



Northern encounter

A team of young adults joined Bishop Mark Hagemoen this winter on a trip to provide ministry and outreach at Black Lake.

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Share the Journey

Two families from St. Mary Parish, Saskatoon, recently shared their stories of forced migration, fleeing violence, war and persecution to find new homes in Canada.

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Diocese of Saskatoon

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Way of the Cross

Jemini, Tyce and Paetyn of Georges Vanier Catholic Fine Arts School were among those carrying the cross on Good Friday as hundreds gathered in downtown Saskatoon for the annual event. Find complete coverage of the Justice and Peace event on the diocesan Catholic Saskatoon News webpage: <https://news.rcdos.ca>

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Bishop reflects on importance of evangelization and mission

BY KIPLY LUKAN 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).

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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 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 team from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish recently presented the Kairos Blanket Exercise at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. To inquire about booking a Blanket Exercise, contact Ivan and Kathy Hitchings at hitching.ink@sasktel.net - Photo by Fr. Darryl Millette

"In the years separated from our families, we as children lost the sense of who we are and where we belong. The Kairos Blanket Exercise is helping the people who don't know the history to have more understanding of why things are the way they are," she says.

A team of First Nations,

Métis and non-Indigenous Lay Formation Alumni has been facilitating the Kairos Blanket Exercise for several years and would like to see the exercise implemented much more widely, to initiate reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Catholic community.

Elder Irene Sharp, who accompanied the Aboriginal Stream of the Lay Formation Program for several years and who is an integral member of the Kairos Blanket Exercise team says: "I enjoy taking part in the Kairos Blanket Exercises and praying in both Cree and English for the individuals in attendance."

"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."

Holy Spirit participants walk through history

BY SHARON POWELL

A recent experience of the Kairos Blanket Exercise has been stamped on the minds and hearts of participants from Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon.

As an engagement in reconciliation through education and understanding, the Kairos Blanket Exercise is a unique, participatory history lesson, developed in

collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators. The interactive experience fosters truth, understanding, respect, and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

"The Blanket Exercise that I participated in at Holy Spirit Church was a powerful and moving visual and auditory account of the colonization of North America; in particular,

Saskatchewan," said participant Camille Rochon, expressing appreciation for the local facilitators who shared time and talent to lead the exercise Jan. 24.

"For me it was a reminder of the loss and suffering of the Indigenous people. My hope is that our awareness and compassion can promote healing and recovery," she said.

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Campaign launched to build “Hospice at Glengarda”

(Compiled from Media Releases
courtesy of SPH Foundation)

St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation recently launched a Close to Home fund-raising campaign for hospice and end-of-life care. The campaign launch Jan. 30 included the announcement of a \$6-million anonymous donation toward the \$20-million campaign.

The \$6 million gift is the largest single donation made to St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation in its history and a strong start for the campaign, said SPH Foundation CEO Bruce Acton. “We are grateful for the tremendous support we have received and hope it will serve as an inspiration for others to consider their gift to the Close to Home campaign.”

“Our community has been pursuing this project for years and the time for action is now,” said Jean Morrison, President and CEO of Emmanuel Health and St. Paul’s Hospital.

“With the Close to Home campaign, we will create Saskatchewan’s first free-standing residential hospice and set the standard for quality hospice care in Saskatoon. We hope this hospice will be the inspiration for other communities



Céline Schlosser (left), joined Gene and Adele Dupuis during an announcement about a \$700,000 gift to the Close to Home campaign.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

to consider what they can do to address the needs of people who have life-limiting illnesses.”

Gene and Adele Dupuis are Honorary Co-Chairs of the \$20-million fundraising campaign, alongside Campaign Co-Chairs Todd Rosenberg and Dr. Vivian Walker.

“People facing end-of-life require a specific approach to their care,” said Dr. Walker, who is also Co-Medical Director of Palliative Care Services in Saskatoon. “Saskatoon is the only city of its size in Canada that does not have a free-standing residential hospice,” she noted.

The campaign will support the renovation and expansion to a former residence of the Ursulines of Prelate, located on the corner of Hilliard Street and Melrose Avenue in Saskatoon. It will become the “Hospice at Glengarda.”

The vision is to combine the best of both worlds in the residential hospice: “professional medical care for complex needs, provided in a cost-effective, warm and comforting environment that feels like home,” according to the Close to Home campaign overview. After renovation and expansion, the

Enhancing end-of-life care in the community - See article on Page 8

building 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 to cook family dinners, 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 honorary 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 Celine

Schlosser reflecting on the experience of her late husband Carl Schlosser in St. Paul’s Hospital’s Palliative Care Unit—the only unit of its kind in Saskatoon. “The Palliative Care Unit saved us. It allowed me to be Carl’s wife again, rather than his caregiver,” Celine 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.

“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 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

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 harvest season, Bishop Hagemoen visited a number of parishes in the Humboldt Deanery from Nov. 24 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



Bishop Mark Hagemoen listens during one of the “town hall” meetings held during a pastoral visit to the Humboldt Deanery.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

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.”

Work presently being undertaken by the new Diocesan Pastoral Council to identify pastoral priorities will hopefully assist parishes in focusing more intentionally on mission and evangelization, he added.

“This kind of goal-setting is needed,” he said.

“Goals would not be ‘imposed on parishes,’ but rather proposed. It is an opportunity to consider ways of moving from merely maintenance to a more proactive and mission-focused set of objectives.”

Given the Diocesan Pastoral Council’s diverse and regional representation, the pastoral priorities that they identify “will also hopefully provide a sense that we help each other – that parishes are not isolated or on their own, even when dealing with some increasingly challenging local situations.”

Bishop Hagemoen added that he anticipates the pastoral priorities and plan from the Diocesan Pastoral Council will be announced later this summer or in early fall.

Participants at Holy Spirit Parish experience impact of Blanket Exercise

Continued from Page 1

Participants in the Kairos Blanket Exercise at Holy Spirit parish walked through situations that include pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization, and resistance.

The exercise touched on various aspects of Indigenous

Peoples’ experience of colonization, such as residential schools, disease outbreaks in communities, relocation, disenfranchisement and loss of status, the tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the 1960s “scoop” of children into foster care/adoption,

and the number of Indigenous children in foster care today.

Leaders from Holy Spirit parish – including members of parish pastoral council, staff, ministry coordinators, etc. – were asked to step onto blankets representing the land, and into 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 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



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

- Photo by Fr. Darryl Millette

Indigenous people of Canada,” said Celena Komarnicki.

Barb Mickelson expressed her appreciation for the facilitators who presented the exercise. “They were very humble, kind people,

and I would like to have time to get to know them personally. I enjoyed the way the historical facts were presented with the blankets. I would recommended this to any group.”

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Our Lady of Guadalupe
First Nations and Métis Parish

KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE TEAM

For more information, or to arrange for the Exercise to come to your parish, contact Ivan & Kathy Hitchings at:

hitching.ink@sasktel.net



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 Hagemoen. “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 Hagemoen 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 Maza and ethicist Dr. Mary Heilman. (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 that we might have to face as pastors, and to discern appropriate pastoral responses,” said the bishop.



Hospital Chaplaincy coordinator Jackie Saretsky was one of the speakers at the Clergy Study Day.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski



Conscience protection campaign

Knights of Columbus members Andy Elder, Murray Geenen, Gerald Wiegiers (back, l-r) John Cook, Omer Giasson 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.canadiansforconscience.ca/saskatchewan Plans are underway to present the letters to government leaders at the end of May.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Diocese renews policies to safeguard against abuse

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

In the days following the “Meeting on the Protection of Minors in the Church” held Feb. 21 to 24 at the Vatican, Bishop Mark Hagemoen reiterated the need for ongoing vigilance in preventing and dealing with sexual abuse and misconduct in our local church communities.

“At all levels of the Church, it is vitally important that we are hearing from victims themselves, and are continuing to take steps to ensure that everyone at every age is safe in every church setting,” said Bishop Hagemoen. “It was encouraging and important to again hear Pope Francis clearly telling the bishops of the world that we need concrete and effective measures to deal with this issue.”

Covenant of Care policies established in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults have been routinely and regularly updated over the years and are presently undergoing a review. This latest review process started in spring 2018 when newly-arrived Bishop Mark Hagemoen established an independent review committee, chaired by Brenda Fitzgerald.

