact Kathi Lewis, Volunteer Workforce at (306) 655 5823. Managed by SPH Foundation, the Gift Shop is staffed by both employees and volunteers. Proceeds from gift shop sales help to advance hospital employee professional development.

St. Paul Hospital Foundation’s fundraising Mistletoe Charity Ball with a theme of “Under the Sea” will be held **Saturday, Nov. 17** at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon, beginning with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner and dance at 7:30 p.m. (black or white tie). RSVP to (306) 655-5821 or visit www.sphfoundation.org Tickets are \$500 each (tables of eight are available), with a partial tax receipt.

Advent Conference at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, Bruno, SK - featuring dynamic speaker, podcast host and theologian Dr. Scott Powell, will be held from 7 p.m. **Friday, Nov. 30 to 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2**. Cost starts at \$90/person for the commuter rate, with additional meal packages and on-site accommodations also available. To register or for more info see www.sttherese.ca or call (306) 369-2555.

Attention women and mothers of all ages: Time Out For Moms will begin a new session after Christmas, meeting Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, with childcare provided by volunteers for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Looking for a group where you can find Catholic fellowship and meet other women? Here is a chance for moms to sit, visit, eat breakfast, and grow in faith. All women are invited to attend. Volunteer caregivers for the children are also needed. Register as a participant or apply to volunteer online at: <http://rcdos.ca/time-out-moms> or e-mail: registrar@tofmsask.com

Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend marriage preparation is offered to engaged couples at St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster. The next CEE will be held **April 26-29, 2019**. Find more information or register online at www.ceewest.com or contact Heather and Craig Stomp at (306) 682-3326.

Go Make A Difference! The 2019 Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference will be held **June 6-8** at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon. All are invited to this conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Find more information at: <https://wccsc.ca> or call (306) 659-5849.

Have wheels, will travel – St. Ann’s receives gift of mobility with donation of bus through Spirit of Renewal Campaign

BY CASS COZENS

At St. Ann’s Senior Citizens Village in Saskatoon some of the residents are in wheelchairs. Some use walkers. To those that are homebound at St. Ann’s, getting out and about is not easy.

Thanks to a gift from the Joseph Alfred Remail Family Foundation, residents at St. Ann’s home will now be able to go on those excursions they love so dearly. Visiting the greenhouse in spring, seeing the changing leaves and beautiful fall colours, or viewing the lights of Christmas may seem like simple pleasures, but these outings are meaningful and life-giving for those who could not participate without proper transportation.

The gift of a new bus with all the “latest bells and whistles” was presented Sept. 27 to the residents of St. Ann’s Home. The bus will give residents more mobility and an opportunity to get out into the community.

Michelle Green, the daughter of one St. Ann’s resident, saw the new bus



Barry and Joe Remail of the Joesph Alfred Remail Family Foundation presented the bus to St. Ann's Sept. 27.

and said: “This will be life-changing for my mom. Maybe now she will be able to get out. The old bus was too bumpy for her.”

Carla Eager, staff person and driver of St. Ann’s bus, said: “The best thing about getting the new bus is being able to look in my rearview mirror while I’m driving to see all the smiling faces of our residents. Getting into this new bus is so quick and easy, which means we can concentrate on the fun and freedom that it provides.”

When asked what

motivated the gift, Joe Remail replied: “It feels good to make things happen quickly.”

The bus was given as part of the Spirit of Renewal Campaign presently underway at St. Ann’s Senior Citizens Village. The campaign is moving nearer to its goal with \$3.176 million of the \$4.3-million goal raised to date.

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



Donation of a new bus is improving the quality of life for St. Ann’s residents.

- Photos by Tim Yaworski

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.

To find out about more

about the campaign, or how to donate to improve the lives of residents, go to www.stannsvillage.ca or contact Rae Sveinbjornson at (306) 374-8900.

Communication efforts continue in diocese

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Communication is a vital part of the Christian mission. We are called to proclaim the gospel, and to live it out within our faith community and in the world – all of which requires many kinds of communication.

The diocesan Communications Office, supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, strives to facilitate communication throughout the diocese and beyond, in a number of ways, using a variety of methods.

Communications survey

As part of responding to changing technologies and new realities, including the closing of the weekly *Prairie Messenger* Catholic newspaper this year, the diocesan Communications Office undertook a survey about communication preferences this spring, distributed through the *Diocesan Newsletter* and online.

