The Diocesan Newsletter
Diocese of Saskatoon

Bishop reflects on importance of evangelization and mission

BY KIFLY LEUKAN YAWORSKI
Proclaiming Christ and Christ’s kingdom is the heart of the Church’s mission, says Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

“That is the heart of evangelization,” he stressed in a recent interview, as well as during his homily at the diocesan Mass of Chrism April 15 in Saskatoon.

The “New Evangelization” call to proclaim Christ has been a central message of recent pontiffs, he noted, quoting Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (joy of the Gospel): “John Paul II asked us to recognize that ‘there must be no lessening of the impetus to preach the Gospel’ to those who are far from Christ, ‘because this is the first task of the Church.’ Indeed, ‘today, missionary activity still represents the greatest challenge for the Church,’ and ‘the missionary task must remain foremost.’ What would happen if we were to take these words seriously? We would realize that missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity... we cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings; we need to move from ‘a pastoral ministry of mere conservation’ to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry.”

This task continues to be a source of immense joy for the Church...” - Evangelii Gaudium 15.

“I am very grateful for many examples of this mission that I have seen and continue to discover in the diocese of Saskatoon,” Bishop Hagemoen said.

“Examples of many faithful and creative ministries and service – impacting youth and young adults, seniors, persons in various vulnerable situations, support of families and communities – in arenas of education and health care, and dealing with people of other religions, immigrants, and care of our environment and world. Indeed, evangelization has a very wide scope.”

The arrival of spring and the opportunity to celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist in parishes across the diocese is a great joy, and a chance to meet families and visit local parish communities, noted the bishop.

Visiting parishes has been a priority for Hagemoen since he arrived in Saskatoon. He began with a particular focus on parishes in the Humboldt and Wadena deaneries – areas that became part of the diocese most recently (in 1998).

Kairos Blanket Exercise initiating reconciliation

BY IVAN AND KATHY HITCHINGS
Our Lady of Guadalupe First Nations and Métis Parish in Saskatoon has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Kairos Canada to use the Kairos Blanket Exercise to create a better understanding and awareness of our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.

The interactive exercise illustrates how we went from a time when Indigenous peoples used and occupied all of the land we now call Canada, to a time when land reserved for Indigenous people in the time when land reserved for Indigenous peoples has been reduced to only a very tiny part of Canada’s land mass.

The script walks participants through the federal laws and policies used to assimilate the original peoples of Canada into European culture. It is a history that has only recently come to light through the sharing of the stories of survivors during the Truth and Reconciliation hearings held across Canada.

“One of the most pressing needs in our parish is to do everything we can to heal the wounds people carry from being taken from their families as young children and placed in residential schools, and to continue to move forward in a positive way,” says Debbie Ledoux, Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

“The exercise teaches people to keep an open mind,” says Irene. “Sharing is a special gift and we would like all churches to experience this. We are all equals. Indigenous peoples would like to share why – and what really happened to us years ago – not to put blame on anyone, but to learn from it.”

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Bishop anticipates development of a pastoral plan for the diocese

Continued from Page 1

Although a pastoral visit to Wadena Deanery had to be postponed because of an extended vacation, Bishop Hagenmoen visited a number of parishes in the Humboldt Diocesan Pastoral Council Feb. 27 to 29, 2018. The pastoral visit included celebrations of the Eucharist, school visits, and town hall meetings. The bishop added that he is looking forward to the visit to Wadena Deanery being rescheduled in the near future.

“I also look forward to conversations in many parishes across the diocese—how they see themselves as parishes, and how they are approaching the issues of maintenance and mission in their local context.”

The exercise touched on various aspects of Indigenous Peoples’ experience of colonization, such as residential schools, disease outbreaks in community, relocation, disenfranchisement and loss of status, the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the 1976 “scoup” of children into foster care/adoption, and the number of Indigenous children in foster care today.

Leaders from Holy Spirit parish—members of the parish pastoral council, staff, ministry coordinators, etc.—were asked to step onto blankets representing their personal experience of the role of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples. Facilitators from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish read from a script and assumed the role of Narrator and European explorers and settlers.

At the end of the exercise, participants shared their thoughts and feelings in a safe and respectful sharing circle. All who were touched by the exercise and experienced new insights into the tragic impact that European settlement had, and continues to have, on Indigenous people.

“The Blanket Exercise was a very powerful experience for me. Not only was the visual aspect of the event eye-opening, but also the physical participation made me more aware of the meaningful history of the building which will accommodate 15 hospice beds, ensuring a home-like hospice model that is efficient and effective. Plans call for creation of a home-like setting, with kitchen facilities, dining room tables, welcoming hearths to gather around, lots of natural light, and access to the outdoors on every floor.

Another major gift to the Close to Home campaign was announced in February: a $700,000 donation from honor- ary campaign co-chairs Gene and Adele Dupuis.

“From our own experiences with end-of-life care, we’ve gained a clearer perspective of what is needed to support patients and their families during this emotional time,” said Gene at the February announcement. “We feel good that we are able to support other families going through this experience and help make the palliative care journey for our loved ones as comfortable as possible.”

That announcement included moving testimony from Céline Schlosser reflecting on the experience of her late husband Carl Schlosser, St. Paul’s Hospital’s Palliative Care Unit— the only unit of its kind in Saskatchewan. “The Palliative Care Unit saved us. It allowed me to be Carl’s wife again, rather than his caregiver,” Céline said.

Morrison said that a comprehensive approach to quality end-of-life care is important in making a difference to families like Celine’s. Needs beyond just building the hospice will also be addressed by the Close to Home campaign.

“We support from our community, we will be able to make crucial renovations to the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital and create an Education Fund that will benefit caregivers who are working with patients and families facing palliative and end-of-life experiences.”

To make a donation, or learn more about the Close to Home campaign, contact St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation at (306) 655-5821 or visit the website: www.CloseToHome.fund

Elder Irene Sharp (standing, left) and members of the Blanket Exercise Team led the exercise recently at Holy Spirit Parish.

“With support from our community, we will be able to make crucial renovations to the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital and create an Education Fund,” said Bishop Hagenmoen. “We hope to be able to support other families going through this experience and help make the palliative care journey for our loved ones as comfortable as possible.”
Priests from across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon attended the Study Day, along with several members of the clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

Clergy Study Day examines pastoral challenges in face of assisted death

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A Clergy Study Day was held March 21 in Saskatoon to address pastoral challenges related to medically assisted suicide and euthanasia.

“‘The day was held to assist the clergy who are on the front lines of providing pastoral care at critical moments in people’s lives, and to assist them in making some difficult decisions,’” said Bishop Mark Hagemoon.

“It was also to assist us in being aware of the priority of pastoral accompaniment in all situations.”

The call to pastoral accompaniment is a theme that Pope Francis has taken up in writing and directing bishops and clergy, Bishop Hagemoon noted. “In a range of different situations, our call is to journey with those who are suffering and to try to support them.”

The Clergy Study Day included an overview of Catholic hospital ministry presented by Jackie Saretsky, diocesan coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy, as well as a summary by Emmanuel Health representatives Francis Mana and ethicist Dr. Mary Heiman. (Emmanuel Health oversees a number of Catholic health care facilities in the province.)

Theological and pastoral reflections on the issue were presented by Fr. Stefano Penna, pastor of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral, and Fr. Joseph Salihu, pastor of St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt.

“Participants were also given various case studies to explore, reflecting our local reality. It was an important opportunity to discuss situations, our response to them, what we have to face as pastors, and to discern appropriate pastoral approaches,” said the bishop.

Conscience protection campaign

Knights of Columbus members Andy Elder, Murray Geenen, Gerald Wingers (back, l-r) John Cook, Omer Glasson and Louis Roth (front, l-r) are among those in the province working to compile thousands of letters to government from across Saskatchewan. The letters are asking for provincial legislation to protect the conscience rights of health care providers who are unable to participate in physician assisted suicide or euthanasia. (Similar legislation was recently passed in Manitoba.) More information — and an opportunity to send an electronic message to elected officials — can be found at www.canadianconscience.savethesaskwars. Plans are underway to present the letters to government leaders at the end of May.

“May 9, 2019

March for Life May 9 in Regina

The Saskatchewan March for Life will be held Thursday, May 9, sponsored by Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association, Campaign Life, and the Knights of Columbus to stand for the protection of human life from conception to its natural end. The event begins with a Mass at 10 a.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2104 Garnet Street, Regina, followed by an 11 a.m. dedication to the unborn, and a 12:30 p.m. prayer rally. A march from Holy Rosary Cathedral to the Saskatchewan Legislative building begins at 1 p.m. (a distance of about 2 km — rides will be available for those who have difficulty walking.) Prayer and a program begins at the Legislative grounds at 2 p.m., followed by silent witness on Albert Street.

Car-pooling from Saskatoon is being arranged by John Cook (306) 477-1748. For more information call (306) 352-3480 or see: www.saskprolife.com (Participants are asked to bring their own lunch and to bring their own chairs to the legislative grounds.)
Seeking the God-given meaning of the new cosmology continues a dialogue between faith and science

By Kipl Yukan Yaworski

New scientific insights into the nature of the universe present a timely challenge to reflect on the relationship between Christian faith and science, says Fr Bernard de Margerie.

In recent years, the retired diocesan priest and renowned local scientist has been exploring a new area of study and interest — what he describes as “the new cosmology.”

“This is because scientists have, over the last 100, and especially the last 50 years, made overwhelming discoveries about the universe. They achieved this through the combined efforts of astrophysics, astronomy, mathematics, geology, evolutionary biology, etc., using new, powerful instruments of exploration and discovery.”

“Cosmology” is defined as the study of the universe, its origin and development of the universe. For Christians, this study is an opportunity to deepen appreciation for the work of God, the Creator, says de Margerie.

Contrary to what popular culture would have us believe, science and faith are not at odds, but are a coherent part of understanding creation, the world and the glory and power of God, he says.

“Christian faith welcomes the scientific results of science in general, and in particular, the new scientific understanding of God’s creation,” de Margerie says, quoting Genesis: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

He adds: “Christian faith is about meaning, indeed ultimate meaning — and it probes in faith the God-given meaning of the new cosmology.”

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops recently released a short document entitled Science and Catholic Faith (January 2019) which offers introductory philosophical and theological concepts for the dialogue between faith and science, drawing upon Saint Pope John Paul II’s intellectual legacy.

Key points include confidence in reason, an integral part of the Catholic intellectual tradition. The document affirms that science offers “a splendid testimony” to humanity’s tireless search for understanding. “Yet science and technology do not free us from the obligation to ask religious questions, but spur us on to face the most difficult questions of the heart and conscience.”