In August 2018, part way through the diocesan review process, revelations of sexual abuse by clergy in the United States further reinforced how important it is to do regular review and updates of safe environment and serious misconduct policies, said Bishop Hagemoen.

“Our number one priority is to ensure a safe environment for everyone in our parishes and communities,” Hagemoen said. The diocese’s new policy includes a Code of Conduct that must be reviewed

and signed by every member of clergy, lay staff members, and volunteers in every church setting across the diocese.

“Another priority is to make sure that all of our employees and volunteers who carry out greatly-needed work with minors and vulnerable adults in our churches find structures and protocols to carry out their ministries with support and transparency,” he said.

“A significant part of the policy review involves incorporating the updated guidelines released in September 2018 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops,” noted Bishop Hagemoen.

Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation was unanimously adopted by the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (CCCCB) Sept. 27 during their 2018 Annual Plenary Assembly in Cornwall, ON. The new guidelines are an update of a document released by Canada’s bishops 25 years earlier in 1992, as well as updating a 2007 follow-up document.

The diocese of Saskatoon is working to fully address these new national guidelines, including ensuring:

- Regular and ongoing updates of Covenant of Care policies
- Establishment of an independent Review Audit
- Provision of ongoing formation for all persons in ministry in the diocese about: preventing all abuse, raising awareness regarding the grief and trauma for historical victims of abuse, being “victim focused” whenever encountering victims of sexual abuse, whether within or beyond the church, and expanding initial and

ongoing formation support for those working in the diocese.

Expanded committees and responsibilities in the updated Diocese of Saskatoon policies will also address:

- Fielding inquiries or complaints,
- Strengthening oversight,
- Regularly reviewing protocols,
- Overseeing and updating prevention efforts,
- Dealing with specific cases if they arise,
- Establishing an independent investigator for complaints.

When it comes to reporting of and dealing with any serious misconduct, the updated policy will continue to ensure that anyone who comes forward with an allegation of serious misconduct will be met with compassion, and that there will be a response/follow up.

In addressing any incident of sexual abuse or other potentially criminal incident, the diocese continues to strongly

encourage contacting the police, and commits to honouring any police investigation.

Anyone wishing to report an incident or a concern to the diocese, is asked to contact either **Anne Williams**, (306) 220-0448, awilliams.home@gmail.com or **Fr Kevin McGee** (306) 659-5833, kmcgee@rcdos.ca

“I call on all of us to continue to ‘hold the bar high’ in the Diocese of Saskatoon, as we seek to make all of our church and community settings truly safe and respectful environments,” said Bishop Hagemoen.

“We join with Pope Francis as we pray for all victims of sexual and any other forms of abuse; as we are present and caring to all victims, and as we seek God’s grace and inspiration to always improve the safety and sanctity of our church environments.”

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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.)

- KLY

Seeking the God-given meaning of the new cosmology continues a dialogue between faith and science

By KIPLY LUKAN 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 ecumenist has been exploring a new area of study and interest — what he describes as “the new cosmology.”

“A new incredible thing has happened: we presently are the first human generations *ever* to have some new and reliable information and understanding of what the whole universe (or cosmos) is all about empirically,” he explains.

“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 scientific study of the 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, ourselves, and the glory and power of God, he says.

“Christian faith welcomes the secure results of science in general, and in particular, the new scientific understanding of God’s creation,” stresses de Margerie, quoting Genesis: “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” He adds: “Christian faith is about *meaning*, indeed *ultimate*

“Never perhaps, thank God, has there been so clear a possibility as today of a deep understanding between real science and real faith, mutual servants of one another in the one truth. Do not stand in the way of this important meeting. Have confidence in faith, this great friend of intelligence. Enlighten yourselves with its light in order to take hold of the truth, the whole truth.”

— Pope Paul VI addressing scientists during his “Closing Message of the Council” [the Second Vatican Council], December 8, 1965.

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.” (Paragraph 2)

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

“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.” (Paragraph 3)

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: “God cannot deny himself, nor can truth ever contradict truth. Consequently, methodical 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.” (Paragraph 6)

In turn, faith spurs reason: “It is faith which stirs reason to move beyond all isolation and willingly to run risks so that it may attain whatever is beautiful, good and true. Faith thus becomes the convinced and convincing advocate of reason.” (Paragraph 11)

This new CCCB document is “well worth probing and assimilating,” says de Margerie.

Cosmology is a topic that warrants exploration and discussion among Christians for a number of reasons, he adds.

“We can try to understand and connect, as best we can, the discoveries of the new



Both faith and science are striving to understand the vastness of creation, space and time.

- Photo of the Orion Nebula by Tim Yaworski

cosmology with the firm data of Christian faith. It is reported that St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that an error about our understanding of creation will lead to an error about God. Basically – broad and deep education is needed, for everyone.”

Christian faith “searches for, and meditates on, the God-given meaning of things, of everything, with the help of human reason and the Holy Spirit,” he says. “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 truer 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 in 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 lightning-quick 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” (Psalm 104:24); and “All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you” (Psalm 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 homework 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.

Diocesan website launch includes introduction of news page

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

An online news site – Catholic Saskatoon News – has been created as part of a website re-design 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 item 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



Catholic Saskatoon News can now be found online at news.rcdos.ca – an online news portal recently launched by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. - Image from website

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 place 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 rcdos.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 Saskatoon, 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 kyaworski@rcdos.ca or call Kiply Yaworski, (306) 659-5844.

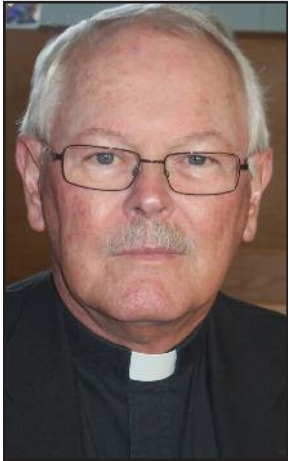
Reflecting on Life & Faith

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

IN EXILE

RON ROLHEISER, OMI

We are all, I suspect, 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”.



Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Few words better express what we celebrate in the resurrection of Jesus. Belief in the resurrection, belief that God raised Jesus from the dead, constitutes 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 the most deluded of all people. 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 inside the Cosmic Christ at the end 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,

“...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.”

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.

If we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, if we believe in the resurrection, then, in essence, we believe that the world is already saved. We don’t have to save the world; we only have to live in face of the fact that we believe it has already been saved. 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 along the aisles 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 life in confidence and hope. It will end well, not because we wish it so or because things are looking that way for us. It will end well because Jesus promised it would and in the resurrection, God backs up that promise.

Hence there’s nothing to fear, nothing – not defeat, not threat, not loss, not sickness, 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

Theology on Tap: Lent and the spiritual athlete

By MICHAEL MACLEAN
STM CAMPUS MINISTRY

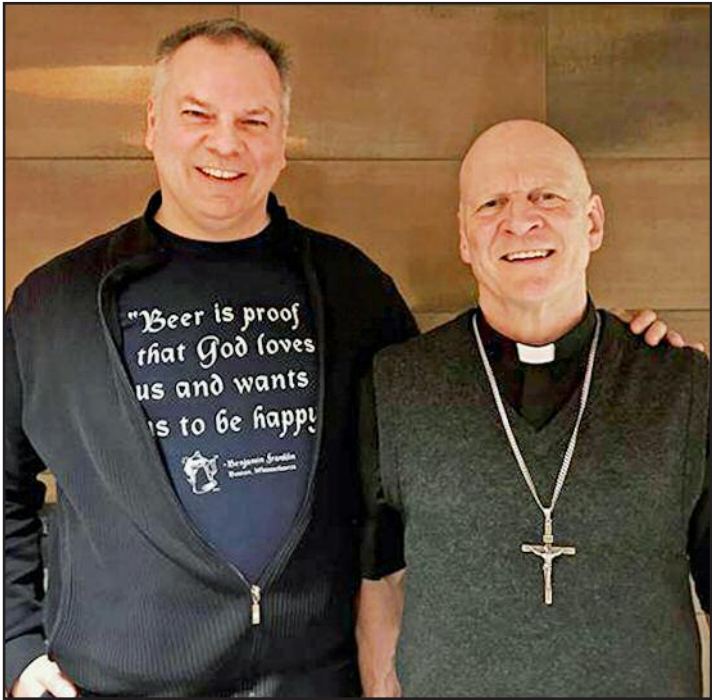
What does Lent look like for a spiritual athlete?

Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen addressed this question March 12 with young adults at Theology on Tap, held at Louis’ on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

In Bishop Hagemoen’s experience, it was the hiking and rock climbing in the mountains of the 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 relate to Jesus’ own temptation in the wilderness, and also to challenge ourselves to recall that 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



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

- Submitted photo

be a counter-intuitive 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 recall-ed being welcomed to the north by retired Bishop Denis Croteau, OMI, who still lives in the diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Bishop Hagemoen described Bishop Croteau’s message to those who wanted to come north to serve: ‘We want you here, but you need to want to be here, and for the right reasons. If not, sooner or later you may be facing your devils. These devils in our lives seem to appear more easily in the wilderness.’

Bishop Hagemoen then asked the question: “What’s underneath the experience of Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving?” His answer was the heart.

He quoted the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 2563), which says: “The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place ‘to which I withdraw.’ The heart is our hidden centre, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of

God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.”

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 Cardinal Newman, who said, “To live is to change, and to live well is to have changed often.”

Organized by St. Thomas More Campus Ministry, Theology on Tap has been running for over 15 years in the Diocese of Saskatoon as a ministry to young adults, 19 to 35 years old.

Cardinal will speak at Catholic conference in Saskatoon

BY MELISSA ANAETOH, DIOCESE OF SASKATOON CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
The 2019 Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference (WCCSC) will be held in Saskatoon June 6-8, 2019.
The Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation and presenting sponsor DCG Philanthropic Services are pre-

senting a dynamic line-up of speakers from across North America to enrich participants on a range of stewardship topics.
The conference will host Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, who will preside at the opening Mass, as well as delivering a talk to clergy only, and then to all conference participants.
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. Thursday, June 6 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.
Other speakers include Tracy Earl Welliver, a member of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, who has some 25 years experience in parish ministry, Debra Pozega Osburn, 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 Hagemoen, Bishop Bryan Bayda, Don Gorsalitz, Jocelyne Hamoline, Brett Powell, Ann Brookes, 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 WCCSC history, and will be devoted to best practices in fundraising and the challenges and graces involved in financially supporting ministries that make up the Church.
• **Communications Track** will focus on how we use our resources (bulletins, social media, websites, the pulpit, etc) to effectively engage our faith communities and bring people into a fuller relationship with Christ and the Church.



Keynote speaker Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside at the opening Mass, 4:30 p.m. June 6 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon.
- Submitted photo

• **Christian Stewardship Track** will focus on the concrete ways we live our call to be stewards in life. From raising engaged families, to increasing engagement at the parish level, this track is about bringing all the gifts of our life to the altar of the Lord and trusting Him to help us do more with them than we could even imagine.

Registration open

The conference is open to all those interested – parishioners, parish leaders, pastors and all those involved in any kind of ministry or service.
For more information about the conference or to register, please visit: <https://wccsc.ca> or contact Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 659-5849.



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 Hagemoen 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.
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Financial Snapshot Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Ordinary Collections / Assessments	\$1,249,413	\$1,128,412
Bishop’s Annual Appeal	\$ 979,160	\$ 967,542
National and Diocesan Collections	\$ 301,983	\$ 306,334
Activities / Events / Training Recovery	\$ 166,784	\$ 170,947
Insurance / Occupancy Recovery	\$ 583,836	\$ 555,422
Investment Income / Revenue	\$ 195,071	\$ 229,874
Ministry Services (includes cost recovery, external ministries, clergy)	\$ 420,975	\$ 452,496 (A)
Contributions RCDOS Catholic Foundation	\$ 506,857	\$ 388,034 (B)
TOTAL	\$4,404,079	\$4,199,061
EXPENDITURES		
Parish Operational Support	\$1,509,717	\$1,465,623 (C)
Pastoral Ministries	\$2,161,918	\$1,925,341 (D)
Grants and External Expenditures	\$ 185,752	\$ 261,442 (E)
National and Diocesan Collections	\$ 321,972	\$ 326,407
Councils, Committees, Commissions	\$ 25,564	\$ 40,294 (F)
Capital, Occupancy	\$ 168,880	\$ 214,980 (G)
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 \$0 financing expenses for 2018.

“Our Faith in Action” Bishop’s Annual Appeal raises \$1,416,000 for ministry and outreach

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI
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.
“Parishioners, volunteers and parish leaders are helping us to put our faith in action by their continuing support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal,” says Cathy Gilje of the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.
Funds raised for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal aid those in need through the ministries of Hospital Chaplaincy, Restorative Ministry (prison outreach), Justice and Peace, and Migration (refugee sponsorship).
Donations also support the faith journeys of seminarians (Vocations), of youth receiving sacramental preparation (Evangelization and Catechesis) and of young adults getting to know Jesus (Youth Ministry).
Gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal also support adult faith formation through programs such as Lay Formation and the Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) of

Formation. Ecumenism, Communications and many other services, ministries and outreach in the diocese are also supported through gifts to the Annual Appeal.
New initiatives launched in this year’s Bishop’s Appeal include support for a capital fund for both the future building of new churches and the restoration of existing church buildings, 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.

Young adults join Bishop on visit to northern community

By BISHOP MARK HAGEMOEN
Excerpts from the Bishop's Blog

At the invitation of Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le 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 Coreen Sayazie and Fr. Cornelius Ngurukwem, SMMM, 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 Gerwing, as well as leaders Jon Courchene and Daniel Pashula 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.



Paul Bentler helps with the Confirmation retreat.



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. - Photos by Bishop Mark Hagemoen

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

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 provided testimonial, skits, and other presentations to prepare confirmation candidates for the Sacrament 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 were a real blessing for the Black Lake community.

However, all team members said that they received far more than they gave from the generosity, hospitality, and kindness of the Dene community. It will be an experience that will provide much ‘food for thought and soul’ for a long time, including for the FacetoFace leadership and the Bishop of Saskatoon!



Bishop Mark Hagemoen and the E3 team joyfully celebrated with confirmands and parish leaders at Black Lake, SK.

What is E3?

E3 = Encounter. Equip. Empower.

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.

Story project helps dads in prison stay connected to their children

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

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 new pyjamas 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



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

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

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 Caisse, 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.”

Close to Home campaign includes hospice – and more

By KIPLY LUKAN 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.

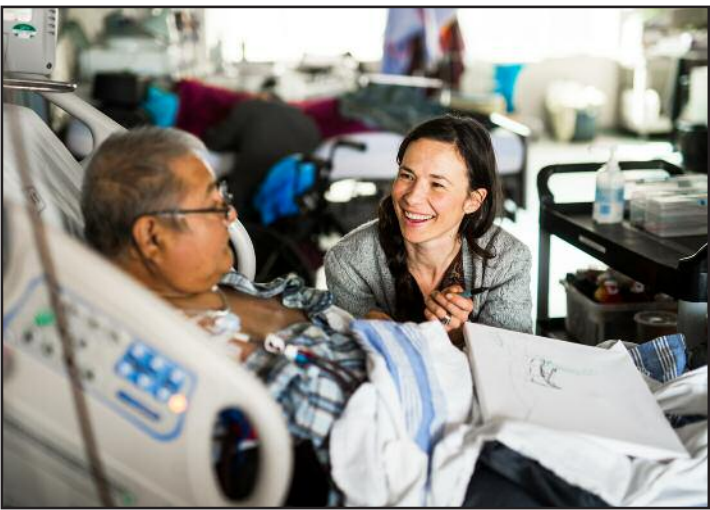
“Our mission is to ensure that people have a place where what they need will be provided,

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.”



Artist Marlessa Wesolowski works with patients in the palliative care unit at St. Paul’s Hospital. A Holistic Care Endowment funded through a recently-launched Close to Home campaign will support healing arts therapy. - Photo by Matthew Braden Smith

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.

End of life 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 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.CloseToHome.fund or contact St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation at (306) 655-5821.



