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# The Diocesan Newsletter

## Diocese of Saskatoon

Catholic Saskatoon News: <https://news.rcdos.ca>

• FALL EDITION • NOVEMBER 2019

## Pastoral Plan launched for the diocese

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Bishop Mark Hagemoen recently unveiled a Pastoral Plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon focused on the mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ.

"Evangelization permeates everything we do — everything we do must proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom," said Bishop Hagemoen.

The bishop presented the new plan and its six priorities to Pastors, Parish Life Directors, ministry leaders and parish representatives from across the diocese gathered for an Administration Day Sept. 20.

The plan was developed by the new Diocesan Pastoral Council of representatives from across the diocese. The bishop suggested parishes could use the three-year-plan to reflect upon strengths and gaps, and decide upon new directions, initiatives, or ministries.

Hagemoen cited the insight he heard from a Parish Pastoral Council chair at a small rural parish during a recent visit to the



### "Christus Vivit" - Jesus Lives!

Kaitlyn Deck, Jerome Montpetit, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Catherine Renneberg and Clark Jaman (l-r) recently recorded a video conversation about the message and challenges of Pope Francis' letter to young people and the people of God, written after the Extraordinary Synod on Youth, Vocation and Discernment in October 2018. Entitled "Christus Vivit," the letter provides insights and challenges that are echoed in the diocese of Saskatoon's own new Pastoral Plan to "Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today." Find the video conversation on the website at [rcdos.ca/Christus Vivit](https://rcdos.ca/ChristusVivit).

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Humboldt Deanery. "She said to me: 'Bishop Mark, we love our church, we put a lot of work into our church and we will continue to do that, but we are exceedingly concerned that we are putting 95 per cent of our effort into maintaining our building and

very little into the mission. We know that if we keep doing that, we won't last, we will die... we want to engage in mission — we need to engage in mission.'"

The bishop added: "Whether it is a parish of five families, or 15,000, the task and the mission

of Christ is fundamentally the same," he said. "Ultimately, everything must involve the call to evangelization."

The diocesan plan begins with scripture: "Have the same mind and heart as Christ Jesus," (Phil 2:5) followed by the mission

statement: "Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today."

Six priorities or goals follow, beginning first and foremost with: "Draw People into a Deepening Intimacy with the Lord." Other goals follow:

- "Make Every Sunday Matter" includes a focus on excellent liturgy, music and welcoming communities.

- "Embrace Your Priesthood" calls for a discernment of God's call to each person to share in Christ's mission and life.

- "Build and Support Family and Community" calls for strengthening and supporting families and marriages, as well as vocation support.

- "Promote the Healing Journey in the Lord" involves working toward healing, growth, service, and ongoing conversion.

- "Move from Maintenance to Mission" calls for parishes to proclaim Christ in everything, including the development of best administrative practices.

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## Preventing and responding to sexual abuse

## Covenant of Care training now underway

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Training sessions being held this fall in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon will provide history, context, clarity and tools related to implementing the diocesan policies for preventing and dealing with sexual abuse or other serious misconduct.

Three training sessions in three different locations — Humboldt, Kindersley and Saskatoon — will be conducted by Theresa Campbell, Director of Operations at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, and Lorie Harrison, Registered Professional Counsellor at Legacy Ridge Trauma Recovery and Resource Centre. For those in the diocese unable to attend any of the three sessions in person, there will also be an option to join the meetings via web conference.

"We continue to grow and learn about the priority of being victim- and survivor-focussed," said Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

"I encourage anyone who has experienced abuse by persons in the church to come forward. I commit as bishop to bring to bear the support of our church and diocese to respond to victims and survivors of serious misconduct and sexual abuse by persons in the church."

Providing training is one of the steps that the diocese of Saskatoon has put in place to actively address the issue of protecting children and the vulnerable, to respond to reports of abuse, and to ensure safe church environments for all.

"We have updated the diocesan Covenant of Care policy and our reporting protocols to make them more accessible and more supportive," said Brenda Fitzgerald, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Council for Covenant of Care in the diocese of Saskatoon. "We are continuing our education and our rollout and full implementation of the policy,

### Covenant of Care Training sessions

Three identical sessions each held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 14 – St. Joseph Parish, Kindersley

Tuesday, Nov. 26 – St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon

(Zoom web conference viewing also available)

Register <https://form.jotform.com/92835647096268>  
or for more information call (306) 659-5831

including providing training for clergy, lay employees, and volunteers in the diocese."

Topics to be covered at the diocesan training sessions on the Covenant of Care and safeguarding policies include: understanding the trauma of sexual abuse; the experience of victims and the path to wellness; initial response to victims and ministry to survivors; policy, roles and responsibilities; process for reporting; and next steps for individuals and parishes.

"These training events are an essential feature of the implementation of our expanded protocols regarding our safe environment protocols, which we call our 'Covenant of Care,'" said Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

The Covenant of Care policy states: "The Roman Catholic

Diocese of Saskatoon will provide opportunities for holistic, ongoing formation — spiritual, intellectual, human, and pastoral — recognizing increasingly-complex needs, and emphasizing the human dimension. Training and formation related to the Protocol will include sensitizing members of the clergy and employees to the nature of sexual abuse and its effects, and learning how to walk and work with victims."

The bishop emphasized that updated diocesan policies comply with the CCCB document *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse*, in a strong commitment to ensure that training will address matters such as the experience of victims, the impact of abuse on families and communities, detection of abuse, ministry to survivors, and relevant laws.



**Brenda Fitzgerald, Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Council for the Covenant of Care.** - Submitted

"We are working to provide resources that will help us all to foster attitudes and behaviours necessary for inspiring compassion for victims, correcting myths, overcoming stigmas associated with being a victim of sexual abuse, and for long-term safeguarding against sexual abuse," Hagemoen said, quoting the policy.

The training will also address what to do if a person comes forward with a report of abuse, including parish and diocesan intake and reporting procedures, contacting police, and transparent procedures and progression.

Updated policies include an expanded reporting procedure, with options for reporting to a diocesan Intake Officer.

**TRAINING continued on Page 2**

**"I encourage anyone who has experienced abuse by persons in the church to come forward. I commit as bishop to bring to bear the support of our church and diocese to respond to victims and survivors of serious misconduct and sexual abuse by persons in the church."** - Bishop Mark Hagemoen

# Administration Day includes updates about staff and ministries

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Pastors, Parish Life Directors, ministry leaders and parish representatives from across the diocese gathered with Bishop Mark Hagemoen Sept. 20 at St. Anne Parish in Saskatoon to launch another ministry year.

In addition to the launch of a new three-year Pastoral Plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon by Bishop Mark Hagemoen (*see article on Page 1*), the annual Administration Day included celebration of the Eucharist, introductions of new clergy and lay staff in the diocese, both in parishes and at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon, and a number of information sessions.

MC for the day was Marilyn Jackson, the newly-named Director of Ministry Services for the diocese. Jackson’s new role and that of Director of Operations Theresa Campbell were described during another Administration Day session.

Tasks previously part of a single director’s position have been split, expanded and redefined with their appointments this summer, the two directors explained.

As Director of Ministry Services,



At a Sept. 20 Administration Day, Director of Operations Theresa Campbell (left) and Director of Ministry Services Marilyn Jackson described their roles in the diocese .  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Marilyn Jackson continues to oversee Evangelization and Catechesis in the diocese, as well as a range of other ministry offices and services, including Restorative (Prison) Ministry, Hospital Chaplaincy, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Enrichment (previously known as Lay Formation), Justice and Peace, and the JOY (Justice and Outreach) Program. Jackson also provides connections for family and life services and ministry partners in the diocese.

As Director of Operations, Theresa Campbell oversees the diocesan offices of Communications and Migration (Refugee Sponsorship) and the Msgr. Michael J. Koch Resource Library, as well as coordinating the work of administrative staff at the Catholic Centre (executive assistant, administrative assistant and receptionist). Campbell also serves as the Diocesan Coordinator of Care, responsible for implementation of diocesan safeguarding policies and training, as well as providing oversight of policy, technology (IT) and web services in the diocese, and facilities management for the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

As the day continued, Theresa Campbell and Bishop Hagemoen reviewed the most recent updates to the Covenant of Care, the safeguarding and safe environment policies in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, highlighting the most recent changes, and plans for future training (*see Page 1 article for more on training*).

Administration Day also included a presentation on navigating conflict styles by Human Resources Manager Patrick Clarke and information from Financial

Administrator Tanya Clarke, who presented her material in the form of a game show. Three “contestants” from St. Augustine Parish Saskatoon – Pastor Fr. Kevin McGee, Parish Life Director Brigid Fuller and Parish Pastoral Council Chair Celeste Woloschuk – answered quiz questions on the topics of clergy moves, insurance, clergy benefits, charities and politics, and charity law and best practices.

Development and Peace representative Bernice Daratha and Saskatchewan Animator Priva Hang’andu gave an introduction to the Development and Peace/Caritas Canada Fall Education Campaign on “care for our common home” with a focus on the Amazon.

Administration Day also included updates about refugee sponsorship from Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard, who is the new diocesan coordinator of the diocesan Office of Migration (*see update on Page 7*), as well as information about the Adult Faith Enrichment Program (previously known as Lay Formation) presented by coordinators Jennifer and Blair Carruthers.

Diocesan Vocations Director Fr. Daniel Yasinski and Director of Seminarians Fr. Colin Roy also provided an update.

## Resources needed to support church’s mission - Bishop Hagemoen

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues in parishes across the diocese of Saskatoon as of the beginning of November, with \$636,706 raised so far – or about 45 percent of the \$1.405-million diocesan goal. Online giving continues to increase in popularity, available on the Diocese of Catholic Foundation secure website at: dscf.ca

The need for resources to support the mission of the church in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was the focus of a Bishop’s Annual Appeal Orientation and Training Day



Sept. 11, 2019 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

Representatives from across the diocese gathered for the morning-only session, which included celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Mark Hagemoen, and presentations about the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, including best practices, statistics and an overview of materials, such as this year’s “Our Faith in Action” video,

which highlights a few of the many ministries and services funded by the Appeal.

“The mission comes first and it orients everything, but the resources are important,” said Bishop Mark Hagemoen in his homily. “The resources support the mission... we need to bring all of our resources to bear in support of that mission.”

Gifts to the Annual Appeal support vocations promotion, catechesis and sacramental preparation, youth retreats and mission experiences, RCIA evangelization, and Adult Faith Enrichment, as well as funding seminarian education for future priests, and orientation for international missionary priests serving in our diocese.

Other ministries supported by donations to the Annual Appeal ensure a voice for the most vulnerable through justice and peace advocacy, addressing such issues as abortion, human trafficking, poverty, truth and reconciliation, euthanasia, and

conscience rights.

The impact of the Appeal is also experienced in such healing ministries as Retrouvaille (help for marriages in trouble), Transitions (ministry to the divorced and separated), Miscarriage Awareness ministry, Mourning to Dawn grief ministry, healing circles and parenting programs at the prison, and visits to the sick, the dying and the bereaved through hospital chaplaincy.

“This is very practical work – but I do say this as well: This is holy work,” the bishop said of the efforts that volunteers, parish leaders and pastors put in to the Annual Appeal. “The issue is not about how much we give. The issue is that we all participate. Every gift has value.”

Several speakers at the Orientation Day described ministries supported by gifts to the BAA: Marilyn Jackson, Director of Ministry Services in the diocese, described work underway to assist parishes in finding effective catechetical resources for sacramental preparation, including a pilot project in one parish to implement a new program.

Co-ordinators Jennifer and Blair Carruthers gave a report about the first weekend of the newly-renamed Adult Faith Enrichment Program (previously known as Lay Formation) and the impact it is already having upon participants.

Hospital Chaplaincy coordinator Jacqueline Saretsky described how hospital chaplains and volunteers make it a priority to visit patients from out of town who may not have local support when they are admitted to Royal University or Saskatoon City Hospitals.

Planned Giving Officer Jocelyne Hamoline shared the story of her best friend, who was in hospital a year and a half before her death, and described the vitally important role of Hospital Chaplaincy, funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. This was also a powerful witness to members of the patient’s family.

“That is evangelization,” she said.

“When we support the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, we are supporting evangelization. We are meeting people where they are at, and we are there for them as a faith community.”



### Council of Churches anniversary

A gathering was held in Saskatoon Oct. 26 to participate in a live-streamed dialogue event organized to mark the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Council of Churches. Find a news article about this event posted at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](https://news.rcdos.ca)

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

## Covenant of Care training begins Nov. 14 in Kindersley and Nov. 26 in Humboldt

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In addition, in every parish, there is a Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) to assist in the implementation of the safe environment protocol, and to also assist with the receiving and communicating of reports or allegations of abuse.

Informing and encouraging reporting to the police is one of the steps in the process of handling a report of sexual abuse.

Counselling and pastoral services will be made available to the victim, parents and family members.

A diocesan Victim Support Coordinator will provide support and assistance to those who bring forward allegations of serious misconduct, including



Lorie Harrison, a Registered Professional Counsellor at Legacy Ridge Trauma Recovery and Resource Centre, will be one of the facilitators offering the training at sessions across the diocese of Saskatoon. - File photo

sexual abuse. Options for those making a report include having a support person present and being provided with access to

counselling, including the availability of a female counsellor.

Clergy, parish staff, Catholic Pastoral Centre staff, Parish Coordinators of Care, and high-risk volunteers are being asked to attend one of the three workshops, or to participate in the web conference option. Other volunteers are also welcome to attend. There is no cost.

“I am grateful to our staff and Advisory Council members for our Covenant of Care and safe environment work, as we continue to build and expand our training and policies to assure that our churches are safe and supportive places,” said Bishop Hagemoen.

“As we respond to the great need to carry out and expand our

ministry programs in our churches – especially with youth and vulnerable people – it is my hope that our employees and volunteers will fully support our ministries, and our support of people in need. I also hope and commit that our diocese will provide the education and training so that our employees and volunteers – clergy and lay – will be well-supported to carry out these needed activities on behalf of our churches.”

The training sessions will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at St. Joseph Parish, 600-4th Ave. W., Kindersley; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 at St. Augustine Parish, 809-10th Street, Humboldt; and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon.

Register for the training through the link on the diocesan website at: [rdcos.ca](https://news.rcdos.ca) – or for more information, call (306) 659-5831 or e-mail: [aalas@rcdos.ca](mailto:aalas@rcdos.ca)

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

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# Bishop visits Wadena deanery

**BISHOP'S BLOG, SUMMER 2019**  
**BY BISHOP MARK HAGEMOEN**

From July 8 to 14, 2019, I visited the parishes of the Deanery of Wadena. The deanery is located in the eastern-most area of the diocese, and has been a part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon for just over 20 years.