“Science can purify religion and make religion purify science,” adds de Margerie.

The “Church sees this new cosmology as a map format, and an updated testimony” to humanity’s tireless search for understanding. “Yet science and technology do not free us from the obligation to ask religious questions, but spur us on to face the most difficult questions of the heart and conscience.”

The “Church sees this relationship of science and faith as one of complementarity and mutual stimulus,” the document contends.

“Science can purify religion from error and superstition, religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world in which both can flourish.”

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: “God cannot deny himself, nor can truth ever contradict truth.” Consequently, it concludes, “the Church must use all scientific research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God.”

“By exploring the meaning of the ‘new’ cosmos, Christians will be able to give deeper glory, and clearer worship to God.”

In the process, he predicts, Christians will also be led “to offer God true obedience regarding the development and safeguarding of all creation — especially here on Earth, through the ecological care of our blue planet. Planet Earth is now dire Straits because of human beings, because of our neglect and abuse.”

Possible fruitful encounters between science and faith include reflecting on “deep time and deep space.” The new cosmology describes how the universe that we see was created approximately 13.7 billion years ago in an unimaginable burst of energy, followed by light-speed expansion. He reflects: “It is now estimated that the universe may contain a hundred billion galaxies (vast groupings of stars) and the size of the known universe is calculated in billions and trillions of light years across. Such is deep space!”

Such new cosmic vistas open an invitation to “larger and wiser praise of the Creator,” he says, citing the Psalms: “O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all” (Psalms 104:24); and “All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you” (Psalms 145:10).

After spending time exploring and discussing the new cosmology, de Margerie and an ecumenical group of friends are now looking ahead to a possible public event of education and discussion on the topic, with a series possibly presented in the fall.

“A great and worthy homily of faith awaits and beckons us regarding the God-given meaning of the new cosmology,” he says. “May the Holy Spirit inspire us with wisdom and courage.”

By Kipl Yukan Yaworski

An online news site – Catholic Saskatoon News – has been created as part of a website redesign for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The “news portal” website at https://news.rcdos.ca includes news coverage from a Catholic perspective at the diocesan level, as well as national and international news items via news services, including Canadian Catholic News (CCN), which the Prairie Messenger weekly Catholic newspaper was affiliated with before it ceased publication in May 2018.

Catholic Saskatoon News also includes articles and commentary related to faith, including the introduction of a “Voices” section which will feature reflections and faith enrichment from a range of writers and videographers. “We hope this will grow in the days and months ahead to include many other voices in our community,” said Bishop Mark Hagemoen. “It is envisioned as a space for voices and news with a faith perspective from across our diocese – including rural areas, and from all generations, from different cultural groups and Catholic organizations.”

The launch of the online Catholic Saskatoon News is one way in which the diocese of Saskatoon is responding to the closure of the Prairie Messenger, which was a well-loved source of Catholic news and faith formation published by the Benedictines at St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster for some 104 years.

A survey last year about diocesan communications showed a desire for a more effective online presence.

The main diocesan website update at redos.ca includes a new parish finder and Mass times feature available in either a list or a map format, and an updated structure and design for easier use and viewing, compatible with mobile devices.

“I am excited and grateful to launch the new website,” said Bishop Mark Hagemoen. “The occasion of doing this has generated several opportunities: including providing another vehicle to get a Catholic voice and Catholic news out to our community.”

How to meet the challenge of communication is something every diocese in the country is facing – some with greater means than Saskatchewan, he noted.

In addition to continuing to publish the printed Diocesan Newsletter, the diocese also has a presence on social media, on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

For more information, e-mail kiplyaworski@redos.ca or call Kipl Yaworski, (306) 659-5844.
In Exile
Ron Rolheiser, OMI

We are all, familiar with the famous expression from Julian of Norwich, now an axiom in our language. She once famously wrote: In the end all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of being shall be well. To which Oscar Wilde is reported to have added: “And if it isn’t well, then it’s still not the end”.

Few words better express what we celebrate in the resurrection of Jesus. Belief in the resurrection, belief that God raised Jesus from the dead, is the very ground of our Christian faith. Everything else we believe in as Christians is grounded on that truth and, as St. Paul says, if that isn’t true, if Jesus wasn’t raised from the dead, we are all deluded as well. But if God did raise Jesus, and we believe that he did, then not only can the rest of Jesus’ message be trusted, we can then live with the ultimate consolation that the end of our story has already been written and it is a happy, ecstatic ending. We will in the end, live happily ever after. Life is indeed a fairy tale.

How does the resurrection of Jesus guarantee that? Here’s how Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, that wonderful scientist and mystic from the previous generation, answered. Once, having just made a presentation within which he presented a vision of how the cosmos and all of life will come together in one final harmony in the cosmic Christ. At the end of that time, he was challenged by a skeptic to this effect: “That’s a lot of wishful thinking and optimism. But suppose we blow up the world with a nuclear bomb, how the cosmos and all of life will come together in of time, he was challenged by a skeptic to this effect: ‘That’s a lot of wishful thinking and optimism. But suppose we blow up the world with a nuclear bomb, how the cosmos and all of life will come together in time?’ 

What we believe in as Christians is not based on wishful thinking or natural optimism, it’s based on the word and promises of Jesus and the trustworthiness of that word and those promises is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. When we believe this, we can live our lives without undue anxiety about anything, confident that the end of our story is already written and that it’s a happy ending. And what we believe in as Christians is not based on wishful thinking or natural optimism, it’s based on the word and promises of Jesus and the trustworthiness of that word and those promises is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. When we believe this, we can live our lives without undue anxiety about anything, confident that the end of our story is already written and that it’s a happy ending. And if we live in face of that belief we can risk everything, risk our very lives, knowing that our ending of our story has already been written and that it’s a happy one, no matter how dire things might look at present.

Reflecting on Life & Faith

Resurrection truth: “And all manner of being shall be well”

...we can live our lives without undue anxiety about anything, confident that the end of our story is already written and that it's a happy ending.**

By Michael MacLean

What does Lent look like for a spiritual athlete? Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen addressed this question March 12 with young adults at Theology on Tap, held at Loretto Abbey at the University of Saskatchewan campus.

In Bishop Hagemoen’s experience, it was the hiking and rock climbing in the mountains of Vancouver area in his younger days, and more recently, his work on the land in the Northern Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, that provided him with mountaintop and wilderness experiences. He described how a “spiritual athlete” approaches prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the Lenten season.

He taught that if we have a wilderness experience, it is sometimes easier to see Jesus’ own temptation in the wilderness, and also to challenge ourselves to recall that kind of wilderness experience when we fast and pray and give alms in Lent.

A spiritual athlete dares to take prayer and fasting seriously, the bishop said. He pointed out that almsgiving can be a counterintuitive moment, when we move into a situation to use our talents and gifts to give to the other, but realize that we are the ones who feel gifted through the experience. He said that almsgiving blesses us to be like Christ.

Bishop Hagemoen also talked about today’s insanely busy world and how sometimes our Lenten observance might not be only to fast from food, but also from the smartphone. He noted that cell phones are a tool, so they can be helpful, but they can also be a device that we obsess over. In society today, there is no persuasive force quite like our phones, and this is plainly seen, as people are being constantly drawn to them, he said.

In terms of temptations (like smartphones), Hagemoen recalled being welcomed to the north by retired Bishop Denis Croteau, OMI, who still lives in Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Bishop Hagemoen described Bishop Croteau’s message to those people that wanted to come north to serve: ‘We want you here, but you need to want to be here, and for the right reasons.”

While “our devils” might reveal themselves to be fear, doubt, competition and vanity, we can dare to pull away from them, which is like the experience of entering into a cloud on the mountain, an experience of encounter and wonder.

As we enter into prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we allow the Spirit to touch our hearts. We are then capable of positive change. On the topic of the call to “ongoing conversion,” the bishop quoted soon-to-be canonized Blessed Charles de Foucauld, who said, “To live is to change, and to live well is to have changed often.”

Theology on Tap: Lent and the spiritual athlete

**What happens to your wishful thinking then?” Teilhard’s answer wonderfully distinguishes genuine Christian hope both from wishful thinking and natural optimism, even as it affirms what the resurrection of Jesus guarantees. He responded in words to this effect: “If we blow up the world with a nuclear bomb, well that would be a two-million-year setback. But what I’m proposing will happen, not because I wish it so or have empirical evidence to warrant it. It will happen because Christ promised it, and in the resurrection, God showed that God has the power to deliver on that promise.”

What we believe in as Christians is not based on wishful thinking or natural optimism, it’s based on the word and promises of Jesus and the trustworthiness of that word and those promises is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. When we believe this, we can live our lives without undue anxiety about anything, confident that the end of our story is already written and that it’s a happy ending. And if we live in face of that belief we can risk everything, risk our very lives, knowing that our ending of our story has already been written and that it’s a happy one, no matter how dire things might look at present.

We see a wonderful example of this kind of belief in Archbishop Desmond Tutu, one of the key figures in opposing and eventually bringing down apartheid in South Africa. At the heart of the struggle to bring down apartheid, facing every kind of threat, he remained steadfast and even joyful in face of threats and overwhelming odds. What anchored him in his steadiness and joy? Belief in the resurrection of Jesus.

Occasionally on a Sunday morning when he would be preaching, armed soldiers would come into the church and line-up against the walls with their weapons in hand, hoping to intimidate him. Tutu, for his part, would smile at them and say: “I am glad you’ve come to join the winning side! We’ve already won!” In saying this, he wasn’t talking about the battle over apartheid which, at that point, was still far from won. He was talking about the resurrection of Jesus, the definitive triumph of goodness over evil, which assures that, in the end, goodness will eventually triumph over evil, love over division, justice over injustice, and life over death.

Knowing that, we can live in life confidence and hope. It will end well, not because we wish it so or because the world is looking for that, but because it will end well because Jesus promised it and it will happen, God back up that promise. Hence there’s nothing to fear, nothing – not death, not nuclear war, not even death. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that in the end all shall be well, and all shall be well, and every manner of being shall be well; and if it isn’t well … well, then it’s still not the end!

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Fr. 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

Michael MacLean of STM Campus Ministry (left) welcomed Bishop Hagemoen to Theology on Tap March 12, where the topic of discussion was Lent.

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--- Subedited photo

Theology on Tap: Lent and the spiritual athlete
Cardinal will speak at Catholic conference in Saskatoon

Cardinal Collins has long been engaged in the study of stewardship, and wrote the letter “Stewardship: Well done, good and faithful servant” while serving as Archbishop of Edmonton.

Conference participants have a unique opportunity to hear from a member of the College of Cardinals who will draw upon his many years of knowledge and service.