In total, some 350 participated in the survey (with Audrey Dosman of St. Benedict winning the draw among those who completed the survey, for a donated prize).

Survey results showed that there is no one preference for a single kind of communication: some prefer electronic messages on smart phones and devices, while others want printed communication, including Sunday bulletins.

Websites and news apps, along with newspapers, magazines, television and radio, received nearly equal ranking on the list of preferences for sources of information.

Among those who completed the survey, favourite social media platforms are Facebook (62 per cent) and YouTube (42 per cent), with Twitter coming in third (19 per cent.)

In a comment section, several survey respondents noted the need to have a diocesan website that works well on smart phones, while others noted that not everyone has access to digital devices or computers.

A majority of respondents also indicated a desire to receive information from the diocese and/or parishes about upcoming events; parish, ministry and bishop’s news; as well as faith formation material, information on the Catholic faith, prayer and scripture resources.

In a report on communications initiatives at this year’s diocesan Administration Day,

Communications in the diocese is supported by the



parish and ministry leaders heard about various platforms and initiatives being used to facilitate communication in the diocese of Saskatoon.

Publications and social media

The twice-annual *Diocesan Newsletter* continues with the fall edition distributed to parishes and Catholic schools this month, as well as being posted on the diocesan website at: <https://rcdos.ca/newsletters>

In addition, a two-page *Diocesan Bulletin* of announcements is compiled and sent as a PDF document to parishes each week, with some copying it and inserting it into bulletins, others posting it on bulletin boards.

To sign up to receive the PDF by e-mail, contact kyaworski@rcdos.ca – or to subscribe to the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation electronic version, visit their website at: <https://dscf.ca>

Under Bishop Mark Hagemoen’s leadership, the diocesan website is undergoing a redesign. The existing website already has a new address: <https://rcdos.ca> with “@rcdos.ca” also being introduced as the common e-mail suffix for the diocese (*Note: “rcdos” stands for Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*).

In recent years, the diocese has increased the use of videos, a trend that will continue. One recent initiative has been the “My Catholic Story” videos created by Fr. Darryl Millette and Sharon Leyne, which have had many positive responses from online sharing through the website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

For diocesan news and information, connect on the following platforms:

Facebook: Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon /saskatoonrcdiocese

Twitter: @saskatooncath

YouTube channel: saskatoondiocese

Instagram: layformationsaskatooncatholic

Pinterest: RC Dicoese of Saskatoon

Website: <https://rcdos.ca>



Prairie Messenger friends and supporters gathered at a farewell reception April 28 for the weekly Catholic newspaper and St. Peter’s Press, which both closed in May.

Prairie Messenger closes after 114 years

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The *Prairie Messenger* newspaper and St. Peter’s Press at the Benedictine Abbey in Muenster, SK have now closed.

The production, printing and office spaces of the press building at St. Peter’s Abbey were filled with visitors April 28, touring the plant, viewing photos and past issues, sharing memories, and mourning the loss of the weekly Catholic newspaper that ceased production May 9, 2018, after 114 years.

During a short program at the farewell, editor Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, noted the paradox of gathering for a party on a beautiful spring day to mark a sad event. He described how the monks of St. Peter’s Abbey began publishing a Catholic paper in 1904, just nine months after arriving as pioneers in Saskatchewan -- first in German as *St. Peter’s Bote*, later in both German and English for some 20 years, and finally in English only, known as the *Prairie Messenger*.

Sr. Marian Noll, OSU, who worked at the *Prairie Messenger* for some 15 years beginning in 1983, spoke on behalf of the staff.



Former editor Michael Pomedli (right) looks over past awards won by the *Prairie Messenger* with its final editor, Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

Sr. Miriam Spenrath, OSU, spoke on behalf of Development and Peace, presenting a certificate from national president Jean-Denis Lampron recognizing *Prairie Messenger* for its contributions.

National editor Maureen Weber noted the far-reaching and lasting impact of the “little” newspaper, before offering a litany of thanks to all involved.

Winding up the program, Abbot Peter Novecosky closed by reading a few words that had just arrived from a subscriber in New

Brunswick: “How to say thank you and goodbye? Words are small when feelings are deep,” she wrote. “For more than a decade now, the *Prairie Messenger* has been a faithful companion and a trusted mentor on my journey with the Lord. Truly, I have never felt such a connection with any other subscription. I feel this loss very deeply, yet I know that everything has its time. I trust and respect the decision you have made. Thank you sincerely for all your years of delivering the Good News.”