The first visit was to St. Theresa's, Lintlaw, where the community gathered for early evening Mass. A cemetery blessing followed. A town hall meeting was held July 9 at St. Joseph Parish, Kelvington.

On Wednesday morning July 10, St. Mary parish, Wadena, parishioners gathered to celebrate morning Mass, followed by Eucharistic adoration – a regular event for the parish. Then came a visit with parishioners at St. Athanasius, Perigord.

The community of Our Lady of Poland Parish in Fosston is very proud of their church. Following a visit to the church and a cemetery blessing, a community meeting was held at a local community hall.

Next came a visit to St. George Parish in Naicam, and to



**Bishop Mark spoke at a number of town hall meetings in various communities in the Wadena Deanery as part of a 2019 pastoral visit, discussing priorities and answering questions. Find the Bishop's Blog -- including more photos from the Wadena Deanery visit -- on the Bishop's Blog, posted on the main website at [rcdos.ca/bishop-blog](http://rcdos.ca/bishop-blog).**  
*- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski*

St. Felix Parish in Archerwill. The Rex Mundi Camp was another stop during this visit. The outdoor recreation facility and camp is located north of Nobleville, and just within the Prince Albert diocese. It now operates as a rental facility for various church and community organizations who can offer their own family and youth programs. Fr. Travis Myrheim of Prince

Albert diocese serves on the Rex Mundi board, and assists with some of the programs. A small chapel-church is a feature of Rex-Mundi, as well as an outdoor shrine to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

There was a gathering of the community at St. Lawrence, Nobleville for evening Eucharist, followed by the blessing of the cemetery and a delicious potluck dinner. Many summer vacationers from area cottages in the 'lake country' gather at the church for Mass.

The evening was a blustery one on this part of wild prairie. The weather and setting certainly gives a sense of the grandeur and immensity of God's creation on the prairie.

July 12 began with a visit to the St. Front cemetery.

Community members gathered at Christ the King, Rose



**Parishioners of Our Lady of Poland Parish, Fosston, gathered with the bishop for the blessing of the cemetery during his pastoral visit.**  
*- Submitted photo*



**Mass and a parish potluck dinner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Wishart concluded the bishop's pastoral visit to the Wadena Deanery.**  
*- Submitted photo*



**Parishioners at Christ the King parish in Rose Valley celebrated Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen before hosting a potluck lunch.**  
*- Submitted photo*

Valley, where, following Mass, we had a wonderful potluck lunch. We then travelled to the Rose Valley parish cemetery for a blessing service.

After a dinner, Mass was celebrated at St. Mary, Wynyard, with parish representatives from throughout the area, followed by a town hall meeting at the church for people from the Wynyard, Wishart and Foam Lake parishes.

Following a Mass at Christ the King, Foam Lake, on July 13,

we travelled to Sheho, where we visited the former site of the now-closed Sacred Heart church, and celebrated a cemetery blessing. A parish luncheon and meeting followed in Foam Lake.

Then we travelled to visit the Wynyard and Wishart cemeteries. The Wadena Deanery visit concluded with the celebration of evening Mass July 13 followed by a potluck dinner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wishart.



### Our Lady of the Rosary

**A candlelight rosary procession through the streets of downtown Saskatoon was held from St. Paul Co-Cathedral Oct. 5, led by members of the Filipino Catholic Community. Find more photos on the Catholic Saskatoon News site: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) (search "Rosary").**  
*- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski*



### Mount Carmel Pilgrimage

**Bishop Mark Hagemoen blesses the faithful during the July 21 pilgrimage to the Shrine of Mount Carmel west of Humboldt. Find more photos and a news report at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) (use the page's search box to find "Mount Carmel.")**  
*- Photo by Tim Yaworski*



### Program for new clergy

**A formation program for new clergy was recently held for newly-arrived priests in the diocese of Saskatoon (left to right): Fr. Prosper Abotsi (associate pastor for Humboldt cluster); Fr. Santhosh Thekkekulam, VC, (pastor for Wilkie cluster); Fr. Jerome Ogunleye (pastor for Wadena cluster); Fr. Francis Appiah-Kubi (pastor for Fox Valley cluster); Bishop Mark Hagemoen; Fr. John Abban-Bonsu (associate pastor, Holy Spirit, Saskatoon); Fr. Habila Musa (pastor for Rosetown cluster); Fr. Paul Oshin (associate pastor, St. Paul, Saskatoon); and Fr. Clement Boachie Arthur (pastor, St. Michael and St Peter the Apostle, Saskatoon).**  
*- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski*



### Reward Pilgrimage

**A procession from the historic Holy Rosary Church at Reward to the outdoor altar for celebration of Mass for the annual pilgrimage July 7 included a parade of parish banners, and children spreading flower petals ahead of the presiders. Find more photos and a news report on the Catholic Saskatoon News site: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) – use the page's search box to find "Reward."**  
*- Photo by Tim Yaworski*

# Fr. DeMong reflects on service in northern Saskatchewan

By Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB  
St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster

When a senior Benedictine priest is sent to a new parish, he is often given a congregation close to his monastic community. Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, did not fit into this tradition when he accepted the role as pastor of two parishes in northern Saskatchewan at the youthful age of 79.

DeMong returned to St. Peter's Abbey in August 2019 after three years of service at St. John Vianney in La Ronge and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Southend, some 400 and 600 kilometers north of his home of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster. The two parishes were separated by 200 km of gravel road.

DeMong is not a typical 82-year-old. He is full of zeal and energy that keeps him busy in the abbey and diocese.

Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas encouraged the Benedictine priest to remain connected with St. Peter's Abbey, suggesting that he spend his time equally at Southend, La Ronge and the abbey. This system allowed DeMong to build a rapport with his parishioners, while remaining connected to his Benedictine home.

The days were not spent as planned, said DeMong. The largest portion of his schedule was spent at Southend, often because of funerals and weddings. In 2018, a forest fire forced him to return to the abbey for a short stay.

"In retrospect, the time at the abbey was a brilliant idea for caring for my own personal needs," he said. "I'm sure that Bishop Murray's own experience, as well as hearing from his priests, prompted that decision. Fr. Petronilo, my successor, and I went through a particularly stressful time when some tragic events occurred. I invited the new Filipino priest to



Fr. Lawrence DeMong works in the garden at St. Peter's Abbey. - Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

accompany me to the abbey for a few days of rest and gave a standing invitation to come for future breaks."

The La Ronge community was quite autonomous with an active parish council, lay presiders and well-organized committees, DeMong described. Southend had generous volunteers, although they were shy about taking on church leadership, he said, suggesting this was perhaps a sign of a need to encourage more Indigenous traditions and ceremonies within their liturgy.

While previously serving as a pastor of Saskatoon parish, DeMong attended sessions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,. The experience was helpful in his northern parish work, he said. DeMong was moved by the personal stories of First Nations people who suffered abuse.

"It was especially moving to see how individuals can overcome the negative effects of past history and be proud of what they are accomplishing by way of healing and sharing a new vision for all of us on the verge of disaster because of our insatiable greed and abuse of our planet," he said.

Southend presented Fr. Lawrence some unexpected challenges. The church facilities, such as the confessional and the outhouse, called for changes. He worked with a school bus driver, who had a good rapport with the families he served. He gathered volunteers who helped to save a building by installing some discarded metal roofing.

"My big 'coup' in doing essential, but non-priestly work, was fixing the church furnace, cell phone in hand, with the church maintenance person in La Ronge directing my moves on his cell phone!"

The parishioners of La Ronge had only one Sunday Eucharist each month. The Southend parish had two celebrations each month. Weekday Masses were divided

equally between parishes.

The parish in La Ronge has about 80 families who are regularly involved in the parish. The parishioners come from a First Nations and diverse international background. There are almost an equal number of Cree and Métis parishioners there, as well as some Dene parishioners. Some recent additions to the congregation have come from the Philippines.

The community of Southend has about 70 families who are very welcoming and accepting, said DeMong. With the exception of police officers and a few nurses, the community is almost entirely made up of Cree people.

DeMong is pleased he was able to form many friendships in the communities he served. He

became involved with the La Ronge Ministerial Association and appreciated the ecumenical cooperation there.

"In my Christmas letter when I knew that it was my final year in the north, I mentioned that I hoped to spend the balance of my energy trying to help save our home ("oikos" – ecology in Greek – our home, our planet). Scientists are giving us about 11 more years to stop abusing and polluting our home and already millions of climate refugees are looking for a new place to live because their own spaces are unlivable. Besides being a monk and priest who loves to celebrate communal prayer and liturgy, I hope I can do something for those little ones, including our own children."



## Grow Hope supports hungry people around the world

At a Grow Hope Field Day held Aug. 24, farmer Nathan Janzen, Myron Rogal of the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace, Jacqueline Block of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Rick Guenther of Mennonite Central Committee (left to right) stand before a field of wheat near Rosthern, which the Janzen family grew for the Grow Hope Saskatchewan project. Catholic farm families involved in Grow Hope Saskatchewan this year were Michelle and Brian Hergott, who farm near Bruno (growing 40 acres of canola for the project), and Ian, Patrick and Reg Sonntag, who farm near Goodsoil (growing 50 acres of oats). Farmers donate the use of the land and their expertise to grow the crops, while donors – urban and rural – contribute funds to pay for the seed and other input costs. When the sponsored acres are harvested, proceeds from the sale of the crops go to Canadian Foodgrains Bank to address hunger and food security for vulnerable people in crisis around the world. The amount donated to Canadian Foodgrains Bank is also matched four-to-one by the Canadian government, multiplying the impact of the project. Find more photos and a full report by searching "Grow Hope" at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

# Friendship Inn serves vulnerable people for half a century

By Heather MacDonald

Looking back on its 50-year history, the Saskatoon Friendship Inn's name says it all.

In addition to extending a non-judgmental welcome to each person who walks through the door, the inn has evolved thanks to numerous nurturing relationships.

"With generous community support, the Friendship Inn was born and continues to provide essential meals, friendship, counselling and care in the heart of our busy city," says former Board Chair Carson Heagy.

Concern, especially within the Christian community, led a group of local residents to open the Inn in March 1969 to serve unemployed transient persons and older men without families.

These early efforts involved eager volunteers, the Inner City Church Council, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and the Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation, founded by Jack Leier.

The diocese of Saskatoon's initial support included renting the Inn its 20th Street location for



Volunteers serve birthday cake at a Saskatoon Friendship Inn barbecue and street party held Sept. 12 to mark the Inn's 50th anniversary. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

\$1 a year and other financial contributions. In 2010, when growing demand for the Inn's services led to plans to renovate and expand its facility, the Roman Catholic diocese donated the building outright.

Another long-time relationship developed with the CWL Clothing Depot, operated by the Catholic Women's League in the lower level of the building.

Along with servings of soup and coffee, the Inn's services

broadened to include legal, dental and medical clinics.

Vulnerable children, youth, adults and seniors came to know the Friendship Inn as a place to obtain warm food served with a healthy portion of kindness and understanding.

After noting the varied benefits generated by the Friendship Inn, United Community Funds of Saskatoon and later the United Way offered support.

## Want to celebrate the Inn's 50th?

How about joining with family, friends or co-workers to donate 50 unopened food items to stock the pantry shelves! Guests of all ages especially need dry cereal, fresh fruit, canned goods, pasta, peanut butter, jam and coffee.

Donations may be dropped off at 619 20th Street W., Saskatoon from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. seven days a week.

Support grew, with members of parishes and congregations reaching into their wallets to help.

Contributions included Merlin Motors providing a van to pick up donated food; the Army and Navy Store giving 300 pairs of socks; and internationally-recognized Cree artist Allen Sapp donating a painting.

Over time many volunteers of all ages gave their time individually and in groups to enhance the lives of the children, youth, adults and senior citizens visiting the Friendship Inn.

The Inn's impact spread, as it was instrumental in the establishment of the Saskatoon Legal Assistance Clinic and involved in early discussions

related to the opening of the Saskatoon Food Bank.

Today, compassionate and respectful relationships remain central as people come to the Inn seeking food and friendship, counselling and other supports, such as guidance with their job search or parenting role.

The Friendship Inn, located at 619-20th Street West in Saskatoon, is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., every day of the year. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. to 9 a.m and lunch is served from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. All meals are offered free of charge, with no questions asked. See the website: [friendshipinn.ca](http://friendshipinn.ca) or call (306) 242-5122 for more information.



Elder Irene Sharp (centre) and other representatives of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish were among those participating in the eparchy's prayer service held Sept. 19 to mark the "Season of Creation." - Submitted photo

## Eparchy hosts "Akathist" prayers for creation and panel discussion

The "Season of Creation" was marked Sept. 19 with a prayer service hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

The theme of the "Akathist" prayer service and program that followed was: "Reconciling with Each Other, Healing Mother Earth." It was organized by Dr. Lesya Sabada, the coordinator of the eparchy's Human and Environmental Development Program. An Akathist is a hymn or prayer in the Byzantine tradition, dedicated to a saint, holy event or the Holy Trinity.

Following outdoor prayers, a number of speakers participated in a program at St. George Senior Centre in Saskatoon, including Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy



Bishop Bryan Bayda (left) and others spoke during the program. - Submitted photo

of Saskatoon, Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Rabbi Claudio Jodorkovsky of Congregation Agudas Israel, Sandra Harper of the Indigenous community, Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz of the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon, as well as a number of youth.

The Season of Creation begins each year on Sept. 1, the

World Day of Prayer for Creation, and continues until Oct. 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and the environment.

Eastern Orthodox Patriarch Dimitrios I first declared Sept. 1 as the Day of Prayer for Creation in 1989. It was embraced by other Christian churches in 2001, and by the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. - KLY

## Creation Care Kids program introduced at local schools

By PATTI PASLOSKI  
ST. ANNE PARISH, SASKATOON

A new program entitled Creation Care Kids has started at five Catholic elementary schools in the north end of our city. The program is based on Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home: *Laudato Si'*.

The eight-lesson curriculum leads the children, Kindergarten to Grade 5, to an understanding that we are all a part of God's creation, and that as a part of God's creation, our job is to take care of the earth.

Students discuss Pope Francis and Saint Francis and their love of creation; about the manna story from the Book of Exodus, and how we should only

take what we need from the earth. They also learn about Saint Kateri and how she is a "creation care" heroine.

The goal is for students to come away with a sense of what is at stake and what they can do to help, while giving them hope and reminding them of God's great love for us.

The program comes with ready-to-teach lessons and easy songs to learn that apply to the lessons. Finally, each lesson ends with a prayer:

### Creation Care Kids Prayer

"Jesus, thank you for giving us everything we need to live. Help me to use only what I need and share the rest with others, whom you also love. Amen."