Everyone is welcome to join Cardinal Collins, as he celebrates the conference’s opening liturgy at 4:30 p.m. on June 6 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Other speakers include Tracy Edgcomb, a member of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, who has some 25 years experience in parish ministry, Debra Puzee Osumb, Vice-President of University Relations at the U of S, and Emilie Callan of Salt + Light Media Foundation, who was one of the Canadian delegates to the Youth Synod held recently at the Vatican.

Bishop Mark Hagemoens, Bishop Bryan Bayda, Don Gorsalitz, Jocelyne Hamoline, Brett Powell, Ann Broskes, Fr. Steve Penna, and Jason Aebig are also on the program.

The three tracks of the 2019 Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference are:

- **Fund Development Track**—this is the first track of its kind in WCCS history, and will be devoted to best practices in fundraising and the challenges and grains involved in financially supporting ministries that make up the Church.

- **Communications Track**—will focus on how we use our websites, social media, websites, the pulpit, etc. to effectively engage our faith communities and bring people into a fuller relationship with Christ and the Church.

- **Ministry and Outreach**—will discuss new initiatives launched in this year’s Bishop’s Appeal, as well as support for the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, a geographically vast northern diocese with limited resources, shepherded by Archbishop Murray Chatlain.

This year, a total of $130,000 will be returned to parishes who exceeded their new 2018 BAA goals through a parish sharing program.

In the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal, parishes that exceeded their goal received back 100 per cent of their overage, minus a 14-per cent administration cost. This sharing percentage is an increase over previous years, when the parish sharing amount was 75 per cent. Last year, when $1,496,006 was raised in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the parish sharing totalled $95,200.

Diocesan Pastoral Council

Members of the newly-created Diocesan Pastoral Council met for the first time Dec. 8, 2018 at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon, beginning a process of visioning and discernment that continued in March 2019, when the group took time for this photograph during a meeting at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. An advisory body to the bishop, the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) includes members from across the diocese, as well as from a range of Catholic organizations. Bishop Mark Hagemoens has asked the DPC for a “big picture” look at pastoral needs in the diocese in order to provide recommendations about priorities that will eventually form the basis of a pastoral plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and its 95 parishes.

Cardinal will speak at Catholic conference in Saskatoon

“**Our Faith in Action**”

Bishop’s Annual Appeal raises $1,416,000 for ministry and outreach

By KITTY LUKAN YAPORSKI

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal goal to raise $1,295 million has been surpassed.

A total of $1,416,000 has been raised to date in the 2018 Appeal.

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**Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**

**Financial Snapshot**

**Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018**

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| EXPENDITURES  |               |
| Parish Operational Support | $1,509,717 | $1,465,623 |
| Pastoral Ministries | $2,161,918 | $1,925,341 |
| Grants and External Expenditures | $ 185,752 | $ 261,442 |
| National and Diocesan Collections | $ 321,972 | $ 326,407 |
| Councils, Committees, Commissions | $ 25,564 | $ 40,294 |
| Capital, Occupancy | $ 168,880 | $ 214,980 |
| **TOTAL**     | **$4,373,803** | **$4,234,088** |

(A) Full year of salary and benefit recovery re: partner agency payroll in 2017, only 8 months in 2018.
(B) Increase (2018 over 2017) in amount transferred from Priest Pension and Retirement Fund of $160,000 due to unfunded liability in clergy defined benefit pension plan.
(C) Bishop installed November, 2017, increased expenses for Bishop’s Office and Residence, including salary and installation expenses.
(D) Additional $440,000 (2018 over 2017) in expenses related to Clergy Pension re: unfunded liability in clergy defined benefit pension plan.
(E) Reduction in grant funds (from Catholic Missions in Canada) issued to partner agencies.
(F) Transition in Ecumenical Commission from part-time staff to volunteer.
(G) Fulfillment of capital pledge in 2017, resulted in 50 financing expenses for 2018.

For more information about the conference or to register, please visit: https://wccsc.ca or contact Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 659-5849.
BY BISHOP MARK HAGEMOEN

Excerpts from the Bishop’s Blog

At the invitation of Arch-bishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-La Pas, several young adults led by FacetoFace Ministries and I travelled to Black Lake, SK in the Athabasca region of northern Saskatchewan, from Feb. 16 to 22, 2019.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about the Dene community, and to assist the local parish in helping prepare several candidates for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. (The candidates were not able to participate in the summer celebration of Confirmation earlier in the summer at the Pine Channel Spiritual Pilgrimage.)

Chief Coremin Sayazie and Fr. Cornelius Ngowakwem, SM, of Our Lady of the Cape parish graciously received us to the parish and the Black Lake community.

The FacetoFace E3 Ministry Team included Matthias Steiner, Paul Bentler, Jerome Montpetit, Matthew Witzaney, and Benjamin Paul Bentler, Jerome Montpetit, as well as leaders Jon Courchene and Daniel Pashual of FacetoFace Ministries.

The week began with getting involved in the communities activities. As it was the spring break and the Winter Carnival, school was closed, and thus the young people of the community gathered to play various sports in the school gym. Men of the community also provided an opportunity for the group to enjoy ice-fishing on Black Lake, and to experience the ‘chill’ of high speed ski-doo travel.

Unexpectedly, there was a request to celebrate several baptisms, which were celebrated on Tuesday evening, Feb. 19. The candidates included several newborns and children. One of the families came in from nearby Fond-du-Lac, about two hours away by winter road.

The team from the Diocese of Saskatoon gathered testimonial, including for FacetoFace Ministries. It will be an experience that will help prepare confirmation candidates for the Sacramento of Reconciliation before their Confirmation celebration.

Following the Confirmation ceremony for four young people, the Black Lake Winter Carnival opening ceremonies were held at the band hall. The carnival is held annually during the school winter break, and features programs for both children and adults. It is an opportunity during the harsh and long winter season for the communities in the area to gather for games, cultural festivities, indoor and outdoor activities, and other community events.

The FacetoFace E3 Team delivered an impressive program with the first round of high-speed skidoo travel in harsh winter weather at Black Lake, SK.

Some observations from the team

Reflecting on being blessed by the goodness and the great hospitality of the people of Black Lake:

“The cold is counteracted by their warm hearts.” - Paul Bentler

“It’s going to be hard to leave.” - Jerome Montpetit

“We are learning from the flexibility of the people of Black Lake...We are learning to be present and listen to God’s voice.” - Jon Courchene

What is E3?

E3 offers exclusive events for youth ages 14 to 18 years, who have had larger faith-impacting experiences (FacetoFace bus trip, Ignite Camp, Search retreats). E3 events are presented through a partnership between the Diocese of Saskatoon and FacetoFace Ministries.

For more information contact Jon Courchene at (306) 381-7780 or Colm Leyne at (306) 659-5843.

BY K IPLY LU K A N YAWO R SKI

Story project helps dads in prison stay connected to their children

A project in which men in prison are videotaped reading bedtime stories and short messages to send to their children is having a big impact, says Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry office.

Staying connected with family is a big part of growth and healing for men who are trying to turn their lives around, she says. The opportunity to read a story, knowing that their children will see and hear them on video, is a way for men with very few options to strengthen family bonds strained by the separation of prison.

Participants are unbelievably grateful to have a chance to gift their children with a story, says Anderson. The video of the dads reading a story is then delivered to the children along with the book, placed in donated backpacks along with pajamas collected from parishioners across the diocese.

The desire of the men to bless their children in this way is extremely moving, says volunteer videographer Tim Yaworski. “The love and the pain are both so evident. This is obviously a powerful and transforming experience for the men.”

The project began as an offshoot of a creative writing program for men in the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, with the first round of participants reading stories that they had written themselves. It has since expanded to include dads who are now videotaped reading donated children’s books written by other authors.

“This really goes a long way in helping to either create or help to build a connection between the prisoners here at the Correctional Centre and the children in their lives,” says Laura Beach, a volunteer with the Inspired Minds, All Nations creative writing program that initiated the project. “Dianne (Anderson) has provided invaluable support for this program,” she adds.

“This is the second parenting program that I have done with Dianne... I definitely appreciate her and all the hard work she puts in at the institution,” says Robert Caissie, one of the original program participants.

Wyatt Bear, another of the program participants who wrote his own book, said that the ministry provided by Dianne Anderson is much needed and appreciated.

“Me, personally, I like to get a lot of stuff off my chest, to talk about my emotions, and to get it out of the way. I don’t like to bottle it up. With Dianne here, I get to come and do that...I appreciate that.”

Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office with participants in the bedtime story project at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

Members of the FacetoFace E3 Ministry Team bundle up to experience ice fishing and the chill of high-speed skidoo travel in harsh winter weather at Black Lake, SK.

Some observations from the community:

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Close to Home campaign includes hospice – and more

By KIPLY LUKEY YAWORSKI

St. Paul’s Hospital’s long-standing focus on providing both quality palliative care and holistic care to body, mind, and spirit will be deepened, enhanced and more widely available because of initiatives supported through a recently-launched fundraising campaign.

The $20-million Close to Home campaign by St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation will strengthen end-of-life services in the community. First of all, through construction of the province’s first free-standing residential hospice, the planned 15-bed Hospice at Glengarda.

The second priority in the campaign will establish a Holistic Care Endowment to provide spiritual care, healing arts therapy and bereavement care to patients and families facing the end of life – both within the hospice and in the wider community. The campaign will also fund the establishment of an Education Fund to increase the knowledge and skills of those providing end-of-life care.

Finally, the campaign will raise funds for much-needed renovations to the existing 12-bed Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital.

St. Paul’s Hospital’s mission of being “A Community of Health, Hope, and Compassion for All” has always encompassed loving care for those who are dying, which is also a long-standing Christian tradition, points out Leah Perrault, Director of Mission at St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon.

“Catholics throughout the centuries, and certainly now, have always had a special place in their hearts for caring for the dying,” she notes. “The best witness we can be at the end of life is to wrap people in the kind of care that allows them to experience Christ, whether they belong to our church, other churches, different faiths, or not.”

Under a partnership agreement, first with the Saskatoon Health Region and now working alongside the Saskatchewan Health Authority, palliative care is among the services provided at St. Paul’s Hospital.

“Our mission is to ensure that people have a place where they need will be provided, so they can live as fully as possible, right until they die. This aligns really well with the vision of hospice and palliative care, which is to stop seeing the illness that will eventually take someone’s life as a threat to be conquered, and instead, to see it as a journey to walk through,” says Perrault.

The need far outweighs the 12 beds currently provided in the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital and supported by the hospital’s holistic care, spiritual care, and healing arts programs.

“People will say things like: ‘we felt like we won the lottery when we got a bed in the Palliative Care Unit,’” observes Perrault. “It shouldn’t be that way. One hundred per cent of people are going to die but we have a long way to go to ensure that all who need it will have access to hospice palliative care.”