Lay Formation liturgy
Lay Formation coordinators (l-r) Marlene Hansen (Indigenous stream), Blair and Jennifer Carruthers (diocesan stream) and 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 Yaworski



Lay Formation fall gathering
A group of some 50 Lay Formation alumni joined guest speaker Bishop Mark Hagemoen Oct. 27, 2018 at Queen’s House in Saskatoon for a day filled with inspiration and evangelization. Later in the afternoon, Harvey Chatlain shared a Lay Formation Alumni perspective, noting how every Vatican II document mentioned the laity. He also described the beginnings of Lay Formation in 1987, under the leadership of Bishop James Mahoney. (Find a news article about the alumni gathering on the Saskatoon Catholic News site at <https://news.rcdos.ca>). Mark your calendars for the next annual alumni gathering on Oct. 12, 2019, when Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI will be the guest speaker.

- Photo by Teresa Hiebert

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Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon both participated in the men's retreat.
- Photo courtesy of Bishop Mark Hagemoen



Speaker Ken Yasinski spoke about "fathering for eternity."
- Photo by Bishop Mark Hagemoen



Speaker Brett Powell urged men to live their faith.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



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

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 Bencharski 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 this happen," he said.

State Deputy Chris Bencharski 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

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 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."



Renovated Chapel

An investment of time and funding by the Knights of Columbus has rejuvenated the chapel at Blackstrap Youth Camp. The former St. Anthony Church building of the now-closed mission parish at Blucher, SK is used for prayer, worship and liturgy at the youth camp operated by the Knights of Columbus, south of Saskatoon. For more info about the camp see: <https://blackstrapyouthcamp.org>

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Advent retreat

Rev. Emily Carr of St. George Anglican Church, Saskatoon, Parish Life Director Debbie Ledoux of Our Lady of Guadalupe Indigenous Catholic parish, author and theologian Megan McKenna, and Fr. Graham Hill, CSsR, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (l-r) at an Advent retreat on "Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Restorative Justice" hosted by St. George Anglican, and facilitated by Megan McKenna Dec. 10-12, 2018.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski



Grow Hope Saskatchewan

Michelle and Brian Hergott, who farm near Bruno, SK. will be participating in Grow Hope Saskatchewan this year, donating use of their land, labour and equipment to help address hunger around the world in a partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “We decided to participate in Grow Hope because we belong to a global community,” say the couple. Grow Hope offers an opportunity for ordinary people to participate in growing crops that will be seeded, tended and harvested by farmers like the Hergotts before being sold with proceeds going to Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Ecumenical partners the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan are working together to organize and promote Grow Hope Saskatchewan. Follow Grow Hope on Facebook for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/GrowHopeSK> or contact Myron Rogal of the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace at mrogal@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5841. Watch for bulletin announcements about how to get involved.

- Submitted photo

Marking 40 years of Roman Catholic involvement in refugee sponsorship

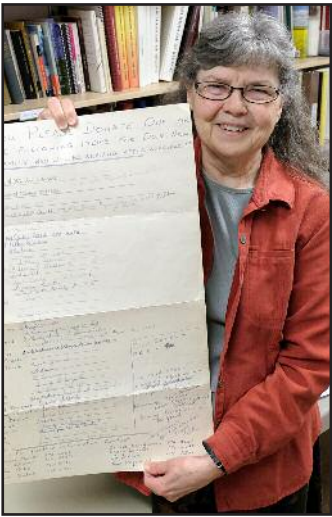
By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

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



Diocesan archivist Margaret Sanche shows a 1979 list of needed items from the first private sponsorship at Holy Spirit Parish. - Photo by K. Yaworski

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 Archivist), 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: sberumen@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5842

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

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Joyful help for St. Mary’s outreach

Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) participants and alumni gathered together to help the Back Door / Front Door ministry at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon with much-needed donations of food. Jenn Clerke, Rita Gillies and Erin Betke (left to right) delivered the JOY donations March 15. St. Mary’s parish, located in the inner city of Saskatoon, needs assistance to sustain its service to those in need, including the Back Door ministry of serving sandwiches and coffee to 50 to 150 people from Tuesday to Friday, and the Front Door ministry of giving out 25 emergency food hampers per week. Donations of food (smooth peanut butter, jam, coffee, cocoa) or cash donations can be dropped off at St. Mary’s parish, 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon SK, S7M 2R6.

- Photo by Kate O’Gorman

Families find peace in Canada after fleeing violence

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A “Share the Journey” procession from St. Mary’s Church in Saskatoon to the parish hall for a beans-and-rice lunch on Solidarity Sunday April 7, was followed by presentations and sharing circles reflecting on the refugee experiences of two families in the parish who spent years in refugee camps before finding new homes and a new life in Canada.

“Share the Journey” was the theme of the 2019 Share Lent campaign in support of the work of Development and Peace/ Caritas Canada, which in many countries includes outreach to those forced to leave their homes.

“Share the Journey” is also the theme of a two-year global campaign of awareness about the realities of forced migration, which affects some 68.5 million around the world, explained St. Mary parishioner Bernice Daratha, a member of the parish Development and Peace team



The road to refuge and safety was long for the Mutongolo family, who fled violence and civil war in DR Congo, and for the Bu Reh family whose lives were in danger in Myanmar. Now members of St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon, the families shared their stories on Solidarity Sunday.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

that organized the event. Other members of the parish team are Ana Marin, Dulce Reyes, Michelle LeBrash, and Reanne Lajeunesse.

Members of the Mutongolo and Bu Reh families spoke about their particular journeys at the parish event.

Kyala and Faustin Mutongolo spoke about the danger, fear and trial of their

forced migration from DR Congo, as they fled the civil war and violence that was continually breaking out in their home village. The violence even disrupted their wedding day, with the bride forced to flee into the bush because of another outbreak of violence in her village, while her husband and guests in a nearby village were anxiously waiting word about what had

happened to disrupt plans. The delayed wedding took place later on, when a priest was able to bless their marriage on short notice, in spite of continuing violence.

Several times over the years, the growing family fled violence in the community, returning when it was safe — but on the day that Kyala went into labour with their first child, violence broke out again, and she was unable to flee, giving birth at home, with sounds of shooting all around.

During another incident, five months pregnant and carrying a toddler (and as many belongings as she and Faustin could manage) up a steep mountain, Kyala sat down and told her husband she could go no farther. Three times he carried belongings ahead and returned to her, saying he would carry her to safety if he had to, before she was able to find the energy to keep going.

Eventually, the situation in their home country “was too much,” Kyala said. The couple took their young children and fled DR Congo forever, journeying to neighbouring Zambia, where they lived for three years in the difficult conditions of the Mayukwayukwa refugee camp, faced with a perennial shortage of food, terrible water quality, malaria and other diseases.

“We had peace, but there were so many challenges and problems. We were sick every day – if not me, my children, or my husband.” Through it all, they

never lost faith in God or in prayer. “We left everything, but it was good, because if you have God, you have everything,” she said.

Eventually, the family learned they had been accepted by Canada as government-sponsored refugees. “That day is a day we will never forget,” said Kyala. “If you pray and make your faith in God, nothing is impossible.”

Today they are able to live in peace, with enough to eat, with a church and friends, she described.

With great joy, Faustin Mutongolo described finding St. Mary parish after they arrived in Saskatoon. After years of praying the rosary and asking the Blessed Virgin Mary for her intercession and protection, they were overjoyed to learn from the principal of their children’s school – Owen Fortosky at St. Mark’s Community School – that the local Catholic Church was a parish named in honour of St. Mary.

Faustin said: “For us, that was like a miracle!”

Members of the Reh family also described their experience of living under an oppressive government regime in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), and being forced to leave the country in the face of war and persecution of the Karenni people.

St. Mary’s parishioner Bu Reh fled the violence at the age of 12, undertaking a dangerous trek, in danger of being shot by soldiers, and crossing a treacherous river on the border before arriving in a refugee camp in Thailand known as Karenni Refugee Camp 1. He lived in that camp for 15 years. Other members of his family eventually followed, fleeing in secret and taking great risks to find safety.

Bu Reh and other family members described conditions of the camp, the food distribution system, and other challenges of their journey. Arriving in Canada some three years ago, family members said they are relieved and grateful to have finally found refuge and safety.



Teacher Chrissy Krowchenko and Grade 4s at Bishop Pocock Elementary School are “reaching out” as Pope Francis invites us to do.

- Photo by Louise Blitz

All are invited to “Share the Journey”

BY LOUISE BITZ

Pope Francis launched the global ‘Share the Journey’ campaign through Caritas Internationalis to transform the culture of indifference that exists about the 68.5 million 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 initiated 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 all 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.