### Care for Our Common Home

Development and Peace/Caritas Canada Fall Education Campaign workshops were recently held at St. Anne Parish, Saskatoon and St. Bruno Parish, Bruno. This year's fall campaign – "Care for Our Common Home" – includes a focus on the effects of commercial activities in the Amazon rainforest, which are harming Indigenous Peoples and the global ecosystem. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

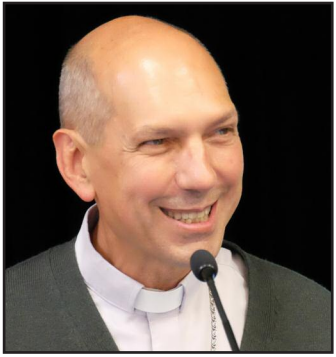
## Development and Peace event examines issues facing Amazon

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

At a Sept. 14 Development and Peace "Campaign Extravaganza" gathering in Saskatoon, Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina provided background and context about the Oct. 6-27 Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Amazon, and challenged his listeners to consider how the ecological crisis in the Amazon has similarities and connections to what is happening in Canada.

Bolen was invited to be part of a delegation to Rome during the Synod, for a parallel event organized by the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.'

The focus of the Sept. 14 Development and Peace event at



Archbishop Donald Bolen spoke at the Sept. 14 event at STM. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon was the D & P Fall Education Campaign "Care for Our Common Home," which this year focuses on the impact of commercial activities in the

Amazon rain forest – both on Indigenous Peoples and on the global ecosystem.

The fall campaign includes resources, reflections and proposed actions related to the Synod on the Amazon and on the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, (Care of Our Common Home).

"What do we need to be paying attention to? What are the parallel issues in Canada?" Bolen asked the crowd during his keynote address about the Synod. Responses from the crowd included: threats from mining, carbon emissions, climate change, forest fires and the issues affecting our own Indigenous Peoples.

Judging by societal indicators

of health and well-being, Canada's Indigenous Peoples are "on the losing end," said Bolen. "We are a society that has an embedded racism." Canada is being challenged to face that sad reality and to work to overcome it through such things as the TRC Calls to Action, Bolen said.

Describing the ecological crisis facing the Amazon, and the impact globally of threats to creation, Bolen echoed *Laudato Si'* when he stressed that when there is a "price to pay" for ecological exploitation and degradation that benefit wealthier nations and corporations, it is almost always the poor who end up paying that price.

However, "*Laudato Si'*" does

not invite us to despair," asserted Bolen. "It invites us as people of faith to trust that God is at work, and also to be mindful that God calls us in solidarity to walk with others who are suffering."

The Sept. 14 "Campaign Extravaganza" organized by Development and Peace/Caritas Canada Saskatchewan-Keewatin Le Pas region, also included speakers Dr. Chris Hrynkow of STM, Development and Peace member Norman Lipinski, and Priva Hang'andu, the new regional animator for Development and Peace/Caritas Canada.

The Campaign Extravaganza also featured a number of displays, a dinner, and an evening coffee house.

## Farmland Legacies cares for creation while feeding the hungry

By DUANE GUINA  
FARMLAND LEGACIES

Are you looking for ways to follow the Christian call to care for creation, and to feed the hungry? Have you heard about Farmland Legacies?

Farmland Legacies is a Saskatchewan charity whose mission is to help build a food system which meets the needs of farmers, of the land, and of the hungry in our community.

Farmland Legacies has a farm north of Wynyard where it raises grass-fed beef cattle.

Since 2014, the organization has donated this beef to food banks and soup kitchens in the province, through the generosity of its supporters.

Every \$1 donated covers the cost of one serving of ground beef. Grass-fed beef is a high-quality, nutritious protein which



Farmland Legacies raises beef to feed the hungry, using sustainable farming methods. - Submitted photo

enhances the nutrition that food banks are able to offer.

Last year 47,000 servings were donated and the target for this year is 60,000 servings. In the Saskatoon Diocese in 2018, Farmland Legacies gave beef to food banks in Saskatoon, Kindersley, Biggar, Rosetown, Outlook, Lanigan, and Wynyard, as well as Saskatoon's Friendship Inn.

By raising its cattle herd on grass, and practicing holistic management, Farmland Legacies is able to work with – rather than against – nature to produce good quality local food. Two other initiatives to work with nature include incorporating leafcutter bees as pollinators to improve its pastures, and producing solar power to run a number of electric fences and water bowls. The organization also works on projects to educate about sustainable agriculture, including speaking in churches and classrooms.

Farmland Legacies is a land trust, which acquires arable land through donation or bequest and leases that land to farmers who share the organization's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and who act as stewards of the land.

Farmland Legacies works with leaseholders to ensure that the land is managed responsibly, with a focus on

providing long-term, ecologically sound stewardship.

Farmland Legacies invites others to join in the mission of looking for new ways to care for our planet while creating a society that is life-giving for all.

Ways to get involved include:

- Learn more at the website: [www.farmlandlegacies.org](http://www.farmlandlegacies.org) or on social media – find @farmlandlegacies on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- Donate to the current GoFundMe campaign called "Harvest for Hunger."
- Check out the Farmland Legacies Christmas gift catalogue in November through social media or on the website for a meaningful gift option to give to someone special.
- Invite Farmland Legacies to your church or school.

Reflecting on Life & Faith

Preserving faith, creating a legacy

**By JOCELYNE HAMOLINE  
PLANNED GIVING OFFICER**

One of the priorities in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation is to ensure the long-term viability of our diocese and 94 parish communities. By focusing on the future, we can ensure that dynamic liturgies, enriching faith formation programs, and critical pastoral ministries will be available to the next generation. The last week of October 2019, I was participating in a diocesan workshop called Launch. Launch teaches us how to evangelize — how to bring others to Christ, through a loving, gentle and thoughtful process. We heard how we must be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and lean on his guidance. We build on trust and friendship

(with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the person we are walking with). One participant in this workshop shared a story. An older woman, long into her retirement and Catholic years, remarked: “I have been Catholic all my life. Why have I not heard about having a relationship with Christ before?”

Why? Why have so many Catholics and non-Catholics not heard or realized they could have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

That is a big big question. But, there is something you and I can do about this. We can share our faith. And we can plan to preserve our faith for future generations – we can create a legacy of faith for the young and the old, the lost and the broken, the sick and the dying.

How does one begin to create a legacy to preserve our faith?

You begin by learning, then planning, and finish with putting the plan in place. This is called “Planned Giving” or “Legacy Giving” planning to leave the church (or other charity) a gift from your estate. Charitable legacy gifts to the church can range from small cash contributions provided through a simple bequest, to a larger stock gift used to establish a charitable trust.

All parishes are invited to host an information evening called “Are Your Affairs in Order?” This presentation offers participants basic information on preparing one’s affairs through wills, power of attorney, health care directives, legacy giving, funeral planning and more. This free information evening is provided by the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation.



**Stewardship welcome**  
Angela Bergerman, Stephanie Hughes, Cathy Gilje and Sharon Leyne (l-r) assisted at the registration desk for the Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference held this year in the diocese of Saskatoon. Delegates from across western Canada and beyond explored the meaning and call to Christian stewardship during the June 6-8 conference.  
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Our Catholic faith is the foundation of our lives, and a legacy gift will ensure that future generations will benefit from quality faith formation ministries. The church benefits, future generations benefit, and you preserve your lifetime income by your estate receiving a charitable tax receipt.

For one-on-one consultation or to host a presentation at your parish of “Are Your Affairs in Order?” please contact Jocelyne Hamoline at (306) 659-5849 or e-mail: jhamoline@dscf.ca

Reflections on returning home to serve in Saskatoon

**By FR. STEFANO PENNA  
ST. PAUL CO-CATHEDRAL**

Last year, Bishop Mark installed me as Rector and Pastor of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon on *Gaudete Sunday* (“Joy Sunday” celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent), which was really appropriate because I must raise my voice in *joy* to God for leading me home to Saskatoon.

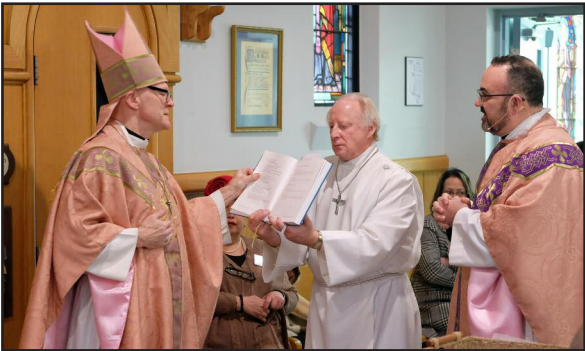
It has been 22 years since I exercised full-time ministry in Saskatoon. I went away to Yale University to study, while my childhood friend with whom I was ordained in 1986 – Fr. Les Paquin – went to the parish of Santa Maria Maddalena in Brazil. Fr. Les always insisted that it was easier to be a minister of the Gospel among the poorest of the poor with whom he lived, than for me amongst the richest of the rich in Connecticut.

In any case, I always tried to see the academic ministry in which Bishop James Mahoney invited me serve as being the complement of the ministry of Fr. Les. I have strived to keep the question – “What does this have to do with the poor?” – before me at all times (perhaps not that successfully).

When I finished up studies in 2002, a position at St. Joseph’s College at the University of Alberta in Edmonton was offered to me. Bishop Mahoney had told me: “I realize we might be giving you to the service of the Church beyond Saskatoon.” Those words from one of my role models of priesthood sustained me during the time I was “on loan” in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

My 16 years in Edmonton were full ones indeed. Though my doctoral work was in philosophical theology and my license from Rome was in sacramental theology, I was invited to teach religious education. That began the intense and rewarding engagement of teaching and forming Catholic educators.

Twelve years ago I was invited by Edmonton



**Bishop Mark Hagemoen addresses Fr. Stefano Penna at the doors of the confessional in Advent 2018, during a liturgy of installation for a new pastor.** - Photo by Tim Yaworski

Archbishop Richard Smith to serve as the Dean of Theology at Newman Theological College as it transitioned to a new location – an intense experience of loss and discovery. The blur of those years still leaves me kind of breathless. A particular privilege was being involved in the education of future priests at St. Joseph’s Seminary – including some from Saskatoon.

In 2018, a new invitation from the Lord came in the form of Bishop Mark asking me to come home. The prospect of being close to my parents and family – and of being back in the heart of the community for which the Lord called me – was exciting. Exciting and terrifying.

I have always lived in Catholic rectories, but until last year I was never a pastor of a parish. I returned home to find that many of my Holy Cross classmates are grandparents on the verge of retirement and here was I, confronted with a new “fatherhood” (or better, “step-fatherhood” for God is the Father) at the parish of St. Paul Co-Cathedral.

It has been such a blessing. I do not remember such happiness in my priesthood as I have found here as pastor. Why?

Ordained priesthood is essentially about being the minister of the Church’s sacraments. All the things that I was doing as an academic could have been done (and probably done better) by any other of Christ’s faithful. The priest, however, is not to be one launching a quest for self-fulfilment. “The priest is not his own,” as Venerable Fulton Sheen put it. I am given over to Christ by the community to be *alter Christus*, especially in administering the sacraments in which Jesus, the High Priest and Shepherd, encounters His People. I have long known this completely unmerited grace, but what has been an eye-opening – heart-opening, soul-opening – gift has been meeting God’s people in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis made the Sacrament of Reconciliation the cornerstone of the Year of Mercy. I have found it to be the cornerstone of my life as pastor.

What daily grace to sit in the confessional! What a humbling witness to Christian faith I receive from those who come simply to lay their sins before the Saviour. Their simple words blow away the eloquence of so many of the writers with whom I have spent hours. And I experience the joy of being present to the very moment when our Lord through His Church transforms sins from burden into blessing as they are returned as gifts labelled “forgiven!”

Yes, the Eucharistic celebration is the core of my life. To celebrate the Eucharist in the noble building that has stood as the spiritual heart of Saskatoon for 110 years is overwhelming. When I returned from some holidays this summer I knew that I had fallen in love with the people of St. Paul Co-Cathedral, because coming back was happier than heading out. Yet, the happiest homecoming was settling in the chair in our confessional.

St Peter’s Abbey news from Abbot Novecosky

**By ABBOT PETER NOVECOSKY  
ST. PETER’S ABBEY**  
(Excerpts from St. Peter’s Abbey Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2019)

This year saw a growth of sorts in the monastic community here in Muenster.

Most evident was the acceptance in September 2018 of two candidates: Robert Janiga and Edmundo Cruz. Both lived in the Toronto area. They made a profession of vows in March 2019, and have made a significant contribution to our regular community life.

For the past few months, Joseph Do has become a working guest, and joins the community in our prayer and work.

Other monks have returned home. Fr. Lawrence DeMong

and Fr. Richard Meidl both retired from their pastoral assignments this summer and returned to the abbey.

Fr. Richard lived in Watrous and is now abbey treasurer to replace retired Kathy Tumback. Fr. Lawrence loves to nurture his garden at the abbey as well as volunteer for weekend assistance in parishes where needed. He served three years as pastor in Southend and LaRonge in northern Saskatchewan, in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas.

Fr. Joseph Ackerman spent over a month in the hospital this summer after a fall at his retirement residence in Bruno. He has since returned to the abbey where he needs minimal care. (See article Page 17)

St. Peter’s College began a new term in September 2019 with a lower number of students. The number in residence is 16 again, the same as last year. After a year characterized by a “quiet” group of students, this year’s class is more lively and engaging.

Meanwhile, the past year has seen an increase in the number of guests and groups using our guest residences. With the current closure of the Lumsden conference Centre, a number of groups have migrated to St. Peter’s Abbey. It is always nice to welcome new faces, and they appreciate the monastic presence and beautiful grounds St. Peter’s can offer.

Fr. Demetrius Wasyluniuk

has served 22 years as guest master and 18 years as director of student residence. I took charge of managing the student residents last year.

Next year, I will turn 75. Our Benedictine constitutions advise that abbots resign at age 75 years. That will mean that the community will hold an election for abbot. While no date has been set yet, it will likely be in spring.

Next fall, a Congress of Benedictine abbots will be held in Rome. There are usually 250 abbots present from around the world. Congresses are held every four years.

For more information about happenings at St. Peter’s Abbey, see the Abbey website at [stpetersabbey.ca](http://stpetersabbey.ca)



**Fr. Cosmas Epifano, OSB, of St. Peter’s Abbey was one of the priests celebrating at the Mount Carmel pilgrimage this summer. He recently became chaplain for a group of Augustinian contemplative nuns at a Nova Scotia monastery. He will live in a hermitage on their grounds.**  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

Reflecting on Life & Faith

# Update on refugee sponsorship in our diocese

By DR. JAN BIGLAND-PRITCHARD  
OFFICE OF MIGRATION

It is my privilege to be the new Migration Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and I can tell you that there is never a dull moment in this work.