Building a new 15-bed hospice will certainly help in expanding those services. “When the end of life is nearing, and the care becomes too much for a family to manage, there will be another place where it is still possible to hear music, where it is still possible to do crafts, or eat a meal, to watch a favourite sports game; to gather around and spend Christmas, or Thanksgiving, or a birthday with someone you love, knowing that it might be the last one: that is pure gift.”

Palliative care is not about a place, rather, it is a philosophy, stresses Perrault. “It shouldn’t be an island, where only a few have access. It should be a service that can be extended into the community.

That is where the Holistic Care Endowment will play a role, as St. Paul’s Hospital will work with a number of partners – such as community groups, care homes, or families journeying at home with those approaching the end of life – to provide holistic care services, which would include the healing arts, professional spiritual care, and bereavement care.

The Holistic Care Endowment for the healing arts, for spiritual care and bereavement care will ensure that when budgets get tight, those essentials to that holistic practice will not fall by the wayside, she adds.

“We want to make access to holistic palliative care more equitable, to ensure that all those who are facing the end of life and walking that path with their families and communities have the physical, spiritual, creative, emotional, and relational supports that they need at the end of life.”

To learn more about the Close to Home campaign see: www.CloseToHomeFund.com or contact St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation at (306) 655-5821.

Palliative care is not just about physical care, Perrault explains. “Of course, we want to make sure you are not dying in pain, and treating that pain is really critical. But what about treating your heart? What about the forgiveness story that still needs to be written before you go? What about that life story you have been wanting to tell, but you haven’t had time? Our writer in residence can help with writing that story. Our music therapist can bring to life memories in music and notes that you didn’t know you had, or help bring healing to a wounded relationship. Art therapy and the artist in residence can help bring someone into touch with emotions that they haven’t dealt with for a long time. Your doctor has a role, your therapist has a role, but your healing is about so much more.”

The Lay Formation liturgy

Lay Formation coordinators (l-r) Marlene Hansen (Indigenous stream), Blair and Jennifer Carruthers (discontinued stream), Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki (eparchial stream) participate in a Great Water Blessing liturgy celebrated in January by Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Eparchy of Saskatoon. (Photo by Tim Yazewski)
Some 250 men attended an “Into the Breach” faith enrichment event organized in Lent by the Knights of Columbus Denis Mahoney Council in Saskatoon.

Men urged to take up their faith

During a Lenten faith conference March 29-30 in Saskatoon, some 250 men were challenged and inspired by speakers Brett Powell and Ken Yasinski to actively take up their relationship with Jesus Christ and live as men of faith, integrity and action in the world.

“Into the Breach” was the theme of the men’s faith enrichment event organized by the Knights of Columbus Denis Mahoney Council 8215. The challenging theme was taken from an apostolic exhortation to Catholic men written by Bishop Thomas J. Olmstead of the Diocese of Phoenix entitled Into the Breach. The conference also included a prayerful opening presentation by Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus State Chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon both participated in the men’s retreat.

“The men were challenged and inspired to become men who are faithful followers of Jesus Christ, living out their faith in work, family and community,” Bishop Bayda said.

By Bob Barkman

The Knights of Columbus presented $70,000 to the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation Dec. 9, 2018 during a pancake breakfast at Holy Family Cathedral – which is also the site for the annual Celebrity Dinner that was held to raise the funds earlier this year.

Garry Maier, Chair of the Knights of Columbus Celebrity Dinner Committee, introduced and thanked the many volunteers for their efforts in not only this year’s dinner but for the many other Celebrity Dinners hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Without their efforts, years of significant donations to the Children’s Hospital would not have been possible, said Maier.

He also thanked Sash Broda – who serves as the link between the Foundation and the Knights of Columbus – for her assistance in organizing and assisting in various tasks in making the dinner a success.

Maier introduced other special guests in attendance, including Chris Bencharksi from Meadow Lake, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus of Saskatchewan; Brynn Boback Lane, CEO of the Jim Pattison Children’s Foundation; and Dr. Laurentiu Givelichian, the head of the Department of Pediatrics at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon.

Brynn Boback Lane thanked the Knights of Columbus for their many years of supporting the vision of a Children’s Hospital in Saskatchewan. She noted the Foundation is proud to be a partner with the Knights of Columbus and that every child and family will benefit from this hospital.

Dr. Laurentiu Givelichian also thanked the Knights of Columbus for supporting the vision that no child should leave the province to be treated, but should be treated as close to home as possible. “Your support will help make this happen,” he said.

State Deputy Chris Bencharksi thanked the local Knights of Columbus Council for hosting the Celebrity Dinner on behalf of the more than 11,000 members in Saskatchewan. He also thanked the many sponsors and donors for their support in making this event such a huge success.

Garry Maier also thanked the many sponsors who supported the Celebrity Dinner.

Some 250 men attended an “Into the Breach” faith enrichment event organized in Lent by the Knights of Columbus Denis Mahoney Council in Saskatoon. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon delivered the homily at the closing Mass for the event held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

“If the spiritual combat of a Christian is sometimes rough, it is by no means the hopeless struggle of somebody who battles in blindness and solitude, without any certitude as to the result of this confrontation. Rather, it is the combat of one who struggles with the absolute certitude that the victory is already won, because the Lord is resurrected,” said Bishop Hagemoen.

“Brothers, let us — with our Lord and God — and in communion — be in the breach.”

Knights of Columbus members presented a cheque for $70,000 to representatives of the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation during a gathering held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon on Dec. 9, 2018. - Photo by Bob Barkman

Knights of Columbus present $70,000 to Children’s Hospital Foundation

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Marking 40 years of Roman Catholic involvement in refugee sponsorship

BY KRYSLA LYNN YOWORSKI

This year marks the 40th anniversary of private refugee sponsorship by Catholic parishes and organizations in Saskatchewan, when faith communities here joined other Canadians in stepping up to welcome refugees from Southeast Asia.

In the summer of 1979, the Roman Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan signed an umbrella agreement with the federal government, committing to engaging in a new private sponsorship process introduced in Canada the year before, which permitted "groups of no fewer than five" to sponsor a refugee family on the condition of providing adequate support for at least one year.

“In addition to cutting through bureaucratic red tape, the agreement gives Catholics in the province the opportunity to become directly involved in easing the plight of refugees streaming out of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia,” stated a report in the Aug. 5, 1979 edition of the Prairie Messenger.

With the agreement in place between the Catholic bishops and the federal government, Bishop James Mahoney of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon issued a letter to the faithful on July 22, 1979, announcing the creation of a Diocesan Committee for Refugee Sponsorship to assist in “opening our doors, welcoming them into our midst, and helping them to settle down among us.” Committee chair Fr. Paul Donlevy immediately began working with parishes and other Catholic groups who stepped up to take on private refugee sponsorship. Another committee member, Sr. Lorraine April, began making presentations to parishes.

Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon was one of those to step forward to sponsor a family, and parishioner Margaret Sanche (who now serves as Diocesan Administrator) and her husband Robert were among the many who helped with that first sponsorship of a family of ten—a mother and father with six young children, and their two teenage nephews.

“The parish stepped out in faith,” she recalls. “It was one of those times, when you simply say, ‘let’s do it, and let’s do it in prayer.’ We held one another in prayer; we saw that the Church was guiding us in this, and stepped out. It is the gospel. It is what we’re called to do.”

As with many such private sponsorship efforts since, parishioners pulled together to provide what was needed to house the family, to help them adjust to life in Canada, journeying with the family through paperwork and banking, school enrolments, language learning, and medical appointments—even through such simple acts such as shopping for groceries in a new and unfamiliar culture, Sanche recalls.

That first family sponsored by Holy Spirit parish soon settled into their new country, and have done well in the decades that followed, says Sanche. The parents are now retired in Vancouver, and the children are adults, raising the next generation. Several years ago, on the 25th anniversary of their arrival, the parents of the family got together for a meal with the Sanches to mark the occasion. “We don’t see them often, but we are honoured to be part of their family story of coming to Canada.”

The experience was a blessing for the parish, says Sanche. “When I think about it, for us as a parish, it reinforced our longing to be a community that reached beyond itself—to help others; to make a difference.”

Canada’s private refugee sponsorship program has been recognized as a highly successful way to welcome and integrate those who are coming to Canada fleeing desperate situations. For this successful mobilization of private efforts in response to the southeast Asian crisis, the United Nations presented the people of Canada the Nansen Medal for outstanding service to refugees.

Private refugee sponsorship continues in the diocese of Saskatoon, which continues to be a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the federal government, under which parishes and groups continue to put the gospel into action by welcoming individuals and families to the community, and helping them build a life of safety and security in Canada.

For more information about refugee sponsorship, contact the diocesan Office of Migration: oom migration@rcdsos.ca or (306) 659-5842.
All are invited to “Share the Journey”

Pope Francis launched the global ‘Share the Journey’ campaign through Caritas Internationalis to transform the culture of indifference that exists about the refugees and migrants and refugees fleeing violence, extreme poverty, and injustice – into a culture of encounter.

Pope Francis invites us as communities, to walk in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are forced to leave their homes. The symbolic gesture of “reaching out” to welcome others has become a cornerstone gesture of the global campaign. Development and Peace / Caritas Canada imitated Share the Journey as a year-long campaign. In the Saskatoon diocese, parishes and schools have been inspired by the invitation and the challenge of Pope Francis to learn about the causes of forced migration, to hear the stories of people’s journeys, to raise funds, and to walk in solidarity.

Holy Spirit and St Anne parishes in Saskatoon will host their Walks of Solidarity on May 5. Bethlehem, E.D. Feehan, and Holy Cross high schools are also participating in the campaign. Georges Vanier, St Therese of Lisieux, St Luke, St Bernard, Bishop Pocock, and St Matthew elementary schools are also participating, and will all be hosting Walks of Solidarity.

The retreat brought together 68 participants. 17 volunteers who assisted with small group sharing and relationship building, six meal coordinators/helpers, five priests for confession, Sunday Mass with Holy Family, games, meals, free time and gym time at nearby St. Joseph High School, said St. Anne’s Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Ruxandra Ristea, who organized the event with Catherine Renneberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator at Holy Family Cathedral. The retreat brought together 68 young participants. The retreat brought together 68 participants.
Youth voices heard at two-day local Synod

BY KIPLY LYKAN YAWORSKI
A Youth Synod held Jan. 29-30 at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon was a local reflection of the Youth Synod held at the Vatican a few months before.

The two-day event offered some 40 young people time to prayerfully explore what youth are experiencing today, and the impact of that experience on their spirit, faith and life.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen attended the event at the Saskatoon high school, which consisted of talks, testimonies, listening sessions and prayer opportunities.