Watch the weekly diocesan bulletin insert and the diocesan website <https://rcdos.ca> for further details about dates and how you can support these efforts. We are one human family; let’s share the journey.

Parishes present a combined youth retreat

Youth Ministry programs at two city parishes combined forces to present a two-day Lenten retreat for Grades 6-8 youth.

“Be Not Afraid” was the theme of the retreat held March 9-10 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, jointly organized by Coordinators of Youth Ministry at the Holy Family Cathedral parish and at St. Anne Parish in Saskatoon.

The youth retreat included four sessions with talks and testimonies, small group discussions, Eucharistic adoration,



Grades 6-8 youth from St. Anne’s Parish and the Cathedral of the Holy Family participated in the March 9-10 retreat.

- Photos by Hannah Berry

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 participants, 17 volunteers who assisted with small group sharing and relationship building, six meal coordinators/helpers, five priests for confession and four guest speakers, including Bishop Mark Hagemoen, she reported.

- KLY



The retreat brought together 68 young participants.

Youth voices heard at two-day local Synod

By KIPLY LUKAN 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



Youth explored their experience of life and faith during the local Youth Synod. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

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.

Ryan LeBlanc, Catholic Studies Department Head at E.D. Feehan High School and an organizer of the Youth Synod, stressed the importance of youth leadership to the success of the 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.

Inspire YXE: 800 attend ecumenical youth 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.

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.

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.

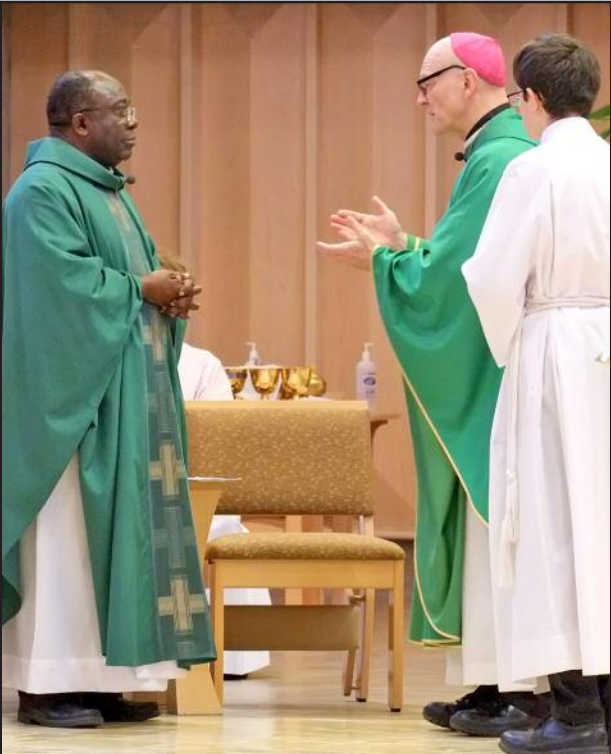
Two of the five pastors have recently arrived in the diocese: Fr. Habila Musa is from the diocese of Kano, Nigeria, and Fr. Clement Arthur is from the diocese of Konongo-Mampong in Ghana.

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.



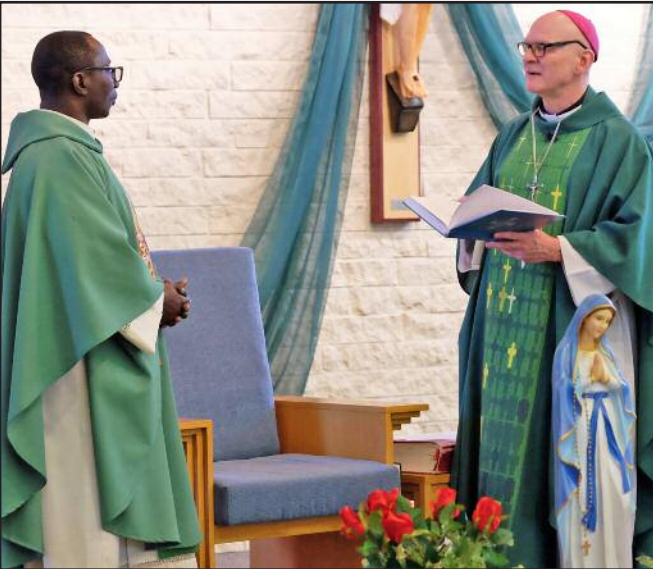
Installation of Fr. Habila Musa as pastor of Rosetown, Beechy and Elrose on March 31. - Photo courtesy of Bishop Mark Hagemoen



Installation of Fr. Ephraim Mensah as pastor/rector of Cathedral of the Holy Family Nov. 18. - Photo by K. Yaworski



Installation of Fr. Michael Dechant, OMI, as pastor of St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon, Jan. 20. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Installation of Fr. Clement Arthur as pastor of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Michael parishes in Saskatoon on Feb. 10. - Photo by Kiply Yaworski



Installation of Fr. Stefano Penna as pastor/rector of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon on Dec. 16. - Photo by Tim Yaworski

Vocations

Bishop invites Verbum Dei to visit diocese

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

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 with 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 transform disciples and society into the image of God's kingdom.

"We are discerning whether God may be calling Verbum Dei to be part of our diocese," says Bishop Mark Hagemoen, who first met a member of the Verbum Dei community last year while attending a conference in Rome. "I became quite intrigued by their life and their work."

Sr. Leticia Lopez (originally from Mexico and presently



Sr. Sara Dawn and Sr. Leticia Lopez of Verbum Dei recently visited the diocese of Saskatoon.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

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," Sr. Leticia said in a brief 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, scripture-based prayer groups, Verbum Dei spiritual exercises, lay leadership formation, lay preaching formation and workshops, pastoral care for individuals and families, spiritual accompaniment, theological teaching, and university campus ministry.

Living in Singapore for some 15 years, Sr. Leticia teaches theology to seminarians, religious, and laity.

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 women 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



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 me," 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.

- Photo by K. Yaworski



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 the 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 our 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.

- Photo by K. Yaworski

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 outer change is signified even further in the new names of the novices. Robert will be known as Brother Denys while Edmundo has taken the name Brother Luis.

This ceremony of putting on a new



Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, presided at the Investiture of two novices March 20 at St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster. Edmundo Cruz (left) and Robert Janiga (right), entered a year of novitiate: Edmundo Cruz has taken the monastic name Br. Luis, and Robert Janiga has taken the name Br. Denys.

- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

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 strip off their old clothing 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 all of us." Novecosky pointed to the 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.

Viscount parishioners embrace Marian devotion

By Fr. EMMANUEL OLUSOLA
History was made Sunday April 7, 2019, in the parish community at 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 Holy Rosary before every Saturday evening Mass and before every weekend Mass in the Marian months of May and October. The Brown Scapular devotion is an addition to the 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, evocative of the religious habit historically worn by Carmelite religious communities. As a sacramental, the Brown Scapular is an external 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 Binsfeld, 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 active in the life of the parish and an opportunity to receive the promises that go with it.

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 devotion 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.”