Since September, through the goodness of God and the generosity of our parish groups, we have welcomed 15 new permanent residents to Saskatoon:

- Holy Family welcomed Mrs. T and her 5 children from South Sudan via Uganda,
- Holy Spirit welcomed Mr. and Mrs. B and their 4 children from Eritrea via Sudan
- Our Lady of Lourdes welcomed young Mr. M, from Eritrea via Israel,
- St. Philip Neri made it possible for Mr. G to reunite with his bride Ms. L, from Eritrea via Ethiopia,
- The Petres family welcomed Mrs. M, an 83-year-old Catholic lady from Iraq, who had not seen her son for 10 years.

**What does a Migration Office coordinator do?** Along with meeting new arrivals and overseeing their welfare for their first 12 months of settlement, my main job is at the start of the process. Consulting with my Operations Manager and Bishop Mark Hagemoen, I select who will get our precious government-allocated “spots,” then help prepare, finalize and submit the applications to the government (IRCC), as well as preparing and equipping the settlement teams in our parish and community groups so that they are ready to receive newcomer families with confidence and in compliance with the government’s standards



A recent moment of welcome experienced at the Saskatoon Airport (l-r): Shirley (Holy Spirit refugee committee) Tsega (co-sponsor), Samuel (sponsored new arrival) Jan (Migration Office), Johnny (family friend) and Basilyos (sponsored recent arrival). - Submitted photo

## Reaching refugees in great need: persecuted Christians

Jesus as a child was a refugee in Egypt, and one of the things He asks of his disciples is to welcome the stranger (*Matthew 25*). Some of those in great need of resettlement are Christians who face persecution because of their faith and witness.

The Christians of Pakistan are under great pressure from extremist mobs. Many have fled to Thailand, where they live precarious lives, always under threat of detention and deportation.

This summer, Catholic refugee coordinators, led by the Archdiocese of Toronto, made a mission trip to Bangkok to meet a pastor who works with these families. They interviewed and selected 65 cases, and put out the challenge to the Canadian dioceses to sponsor these persecuted Christians. (*Read more about the families they met on this trip by going*

*to the Catholic Saskatoon News site: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) and searching “Persecuted Christians.”*)

The Archdiocese of Toronto stepped up and took 18 cases, and now other dioceses are coming forward – and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is one of them.

With Bishop Mark’s blessing and leadership, we have committed to bringing one family to Saskatoon – and we need your help to do it.

Thailand does not recognize refugees, and staying there long-term is not an option.

Pakistani Christian refugees struggle daily in Bangkok with poverty, precarious housing, and constant fear of arrest. They cannot go home – their opponents are well-networked and nowhere in Pakistan is safe for them. And they can’t stay where they are.

With your help we can give a family a new hope and a new future in Canada.

# Cathedral joyfully welcomes sponsored family

By DIANE WALDBILLIG  
HOLY FAMILY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Cathedral of the Holy Family recently welcomed a family from South Sudan. It felt like we were witnesses to the birth of a new Canadian family.

They arrived late on a September evening, and even though they had been travelling for almost two days, they were full of joy, hugging everyone and thanking God and thanking us. They were delighted with their home, which parishioners had furnished with love, and said they loved Canada and never wanted to leave.

One month later, the children are in school and their mother will be taking

English language lessons. They are constantly cold, but the children loved the snow they recently experienced for the first time.

The family has become part of our parish community, and are asking how they can give back. One Sunday morning, the children greeted parishioners at the doors, responding with love to the Holy Family community. Their mother has joined the Holy Family Craft Guild to create items for sale to benefit the church.

The whole process of bringing the family to Canada has been slow and full of roadblocks. The parish committee found we had to surrender the outcome to God, and each time, doors and hearts opened.

We feel it is a miracle that our family got to Canada safe and sound, but God had another miracle for us. Our family came to Canada not knowing a soul here. Suddenly, and in a way that only God could have made happen, their cousin came to their door – someone who had been separated from them by war and refugee camps for 15 years, but now lives in Saskatoon.

Sponsoring this family has definitely made a difference in their lives, but the committee is also grateful for this opportunity to see God’s work in action and to appreciate how fortunate we all are to live in Canada. The parish is truly living Jesus’ call: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

## Alumni spiritual enrichment event features speaker Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

By TERESA BODNAR-HIEBERT  
AND KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Participants in the new Adult Faith Enrichment Program joined some 200 alumni and friends for a Lay Formation Alumni Fall Gathering enrichment day with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Oct 12 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon.

Originally from St. Donatus Catholic Parish in the Cactus Lake area of the diocese of Saskatoon, Fr. Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher and award-winning author who presently serves as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He was a long-



A number of the 200-plus participants in the Fall Gathering stayed for this group photo after celebration of Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen. - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

time popular presenter for the Lay Formation Program in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – a program that this year has been renamed the Adult Faith Enrichment Program.

“The Theological Formation of the Laity – the Task, the Tension, the Hope” was the title of Fr. Rolheiser’s presentation, which addressed changes over the past 40 years as Catholic lay people began to study theology and scripture, and started to

provide ministry within their parishes and communities.

Using scripture and anecdote, he challenged his listeners to deepen their own conversion and commitment to Christ and the Church, and to consider how they are living out their discipleship in the world, including in their families, workplaces, communities and parishes.

The grieving and bewildered disciples in the Emmaus story had their eyes opened when

Christ breaks the bread. “It is the Eucharist that opens their eyes,” said Rolheiser.

“Christ is always around us, but we must have the eyes to see,” he said, stressing that Jesus is the one who will turn us around through the Eucharist and the Word. We must have trust, even in the midst of darkness and struggle, he added. “Trust that David will slay Goliath... Trust that the loaves and fishes will be enough,” he said.

Reflecting on the story of the Rich Young Man in the Gospel of Luke, Rolheiser also challenged his listeners to consider what they are holding back from God.

The day concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Mark Hagemoen concelebrating with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, and cathedral pastor and rector Fr. Ephraim Mensah.

## “What do you need? How can we help?”

A great refugee settlement needs money plus people.

Money is needed to support the family for up to 12 months (less if they find paid work during that first year). Assuming we can get donated furniture and household goods, plus some clothing, we would need about \$31,000 to meet the government expectations for a small family.

People are needed to walk with the refugees, like close family members – to find and furnish a home, to help the new arrivals get registered for health cards, bank accounts, and bus passes; to give rides to appointments, to help practice English, to assist in looking for employment, and to provide social, emotional and educational support as these new neighbours learn to navigate life in a new culture.

People of every skill set and age can play a part in making a great settlement team. A team of five to 12 members gives stability and helps to share the work so it can be life-giving rather than draining.

## Parishes can partner

Many city parishes already have substantial commitments to refugee ministry, while smaller and rural parishes may feel they cannot take on a full sponsorship themselves. This is where partnerships within the diocese could play a wonderful role.

Could your parish do a fundraiser or donate \$3,000 towards helping this family? That would be about 10 percent of the needed funds. What if nine other parishes did the same?

Does your city parish have one or two people who would love to help out, but not 12? City parishes or other Catholic institutions (like a school or college) could team up to form a cross-parish settlement team.

To discuss these or other ideas, or for more info, contact me: Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard, [jbigland-pritchard@rcdos.ca](mailto:jbigland-pritchard@rcdos.ca) or (306) 659-5842.

To donate online, go to [dscf.ca](http://dscf.ca) and click on the “Refugee Aid” button, or for information about donating to the Office of Migration or to Refugee Aid, please contact the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation: [jhamoline@dscf.ca](mailto:jhamoline@dscf.ca) or (306) 659-5849. *The Migration Office is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.*

Exploring Our Pastoral Plan:

Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today

“Have the same mind and heart as Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 2:5

Priority 1: Draw People Into Intimacy With Our Lord  
Supporting a deepening friendship and intimacy with Jesus Christ



Eucharistic Adoration was led by Bishop Mark Hagemoen on Divine Mercy Sunday 2019.  
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

- Help people pray; and provide support and tools for growth in discipleship and holiness
- Provide regular opportunities for gathered prayer, including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Implement and strengthen evangelization programs in parishes and schools, emphasizing the Sacraments; the sacred scriptures; life in the Church; works of mercy
- Provide for more lay and clergy spiritual directors
- Provide retreats and workshops for men, women, and youth addressing the art of accompaniment, to deepen their relationship with Christ

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” - John 17:3

“Arise” Catholic women’s retreat nurtures and inspires

BY SHARON LEYNE  
RETREAT PARTICIPANT

On the weekend of Oct. 18-20, some 250 women of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of faith descended on the peaceful grounds of the St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK, for a profound experience of healing, hope, and transformation.

Over a year ago a group of women traveled to British Columbia for a similar women’s retreat and it was there that the Holy Spirit impressed upon them the deep desire to bring such a retreat to the prairies. After much discussion and prayer as to how this was to be, one of the women “received a word in prayer” and all agreed that it was from this word that the Arise women’s conference was conceived.

With support from Bishop Mark Hagemoen, the retreat was



Some 250 women attended the Arise retreat in Bruno.  
- Photo by Chelsey Shortman

jointly presented by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and alumni of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), organized by a group of volunteers.

Within eight hours of registration opening, the retreat was sold out, with a waiting list set up and efforts launched to expand the numbers who could attend, including steps by St. Therese Institute and residents of the town of Bruno, who opened their homes to permit more women to attend.

From the moment they stepped into the building, participants could sense that we were on “Holy Ground,” said team member Christy Dupuis of Martensville.

The entire retreat was steeped in prayer, thoughtfulness, and the effort to make each participant feel as though they were being shown God’s love personally and intimately, down to the last detail. The team joked about what can happen when the feminine genius comes together. The truth of that feminine genius was evident everywhere you looked. The beautifully designed décor filled and transformed each space, and thoughtful gifts presented throughout the weekend were met with surprise and joy. Beautiful, all-female music ministry provided opportunities to enter deeply in worship. The organization and flow of the event ensured the retreat came together purposefully and beautifully.

Heather Khym of Abbotsford, BC (known for an Abiding Together podcast), Angele Regnier of Ottawa, co-founder of CCO, and Christy Dupuis (CCO missionary and local parishioner) were the keynote speakers for the weekend, focusing on the theme “Arise my beloved” from the scripture Song of Songs 2:10-14.

Every presentation was raw, unhindered, filled with powerful testimony and truth to the nature



Fr. Joseph Salihu, Heather Khym, Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Angele Regnier, and Christy Dupuis (l-r) during a panel discussion held during the Arise retreat held Oct. 18-20 in the diocese of Saskatoon.  
- Photo by Chelsey Shortman

of women, God’s profound love and intense pursuit of our hearts, and the human desire to be seen, delighted in and loved in ways that can only be fulfilled by God. Tears flowed as each speaker spoke words of pain, hope, and healing, seemingly touching on shared and related experiences of the women in the room.

“We are not alone, we are beloved, we are seen, and if we are broken beyond what we think can be repaired He wants to redeem us, but only if we trust and give Him the permission.” This message was a common thread in all three keynotes and echoed in breakout sessions offered by Leah Perrault, Janelle Yasinski and Angele Regnier.

There were long line-ups for the sacrament of confession and prayer ministry was offered, with women praying over each other for their needs.

Throughout the retreat, women of all ages – teenagers, mothers, and grandmothers – were sharing with one another, allowing for a richness of life experience and perspective among sisters in Christ.

Personal experience

We were fortunate to have Heather Khym bring a first-class relic of St. Therese of Lisieux – from that moment, I knew this was no ordinary retreat.

Each talk that followed resonated deeper and deeper in

me. I realized that what God had in store for me was greater than what I was comfortable with, that He needed me to be open to healing so that I could truly embrace His plan, not just for me as a woman, but for me as a mother raising a daughter who needs to know she is seen, and beloved. I needed to wake up. I needed to – yes I’m going to say it – ARISE. That word was truly a prophetic word spoken to the team. And I wasn’t the only one in the room who needed that scripture. In that one word – in each conversation, in each presentation, in the environment – God was stirring.

I am so grateful that the Arise team had the courage, and determination to bring this retreat to life in the prairies. I know many others are, as well. It is a difficult process to step into the deep and trust in God. The many miracles that occurred to even make this event possible is a testament to their steadfast faith to not allow barriers and obstacles to keep them from what they knew God wanted done. Their “yes” has changed the lives of not just the 250 women present that weekend, but the lives of their families and the friends that surround them.

Editor’s Note: Find Sharon Leyne’s entire article and more photos from the Arise retreat on the Catholic Saskatoon News website at: [news.rcdoc.ca](http://news.rcdoc.ca)



“Launch” missionary training

Christy Dupuis, parish missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach, led a seven-week diocesan “Launch” program this fall at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, providing practical tools for sharing faith with others in the ordinary encounters of life. Topics included the baptismal call to be disciples of Christ, the art of intentional accompaniment and how to share Jesus and proclaim the Gospel to others.

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

# St. Anne Parish in Saskatoon works to make goals a reality

By Fr. Matthew Ramsay  
St. Anne Parish, Saskatoon

What does it take to make a parish grow?  
If Jesus has commissioned us to go out and make disciples, then our parishes should be growing. This doesn't mean following fads or gimmicks to get more people through our doors. It means inviting people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus and welcoming them into a community that knows them, loves them, and supports them in their walk of faith. How do we do that?  
These questions have driven St. Anne's staff and pastoral council, and in the last few years have guided the creation of a parish strategic plan.

Our parish is now excited to see that the new diocesan pastoral plan moves in the same direction as our parish plan.  
Where the diocesan plan works to "Make Every Sunday Matter" and "Draw People into a Deepening Intimacy with the Lord," our parish plan calls for an "Amazing Sunday Experience" and "Opportunities to Encounter Jesus."  
Here are a few ways St. Anne Parish has been working to make these goals a reality:

### Discovery Faith Studies

One of the ways we work hard to make lifelong, missionary disciples is through our Discovery Faith Studies series.  
Each week we have a potluck supper, followed by small group discussions led by trained group leaders to unpack the Gospel message, the role of the Holy Spirit, and growth in the Christian life. If you would like more information, please visit: [saintannes.ca/discovery](http://saintannes.ca/discovery)

### Comprehensive Ministry From Kindergarten to Grade 12

For several years St. Anne Parish has offered Kids4Christ for children aged 3 years to Grade 3, and youth ministry programs for Grades 6 to 12. As you can see, we had a little hole in Grades 4 and 5. This year we're launching a new ministry, *Jump*, for Grades 4 and 5, so we can reach out to all the children of our parish as they grow from kindergarten to Grade 12.  
*Jump* is a monthly, Monday evening drop-in



Discovery Faith Studies are offered at the parish.  
- Submitted photo

program, and the acronym helps us center on how we grow in holiness:  
(J) - Jesus first;  
(U) - God designed us to be relational: we need "U" to accompany us in service and love;  
(M) - Me - Love one another, love yourself;  
(P) - Plan - Our growth plan gives us a new focus each month (pray, profess, praise, etc).  
*Jump* in for faith, friendship, food, and fun.