Small groups reflected on themes such as: deepest needs, hope, experiencing God’s love, how is God calling, reconciliation and forgiveness; and how the Church can be an authentic place for youth to seek and find God.

Diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry, Colm Leyne, described the day as an opportunity for youth to have their voice heard. Bishop Mark Hagemoen and other leaders ministering to youth were there to listen to and empower youth as they listened, expressed and responded to God’s call, Leyne noted.

“To me the greatest gift was the opportunity it gave to the young people to speak their hearts and be authentically heard,” said Leyne.

Participants were inspired by some 20 guest speakers, including Jason Ballard, Saskatchewan.

“This diverse audience worshipped together with a number of musical guests including heavy pop duo Bold as Lions and Toronto hip hop artist Veshone.

Youth left better equipped to overcome their struggles, and inspired to influence their communities for God.

The Inspire YXE planning team come from both Catholic and Protestant churches with a common vision to focus on their shared faith in Jesus and common mission of making Him known.

This vision is explored in Called to Common Witness, the document that emerged from a recent Saskatoon Evangelical-Catholic dialogue.

The text encourages Catholic and Evangelical Christians to collaborate in joint initiatives to engage youth in a life of faith, witness and service.

Go to InspireYXE.com for future updates about next year’s event.

BY CURTIS WAGNER
Inspire YXE, an ecumenical youth conference April 12-13, 2019 in Saskatoon, brought together over 800 youth, parents and leaders of various backgrounds and cultures from across Saskatchewan.

Participants were inspired by some 20 guest speakers, including Jason Ballard, the co-host of the Alpha Youth Film Series, which is used in 49 countries.

This diverse audience worshipped together with a number of musical guests including heavy pop duo Bold as Lions and Toronto hip hop artist Veshone.

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Bishop celebrates special installation liturgy for five new pastors in diocese

Over the past five months, Bishop Mark Hagemoen has celebrated optional installation liturgies for five new pastors.

The ceremony involves a special prayer of commissioning, and prayers throughout the Church, at the ambo where the Word of God is proclaimed, at the altar where the Eucharist is celebrated, as well as at other significant locations in the church building: the Baptismal font, the confessional, the tabernacle, the entrance of the church and the ‘presider’s chair’ in the sanctuary.

Two of the five pastors have recently arrived in the diocese: Fr. Habila Musa is from the diocese of Kano, Nigeria, and Fr. Clement Arthur is from the diocese of Konongo-Mampong in Ghana.

One of the pastors is an Oblate of Mary Immaculate: Fr. Michael Dechant, OMI.

Fr. Stefano Penna is a diocesan priest who recently returned to Saskatoon after several years in academic life at the seminary in Edmonton. Fr. Ephraim Mensah has served in the diocese for a number of years.

Inspire YXE: 800 attend ecumenical youth event

This happened because God acted in the hearts of youth and youth responded. Our experience of this unprecedented event could provide much wisdom in discerning future engagements between the young church and ministry,” said LeBlanc.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen noted “the remarkable openness and appropriate transparency” of the young participants.

“My experience of the reflections and sharing was that the students were willing to talk about ‘real issues’ that affect their lives, including struggles and hopes. I thought that they showed remarkable insight,” he said.

“What became clear was that our students struggle with serious issues, including mental health and depression; addictions; family struggles; ‘body image’, self-shaming and self-confidence; (and) finding hope in our world today.”

The bishop also said he appreciated how the participants referred to the Church as “we” and “us”.

“I left the Synod humbled by the willingness of the students to risk and trust, to share hopes and dreams along with pain and struggles, and to commit to personal goals as a community of people who journey together,” said Bishop Hagemoen.
Two consecrated women from the Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity recently spent a week in Saskatoon at the invitation of Bishop Mark Hagemoen, visiting parishes, local faith groups and ministries, and meeting youth.

Goals of the missionary fraternity are to live a dynamic life of contemplation of the Word of God, and active work and ministry to married couples, single adults, and youth.

“We are discerning whether God may be calling Verbum Dei to be part of our diocese,” said Abbot Mark Hagemoen, who first met a member of the Verbum Dei community last year while attending a conference in Rome. “We became Good Samaritans to one another through their life and their work.”

Sr. Leticia Lopez (originally from Mexico and presently serving in Singapore) and Sr. Sara Dawn (originally from the United Kingdom and presently serving in San Francisco) spent a week in Saskatoon at the bishop’s invitation. The two Verbum Dei sisters spoke at three Saskatoon parishes April 7: St. Anne, the Cathedral of the Holy Family, and St. Mary’s Hispanic Catholic community.

Verbum Dei— which is Latin for “Word of God” — is a pontifically-approved Catholic missionary community which includes consecrated religious women (sisters), consecrated religious men (brothers and priests), and associated married couples.

Rooted in prayer and grounded in scripture and theological training, the community is both contemplative and active, explained the two Verbum Dei sisters during their Saskatoon visit.

“We pray with the word of God, and we also preach the word of God, and help people to have a closer encounter with God,” said Sr. Leticia Lopez in a presentation at St. Anne parish.

She described how members of Verbum Dei dedicate two hours of daily prayer and one morning each week to the word of God, as well as spending one month of the year in silent retreat.

“So a lot of what we do in our active life comes very much from this daily personal encounter with Lord through God’s Word and through the sacraments as well. We share this in our work, and with other people through our Apostolate.”

The work of Verbum Dei in 32 countries around the world includes offering retreat ministry for all ages and levels, spiritual-based prayer groups, Verbum Dei spiritual exercises, lay-leadership formation, lay preaching formation and workshops, spiritual care for individuals and families, spiritual accompaniment, theological formation, and university campus ministry.

Living in Singapore for some 15 years, Sr. Sara Lopez teaches theology, spirituality, and worship.

Sr. Sara Dawn is primarily involved in university campus ministry in San Francisco. She described the history of the young missionary community of Verbum Dei, which started in 1963 on Mallorca, a small island off the coast of Spain. The Verbum Dei Founder was a young priest challenged to offer something to young adults — in turn, young men he worked with longed to share the gospel with others. “They wanted to be able to do the same: they wanted to be able to lead retreats, and bring people to God as well.”

Sr. Sara expressed thanks to Bishop Hagemoen and the diocese of Saskatoon for the warm welcome. “We are really happy to be here,” she said. At this time, Verbum Dei does not have a presence in Canada. Bishop Hagemoen said he is hopeful that the visit will assist in a discernment, likely lasting at least a year, about a possible relationship between the diocese of Saskatoon and the missionary community.

For more information about Verbum Dei, see the website www.VerbumDeiUSA.org

In another stage of their journey into monastic life and their work,” says Bishop Hagemoen. “The way in which we support vocations may need to shift.” The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is marked on May 12.

Two men enter novitiate at St. Peter’s Abbey

By Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

“Tonight is a special and happy occasion for us as a community, when we admit two new members and clothe them with a habit in this ancient monastic ceremony,” said Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, March 20, at the investiture of two novices at St. Peter’s Benedictine Abbey, Muenster, SK.

Robert Janiga and Edmundo Cruz were given new habits as they became novices in another stage of their journey into monastic life. They had been living as candidates for the past six months.

Entering a monastery is not an easy vocation. The decision to become a monk reaches far beyond the desire to choose a new way of life. The choice is centered in leaving an old way of thinking behind, Abbot Peter remarked.

Referring to the Rule of St. Benedict, he said the new habits symbolize being stripped of everything from the past and being clothed in what belongs to the monastery. The new habit is a sign of change and a step forward in the novice’s spiritual journey.

Robert will be known as Brother Denys while Edmundo has taken the name Brother Luis. This ceremony of putting on a new habit gives the novices new outward appearances, but it points to an inner reality that is much more important, Novecosky said. Benedictines centre their lives around prayer and work and that is for a good reason. The vocation of the monk is entrenched in putting away the old, so he can put on something new. Monastic living is a means of conversion to living in community. Each person is challenged to be charitable to one another, to pursue holiness, justice and peace.

We come to the abbey to live a life of selfless service to one another, to the local church and to the broader church. In short, we come to the abbey to put on the heart and mind of Christ.”

Novecosky reminded the novices that St. Peter’s Abbey is a monastic community that strives to seek God and to follow Jesus. The journey to God must be accompanied with an openness to holiness and willingness to work with others. Fortunately, the journey is undertaken with the support of brother monks, and especially the grace of Jesus Christ.

“You will find in this community many good and noble monks who will be a real inspiration to you. You will also find here men with feet of clay, monks who are still struggling to change their old thinking so they can be clothed in what belongs to the monastery, that is, to put on the mind and heart of Christ. What is important is that you not become discouraged too easily nor give up the ideals. St. Benedict puts before us the new born baby of Easter Season focus on the passion and death of Jesus Christ — the journey of Christ was not easy and he refused to be discouraged. The ending was a glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven.

Working and praying for vocations

Vocations directors Fr. Colin Roy (left) and Fr. Daniel Yasinski (right) are working with Bishop Mark Hagemoen to promote and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. “Vocation support is an issue that continues to press upon us,” says Bishop Hagemoen. “The way in which we support vocations may need to shift.” The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is marked on May 12.

Discerning the diaconate

Diocesan Vicar General Fr. Kevin McGee is journeying with Nicholas Blom, Ryan LeBlanc and Paul Wheeler (left to right), as they discern a call to a permanent diaconate in the diocese of Saskatoon. All three are graduates of the diocesan JOY program, which has been identified as a preparatory year for those discerning a call to the permanent diaconate. Details about further formation for deacons in the diocese have not yet been finalized. The diaconate is open to married men 35 years or older, or to single men over 25 years of age. The diocese of Saskatoon began planning for a permanent diaconate program in 2015.
Viscount parishioners embrace Marian devotion

By Fr. EMMANUEL OLUOSLA

History was made Sunday April 7, 2019, in the parish community of Viscount, SK, where 15 members of St. Alphonse parish were invested with the Brown Scapular of Our Lady.

In recent times, devotion to Mary has been on the increase in the tri-parish cluster of Viscount, Colonsay and Allan. Faithful of these communities gather to pray the Rosary on the Saturday evening Mass and before every weekend Mass in the Marian months of May and October. The Brown Scapular devotion is an addition to this various ways of nurturing the faith in these communities.

The Scapular itself is a small item that is worn or carried by those who have been invested in an evocative of the religious habit historically worn by Carmelite religious communities. As a sacramental, the Brown Scapular is an eternal sign of a relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prior to the investiture on April 7, the parish council deliberated on the need for this devotion and commissioned Cindy Binfold, who is the parish coordinator of the liturgical committee to explain to the congregation the reasons for embracing this devotion. Through the efforts of Mark Greasley, the Scapulars, books and other resource materials were obtained from the Fatima Centre.