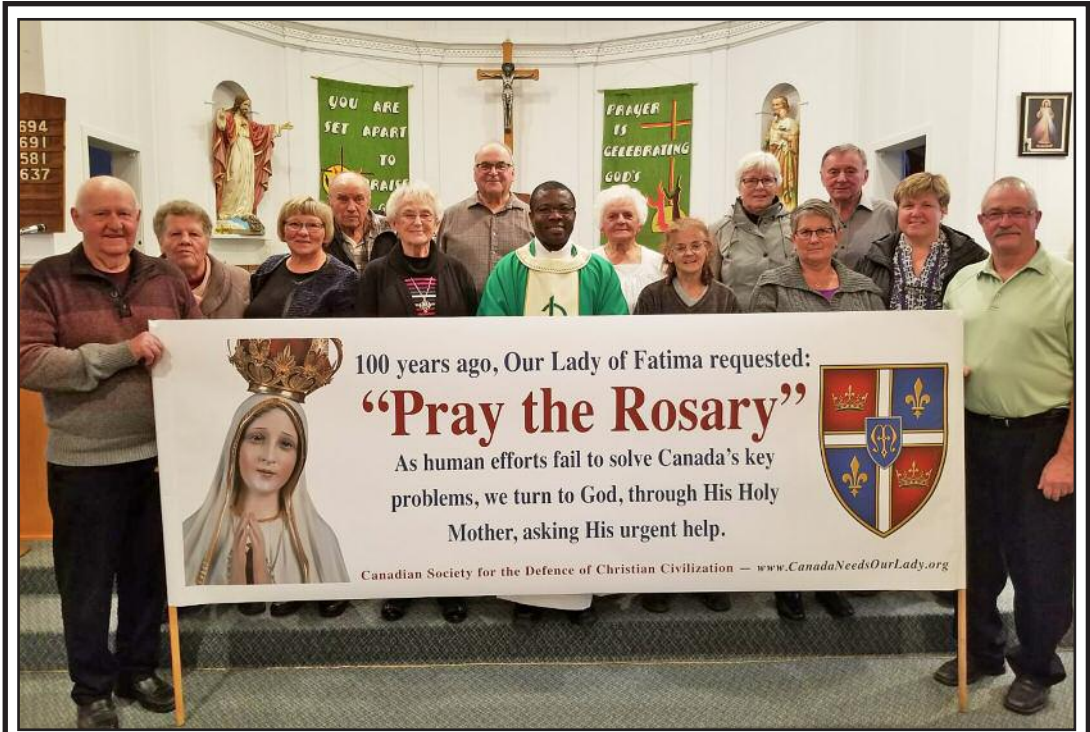
It is hoped that devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary will continue to lead us closer to her

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.



Parishioners were invested with the Brown Scapular of Our Lady by Fr. Emmanuel Olusola April 7.

- Submitted photo



Rosary Rally in Wishart
The second annual rosary rally was held Oct. 13, 2018 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Wishart, SK, on the anniversary of the final appearance of Our Lady of Fatima to three shepherd children in Portugal. October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Marian devotions will also be the focus in May, which is traditionally the month of Mary and of mothers.

- Submitted photo

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 classes on the main floor and on the second floor will be a private, quiet space for people discerning a lifelong decision.”

“When possible, we book options and crisis appointments in the morning and parenting lessons in the afternoon, but crisis doesn’t work on a schedule, so when women walk in, or can only come during the busiest time of the day, we



Executive Director Cathy LaFleche and volunteer Sylvia Elchuk.

- Photo by Anne-Marie Hughes

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 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 great 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 nursing. They are trained to help with the “Earn While You Learn” (EWYL) Program that provides ongoing support for parents during pregnancy 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 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 programs 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.”

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

BY SANDRA KARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SASKATOON FRIENDSHIP INN

Pancake mix, pasta and peanut butter – these and other food items (that don’t have to start with the letter P!) fill bright blue plastic pools in support of the Pool Our Love Campaign for the Saskatoon Friendship Inn.

Now in its seventh year, this spring campaign involves a partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and brings in much-needed supplies to the Friendship Inn for the nearly 1,000 meals that are prepared each day for vulnerable children, youth, adults and seniors.

This year, there are 26 schools participating.

For kids and teachers at St. Anne Catholic School, “the chance to help out within the community, and give back to those in need right here in our city hits home a little more,” says St. Anne Principal Duane Johnson.

Many of the schools that contribute to Pool our Love, offer further support to the Inn by coming to volunteer.

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!

The staff and guests of the Inn are grateful to the teachers, parents and students of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and applaud them for raising up this next generation to be generous.

Want to add to the pile of pancake mix (and other needed food items)? We would love that! Help us tip the Pool Our Love scales even more this year, and bring your donation of dry goods to the Friendship Inn, 619 20th Street West, Saskatoon, between 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., any day.

For more information about Saskatoon Friendship Inn see: <http://friendshipinn.ca>



Staff at St. Luis Ruiz Catholic School in Saskatoon stand with the pool of donations collected for Saskatoon Friendship Inn.
- Submitted photo

Hundreds attend annual Holocaust Memorial

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 about his testimony as a Holocaust survivor was painted with the word “Achtung” – the harsh command of the Nazi guards that echoed through the concentration camp.

Dr. Fatima Coovadia of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission observed: “The Holocaust did not happen overnight. It did not begin in concentration camps. It began long before. It began with words. Words matter. Words have the power to shame and to blame and to



Holocaust survivors Kayla Hock and Max Eisen watch as Bishop Mark Hagemoen lights a candle at the Holocaust Memorial.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

enflame. To ignite hate speech, which leads to hate crime.”

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 interfaith 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 Kanitz 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 NICOLE MARCHILDON

Sa Sainteté le pape Pie XI autorisa 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 skillful management of Fr. 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



Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens pastor Fr. Jean Baptiste Murhumwa concelebrated the anniversary Mass with former pastors Fr. Emile April and Fr. Bernard de Margerie.
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

vue. Sous l’habile direction de l’abbé André Poihièvre, chaque mois fut marqué d’une activité particulière impliquant tous les paroissiens. Les paroissiens tant dévoués 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.

La nouvelle salle fut inaugurée en 2014 et nommée la salle Providence en honneur des maintes contributions des Filles de la Providence.

Depuis les 90 ans de la fondation de notre paroisse, nous avons été bénis de 24 prêtres et 3 animatrices de pastorales 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...

“We need to acknowledge that we are all Treaty people ...”

This is the text of a speech by Grade 11 students Madeline Laframboise, who is Métis, and Olivia Maurice, who is Dene, presented at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon on the occasion of the official instalation of a Treaty 6 Medal.

**BY MADELINE LAFROMBOISE
AND OLIVIA MAURICE**

We would like to start by thanking Mr. Stroh for the land acknowledgement, for honoring the fact that we are on sacred Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland 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 relationship, 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 First 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



Treaty 6 Medal celebration at Oskāyak High School

Lawrence Eyahpaise, Elder Mary Lee, Tia Jackson-Angus and Bishop Mark Hagemoen (left to right) were among those participating in a Treaty 6 Medal installation held March 20 at Oskāyak High School in Saskatoon. Lawrence Eyahpaise of Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation led a prayer during the ceremony and Bishop Hagemoen blessed the Treaty medal, which was unveiled by Elder Mary Lee and student Tia Jackson-Angus. Lyndon Linklater was MC for the celebration which included a Grand Entry and Grand Exit, drummers and songs, as well as greetings and messages from many dignitaries and special guests. Founded in 1980 and first known as Saskatoon Native Survival School, Oskāyak (meaning “Young People”) School’s vision is “to nurture the spirits of our youth, to honour the work of our ancestors, and to celebrate nēhiyawēwin (Cree language), sihciḱēwina (ceremonies) and nēhiyawātisiwina (Cree worldview).”



E.D. Feehan students Madeline Laframboise and Olivia Maurice spoke at the school’s Treaty 6 medal installation.

- Photo by Derrick Kunz

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

Over the next few years, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools plans on installing Treaty 6 medals in all of its schools as an act of awareness and reconciliation. Medals have already been installed at École St. Paul, St. Michael, St. Lorenzo Ruiz schools, as well as at E.D. Feehan and Oskāyak high schools.

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.

“YMCA Peace Week offers us the opportunity to explore peace from personal, community and global perspectives,” said Serena Dallas, YMCA Director of Communications and Outreach.

“Collectively, YMCAs 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 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 justice and quality of life for all is truly inspiring.”



De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity

Rev. Dr. Gordon Smith, PhD, president of Ambrose University in Calgary, was the keynote speaker for the 2019 De Margerie Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity. During the public lecture at St. Thomas More College March 14, Smith addressed “Ecumenism in a Secular Age,” exploring how Christians must learn from each other across denominational lines in order to be effective in a post-Christian, pluralist and secular context. He continued his theme the next day with a workshop at the Cathedral of the Holy Family on what it means to be the Church today. Named for Fr. Bernard de Margerie, the annual series is sponsored by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, the Les and Irene Dubé Chair in Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski



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.

- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

GSCS Foundation – Making a difference in Catholic education

BY LESIA OSTERTAG
GSCS FOUNDATION

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation has been hard at work since 1994 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. Our schools also 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 some of those educational and faith-based wishes come true.

One small but powerful example of this is the grant program for Rosary Clubs.