### Encountering Jesus in the Sacraments

On the third Friday of every month, St. Anne Parish holds Source, a night of faith-sharing and Eucharistic Adoration. Source begins with a member of the parish sharing their faith story and then moves into a time of Eucharistic Adoration. Part of this time is filled with worship music and part with prayerful silence.  
When Source began, we had one priest available to hear confessions. We now need three or more priests in order to hear all the confessions at this monthly event.  
Since September of this year, we've been holding silent Adoration all day on Wednesdays. From the end of our morning daily Mass until 10 p.m., people are at prayer in our Eucharistic chapel; and every Wednesday evening, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., a priest is available to hear confessions as well.  
Starting on the first Sunday of November, St. Anne Parish launched a Sunday evening Mass. As with our other Masses, we are working hard to make sure this Mass has beautiful and reverent music, meaningful

**Prayer at St. Anne Parish, Saskatoon**

- **SOURCE: Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions**  
Every Third Friday of the Month - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **All Day Eucharistic Adoration**  
Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
including Confessions from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- **NEW: Sunday Evening Mass at 7 p.m.**



**St. Anne Parish Mission**  
Mike Gormley, producer and cohost of "Every Knee Shall Bow" and coordinator of evangelization at a large Catholic church in Texas, was guest speaker at a recent St. Anne parish mission in Saskatoon. Leah Perrault stepped up to speak at the first night of the mission Oct. 22, when Gormley's arrival was delayed. In addition to speaking at the parish Oct. 23-24, Gormley addressed students at a number of Catholic high schools.  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

homilies, a warm welcome for visitors, and deep participation from all (see *Priority 2 of the diocesan Pastoral Plan "Make Every Sunday Matter"* below). If we want to grow, we need room to grow, and this additional Mass time will give us that room.

## Proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom Today

### Priority 2: Make Every Sunday Matter Strengthening Sunday celebrations

- Effective preaching
- Effective feedback from parishioners
- Beautiful music: promote through training, workshops, performances
- Hospitality and welcoming
  - Collect and share best practices re: hospitality, engagement
- Excellent liturgy: full and active participation! (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*: #14)
  - Sunday gathering as opportunity for sending, outreach

*"Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy." – Exodus 20:8*  
*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles." - Acts 2:42-43*  
*"Nevertheless the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows." - Sacrosanctum Concilium: #10*



**Sacred music workshop**  
A "Sing the Mass" sacred music workshop was held June 15 at St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon.  
- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski



**Watrous celebration**  
Fr. Peter Olisa, Bishop Mark Hagemoen and Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB, celebrated Eucharist Oct. 27 at St. Ann parish in Watrous. It was one of a number of parish visits this fall undertaken by the bishop to celebrate an optional liturgy for the installation of new pastors. Fr. Olisa was appointed pastor of parishes at Watrous, Imperial and Young this summer, taking over from Fr. Meidl, who has returned to St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. Find more installation photos online at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca)  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski



St. Mary, Macklin was one of the parishes around the diocese to organize an outdoor Eucharistic procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi in June.  
- Submitted photo

## Denzil, Macklin and St. Donatus parishes hold outdoor Corpus Christi procession

By Barbara Kloster, St. Mary, Macklin

Holy Eucharist was celebrated at the grotto in St. Joseph's Park in Macklin SK on the Feast of Corpus Christi June 23, 2019 in perfect weather.  
There were over 230 worshippers from three parishes – Sacred Heart, Denzil; St. Mary, Macklin; and St. Donatus, Cactus Lake – celebrating with presider Fr. Binu Rathappillil, VC. The altar was set up in front of the grotto, while the members of the congregation were seated in a semi-circle in front of the altar.  
After the blessing and the final hymn of the Eucharistic celebration, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and carried to the church in a procession, escorted under a canopy carried by David Witzaney and his three adult sons. The singing was led by St. Mary's choir with full participation by the congregation.  
The procession was led by representatives of the various parishes carrying flags and banners, including flags of parishes that are still active: Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, and St. Donatus. Then came the banners of parishes that have been closed: St. Anthony, Grosswerder; St. Elizabeth, Primate; and St. Peter, Cosine. Flags of the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus came at the end.



- Submitted photo

On the way back to the church, the Blessed Sacrament was raised six times by Fr. Binu at six different small stations set up along the route, each representing the different church communities.  
When the procession reached St. Mary Catholic Church, Fr. Binu led the people in benediction with a final blessing. The celebration closed with the congregation joining the choir in singing "Holy God We Praise Your Name."  
Everyone moved into the adjoining hall for fellowship and a potluck hamburger/wiener lunch.

# Pastoral Plan: Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today

## Priority 3: “Embrace Your Priesthood”

### Discerning God’s call to each person to share in the mission and life of the Lord Jesus Christ



**JOY graduation**

The 2019 Justice and Outreach Year (JOY) program sent forth another group of graduates June 8 with a celebration at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon. The 2019 JOY graduates are (l-r): Erin Betke, Jennifer Clerke, Rita Gillies, Andy Korvemaker, Ron Lepage, Wendy Lepage and Lisa Skorski, as well as Andrea Alas (not pictured). The diocesan JOY program offers participants a hands-on, practical experience of Catholic Social Teaching, in the context of prayer and formation. JOY is one of the ministries in our diocese supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

- Equip and support Church members re: ways to provide ministry and service in our parish
- Provide vocations support for priesthood, religious life, marriage, lay ministry leadership and service
- Promote discipleship paths: Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO); FacetoFace Ministries; Madonna House Apostolate; NET Ministries; Pure Witness Ministries; St Therese Institute, etc.
- Provide academic, human and spiritual formation for candidates for the priesthood, permanent diaconate; religious life, lay ecclesial ministry
- Provide responsive marriage preparation and ongoing support
- Provide strong catechetical support for effective sacramental preparation strategies and preparation
- Provide opportunities for adults to reflect on the vocation of the lay Catholic faithful in their roles in the market-place: professionals, business leaders, service providers

*“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” - Ephesians 4:11-12*

*“Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as priest, prophet, and king. The whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them.”*

- Catechism of the Catholic Church # 783

## Wynyard VBS focus: creation and the dignity of the human person

By DENIS MOZEL  
THE WYNYARD ADVANCE

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church in Wynyard hosted Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Aug. 21-23, 2019.

The Cat.Chat Productions VBS program presented at Wynyard had the theme “Birthday Bash! A Celebration of Life.”

More than 50 children attended the three-day program to learn more about how to discover, respect, protect, serve and celebrate life.

According to the Cat.Chat Productions website, the program instills awareness of God’s amazing creation, and the beauty and dignity of the human person. Children also received life-giving messages on what it means to be a child of God.

Jessica Lalonde, one of the



**The opening day of Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Mary, Wynyard, coincided with the ninth anniversary of priestly ordination for pastor Fr. Augustine Osei-Bonsu.**

- Photo by Jessica Lalonde

organizers who put together this year’s VBS, said the large attendance was a wonderful surprise. “We were very impressed with the turnout. We had hoped for approximately 20-30,” she said. “It was the first time we have hosted a VBS in many years.”

Organizers only started planning for the event this summer, but managed to pull together the action packed

program, featuring music, dancing, games, crafts and Bible stories.

VBS in Wynyard has been on hiatus since a group of local churches stopped hosting the event a couple of years ago. Lalonde said it was her children who inspired her to resurrect the VBS program in Wynyard.

“In mid-July I sent a text to Jenny (Lazlo) and later to Anne

(Zaluski), asking if we would be crazy to pull one off this summer.” She added: “My kids have always loved VBS and missed the program that had been offered in the past. I also hoped that having VBS would encourage more young families to attend church.”

While the VBS event held in Wynyard was a Catholic program developed by Cat.Chat Productions, children of all denominations were invited to join in on the fun.

In order to successfully pull

off any event, volunteers are needed to help out. Lalonde said the church managed to muster enough volunteers to offer the program. “Volunteers from St. Mary’s were involved – parish members and our youth,” she said.

Given the success of the 2019 VBS, Lalonde is already looking to the future. “I would love for it to become an annual event,” she said.

VBS wrapped up on Friday, Aug. 23 with a birthday celebration, cake and hot dogs.



**Holy Family Vacation Bible School:**

Vacation Bible School July 8 to 12 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family was an action-packed week with 94 young “campers,” 44 junior youth leaders, 25 senior youth assistants, and 34 adult leaders “gathering in the Holy Name of Jesus,” building faith and community.

Submitted photo



**Deacon aspirants continue formation**

Three permanent diaconate aspirants from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon recently attended a weekend learning and training session with three aspirants from the Regina Archdiocese, held at St. Peter’s Abbey, Muenster; (l-r): Martin Kondzielewski (Regina), Ryan LeBlanc (Saskatoon), Rob Twa (Regina), Nicholas Blom (Saskatoon), Paul Wheeler (Saskatoon) and Ken Fahlman (Regina). The permanent diaconate is open to married men over 35 years of age, and to single men over 25 years of age. - Submitted photo

## Young adults embark on faith formation program at St. Therese, Bruno

By REBECCA SKUBAN

The first month of class at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno is a time of orientation and re-orientation, growing comfortable with each other, and learning how to live as a student community.

Students at St. Therese have been growing closer through activities like cherry and apple harvesting, lively conversations around bonfires, teachings on life in community, and marvelling at the beauty of creation together.

An especially beautiful moment occurred on the feast day of St. Therese Lisieux on Oct. 1, when the students had the opportunity to take a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Wakaw, SK. Here, each of the staff and

students lit a candle as a sign of their commitment to the young adult faith formation program.

A celebration was scheduled Nov. 9 to mark the 100th anniversary of the St. Therese building, which originally was built as the convent of the Ursulines of Bruno and the site of St. Ursula’s Academy, a high school for girls. Bishop Mark Hagemoen was invited to celebrate an afternoon Mass, followed by a reception.

St. Therese Class of 2019-2020 includes (photo above right, back row, l-r): Jacob Dusterhoft, High Prairie, AB; Christian Bekolay, Derwent, AB; Dean Hamm, Daysland, AB; Daniel Lashyn, Saskatoon, SK; Isaac Bourke, Spirit River, AB; Zachary Lunghamer, Leduc County, AB;



**St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission Class of 2019-2020.**

- Photo by James Riley

Jerome Montpetit, Bruno, SK; Adam Callbeck, St. Albert, AB; Mathieu Gaucher, Grande Prairie, AB; Michael Asuquo, Calgary, AB; Devin Gras, St. Marys, ON; Maxime Champagne, Lorette, MB; Ben Pulvermacher, Bruno, SK; Jacob Anderson, Battleford, SK; Rebecca Skuban, Westlock,

AB; Naomi Senten, Edmonton, AB; Emily Bourke, Spirit River, AB; (middle, l-r:) Gloria Bator, Grande Prairie, AB; Courtney Buhrke, Williams Lake, BC; Janelle Ryan, Agassiz, BC; Keelin Kennedy, Saskatoon, SK; Nikki Hiatt, Yellowhead County, AB; Emma Hamm, Daysland, AB;

Nicole Podmoroff, Prince George, BC; Andrea Bator, Grande Prairie, AB; Victoria Doucette, Alfred, ON; Rachel Vandermeer, Woodstock, ON; Maria Dusterhoft, High Prairie, AB; Kaitlin Jantz, Williams Lake, BC; Francesca Ambrosino, Calgary, AB; Emilie Edmondson, St. Denis, SK; (front, l-r) Lorissa Hohmann, Quesnel, BC; Gabby Marshall, Saskatoon, SK; Hannah Marchildon, Hinton, AB; Kasmira Warawa, Sturgeon County, AB; Louise Fournier, Calgary, AB; Carlyne Perrault, Beaumont, AB; Abby Cronin, Dublin, ON; Katherine Besaw, St. Pierre Jolys, MB; Amanda Weiler, Red Deer, AB; Yoona Shin, Aldergrove, BC; Corrina Taylor, Hinton, AB; Kalista Nugent, Stonewall, MB; Christina Denis, Saskatoon, SK.

# Adult Faith Enrichment Program begins with a new name, continues to pursue goal of forming disciples of Jesus Christ

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

The name is new, but the fundamental mission is the same: to deepen the faith and discipleship of adult Catholics.

This summer, the diocesan Lay Formation Program received a new name. It is now known as the Adult Faith Enrichment Program.

In a letter to the diocese Aug. 13, Bishop Mark Hagemoen explained that the change is the result of a discernment over the past year with many clergy and lay faithful. Hagemoen said that the name change was deemed to be “the best way to continue to build on its important legacy and service in our diocese.”

Introducing the new title of Adult Faith Enrichment Program coincides with the release of a new diocesan Pastoral Plan, noted the bishop. “We as a diocese will be addressing the importance of evangelization and



Graduates from three streams of Lay Formation were photographed with leaders, bishops and priests after a missioning celebration June 1, held at the Queen’s House chapel – before the name change to Adult Faith Enrichment Program later in the summer. Find a full report and more photos by searching “missioning celebration” on the Catholic Saskatoon News site at: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca)

- Photo by Tim Yaworski

catechesis in the life of the parishes and diocesan services.”

A review of the Adult Faith Enrichment Program curriculum has also been underway, he added, saying this “will help elucidate and guide the various topics and issues throughout the program, and achieve key learning outcomes.”

In his letter to pastors, parishes and the faithful across the diocese, the bishop also thanked the many coordinators, teachers, facilitators and participants in the Lay Formation program over the past 32 years.

“I look forward to building on such a legacy, as we continue

to hear the Holy Spirit’s call to the People of God of this particular church to continue to proclaim the Good News of Christ and the Kingdom of God which our world so greatly needs to hear and see today,” he said.

In September 2019, three new groups started the Adult

Faith Enrichment programs at Queen’s House in Saskatoon: the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon Latin-rite program, a Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Byzantine-rite program, and an Indigenous Faith Enrichment Program offered jointly by the dioceses of Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Keewatin-Le Pas.

Supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the diocesan Adult Faith Enrichment Program continues to be coordinated by Jennifer and Blair Carruthers. The eparchial program is coordinated by Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki, SSMI, and Sr. Marjika Konderewicz, SSMI; and the Indigenous program by Marlene Hansen.

Adult Faith Enrichment participants attend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, once a month from September to May over two years.

## Pastoral Plan: Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today

- Programs, initiatives for strengthening relationship among children, parents, grandparents
- Help parents and community members (schools, lay groups) address important relevant topics, including:
  - = Children’s Internet and technologies safety
  - = Child and adolescent sexuality
  - = Parenting in a digital age
- Establish programs and supports for crises: especially for persons dealing with separation or divorce

### Priority 4: Build and Support Family and Community

Strengthening and supporting families and marriages

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” – 1 Corinthians 13:13

“I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts. Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” - Ephesians 6:22-23

## Couple launches Olive Branch Family and Marriage Ministry

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Madeline and Peter Oliver of Saskatoon have established Olive Branch Marriage and Family Ministry to assist those who are navigating separation or divorce. The vision for the new ministry was inspired and formed in the context of the 2015 Synod on the Family and Pope Francis’ follow-up document *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love).

“Madeline and I have prayerfully been reading *Amoris Laetitia* one little piece at a time, reflecting on it to see what it is that Francis is speaking into the reality of marriage,” says Peter, describing the inspiration for the Olive Branch.

Madeline also notes: “In the document *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis says that we need to set up centres of mediation and reconciliation. That is what we are proposing with the Olive Branch.”

Earlier this year, at the suggestion of Bishop Mark Hagemoen, the couple gathered an advisory committee that helped to clarify their vision for the ministry. The advisory committee included Fr. Peter Ebidero and Fr. Matthew Ramsay from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, as well as “four lay people who brought the wisdom of their experiences with marriage and divorce to the committee,” describes Peter.

“That was an excellent process, really trying to refine what it is we were about,” he says, highlighting the mission statement for the new ministry, generated with the help of the committee: “We accompany individuals and families in a non-judgmental posture that involves healing and transformation as they navigate the experience of separation and divorce.”

The Olivers are intent upon reaching out as a pastoral presence and a resource to those who are separating or divorcing, in a spirit of respect and accompaniment, while honouring the Church’s teachings on the sacrament of marriage.

The Olive Branch will not provide marriage counselling or offer legal advice but rather will offer perspective and a guiding presence, always with an eye to healing and transformation, and to what God



Peter and Madeline Oliver have launched Olive Branch Marriage and Family Ministry. Find more information at: [www.olivebranchministry.ca](http://www.olivebranchministry.ca)

- Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

is calling each couple to in the midst of their difficult situation, explains Peter.

The Olivers both stress that the vision for the Olive Branch ministry is to accompany people as they do their own navigating through their difficult situation. “We would offer an opportunity to slow things down and ask ‘What needs to happen here? What have you looked at? Have you considered the possibility of reconciliation?’” Peter describes.

“Perhaps they don’t know about things like Retrouvaille (a program for couples struggling in their marriage) or other different options, or more positive ways to address the situation,” adds Madeline, noting that the legal process is not, by nature, healing or reconciling.

Located at Queen’s House in Saskatoon, the Olive Branch ministry is being sponsored by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

In a letter of support for the ministry, Oblate Provincial Fr. Ken Thorson, OMI, wrote: “Peter and Madeline’s proposal has touched our hearts and reminds us of the missionary call issued by the Church at its highest levels.” Reflecting on working together as a couple, Madeline says: “We are excited about being able to offer this ministry, to be present to people, wherever they find themselves in their struggle in life.”



Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Brett and Andrea Powell, Gerald and Denise Montpetit, and Leah Perrault (l-r) were speakers at the Breathe Catholic marriage conference Sept 13 and 14 in Saskatoon. - Photo by K. Yaworski

## Married couples ‘Breathe!’

Married couples gathered Sept. 13 and 14 for a time of enrichment and inspiration at a Catholic marriage conference presented by Cat.Chat Productions of Bruno, SK and the diocese of Saskatoon.

Some 170 attended the event entitled “Breathe!” held at the Saskatoon Inn, featuring talks, celebration of Mass with Bishop Mark Hagemoen, a panel discussion and opportunities for one-to-one reflection by couples, as well as opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and prayer ministry.

Speakers at the Catholic marriage enrichment conference included Denise and Gerald Montpetit of Cat.Chat (a production company based in Bruno that produces a variety of faith-based materials for children



The “Breathe!” conference offered couples time to focus on their marriage. - Photo by K. Yaworski

and families); Andrea and Brett Powell of the Archdiocese of Vancouver; and Leah Perrault of Saskatoon.

“We have received a lot of great feedback from the couples who attended,” said Reanne Powell, one of the conference organizers.

*Marriage and Family Life is one of the many ministries supported by the Bishop’s Annual*

# Exploring Our Pastoral Plan: Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom

## Priority 5: Promote the Healing Journey in the Lord

Healing, growth, service, ongoing conversion

- Promote and make available the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Promote “listening, caring, accompanying” to provide support for those struggling with emotional and mental health, addictions and/or grief recovery
- Provide healthy and safe church communities, free from trauma and abuse
- Promote network of local Catholic counsellors, Catholic health care providers
- Build the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of our communities
- Provide opportunities for women and men to recover from trauma and dysfunction
  - = Healing opportunities addressing TRC Calls to Action, UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
  - = Reverence for life initiatives (ex. Rachel’s Vineyard)
  - = Anger and grief



**Prison ministry volunteers**

Volunteers who assist Dianne Anderson of the diocesan Restorative Ministry Office with outreach at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre recently gathered together for an appreciation event. In addition to regular liturgies and healing programs, the Restorative Ministry Office is now looking ahead to Christmas, seeking monetary donations to purchase small gifts for the men to let them know they are not forgotten. Please send labelled donations to the Catholic Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK, S7S 1H1. - Submitted photo

## ‘A Hand to Hold’ miscarriage and infant loss grieving ministry introduced in Humboldt

BY MICHELLE PETERS

“A Hand to Hold” is a miscarriage and infant loss support group that began in the fall of 2018 in Humboldt’s St. Augustine Parish.

The group is open to all who have suffered from miscarriages or infant deaths, whether recently or years ago

“A Hand to Hold” support group its

first annual miscarriage/infant memorial Mass on Oct. 15, 2019. It was a simple, yet beautiful and healing way to honour these children in our hearts. Those who desired to discuss their journey were also welcomed to a six-week support group , where participants could openly share in a safe environment through a Catholic lens.

If you are interested in starting a group in your own community or would like more information, please contact Gisele King (306) 260-3649 or Michelle Peters (306) 231-4006.

*Note: Resources related to miscarriage awareness can also be found on the diocesan website at: [rcdos.ca/miscarriage](http://rcdos.ca/miscarriage)*

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." - Matthew 5:7-8*

*"... for I am the LORD, who heals you." - Exodus 15:26*



**Dying Healed workshop in Outlook**

The Dying Healed workshop was held earlier this year at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Outlook (above), and is also scheduled to take place Nov. 23 at Sacred Heart Church Hall in Davidson. Dying Healed addresses important issues about human suffering, human dignity and the power of human presence. It provides practical information for those who are called to spend time with people who are elderly, ill, disabled and dying; those people who are the most vulnerable to the negative influences of Canada’s euthanasia and assisted suicide law. For more info about Dying Healed, contact the diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy office at (306) 659-5839. - Photo by Jackie Saretsky

## Training provided to expand grief ministries

BY DIANNA KNAUS

FROM MOURNING TO DAWN

From Mourning to Dawn grief ministry for widows and widowers started in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in 2012, and it is continuing to expand to other communities.

This year, facilitator workshops were made available to volunteers from Denzil, Wilkie, Cudworth, Humboldt and Saskatoon.

Most volunteer facilitators are former participants or persons who have mentored with the From Mourning to Dawn group at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

The May 4, 2019 training, facilitated by Dr. Brian Chartier, and the Nov. 2, 2019 workshop, facilitated



**A training session was held Nov. 2 in Saskatoon.**

- Photo by Dianna Knaus

by Randy Robinson, helped to equip and empower new and experienced facilitators to more confidently and effectively facilitate groups.

Grief sessions will be offered for these communities and the surrounding towns as required.

Facilitators in Humboldt held their first session for bereaved spouses last fall, and have now completed their second group. One session was held in Denzil in 2015.

Included in the training were facilitators from “A Hand to Hold,” Humboldt, and the Sodalitas group for grieving persons that meets monthly at St. Mary parish in Saskatoon.

Funds from the Bishop James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family assisted in sponsoring the facilitator workshops, which were jointly organized by From Mourning to Dawn grief ministry and diocesan Transitions ministry.

# Exploring Our Pastoral Plan: Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom



## Priority 6: Move From Maintenance to Mission

Helping parishes proclaim Christ in everything

- Training and support to Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils – pastoral planning
- Training and support to parish ministries: - children, youth, adults, seniors
- Addressing features of rural communities
- Best human resources practices ‘tool kit’ to support and develop parish employees and volunteers
- Best financial and administrative practices ‘tool kit’ for parishes



**Stewardship Conference**

The Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference June 6-8 in Saskatoon addressed a range of topics, and included a fund-raising panel discussion by (above, l-r): Liz Baile, stewardship coordinator of Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese; Fr. Matthew Ramsay, pastor of St. Anne, Saskatoon; Fr. Peter Ebidero, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Martensville and St. Mark Parish, Langham. Fr. Darrin Gurr of Winnipeg (right) spoke to clergy at a pre-conference day, as well as giving a presentation on “The Spirituality of the Sunday offering.”



- Photos by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

*"Go in peace. The mission you are on is under the eye of the LORD." - Judges 18:6*

*"Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the Good News." - Romans 15:20*

*"To evangelize is to make the kingdom of God present in our world..." - Evangelii Gaudium # 176*

# Milestones marked at Muenster church

**BY FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB**  
**ST. PETER PARISH, MUENSTER**  
St. Peter's parish at Muenster celebrated two milestones this year.

Paintings in the parish sanctuary turned 100 years old. Count Berthold Imhoff painted the inside of the church in 1919, covering the holy space with 80 life-sized figures.

His work was a personal gift to his friend, Abbot Bruno Doerfler, OSB. The project, which ran May to August, cost the parish only \$3,000, the value of the material. The sanctuary art depicts persons and scenes from the Gospels, and saints from throughout Church history.

Another milestone was reached by the parish in June 2019, when the entrance to the church was demolished by parish volunteers to prepare for the construction of a new welcome area (vestibule).

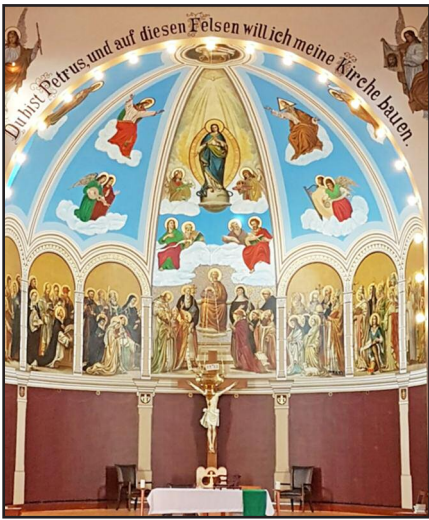
The front of the church that had greeted parishioners and visitors for more than a century was changed to prepare for a new look and new space. The welcome area, 28 feet by 20 feet, was constructed to enhance parish life.

The new space will be used for parish socials, meetings, children's liturgy, and overflow crowds. As well, the welcome area will provide a buffer against the outside cold and wind.

The welcome area has four windows which will be covered in stained glass, reflecting the theme of the four seasons and of family gathering. Sponsors are being sought for the windows.

Vern and Helga Hoing of Surrey, B.C. are the sponsors of the welcome area. The Hoings first contributed to the parish when it was renovated between 2008-2010 to prepare for the centennial of the building of the church.

St. Peter Church began in 1903 as a log building. In 1910 the present Romanesque



**Artwork by Count Berthold Imhoff is 100 years old this year.**  
- File photo



**A new entrance and welcome area is under construction at St. Peter's, which served as the cathedral for St. Peter's Abbey from 1921 to 1998.**  
- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB

building was constructed. The building became a cathedral on May 6, 1921, when the German Catholic settlement of St. Peter's Colony was raised to a territorial abbey (diocese), later known as St. Peter's Abbey (Muenster diocese).

The colony was administered by Benedictines, whose abbot was the spiritual leader of the abbacy. The church became the focal point of religious celebrations in St. Peter's Abbey. The Benedictines lived in an abbey east of the cathedral.

In 1921, the Benedictines relocated to their present location south of Muenster. The abbacy was discontinued in 1998, when it was absorbed into the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

The parish sanctuary brings the gospel to life through its art and statuary. The west entranced of the church opens to scenes of the "Agony in the Garden" and "The Crucifixion." In the centre (ceiling below the choir loft) is the "Good Shepherd," and rising above the nave at the entrance is

"The Ascension," commemorating the first Mass in the district celebrated May 21, 1903.

Other illustrations above the aisle depict "The Sacred Heart of Jesus," "The Annunciation," and "Eucharist" (above the altar. "The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary" adorns the left and right aisles. Disciples line the archways of the inside nave and west wall in the choir loft. The 14 Stations of the Cross depict scenes of Jesus on his way to his crucifixion. "The Heavenly Court" in the apse of the church, features nine arches with saints who were important historical figures for the pioneers of St. Peter's Colony: in the Centre arch is St. Peter (holding keys), who is in the presence of other monastic saints. Next to St. Peter are St. Benedict and his twin sister St. Scholastica.

On the apse ceiling is the sacrificial Lamb of God with the cross banner portraying the Lamb of Victory (Rev. 4:12). A dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit. God the Father is depicted with a triangular

halo, representing the Trinity. The Son has a crown and his arms are outstretched, embracing creation. Next to the Son is St. Joseph, holding a lily symbolizing purity. St. John the Baptist, near God the Father, announces the Lamb of God. Mary, the Mother of God, stands on a globe. The German inscription around her reads: "You are beautiful, Maria. And there is no stain of sin in you." Below Mary are the faces of the gospel writers: Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. The archway of the Heavenly Court has scripture in German, which reads: "You are Peter and upon this rock I will Build my church." (Mt. 16:18)

The faces of Benedictines are depicted on some saints. St. Paul (southeast pillar) is a portrait of Abbot Bruno who died at the age of 52 on June 12, 1919, the week Imhoff finished painting the apse. Saints Gregory (tiara) and Jerome (red hat) beneath St. Peter are portraits of Fr. Bernard Schaeffler and Fr. Peter Windschiegel. St. Chrysostom (arch 3) has the face of Fr. Chrysostom Hoffmann.