As pastor, during the investiture, I elaborated on the need to embrace this devotion as a way of being more involved in life of the parish and an opportunity to receive the promises that it entails.

This devotion is one of the earliest in the history of the Church, since it has been related to the experience of the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel as recorded in the Book of Kings. The community and devotees dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel was transferred in 1242 AD from Mount Carmel in Palestine to Aylesford, England.

On July 16, 1252, Saint Simon Stock, who was the Superior General of the Carmelite Order, prayed to Our Lady for help and she later appeared to him and handed him the Scapular with the promise that, “anyone who dies clothed in the Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.”

It is hoped that devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary will continue to lead us closer to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. For the people of God in Viscount, the investiture with the Brown Scapular will continue to be a memorable event in the annals of our parish, and it is a call for more participation in the other aspects of the life of our parish community.

Pregnancy Options Centre prepares for move, continues work

By ANNE-MARIE HUGHES

Carpet and flooring samples have recently been on the to-do list for staff at the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC) Executive Director, Cathy LaFleche and Client Services Coordinator, Tracy Unger are working on building plans and a new fundraising campaign, in between regular parenting education appointments, walk-in pregnancy tests, and crisis pregnancy option appointments. The big move to 2453 Dudley Street, Saskatoon is scheduled for June 2019.

“It’s all becoming very real after two years of planning and discussion,” says LaFleche. “We talked about needing a bigger space at our annual gala two years ago and Colin Enns from Key Stone Paving approached me about his vision of including the pregnancy centre in the new building he was constructing for his business. He encouraged us to be in on the design process and make the space our own. What is being built will function well with moms and the busyness of parenting, as new parents will come to us for diapers or formula, and then, during the toddler years. They are trained to help during pregnancy and into the nursing. They are trained to help accommodate. It has meant counseling women being affected by crying babies or preschoolers knocking on the wrong door looking for mom. This is less than ideal and this is why the new space is a dream come true,” says Tracy Unger.

Along with planning space also comes the need for added fundraising in the form of a capital campaign. Some $30,000 has now been raised in a “Steps to Home” Campaign, which has a goal of raising $140,000 to cover some of the costs of outfitting the interior office space.

Many people in the community can see the work we do and they have really stepped up to help,” says LaFleche.

Donations have also been given in response to opposition to pro-life activity by local and federal governments. People walked in and gave the centre money after a recent decision by Saskatoon city council not to fly a pro-life flag. There was also added support last summer to pay for summer student wages not granted by the federal government during the summer jobs attestation controversy. It was the first year SPOC was denied funding for a summer student.

“This year’s summer student funding is still looking very uncertain as all pregnancy option centers were asked to submit more information to prove we were not undermining women’s sexual reproductive health,” says LaFleche.

The centre runs with one full time director, two part time positions and the support of 23 volunteers helping in various ways. The summer positions are crucial when staff and volunteers take vacation time, because summer interns take on many duties.

“Our summer interns get experience here doing one-on-one work with people, receptionist duties, training in answering crisis calls and learning client documentation... These postings are also the summer support we need to give staff time off without considering closing the centre for a week or two and not being around for people in need.”

Those hired as summer staff are usually interested in moving into work such as counselling or social work. They are trained to help with the “Earn While You Learn” (EWYL) Program that provides ongoing support for parents during the long journey and into the toddler years.

EWYL is a big part of what creates community at the centre. Many moms and their partners are coming regularly for years, getting physical support from the centre’s new and used closets and becoming better parents along the way. This ongoing support is making a difference for those who might otherwise be vulnerable to abortion for the second, third or even fourth child.

“Many people see the abortion risk as being mainly for the first child. The thinking being that since a woman has gone through childbirth once, she is thus less vulnerable to the pressure of choosing abortion in a second pregnancy. This is often not the case,” explains LaFleche. “Every pregnancy holds its own set of risks: ‘Is it too soon after my first baby? How can I get out the door with three kids when I am overwhelmed with two?’ My children are 15 and 12, how can I manage a baby again? Every new situation means meeting a woman in a new place.”

SPOC’s parenting support programs mean that often clients are already in relationship with the centre. They are having pregnancy tests there and making decisions for the future knowing that support is there and feeling they aren’t alone.

For clients walking in the door the parent support groups show that the centre is committed to a vision of building a family. In options counseling, clients are given a chance to envision the possibility of parenting a child along with the other options of abortion and adoption. Having the one-on-one parenting and physical resource support (like diapers or formula) shows the centre’s commitment to the long-term vision of parenting with support beyond an initial decision.

LaFleche sees SPOC as moving forward thanks to a lot of community support. “Our donors understand wider support means being pro-life on the ground with each woman, making each decision,” she says. “Supporters realize that expanding these services puts us in touch with the wider community of helping professionals. Our relationships with Healthy Mother Healthy Baby, addictions counselors, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Egadz My Home (youth centre), are all strong because they see what support we give to their clients. We are seeing more clients every year and giving as many women as we can a glimpse of hope they can choose to build on.”
It began long before. It began with words. Words matter.

— he told of a recent incident of vandalism in which a poster Nazis – his grandparents, his mother, two younger brothers and baby sister all upon arrival, and his father and uncle after happen overnight. It did not begin in concentration camps. Saskatoon. Rights Commission observed: “The Holocaust did not avant l’érection du diocèse de

survivor Max Eisen, author of

prisoner made him a cleaner in the camp operating room. guards that echoed through the concentration camp.

It’s a real ‘win-win,’ as kids have the opportunity to see where their donation goes, and have the chance to serve the guests at the Friendship Inn who benefit. The amount that is donated is impressive – each year, on average, the Inn receives more than 2,250 kg of food, valued at approximately $9,000. That’s a lot of peanut butter – these and other food items (that don’t have to

Hundres attend annual Holocaust Memorial

They started with words… — That silent reminder on the screen at the start of a Holocaust Memorial Service April 14 in Saskatoon touched upon a recurring theme of the event: part of remembering the horrors of the past is a responsibility to ensure it never happens again. The heart of the service was a presentation by Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, author of By Chance Alone, who shared his heart-wrenching testimony about his entire family being killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by the Nazis – his grandparents, his mother, two younger brothers and baby sister all upon arrival, and his father and uncle after serving with him as slave labourers. As a boy of 15, Eisen survived by chance, when a Polish doctor and political prisoner made him a cleaner in the camp operating room. The hatred Eisen has experienced is not all in the past — he told of a recent incident of vandalism in which a poster Nazis was sprayed with the word “Aryan” – the harsh command of the Nazi guards that echoed through the concentration camp.

She called for vigilance and courageous conversations, as hate crimes have reached an all-time high in Canada, with a rise in anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and active extremist hate groups. “We are not immune from this,” Coovadia said. “Stand firm together with interfaitch and intercultural alliances against bigotry and hatred and racism in all forms. We must speak out against hate and guard against tribalism… and we must teach our children and our children’s children to make right choices: to choose inclusion over exclusion, understanding over ignorance, love over hate, and in Max (Eisen)’s words, to be ‘up-standers,’ not by-standers.”

During the service, Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky presented the Miklos Kantiz Holocaust and Human Rights Education Award to Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina, describing how four years ago the former bishop of Saskatoon offered Holy Family Catholic Cathedral as a venue for Holocaust Education Day, in order to permit a single presentation to up to 2,000 students at a time; rather than several presentations over two days at the synagogue — which was growing increasingly difficult for aging Holocaust survivors.

“We are so thankful for this partnership continuing. It represents the close relationship between the Jewish and the Catholic community in our city,” said Rabbi Jodorkovsky. “We appreciate the path of dialogue and friendship that was opened by Archbishop Donald Bolen and is continued by Bishop Mark Hagemoen with Fr David Tumback and Fr Ephraim Mensah.”

Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen was also present at the annual memorial, invited to light one of six candles for the six million killed in the Holocaust.

La fête du 90e anniversaire depuis la fondation de la paroisse Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens, Saskatoon

PAR NICOLLE MARCHILION
Sa Sainteté le pape Pie XI autorisait la fondation d’une paroisse perpétuelle pour les fidèles de langue française à Saskatoon en 1928, cinq ans avant l’érection du diocèse de Saskatoon. La nouvelle paroisse portait le nom de l’Immaculée Conception lors de ses premières années au sous-sol de la Cathédrale St-Paul. En 1931, son nom fut changé à Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens. The parish had a few other homes until the building of its permanent home on Windsor Avenue in Saskatoon, under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Albert Ouellet and Fr. Bernard de Margerie. That debt was paid off 11 years later. L’année jubilaire 1978 fut mémorable à tous les points de vue. Sous l’habile direction de l’abbé André Poilièvre, chaque mois fut marqué d’une activité particulière impliquant tous les paroissiens. Les paroissiens tant dévots ont continué d’améliorer leur église en y remplaçant l’ancien dôme par une coupole comprenant cinq vitraux commémorant les Saints-Martyrs Canadiens. Une dizaine d’années plus tard une rénovation liturgique de l’église fut entreprise y incluse la construction d’une salle de réconciliation.

In order to create a more intimate parish life, the parishioners undertook the construction of a hall annexed to the church. Whereas previously, parishioners had to walk a block to the hall, now they can attend marriage celebrations, funeral meals, Christmas and Easter festivities, presentations, concerts and workshops by crossing a hallway directly from the church.

The new hall was inaugurated in 2014 and named the hall Providence in honour of the main contributions of the Filles de la Providence.

Depuis les 90 ans de la fondation de notre paroisse, nous avons été bénis de 24 prêtres et 3 annuités de pastoral ces qui ont œuvré de main-forte avec les bénévoles pour rendre notre paroisse une entité vivante et y maintenir une liturgie enrichissante et nourrissante. Nous avons grande confiance que les prochaines années nous mèneront forts et fiers vers notre centenaire et au-delà…

Hundred attend annual Holocaust Memorial

Hollywood survivors Kayla Hock and Max Eisen watch as Bishop Mark Hagemeno lights a candle at the Holocaust Memorial. 

Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens pastor Fr. Jean Baptiste Muhmumwe conthe anniversary Mass with former pastors Fr. Émile April and Fr. Bernard de Margerie.