The Rosary Club 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.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation presents:

Swing Into Spring Fashion Show and Dinner Thursday, May 16 at Prairieland 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 catholicschoolsfoundationgscs.ca

24th annual “Share the Spirit” Golf Classic Tuesday, Aug. 20 at Willows 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 catholicschoolsfoundationgscs.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.
- Submitted photo

Lieutenant Governor visits school dedicated to his father

By Derrick Kunz

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 the school, and learning of his personal connection was a good opportunity to learn more about the history of our school,”



Lieutenant Governor W. Thomas Molloy visited St. George School March 12, sharing his personal connection to the school.

- Photo by Derrick Kunz

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 or 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 he 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

BY MAURY WRUBLESKI

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 programming from the University of Saskatchewan.

Affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan since 1926, St. Peter’s College is well known in the Humboldt area. From its 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.



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

- Submitted photo

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 entrance 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 the 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.

Discover firsthand what St. Peter’s College has to offer by booking a tour or an advising session.

Queen’s House offers sacred space, a peaceful setting and hospitality

By BRENDAN BITZ
QUEEN’S HOUSE

For the past 60 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 guided by the mission of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), Queen’s House Retreat and Renewal Centre offers a place for individuals and groups who are seeking to “Nourish their Minds and Nurture their Spirits.”

A wide variety of programs, workshops and retreats are offered here. Queen’s House also welcomes civic groups, schools, professionals from a variety of backgrounds, and many other people who deeply appreciate the peacefulness of the retreat centre and grounds. Some come for a day – others enjoy a longer stay.

If you have not been to Queen’s House before – or if it has been many years – please feel free to drop by for a visit at 601 Taylor Street West in Saskatoon.

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

The invitation to constantly renew ourselves as a vibrant retreat centre is ongoing. The Queen’s House Advisory Board and staff continue to work with the national Oblate Leadership Team in ensuring that the facility and programs continue to be offered in years to come.

In addition to attending upcoming retreats and workshops, please consider holding a school board or

school community council gathering or a parish council meeting here at Queen’s House. Retreats for youth groups are most welcome. Consider bringing the newly married couples in your parish to Queen’s House for supper and a time for prayer and socializing.

The opportunities for gathering, deepening your spirituality, and resting in the hospitality of Queen’s House are only limited by your imagination.

Contact Pauline Henry, our Booking and Hospitality Coordinator, to explore the possibilities: (306) 242-1916.

Queen’s House organizes several fundraising events throughout the year, relying extensively on the support of patrons and donors to sustain our work.

Upcoming events include:

- **Oblate Scramble Golf Tournament:** now registering players, teams and sponsors for the Sunday, June 23 event at Moon Lake Golf & Country Club;
- **Bike-A-Thon:** Pledges are now being collected for the Sept. 15 ride;
- **Gala Dinner 2019:** Thursday, Nov. 21.

On behalf of the Oblates, Oblate Associates and Board, our community of support and our staff, many thanks to those who continue to support Queen’s House both financially and by participating in our varied programs and activities.

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.

Events & Announcements

Swing into Spring - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Inc. presents Swing into Spring Fashion Show and Dinner, **Thursday, May 16**, Prairieland Park, Hall A, Saskatoon. Tickets, are \$75 and are available at the Foundation Office, 420-22nd St. East, Saskatoon or call (306) 659-7003, or e-mail: catholicsschoolsfoundation@gscs.ca

Blumenfeld Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows and Sts. Peter and Paul Church at Blumenfeld, SK, **Sunday, June 9**, with Mass at 3 p.m. in the Grotto (come earlier for confession, and devotions such as Stations of the Cross and the Rosary.) Supper is available after Mass.

Reward Pilgrimage to Holy Rosary Church and Shrine at Reward, SK will be held **Sunday, July 7**. Eucharist will be celebrated at the outdoor shrine at 4 p.m. with prayers and devotions held throughout the day. Watch for more details or contact St. Peter Parish, Unity, SK (306) 228-2341 for more information. Holy Rosary Church and Shrine is located 3 kms south of hamlet of Reward.

Mount Carmel Pilgrimage will be held **Sunday, July 21** at the pilgrimage site located two miles north of Carmel, SK: 9:30 a.m. An Hour with Mary - Marian hymns, rosary, sacrament of reconciliation 10:45 a.m. An Hour with God’s Family - celebration of Sunday Eucharist, including blessing of the fields, blessing of the sick 12:00 p.m. An Hour with Diocesan Family - Lunch and time with the Blessed Sacrament 1:20 p.m. An Hour with the Lord - hymns, stations of the cross, Benediction.

140th Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at St. Laurent, SK. (north east of Duck Lake), with pilgrimage events **July 15-16**, on **Aug. 15** and **Sept. 8**, 2019. Throughout the summer from July 7 to Sept. 1, weekday Mass will be celebrated at the historic shrine at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 4 p.m. For information, see: www.padiocese.ca/st-laurent-shrine or phone Blessed Sacrament Parish in Duck Lake, SK at (306) 467-2003.

Millennium Cross pro-life pilgrimage will be held at 3 p.m. **Sunday, Aug. 25**, 10 km northeast of Aberdeen, SK on Highway 41 at the site of the 100-foot steel cross that was erected as a Knights of Columbus millennium project. A Living Rosary is celebrated along with other prayers. Guest speakers are part of the event. Displays and food are available. Please bring a lawn chair.

Catholic Marriage Conference - Cat.Chat Productions and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon are hosting a Catholic Marriage Conference **Sept. 13-14, 2019** in Saskatoon. Whether you are married for one year or 50, this will be a perfect opportunity to breathe life into your relationship and receive practical tips on how to grow in unity, peace and joy! Watch for details.

Akathist prayers in Praise and Care for God’s Creation - Bishop Bryan Bayda and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon extend an invitation to all to join in the celebration of the Akathist prayers in Praise and Care for God’s Creation, 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 19, 2019**. Watch for more details.



Time Out For Moms fall session will begin **Wednesday Sept. 25**, 2019. *Attention women and mothers of all ages:* are you looking for a group where you can find Catholic fellowship and meet other women? Moms, do you want a break from the kids every week where you can sit, visit, eat breakfast, and grow in your faith? Time Out For Moms meets Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. All women are invited to attend. Childcare for infants and preschoolers is provided on site by dedicated volunteers, and breakfast is provided. To register, visit the diocesan website at <http://rcdos.ca> and search “Time Out For Moms.” For more information e-mail: registrar@tofmsask.com or visit the Facebook group. Time Out For Moms is also looking for volunteer caregivers to watch the children while the moms meet. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact Cristina Kirkham at (306) 380-8671

Employment Opportunities

Find job descriptions and how to apply for these positions in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon online at <https://rcdos.ca/our-diocese/employment> or contact Pat Clarke at pclarke@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5835 for more information.

Director of Ministry Services for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to manage the delivery of ministry and services by the Catholic Pastoral Centre (CPC) ministry offices in support of parishes across the diocese: this is a full-time position with openness to other arrangements. Qualifications include relevant post-secondary education in theology, philosophy, education and/or business; 3-5 years employed experience in managing budgets and direct reports; public speaking ability (employed experience at a parish level is an asset). Deadline to apply: noon, May 27, 2019.

Director of Operations for the Catholic Pastoral Centre to manage the delivery of administrative and operational services (i.e., non-ministry services): this is a full-time position with openness to other arrangements. Qualifications include relevant post-secondary education in business, 3-5 years employed experience in managing budgets and direct reports, as well as in providing technical website and IT support, and excellent communication skills. Deadline to apply: noon, May 27, 2019.

NET Ministries: Many youth lose touch with their Catholic faith by the time they graduate from high school. NET Ministries of Canada trains teams of dynamic youth leaders to come into your community for two years to ignite faith and raise leaders. **Transform youth ministry at your parish, school or diocese with help from NET.** E-mail cameron@netcanada.ca to learn why 50 Canadian communities have chosen to go with NET.

QUEEN’S HOUSE PROGRAMMING

601 Taylor Street W, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9

• 306-242-1916 • receptionist@queenshouse.org •

• www.queenshouse.org •

Centering Prayer - Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

Holy Eucharist -: Wednesday afternoons - call to confirm time.

Women in Ministry Luncheons - held monthly.

Knights of Columbus Brothers Keeper Breakfast - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 a.m. Suggested donation \$10 (breakfast).

Taizé Prayer - Second Wednesday month at 7 p.m.

24 Hours Eucharistic Adoration - 4th Monday & Tuesday/month.

Personal Days of Private Prayer and Rest: Call to arrange.