## Imhoff paintings of St. Peter and St. Paul moved to St. Paul's

**BY FR. STEFANO PENNA**  
**ST. PAUL CO-CATHEDRAL**

The Bishop's Annual Appeal video this year invited us to build upon the faith legacy of our fore-bearers. It is indeed a rich one here in Saskatchewan – including the remarkably productive career of the artist Count Berthold von Imhoff.

Over 200 beautifully painted, life-size images of the Saviour, Virgin Mary, and heroes of our Catholic faith grace churches across Saskatchewan including the remarkable works in St. Peter's Cathedral in Muenster, and churches at Reward, Paradise Hill, Marysburg, and Prince Albert.

From his studio in St. Walburg, SK, Imhoff responded to commissions from many parishes in Pennsylvania, North Dakota – and Blaine Lake, SK.

Ed and Carol Thorsteinson – long-time parishioners of St. Andrew parish in Blaine Lake (and my dear cousins) – recently informed me that sadly their church built in 1911 was to be decommissioned and sold.

Among the patrimony of this parish were two large paintings of Sts. Peter and Paul – the work of Imhoff in 1916, early upon his move to St. Walburg. Would the Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon be interested in this artwork, my cousins wondered? Would we!

With the blessing of Bishop Mark Hagemoen, I immediately contacted Bishop Albert Thévenot of Prince Albert who has



**Parishioners from St. Andrew parish in Blaine Lake, SK, attended the celebration at St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon at which the Imhoff paintings of Sts. Peter and Paul were unveiled in their new place of honour in the co-cathedral sanctuary.**  
- Photo by Ray Marchildon

responsibility for the sacred patrimony of his diocese. I asked that St. Paul Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon be allowed to host these wonderful works permanently. Bishop Thévenot graciously made this possible – with the proviso that a suitable acknowledgment of St. Andrew parish be prepared as a plaque.

Ray Marchildon, St. Paul Co-Cathedral building manager, and I travelled to Blaine Lake in a rented van that providentially allowed the paintings to fit perfectly. Despite their age, these two works of art (on nine-foot by four-foot canvases) were in excellent condition.

We laid them out in Bishop Mahoney Hall at St. Paul Co-Cathedral so that parishioners could examine them and reflect upon how this artwork could be

incorporated into our beautiful worship space.

It was almost unanimously agreed that the sanctuary was the best place for Imhoff's saints. So off to work we went to prepare the canvases and the walls (which had never had any adornment other than banners over all their many years). "We" included Ray Marchildon and Michael Raney who prepared, framed, and affixed St. Peter and Paul in their places (supported financially by two anonymous donors from the parish).

The unveiling of these paintings took place on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2019 in the presence of a full co-cathedral. Though Bishop Mark was unable to attend the unveiling (he will formally bless the plaque and finished frames at a later date)

– a cohort of parishioners from St. Andrew parish community in Blaine Lake were able to join us. Bittersweet as it was, these women and men of faith rejoiced that these works of faith-filled devotion that had inspired them and generations before, would now raise the minds and hearts of new generations.

"Those walls have been waiting for Peter and Paul," commented one of the St. Andrew's coterie. The visitors were moved by the welcome and applause of the co-cathedral congregation and were particularly touched to hear that the moulding in the corners would include the Cross of St. Andrew.

St. Paul Co-Cathedral has retained much of this beauty and

colour through devastating fires and renovations. It is a patrimony of the faith of our fore-bearers, the faith founded on St. Peter's confession and St. Paul's preaching. Indeed, beautiful art and architecture for us is only important as it serves to proclaim: "Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"!

A few weeks after the installation, a parishioner said to me, "Father, there is something different about the cathedral." I asked if he meant the new portraits. He paused, smiled, and said, "Hah. I guess so. I should have noticed. It is as if they have always been there."

That is true. Peter, Rock of the Church, Paul, Patron of our diocese have always been with us.



**Knights of Columbus fundraising**  
Representatives of the Knights of Columbus council from St. Peter parish, Unity, SK, added a donation of \$17,757 – which was raised at a gala in their community – to the total being raised for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital at the sixth annual Knights of Columbus Celebrity Dinner held Nov. 2 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Over the years the Celebrity Dinner has raised more than \$325,000 for the new children's hospital. The 2019 dinner included entertainment by St. Joseph High School Choir and Kids of Note and the Notations, and guest speaker Todd Burpo, author of *Heaven is For Real*, and his wife Sonja.  
- Photo by Tim Yaworski

# Construction underway for Hospice at Glengarda

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**  
The Hospice at Glengarda project continues to move forward, with a number of major gift announcements in recent months, and construction underway after a sod-turning celebration in May.

Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Roman Catholic diocese of Saskatoon blessed the site during the May 28, 2019 ground-breaking ceremony, which included the announcement of a \$2 million gift to the Close to Home campaign from Les and Irene Dubé.

The Close to Home campaign to build Saskatchewan’s first stand-alone residential hospice on the site of the former Ursuline convent at Hilliard Street and Melrose Avenue in southeast Saskatoon, is now even closer to its \$20-million goal. A number of other major gifts have been announced in recent months, following on an initial \$6-million anonymous donation given in honour of the late Gord Engel, whose story helped to launch the campaign

Moving testimony about what the Hospice at Glengarda will mean to patients and families at the end of life was provided at the sod-turning by patient advisor



the official sod-turning celebration was held for the Hospice at Glengarda in May. Construction is now underway. - Photo by K. Yaworski

Delores Wolfe, who is one of those who has given input into the design and operation of the new facility.

Wolfe described the vision for the Hospice at Glengarda: “Here, a dying person (who one day could be me), can find a second home. Here my pain and other physical symptoms will be managed by a physician and staff who are trained and experienced in caring for the dying. Here there will be familiar, home-like sounds and sights and smells, like the smell of cookies baking in the oven, the sound of a child’s voice, the comfort of a pet’s visit, the opportunity to gaze at a fire in the fireplace and the relaxation

of soaking in a tub... Here the spiritual and psychological tasks that I will face when I am dying will be supported in art therapy, in music that stirs emotions and memories, in spiritual care, and in a general environment that encourages me to address these tasks. Here I will know that my loved ones too are receiving what they need as they care for me as they can. They will have people to turn to with their concerns and their own grieving process.”

Among those in the crowd witnessing the official sod-turning was Sr. Anne Lewans, OSU. After the celebration, she described how the Ursulines of Prelate are pleased that plans for their former residence to become a residential hospice are now becoming a reality. “This is evidence today that it is finally happening and I am so pleased — and all the sisters are really,

really happy that this is the way the residence is going,” she said.

Construction of this new 15-bed hospice in Saskatoon will add another important dimension to palliative care in the community, said Dr. Vivian Walker, co-medical director of palliative care services, in an interview earlier this year.

Palliative care is not so much about a facility as it is about a philosophy of care when a cure is not possible, explained Walker. “Palliative care is really about providing excellent care when you have a life limiting illness,” she said. “It is care that helps a person live out their last season of life.”

Most of us long to spend that last season of life in our own home, but that is not always possible when medical needs require more advanced hands-on care, she said. That is where the palliative care offered in a hospital or hospice is needed.

To have a hospice as part of the palliative care services provided in the community will offer a “close to home” option, and will make palliative care more available.

“Having spiritual care alongside the physical care, and having the healing arts alongside, is so important — just like when we go to any tough place in our life, it is generally not spoken words that we need — but it is the heart stuff that matters most.” Spiritual care, music and art

therapy, care for the family are all part of the strength of palliative care, Walker said.

“It is like palliative care is a blanket, which you wrap around a patient, and a family, to keep them warm when trouble has come. That is why there will be spiritual space in the building, attention to light, attention to (the needs of) all faiths so everyone is welcome.”

In addition to funding construction of the hospice, the Close to Home campaign is also directed at strengthening palliative care in the community in other ways.

“We want to make sure that palliative care is available to all, and that no one stands outside of exceptional care, when they face life-limiting illness — and especially as life seems to be coming to the last season,” Walker said.

Therefore, other priorities for the Close to Home campaign include: **establishing Holistic Care Endowments** to provide bereavement care, spiritual care and healing arts therapy to patients and families facing end-of-life, both in the Hospice at Glengarda and in the community; **establishing an Education Fund** to enrich the skills of professional end-of-life caregivers and community members in Saskatoon; and **undertaking needed renovations** to the Palliative Care Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital.

“Given companionship and great care, the process of approaching death can be made so much more comfortable, and less scary,” said Walker.

“That is how I want to go — good music playing, and my family held and supported, and having the time and the ability to say thank you to all the people who have made such an imprint on my life.”

For the latest updates, and/or to donate, see the St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation campaign site: [www.CloseToHome.fund](http://www.CloseToHome.fund) or call (306) 655-5821 or e-mail [info@sphfoundation.org](mailto:info@sphfoundation.org) for more information.



Children’s hospital blessing

Jackie Saretsky (right), diocesan coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy, and Fr. Matthew Ramsay of St. Anne parish, Saskatoon, were among those in attendance at a recent multi-faith celebration to bless the Spiritual Room on the main floor of the new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital. Prayer leaders at the celebration included Fr. Rhéal Bussière, Catholic chaplain. (Catholic Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal) Find more coverage at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) by searching “hospital.” - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski



GSCS school year launch

Keynote speaker Ansel Augustine of New Orleans, USA, addressed some 2,000 teachers, staff, administrators and trustees of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools at an opening celebration Aug. 30, that included Mass, a commissioning, and welcoming words from board Chair Diane Boyko and Director of Education Greg Chatlain. Find more coverage at Catholic Saskatoon News: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca) - Photo by Kiply Lukan Yaworski

## Bishop blesses statue of Saint Mother Teresa at park in Macklin

**BY FRANCES STANG, ST. MARY, MACKLIN**  
The faith community of St. Mary parish in Macklin, SK, welcomed Bishop Mark Hagemoen on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, as he joined the parish community at the grotto in St. Joseph’s Park to celebrate the feast day of their parish with Mass and a special ceremony to dedicate a new feature in the park.

St. Joseph’s Park has been in existence since the 1930s when the Sisters of St. Elizabeth built the former St. Joseph’s Hospital on the property and added the park as a place of respite and prayer for the Sisters. The grotto was built in 1932 with a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes (carved in Oberammergau, Germany) as the focal point.

Over time, as the number of Sisters living in St. Anthony’s Convent and nursing at St. Joseph’s declined, upkeep of the park was neglected. In 2009, a committee was formed to restore the park and make it available to the residents of St. Joseph’s Health Facility as well as the public.

Many hours of work have been spent in rejuvenating, enhancing and maintaining the park to make it a place of peace and serenity as once was the vision of the Sisters. There is a paved walkway along which are the Stations of the Cross. The thirteenth station is marked with a statue of the pieta.

The park committee in conjunction with Macklin-Denzil Pro-Life decided that a monument to St. Mother Teresa would be a fitting addition to the park. St. Mother Teresa was a great advocate for unborn children and the poorest of the poor. She said that the world’s greatest poverty was abortion. Generous support from donors enabled the successful completion of the project. A statue of St. Mother Teresa was commissioned and placed in the park.

The celebration Sept. 8 started with the unveiling and blessing of the statue of St. Mother Teresa by the bishop. Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Hagemoen and Fr. Binu Rathappillil, VC, followed by a barbecue and fellowship in the parish hall.



Pro-Life witness in Macklin

About 50 people of all ages gathered at St. Mary Catholic Church in Macklin June 9 for the annual Macklin-Denzil Pro-Life (MDPL) Walk for Life. The event included prayers, and a walk from the church to the outdoor grotto at St. Joseph Park, as well as a silent vigil along Highway 3, before the walk continued down Highway 31, to Star Avenue, Main Street, Express Avenue and back to the church. Approximately \$1,600 was raised, with proceeds going to a statue of St. Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) for the park in Macklin (see article about Sept. 28 blessing of statue, left), as well as to Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre in Saskatoon. Photo by Frances Stang

# Dr. Carl Still installed president of St. Thomas More College

**BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI**  
Dr. Carl Still, PhD, was officially installed as the 12th president of St. Thomas More College Sept. 29, 2019 during an annual Academic Mass.

Still, who joined the philosophy department at STM in 1995, and later served as department head, also served as dean of STM College from 2006 to 2016, and served as interim president after the retirement of Dr. Terrence Downey in 2018. The college's board of governors subsequently appointed Still to serve as president of STM for a five-year term, effective May 1, 2019.

Dr. Gertrude Rompré, Director of Mission and Ministry for STM, welcomed those gathered for the celebration.



**Newly installed President of St. Thomas More College Dr. Carl Still and other members of the college community were commissioned and blessed at the annual Academic Mass Sept. 29.** - Photo by Kiply Yaworski

Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at Mass. Special guests included members of the Basilian order: Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB; Fr.

Terry Kersch, CSB; and Fr. George Smith, CSB. Fr. André Lalach of the STM chaplaincy team and Fr. Sami Helewa, SJ, of

Campion College in Regina also concelebrated Mass.

The investiture began with a smudging ceremony introduced by Harry Lafond, STM Scholar in Indigenous Education, with prayers for Dr. Still led by Elders Patricia and A. J. Felix of Sturgeon Lake First Nation, who are members of STMs Advisory Circle on Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation.

Marie Stack, Chair of the STM Board of Governors, then asked Dr. Still to pledge himself to the mission of St. Thomas More College "in light of its commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition, inspired by St. Thomas More, Blessed John Henry Newman and the charism of the Basilian Fathers."

Dr. Still also committed

himself to work to create an inclusive community at STM, to promote a partnership of learning and growth with students "which addresses the synthesis of faith and reason in all aspects of the human condition," to foster the creative discovery of truth and its open dissemination, and "to share in Christ's service to the people of God," ensuring that the efforts of the college remain directed to the good of all humanity.

The new president was then vested with the academic gown of the STM College president. The annual Academic Mass also included the commissioning and blessing of the wider St. Thomas More College community by Bishop Mark Hagemoen for their service in the coming year.

## New member appointed to Campus Ministry Team at STM College

**BY PAUL SINKEWICZ**  
**ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**  
Celeste Woloschuk is the newest member of the Campus Ministry team at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon.

Woloschuk has a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Saint Paul University in Ottawa and has most recently been working at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. She has also served as Pastoral Agent at Saint Paul University, as well as spending time in Saskatoon as the diocesan ecumenical and interfaith coordinator, and interim administrative assistant to the bishop.

Gertrude Rompré, Director of Mission and Ministry at STM, noted the wealth of skills and experience Woloschuk brings to the STM Campus Ministry Team, including her musical talent.