Pool Our Love brings people together to help Friendship Inn provide 365 days a year

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

“...It starts with words…” That silent reminder on the screen at the start of a Holocaust Memorial Service April 14 in Saskatoon touched upon a recurring theme of the event: part of remembering the horrors of the past is a responsibility to ensure it never happens again. The heart of the service was a presentation by Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, author of By Chance Alone, who shared his heart-wrenching testimony about his entire family being killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by the Nazis – his grandparents, his mother, two younger brothers and baby sister all upon arrival, and his father and uncle after serving with him as slave labourers. As a boy of 15, Eisen survived by chance, when a Polish doctor and political prisoner made him a cleaner in the camp operating room. The hatred Eisen has experienced is not all in the past — he told of a recent incident of vandalism in which a poster Nazis was sprayed with the word “Aryan” – the harsh command of the Nazi guards that echoed through the concentration camp.

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Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens pastor Fr. Jean Baptiste Muhmumwe conthe anniversary Mass with former pastors Fr. Émile April and Fr. Bernard de Margerie.
By MADLINE LAFROMBOISE
AND OLIVIA MAURICE

We would like to start by thanking Mr. Ströh for the land acknowledgement, for honoring the fact that we are on sacred Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homelands of the Métis. We would like to welcome you as well, not only to this territory, but to our school, E.D. Feehan.

Take a moment and look around you. Each person you see, everyone in this room, are members of our Feehan Family. We are pleased to come together to be part of this historic event, for the installation of a Treaty medal in our school. In this moment, we have the opportunity to make a difference and to set the tone for what reconciliation means to us, the Feehan Family.

We’re up here today because we have power, we have voice, because we feel comfortable and we know that this is a safe space for us to express ourselves. We’re proud to be a “Following Their Voices” school, a school that understands the sacredness of building relationships, a school that champions all students, but also focuses on the success of Indigenous youth. Installing the Treaty medal is one way of affirming our identity, and we hope it provides an opportunity for all to engage in critical thought, conversation and action.

The Treaty medal is a replica of medals originally presented to participating Nations Chiefs in commemoration of the Treaty.

It portrays a Treaty Commissioner grasping the hand of a First Nations man. Between them lies a hatchet buried in the ground. The other symbols on the medallion, the grass and the water symbolize: “...that this Treaty is to last for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.”

While the medal is a symbol, we don’t want it to be an example of tokenism. It’s not just another poster on the wall. We want it to be a genuine catalyst for building relationships from this point forward. When you look at it, we hope you feel it, we hope you live it.

When you walk by the plaque, we want you to remember that we all have responsibility to respect and honor the treaties, to understand that each day you benefit from Treaty. The land was not surrendered or given away, the agreement was that the land be shared.

First Nation Peoples have upheld their end of the treaties and it’s time for others to follow suit.

The medal serves as a teaching tool, we have the opportunity to open our minds, educate one another, to break stereotypes, and rethink power structures. Not many schools have done what we are doing. We aim to decolonize the system, to make space for something there wasn’t space for before.

We talk about reconciliation and this is one small step towards that. But reconciliation is about more than being nice: we need to acknowledge what happened, and what is still happening. We need to recognize our roles, we need you to act and to be an ally. We need to acknowledge that we are all Treaty people. I acknowledge that I am Indigenous and this is my identity. Non-Indigenous people need to acknowledge that they are settlers who do benefit from this land, and that is part of their identity too.

Reconciliation cannot happen unless we tie ourselves to our history in order to move forward. While our contexts and situations are different, we want to work together. We want to build relationships and follow through on our promises, the same way we would in a family. We are diverse, but we are inclusive and we hope to build a deeper understanding of one another. We are in this together. Thank you.

St. Thomas More College Just Youth group awarded YMCA Peace Medal

By PAUL SINKEWICZ

The YMCA of Saskatoon honoured a group of St. Thomas More College (STM) students for the work they do trying to make the world a better place in which to live. The Just Youth group at STM was presented with the YMCA Peace Medal – an annual award given out in cities across Canada each November during the YMCA Peace Week.

“Collectively, YMCA’s in Canada ask people to build community, and peacebuilding is core to the YMCA’s commitment to strengthening the foundation of healthy communities. STM’s Just Youth is a group of 10-15 passionate students who have weekly meetings and work on awareness, advocacy and fundraising events revolving around social justice issues. This year, the group is led by Ana Meckleborg.

In selecting the St. Thomas More College group for the award, the YMCA of Saskatoon made note in particular of Just Youth’s recent “Share the Journey” walk for refugees, as well as a teach-in on women as peacebuilders, an awareness campaign on prisoners’ rights, and fundraising to help sponsor a Syrian refugee.

“STM’s Just Youth group has brought awareness about many issues,” said Dallas.

“This is just a small sampling of dedicated work that this group is doing, which is a testament to the fact that you need not be a certain age to do impactful work. The vision that they have to raise awareness for peace, for men and women, and quality of life for all is truly inspiring.”

Multi-faith perspectives on environment

Speakers from a range of faith traditions spoke Nov. 29 at a “Communities Inspired for Environmental Action” event at the Jewish Community Centre, continuing a conversation about people of many faiths coming together to care for the Earth, our common home.

“The vision that they have to raise awareness for peace, for men and women, and quality of life for all is truly inspiring.”

“We need to acknowledge that we are all Treaty people...”
Lieutenant Governor visits school dedicated to his father

When the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, paid a visit to students at St. George School in Saskatoon March 12, it was personal. Molloy did not attend the school; his connection goes back his father, George T. Molloy. The school is named after St. George, a third-century Roman martyr and was dedicated to the elder Molloy, the Catholic school division’s first full-time secretary-treasurer (1961-79). “Students and staff at our school community were excited to hear His Honour wanted to visit our school, and the heart of his personal connection was a good opportunity to learn more about the history of our school,” said Renee Cratty, principal at St. George.

“Having him here is also a great way to connect to what we talk about in classrooms – things like governance, good citizenship, and our connection to the Crown. Being able to connect that to a person makes it more real and relatable.”

“I am delighted to visit St. George school, once again,” said Lieutenant Governor Molloy. “My father cared deeply about education and I was very honoured when the school was dedicated to him. I, too, feel strongly about the importance of education and I am pleased to thank the committed teachers and to meet the impressive students at St. George. I am sure my father would be very proud of the school.”

During his visit to St. George School March 12, Molloy spoke to students at a school assembly about his work as Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, toured the school, and spent some time in classrooms to speak with students.

St. Peter’s College offers unique advantages to university students

St. Peter’s College is located at St. Peter’s Benedictine Abbey at Muenster, SK, offers students a range of benefits as they begin post-secondary education.

Here students enter into studies in Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Kinesiology, Engineering, and Arts and Science. Many students begin their pre-professional studies at St. Peter’s College.

Options include preparatory courses to enter professions such as nursing, medicine, law, social work and veterinary medicine. Entry into many of these options is competitive, but St. Peter’s College students often report experiencing an advantage. Because of small class sizes, personal instruction, and academic support programs, St. Peter’s students achieve superior academic results.

Combined with many opportunities for work, volunteering, and recreation, St. Peter’s provides students with an unparalleled university experience. St. Peter’s central location makes it easily accessible to and from Saskatchewan’s urban centres. An hour from Saskatoon, 90 minutes from Prince Albert, and two hours away from Moose Jaw and Regina, St. Peter’s has been a choice for students from all corners of the province.

Distance courses from both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina are available by both televised and online delivery, rounding out a robust assortment of face-to-face study options.

At the heart of the St. Peter’s experience is the unique rural environment. Surrounded by evergreen groves, fruit orchards, and the natural beauty of the Saskatchewan prairies, St. Peter’s College makes an ideal destination for learners and travelers alike.

By Derrick Kunz

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation presents:
Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Dinner Thursday, May 16 at PrarieLands Park, Hall A doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner buffet at 6:45 p.m.
Tickets are $75 each, available at the GSCS Foundation Office, 420-22nd St. East, Saskatoon; (306) 659-7003 or catholicschoolsfounationgscs.ca

24th annual “Share the Spirit” Golf Classic Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Wilkow Golf and Country Club, 382 Cartwright Street. Begins at 7 a.m. with registration and a light breakfast, with an 8:15 a.m. shotgun start / Texas scramble, includes a buffet lunch, golf prizes and draws. Entry: $150/player or $600/team. To register, contact the GSCS Foundation Office, 420-22nd St. East, Saskatoon; (306) 659-7003 or catholicschoolsfounationgscs.ca

These Clubs take many different forms. Some are run by interested parents, some are run by staff as an extracurricular activity and some are run by local parish priests or parish staff. The important thing is that the Rosary Clubs exist and that the students are getting involved. This is very heartening for our Foundation Board and staff. Learning to pray the rosary is an important way that our schools are instilling Catholic traditions and values in our students and the Clubs are helping to create vibrant faith communities within our schools.

The Foundation has also focused much effort this year on fostering better communications with our faith, alumni, and parent groups. In December 2018, the first edition of a new E-Newsletter called “Sharing The Good News” was launched. The E-Newsletter shares stories about the good things happening at our Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and at the Foundation. Check out the first three issues of the E-Newsletter and sign up to receive future issues at: https://foundation.gscs.ca

To learn more about the GSCS Foundation, get involved or donate, contact the Foundation at (306) 659-7003 or visit https://foundation.gscs.ca

No gift of time, talent or treasure is too small to make a difference for our children and young adults.

Rosary clubs are among the initiatives supported by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation.

STUDYING IN REGINA

Many students seeking pathways to education and to professional careers often assume that the main site for learning will be in a large urban centre, with student populations numbering in the thousands. Yet student seekers who carefully research their options will discover a unique opportunity – St. Peter’s College at Muenster, SK. With its blend of historic charm and up-to-date technology, St. Peter’s offers its students a program of study that gives them an unparalleled university experience.

Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan since 1926, St. Peter’s College is well known in the University’s academic community for its strong beginnings as a liberal arts college. St. Peter’s College has grown to a full service institution delivering programming from all the U of S direct entry colleges.

By Maury Wrubleski

GSCS Foundation – Making a difference in Catholic education

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation has been hard at work since 1984 making a difference in Catholic education in Saskatoon and surrounding area. The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Division includes some 19,000 students being educated within 50 schools – 43 elementary schools and seven high schools. It is a big operation with lots of moving parts and with lots of great things happening. One of those things is Rosary Clubs. Rosary Clubs exist and they have lots of needs and a long wish list of things they would like to do if they had the resources. The Foundation is trying to make those of educational and faith-based wishes come true.

One small but powerful example of this is the grant program for Rosary Clubs. This program started in about 2006 with just three grant requests. Since then this program has grown exponentially. This year, 28 of 50 schools applied for and received funding to operate Rosary Clubs within their schools.
Events & Announcements

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QUEEN’S HOUSE PROGRAMMING
601 Taylor Street W, Saskatoon, SK 57M 0C9
• 306-242-1516 • receptionist@queenshouse.org • www.queenshouse.org

Ph: (306) 242-1516

• Contacting Queen’s House: Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

• Volunteers Needed: For work by the fire.