And So We Wait: Our Spiritual Journey of Transformation – A Retreat for Women with Sarah Donnelly will be held from 7 p.m., **Friday, May 24 to Sunday, May 26** 1 p.m., held at Queen’s House. Cost: \$180 (retreat, two lunches Saturday supper). Optional: contact Queen’s House to book bedroom or more meals. Register: (306) 242-1916.

Eco Spirituality and the Cosmos with Sr. Judy Schachtel SMS, will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, May 25** at Queen’s House. Cost: \$50, includes lunch; or \$40, bring own lunch. Call: (306) 242-1916.

Icon Writing Retreat with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche: 5 Days of Creativity and Prayer will be held **May 27-31**, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at Queen’s House. Cost: \$585, includes lunches. Wood panel icon board available at cost: \$110-130. Call: (306) 242-1916.

Transitions: Your Journey of Transformation through Grief and Loss with Sarah Donnelly will be held from 7 p.m., **Thursday, June 13 to Sunday, June 16** at 1 p.m., held at Queen’s House. Cost: \$475 live-in (program, bedroom and all meals). Register with Sarah Donnelly: 306-717-3707.

Guides for the Spiritual Journey with Lucie Leduc will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Saturday, June 15** at Queen’s House, 601 Taylor St. W., Saskatoon. Cost: \$50, includes lunch; \$40, bring your own lunch. Register: (306) 242-1916.

Biblical Spirituality with Gisele Bauche and Bishop Emeritus Gerry Wiesner, OMI, will be held 9 a.m. **Sunday, June 16**, at Queen’s House. Cost: \$50, includes lunch; \$40, bring your own lunch. Register: (306) 242-1916.

The Universal Christ: Another Name for Every Thing Webcast with Fr. Richard Rohr OFM and friends, facilitated at Queen’s House by Donnelly 7 to 9 p.m., **Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22**, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., held at Queen’s House. Cost: \$85, includes lunch on Saturday. Optional: book overnight bedroom and breakfast. Register: (306) 242-1916.

A Summer Stillness Retreat with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, will be held from 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 8 to Thursday, July 11, 1 p.m., at Queen’s House, 601 Taylor St. W., Saskatoon. Includes a public lecture available to those not enrolled in the full retreat, to be held on the evening of Monday, July 8. Register for the full retreat or lecture only : (306) 242-1916.

Triumph: Freedom Through Healing retreat, facilitated by a team led by Jerry and Donna Kristian, will be held from 6 p.m July 26 to Aug. 3 at Queen’s House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon. This is a nine-day Christ-centered live-in journey of inner healing and discovery fueled by the transforming power of God's merciful love, rooted in Scripture, tradition and prayer; anchored by the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese of Lisieux. – offering a path to true freedom through healing in Christ. Cost is \$1,395 which includes program, meals and bedroom. For more information, see the website: www.triumphretreat.com. Register by calling (306) 242-1916 or receptionist@queenshouse.org



FacetoFace summer opportunities

Upcoming youth programs by FacetoFace Ministries include an annual FacetoFace Road Trip July 8-14 – see: www.f2f.ca/roadtrip – as well as the popular FacetoFace Ignite Camp – see www.f2f.ca/ignite.

- Submitted photo

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 Pozdzik, 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. Pozdzik, when asked why they were motivated to contribute.

“When St. Ann’s Senior Citizens Village Corp. decided to launch the Spirit of Renewal Campaign for its building, we, – 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 the Sisters serves 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



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 Pozdzik, FDLP (seated, front), Cathie Rogers, Cass Cozens, Sr. Dolores Bussière, FDLP, Peter Martens, and Edgar Neudorf (standing, l-r).

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.

Serena gala recreates Parisian café

By Annette Bentler

The annual Serena Saskatchewan gala – *Une Nuit à Paris* — was magnifique. Our Lady of Lourdes hall was filled to capacity Feb. 9. A bright gymnasium was transformed into a romantic Parisian café, thanks to the décor, the menu, and the ambiance.

All of the servers spoke French; there were “cheat sheets” to help guests communicate. Beginning his grace in eloquent French, keynote speaker Fr. Stefano Penna touched hearts. In his talk, he had the audience roaring with laughter and welling up with tears. He spoke candidly about authentic love in a sexually confused world.

He paid special homage to his parents, Jim and Marion Penna, one of the founding couples of Serena Saskatchewan, from whom he learned authentic love. Due to their health, his parents were not in attendance, yet they donated several pieces of artwork for the silent auction.

We are so grateful for founding couples like the Pennas and the Chatlains, who made



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

many sacrifices to lay the groundwork for Serena Saskatchewan, travelling all over the province to educate couples about natural family planning.

Serena is a natural family planning method that provides a safe, healthy, and effective way to achieve or avoid pregnancy, without the use of harmful hormones, chemicals or devices.

To find out more, or to help Serena Saskatchewan in its mission to strengthen marriages, phone/text (306) 934-8223 or e-mail sask@serena.ca or find information/donate online at: www.saskserena.ca

Run for the Family

Serena Saskatchewan’s next major event is the eighth annual Run for the Family, which will be held **Saturday, Sept. 14**, starting at 10 a.m. at Meewasin Park North in Saskatoon. Participants of all ages can choose from 1-km, 3-km, or 5-km routes (run or walk: strollers are welcome). Register for this family event online: www.runningroom.com (races - province SK - search by date or name - register). Race day volunteers and donations for goodie bags, door prizes, and post-race snacks are also needed.

Latin Mass Community holds Lenten Mission

By Julie Abernethy

The Latin Mass Community of Saskatoon welcomed Fr. Daniel Geddes, FSSP, 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 towards 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://saskatoonlatinmass.com>



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

Range of events hosted at St. Therese Institute

By Veronica Skuban
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 DSA (Do Something Amazing) recruitment retreat; the start of our third trimester’s nine “Springtime of the Faith” courses (everyone is welcome to register for 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 alumnus 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 Hagemoen 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.



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 with Donna and Ken McBride of Kindersley. The next Ministry to Tourism opportunity for “enrichment of body, mind and spirit” aboard a Crystal Cruise is in one year: June 19-July 3 and/or July 3-14, 2020, sailing from London during the summer solstice when the sun hardly sets, to the fjords of Norway and beyond the Arctic Circle, before ending in St. Petersburg, Russia and Stockholm, Sweden. For more details, contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter of Ministry to Tourism at (306) 244-3747 or Kleiter@shaw.ca or see: www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

St. Athanasius, Perigord marks 100th anniversary

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A joyful celebration highlighting 100 years of faith and ministry was held Oct. 28, 2018 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:

“Fr. 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. “Fr. Ephrem Demers oversaw the construction, and parishioners Hercule Plante and Mederic Caza served as contractors for the project. Special features include the altar made by parishioner



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

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.



The present St. Athanasius Church was built in 1926-27.



Parishioners and visitors filled St. Athanasius for the 100th anniversary Mass in October.

- Photos by Bishop Mark Hagemoen

Lenten mission with Bishop Hansen launches St. Mary’s centennial

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A reflection on 100 years of faith, hope and love at St. Mary’s parish in Saskatoon was the theme of a special Parish Mission March 18-20, featuring former St. Mary’s pastor Jon Hansen, CSsR, now serving as Bishop of the northern diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

Established in 1919 as the second parish in the city of Saskatoon (after St. Paul’s), St. Mary’s was originally known as “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 face to face with the pain of 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. Naturally 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



St. Mary’s parishioners attending the Lenten Mission joined together for a group photo with speaker Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR.

- Photos by Kiply Yaworski

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.”

The Ursuline Sisters of Prelate are celebrating their 100th anniversary. All are welcome to a celebration June 1, 2019

Cathedral of the Holy Family
123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon

SCHEDULE:

12:00 p.m. - Registration/displays
1:00 p.m. - Mass with the Bishop
2:30 p.m. - Reception & Program

RSVP before May 15

E-mail name(s) of those attending to osu.associates@sasktel.net or FAX (306) 653-2966 or MAIL to “100th Anniversary”, 305 Hilliard Street E., Saskatoon, S7J 0E5.

Rejoice! One Hundred Years of Blessings!



Cornerstone of St. Angela’s Convent is laid in 1919.

- Photo from *Where to Now? The Story of the Ursuline Sisters of Prelate* By Sr. Magdalen Stengler, OSU, 2004