For a list of our upcoming programs and events visit our website: www.queenshouse.org

A wide variety of programs, workshops and retreats are offered here. Queen’s House also welcomes civic groups, schools, or professional organizations who are interested in participating in a program on a specific topic who would like to book a hall for their own events or programs. The Queen’s House retreat facilities and programs continue to be offered in years to come.

In addition to attending upcoming retreats and workshops, please consider building a school or parish community of support and by participating in our varied programs and activities in the years to come.

Keep us in mind as you look toward the future, and consider how you might "Nourish Your Mind and Nurture Your Spirit." At Queen’s House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon.

QUEEN’S HOUSE OFFERS SACRED SPACE, A PEACEFUL SETTING AND HOSPITALITY

BY BRENDA BITZ

Queen’s House

For 40 years, Queen’s House has offered "sacred space" within the heart of Saskatoon, on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

At the service of the church, and founded, inspired and given life by the Sisters of the Holy Name of Mary (SNDM), Queen’s House Retreat and Renewal Centre offers a place for individuals and groups who are seeking “Nourishment for Mind and Spirit.”

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Les Filles de la Providence present gift to St. Ann’s Home campaign

By Cass Cozens

Recently St. Ann’s Senior Citizen’s Home had a visit from Sr. Nellie Pozdkiz, FDLP, and Sr. Dolores Bussière, FDLP. with a gift in hand.

“St. Ann’s Home has been a hallmark in Saskatoon for many years,” said Sr. Pozdkiz, when asked why they were motivated to contribute.

“When St. Ann’s Senior Citizens Village Corp. decided to launch the Spirit of Renewal Campaign to help our home, we knew Les Filles de la Providence/Daughters of Providence – opted to participate in this enriching care; to renovate one room at St. Ann’s.”

The Director of Mission and Spiritual Care at St. Ann’s, Edgar Neudorf, gratefully accepted the donation, saying: “The generous gift of Sr. Nellie and Sr. Dolores is another example to ensure that the Mission of St. Ann’s continues to provide safe, quality health care and housing within the healing tradition of the Catholic Church. This was the task the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth began in 1953, and it is our privilege and challenge to continue in their footsteps.”

Renovations for the upgrade to resident rooms are expected to begin this summer at St. Ann’s Home.

Les Filles de la Providence

The Daughters of Providence / Les Filles de la Providence are donating funds for the renovation of one of the rooms at St. Ann’s Home as part of the “Spirit of Renewal” campaign: Sr. Nellie Pozdkiz, FDLP (seated, front), Cathie Rogers, Cass Cozens, Sr. Dolores Bussière, FDLP, Peter Martens, and Edgar Neudorf (standing, l-r). - Photo by Dustin Comet

Serena gala recreates Parisian café

By Annette Bentley

The annual Serena Saskatchew an gala - Une Vie à Paris - was magnifique. Our Lady of Lourdes hall was filled to capacity Feb. 9. A bright French; there were “cheat sheets” to capacity Feb. 9. A bright French; there were “cheat sheets”

We are so grateful for phone/text (306) 934-8223 or e-mail: saks@serena.ca or find information/donate online at: www.saksca.ca

The annual gala was held Feb. 9 at Our Lady of Lourdes. - Submitted photo

Latin Mass Community holds Lenten Mission

By Julie Arbenz

The Latin Mass Community of Saskatoon welcomed Father Daniel Geddes, SSP, of Vancouver for a Lenten Mission at the beginning of March, beginning his talks on the need for humility and charity as the foundation for receiving other virtues.

“Humility is like the walls in the foundation,” said Fr. Geddes, a member of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. “And charity is poured into the structure depending on how high those walls are.”

Humility is the basis of all the other virtues, and next most important is charity. If we build ourselves on these two virtues, we will be able to receive the graces we need in order to grow in the spiritual life, he said.

Over the five days Fr. Geddes was in Saskatoon, he heard confessions for over five hours, gave four talks, celebrated five Masses and ended with a Holy Hour.

He finished his talks with a reflection on the Four Last Things, encouraging those in attendance on their journey toward holiness.

The Latin Mass Community also hopes to have an Advent mission in December.

The Latin Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Czestochowa church on 20th Street and Avenue Y in Saskatoon. For more information about the Latin Mass in Saskatoon, including other Mass times and events, please visit: http://saskatontolinmass.com

Range of events hosted at St. Therese Institute

By Veronica Sukhan

APOSTOLIC YEAR STUDENT

As we dive into our final trimester at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, it is amazing to look back on the last months to see how the “littleness” of our mission has brought to life larger events.

Recently, St. Therese has offered a: Youth Retreat for St. John Bosco Parish Youth; a “Come and See” prospective student retreat; a NET Ministries of Canada DCL Into Something Amazing recruitment retreat; the start of our third trimester’s nine “Springtime of the Faith” courses (everyone is welcome to register to attend these weekly courses that run until mid May); and, St. Therese’s Winter Conference, themed “Rejoice and be Glad,” which focused on themes from Pope Francis’ 2018 Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad).

One of the keynote speakers for our Winter Conference was Fr. Michael Lund (St. Therese 2008-09), who is now the first-ever alumnuus to return to St. Therese as an ordained priest. One thing that Fr. Michael mentioned in his first homily at St. Therese was that we must listen to the Gospel and then proclaim it. If we do not proclaim, he said, then listening is somewhat meaningless. He then went on to say that the way we proclaim is by our love.

This is something that St. Therese students have been challenged to live out in their own lives, by growing in their vocations to love and to let that love be known throughout the world.

Bishop Mark Hamageno also spoke at the conference, as did St. Therese alumnus Chris O’Hara (2009-10) and his fiancé Becca Arend.

Anyone between the ages of 18-35 years who is seeking a transformative, immersive dive into knowing and living our Catholic faith, is invited to visit www.STtherese.ca for more information about the Nine-Month Faith Formation Program offered at St. Therese Institute.

Additional weekend and week-long courses and conferences for all adults and high-school students are also offered throughout the year.

Becca Arend and fiancé St. Therese alumnus Chris O’Hara presented together during the February 15-17 “Rejoice and Be Glad” Conference.

- Photo by Natalie Aguilar

Ministry to Tourism

On a recent cruise to the Pacific Isles aboard the Crystal Serenity, Fr. Ralph Kleiter (left) of Ministry to Tourism enjoys the ocean view. - Photo by Patrick Neudorf

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A group photo was taken at the celebration with Bishop Mark Hagemoen and pastor Fr. Emmanuel Banahene.

BY KIPLY LUKN YAWORSKI

A joyful celebration highlighting 100 years of faith and ministry was held Oct. 28, 2019, at St. Athanasius Parish in Perigord, SK, on the eastern side of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen joined the parish community, returning parishioners and visitors for the event, which included celebration of Mass, a dinner and program.

St. Athanasius Parish was officially established in 1918, with Fr. Joseph Benoit as resident pastor.

In the diocesan book Building the Church, Living the Gospel, diocesan archivist, historian, and author Margaret F. Sanche writes:

"Ft. Chrysostom Hoffmann, OSB, of St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster celebrated the first Mass in the area in 1909 at the Hudson Bay Store, five miles to the southwest of the present site of Perigord. The first church was constructed in 1911 and the parish was officially established in 1918, with Fr. Joseph Benoit as resident pastor."

The present St. Athanasius church was built in 1926-27. "Ft. Ephrem Demers oversaw the construction, and parishioners Hercule Plante and Mederic Cara served as contractors for the project. Special features include the altar made by parishioner Roland Bosse and a large church bell. A painting inspired by the Book of Revelation: ‘He that overcometh shall inherit all things,’ commissioned by Lionel Pelletier and painted by local artist Rose Steadman hangs above the north altar of the church," writes Sanche.

Originally part of the diocese of Prince Albert, the parish later became part of the Archdiocese of Regina. When Saskatchewan diocesan boundaries changed in 1998, St. Athanasius, Perigord became part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, situated in the Wadena deanery.

By the 1918 time, the settlement became a separate parish with a resident priest and a school for children. "Our Lady of Victory" parish. It was served by Oblate priests in its earliest years, and then in 1934 members of the Redemptorist Order were invited by the diocese of Saskatoon’s first bishop to take charge of the parish, an arrangement that has continued until today.

Opening on the first evening with a reflection on faith “which is to know God,” Bishop Hansen continued the second night speaking on hope, “which is to trust in God,” – the two virtues that “God gives to us so that we might know him and trust him.”

The three-day Parish Mission concluded with Hansen’s final talk on charity: “God’s gift of love, which is infused in us, so that we might love God and one another.” He noted that true love or “caritas” is always calling us to the next step.

"Are we able to come to face to face with all those in our diocese, or to the brother or sister that God sends our way?” he challenged.

Reflecting on the 100th anniversary, Hansen spoke about how very blessed St. Mary’s parish is: “Your faith in God is evident. And the fact that you are still going after all these years is ample evidence that hope still resides in your hearts, but what is truly special about this parish is how God has given you such a tremendous opportunity for and capacity to love.”

Living in the midst of the poor makes St. Mary’s a unique community, he noted. “I would describe St. Mary’s and the surrounding neighbourhood as God’s core neighbourhood. This is the vulnerable and beautiful part of Saskatoon.”

St. Mary’s has always been “a place for those who just want to be accepted, and honestly welcomed,” he added, noting that for the past 85 years of St. Mary’s 100-year history, the Redemptorists have been blessed to serve the parish and surrounding community. “We have become better priests, and a better congregation across Canada because of our ministry at St. Mary’s.”

Over the years you have been the face of love, and God’s ambassadors, to so many people, new to our land, and who are just trying to find a safe and welcoming place to live. "Nancy Sanche says this has been a challenge, as love always is, but in welcoming those who sought refuge, you yourselves have grown in the knowledge of God’s love for you.”

As well, the act of sharing St. Mary’s church building with Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish presents “a visible face in this diocese of reconciliation between the settlers in this country and the First Nations people at a very important turning point in our nation’s history,” he added.

“Never cease to see this as a beautiful gift from God, the value of which you cannot even be able to imagine, and which will continue to flourish in years to come.” Even the parish’s own poverty should be seen as “an opportunity to love as God loves,” Hansen said. Empty coffers may be stressful for a parish, “but your poverty is attractive.” The bishop assured “People notice. And I know many have sought to become part of the life of this parish because it is unencumbered by the relentless desire to pursue the newest and best... and you will always have enough as long as you have God.”

He concluded: “You are blessed, St. Mary’s, and may God continue to bless you, and keep you in his care and watch over you always. Congratulations on 100 years, good and faithful stewards.”