Woloschuk says her direction in life was influenced by her own time as a student at STM, when classes in Christianity and Catholic studies ignited a passion that drew her into the field. The new Campus Ministry team member says she intends "to be a presence of love and joy, and



**Celeste Woloschuk**

work to try and help people as they journey through life."

She is close in age to students, and hopes her own university experience will be a bridge to those in need of a friendly word or a patient listener. "One of my goals is to help work together to create a safe community for each other." That includes a safe place to delve into the deeper aspects of life, including faith and spirituality, she adds.

## Speakers consider the role of faith in politics

**BY PAUL SINKEWICZ**  
**ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE**  
The first event in the 2019-2020 Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair in Catholic Studies series offered a chance for the public to consider the role of faith in politics.

Religion and the 2019 Canadian Federal Election: A Multi-faith Dialogue, was held Sept. 18 at St. Thomas More College, hosted by the Department of Political Studies, with moderator Dr. David McGrane.

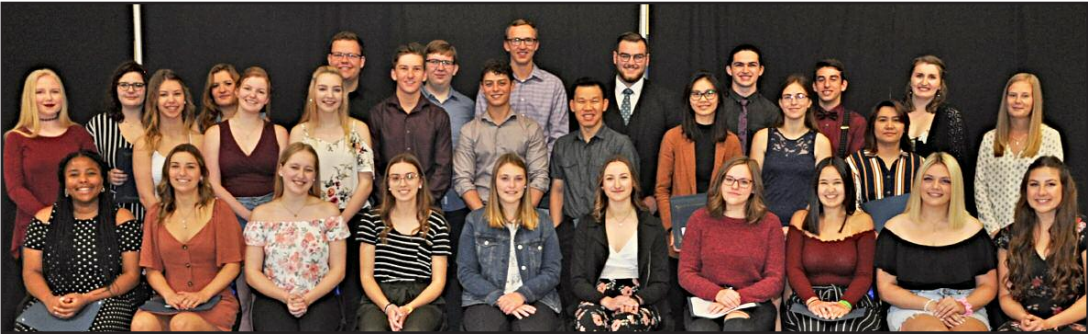
The Dubé Chair in Catholic Studies supports scholarship and research related to Catholic teaching and tradition, fosters Catholic education and promotes ecumenical dialogue and awareness of other faith traditions.

Dr. Carl Still, President of

STM, described the event as "an extraordinary opportunity to learn how at least four different religious traditions think about faith and politics."

Participants on the panel were representatives of the Christian, Muslim, Indigenous and Sikh religious traditions.

Panelists were Amara Zuhair, a PhD candidate in chemistry; Dr. Sandra Beardsall, a United Church of Canada minister and a member of the faculty of St. Andrew's College; Dr. Tajinder Grewal, a provincial candidate for the NDP and an agricultural scientist; and Harry Lafond, a member of the Muskeg Lake First Nation, where he has served as both a chief and a counsellor, who currently serves as STM's Scholar in Indigenous Education.



**This year, St. Peter's College at Muenster, SK presented \$79,913 in awards to students.** - Submitted photo

## St. Peter's College offers opportunities and awards

**BY KRYSTAL SHUTKO**  
**ST. PETER'S COLLEGE**  
St. Peter's College hosted the Opportunities Edge Career Fair 2019 on Oct. 2.

Some 500 high school students from the surrounding area visited the college at Muenster, SK, for the annual event, which included 35 exhibits and a number of presentations. The career fair provides an opportunity for high school students to review many different options for their future.

As most applications are now open for all colleges and universities next year, it is important that students know all their options. St. Peter's College has hosted this career fair for years, a central location for many of the surrounding high schools.

Opportunities Edge also gives students a chance to check out St. Peter's College and consider it as an option for starting their university studies. The college located at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, SK offers University of Saskatchewan classes taught by University of Saskatchewan professors and is a

great place to take an entire first year of studies.

At an annual Awards Day Ceremony earlier in the fall, St. Peter's College brought together students, families, donors and dignitaries to celebrate the accomplishments of students.

Most of the students who received scholarships and bursaries (and their families) were in attendance at the Sept. 21 Awards Day to accept their awards, meet some of the donors, have lunch and have their pictures taken. Through the generosity of donors, the College handed out \$79,913 in awards to 52 students this year.

The scholarships and bursaries vary, and provide opportunities for any St. Peter's College student to apply for an award. Many of the awards have been running long term and yet new ones appear each year. The awards differ in their requirements: for instance, financial need, high grades, or community involvement, just to name a few. As well, awards vary in amount, from \$250 up to \$7,000 for individual winners.



**Opportunities Edge Career Fair was held Oct. 2.** - Submitted photo

Awards go to first-year students who are just starting their university studies at St. Peter's College and a few others go to St. Peter's College students, who have headed to the main University of Saskatchewan campus to continue pursuing degrees.

Donors who provide these awards create an outstanding additional advantage for students attending St. Peter's College to start university studies (who are also able to apply for other University of Saskatchewan or external awards.)

For more information about St. Peter's College see the website: [stpeterscollege.ca](http://stpeterscollege.ca)



**St. John Henry Newman celebrated**

"Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead thou me on..." - The famous and beautiful prayer by St. John Henry Newman was the communion reflection hymn during an Oct. 15 celebration of the Eucharist at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, held to mark Newman's canonization as a saint (he was canonized by Pope Francis Oct. 13 at St. Peter's, Rome). Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at the STM Mass, which was followed by a social time that included a pizza supper. The Newman Club for Catholic students at the University of Saskatchewan pre-dates the founding of the federated Catholic College

# Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre settles into new building

BY ANNE-MARIE HUGHES,  
PREGNANCY OPTIONS CENTRE

The last four months have been a blur for staff and volunteers of Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC). Events have included a change in location, moving into a new set of “just finished” offices, along with a capital campaign to help pay for the new space, and an annual Gala fundraiser for some 400 people, that was also the 20th anniversary of the opening of crisis pregnancy support services.

“We have gained so much knowledge about moving and outfitting a new building that we don’t plan on using again,” says Executive Director Cathy LaFleche. “When you work with people in crisis there is also the challenge of trying to stay open and available for clients in need, while organizing tiny details and making moment-to-moment decisions. We were proud to say we actually only really shut down the office for a week, but still took crisis calls and texts over the phone.”

The new address is 103-2543 Dudley Street, off 11th Street, close to Holiday Park. There is a bus stop a block away and clients that use transit are figuring out how to use the system most

efficiently and teaching staff the ins and outs of bussing to this location.

The new building, Dudley Common, was the dream of Keystone Paving owner Colin Enns. His business was expanding and he decided to create a space for his operation with room for other businesses he knew and for SPOC. “Colin is a long-term supporter of the centre and attended the 2017 gala. When he heard the part of my speech about our search for more space, he responded immediately after that night talking about his new building. It was really an answer to prayer,” says LaFleche.

The centre operates with a full time executive director, two part-time staff and 25 volunteers. Moving meant upgrading phones, computers and media systems. and training staff and volunteers to use the new technology. “Changing over technology could easily be a full-time job in itself,” explains Client Advocate Director Tracy Unger. “Our parenting education curriculum moved from DVDs to a streaming system like Netflix around the time of the move. We use this for our one-on-one ‘Earn While You Learn’ parenting

support program where we do pregnancy information like labour and delivery and after-birth parenting care and training. This system has great flexibility and we can even e-mail and text video modules to clients – but it has meant being patient with ourselves while becoming confident with its use.”

Moving has not all been about serving more clients, but also expanding what can be done for existing clients, explains volunteer Elaine Schlosser.

“We have taken the opportunity of more space to ‘up our game a bit’ with our Mom’s Drop In. We are offering a parenting course every Wednesday afternoon for six weeks. Parents can still drop in, but for those who come for every class, they will get a certificate and ten ‘baby bucks’ to spend in our new supply Baby Boutique. Clients are excited about it and have pre registered already. In our old space, moms were almost on top of each other. We couldn’t easily offer group classes.”

The centre is now busier than ever. “Many call thinking they can schedule an abortion at the centre. We always let them know we aren’t a medical office so we don’t arrange medical proce-



Volunteer Sylvia Elchuk (right) makes an “Earn While you Learn” parent education appointment at the new location. - Photo by A. Hughes

dures. Often callers will still come in or talk on the phone to receive the information they need about the abortion process. We can spend over an hour with a client – whatever time they need. We also have contacts with outside agencies and resource materials for both parenting and adoption that many physicians are not aware of. Women call referred by their doctors, as they need the time and unstructured environment to talk about themselves physically, mentally, and spiritually, if they wish.”

“We also get calls from medical clinics and other mental health agencies asking about post-abortion care. Often agencies are looking for help

dealing with this specific issue, as it is different from other forms of depression and grief,” explains LaFleche.

Getting the message out of what services are offered at the centre is always a concern. “We use all forms of media, from church bulletins to social media.”

To people who are interested in getting in touch, LaFleche suggests: “You can get a good idea of who we are by following us on Facebook and many of our calls and texts are from Google searches. The most important thing to know – if it involves pregnancy in any way – [is to] contact us, however it works for you. Give us a call. We can help somehow.”

# CWL Fall Gathering, regional workshops and membership

BY CONNIE MCGRATH,  
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON,  
DIOCESE OF SASKATOON CWL

The Saskatoon Diocese CWL Fall Gathering, planned by the executive, was held Sept. 9 at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon, with 60 members of the Catholic Women’s League attending.

Guest speaker Fr. Denis Phaneuf spoke on Mental and Physical Health for the Vitality of Christians. He was both informative and entertaining as he included personal anecdotes.

Fr. Denis acknowledged the Catholic Women’s League theme, Care For Our Common Home, by encouraging those present to become vibrant Christian women who bring the presence of Christ into the world that is our common home. To do that, we must be well in body, soul and spirit. He explained that he lost weight, increased mental acuity, and quit taking insulin all by a lifestyle change that included eating better. The



Delegates at the 2019 Diocesan Catholic Women’s League convention in Watson, SK. - Photo by K. Yaworski

previous Food Guide called for eating far too many carbs which spike the blood sugar level, he said, adding that doctors now understand the connection of blood sugar spikes to diabetes.

Another speaker, Cathy LaFleche, explained how her involvement with the pro-life organization Fountain of Hope led her to become the executive director of the Saskatoon Pregnancy Option Centre in 2015.

She cautioned that if you humbly say yes to God, telling God: “I’ll do anything you want me to do,” be prepared to be stretched – but with God, you find the strength, guidance, and courage necessary to succeed.

LaFleche invited CWL members to an open house Oct. 5 at the new Pregnancy Options Centre location, 2543 Dudley St., Saskatoon and introduced the organization’s new website: [www.saskatoonpregnancy.com](http://www.saskatoonpregnancy.com)

## CWL Regional Workshops

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada was founded in 1920. Next year, 2020, we proudly celebrate 100 years of Catholic women gathering together in friendship for faith development, service projects, and social justice endeavors.

CWL members are connected nationally by the theme: Care For Our Common Home. Saskatoon Diocese CWL Executive has created workshops that highlight this theme and also explain a new ongoing strategic plan for the League.

Forward-thinking women have recognized that, in order for the organization to survive the next 100 technology-driven years, it is necessary to do some tweaking now.

There are workshops being held in the five regions of the CWL in the Saskatoon diocese:

- **St. Angela Region** – Workshop was held Sept. 14, 2019 in the Rosetown/Fox Valley area.
- **St. Joseph Region** – Workshop was held Oct. 26 in the Unity/Kerrobert area.
- **St. Peter Region** – Workshop was held Oct. 5 in Cudworth/ Humboldt area.
- **Manitou Region** – Workshop is pending in the Wynyard/ Kenaston area
- **Our Lady of Grace Region** – Workshop will be held Feb. 29, 2020 at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon.

## CWL Welcomes Members

The CWL is the largest organization of women in Canada. About 77,000 women across the country choose to join other devout, dedicated, faith-filled, community-minded, devoted Catholic sisters as members of the League.

November is membership month. We encourage Catholic women to join and become informed by receiving the *Canadian League* magazine three times a year.

The national CWL website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) provides information, pictures and videos. The menu item “To inform/On the Spot” allows you to see how sisters all across the country are involved in being the hands and heart of Christ, as we are all called to.

Don’t have time?

CWL Leagues understand that women are busy, over-extended, and weary, so you can choose how involved to be. Which strand fits your life today?

- **Active members** attend meetings, serve on the executive, and do what they can.
- **Inactive members** don’t attend meetings but keep informed through the website, The *Canadian League* magazine and Sunday bulletin.
- **Financial members** recognize the value of a national Catholic Women’s organization and support it financially.
- **Prayer members** are often unable to attend evening meetings, but are able to be a “Prayer Warrior,” which is a powerful contribution.

We are called to be the hands and heart of Christ in the world. Please consider joining the Catholic Women’s League.

The fun, friendship, spiritual nourishment, service projects and leadership opportunities will enrich your life beyond what you might imagine.

For more information, contact the CWL council at your local parish or see the website at: [cwlsk.ca](http://cwlsk.ca)



Fox Valley CWL event

Every year the Catholic Women’s League at St. Mary’s Church in Fox Valley brings all of the clothing donated throughout the year to the community hall. This year, the set up began the Saturday before the Sept. 12-15 event. There was a record number of helpers this year from the community as well as from the church. The hall was jam-packed full of clothing, bedding, linens, household items, toys, books, DVDs, shoes, purses, costumes, and more. As tables emptied, more came to fill them again. Many people came from all over and picked up necessities and treasures.

- Photo by Susan Rose, St. Mary, Fox Valley



The provincial executive of the Catholic Women's League.  
- Submitted photo

## Catholic Women's League exploring 2019-2020 theme: "Care for Our Common Home"

BY MARGE APPELL  
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON  
SASKATCHEWAN CWL COUNCIL

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization whose mission statement "calls its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service."

The League has 77,000 members across Canada and is open to all Catholic women, 16 years of age and older. Memberships can be renewed or purchased for the coming year through local parish councils.

The CWL theme for the years 2019-2020 is "Care for Our Common Home", calling for reflection and actions to protect the beauty of our planet and sustain it for future generations.

In Saskatchewan, "Inclusion" is an additional focus, encouraging all our members to reach out

to others, especially our Indigenous and international sisters, as we join together in working for the common good.

At the annual national CWL convention, held this year in Calgary, AB, two resolutions were passed:

- Calling for Canada to honour its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- Calling for Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Every year a delegation from the Catholic Women's League national executive meets with representatives of our Canadian government to discuss the CWL resolutions as well as other topics of interest to our organization.

This open door to our government is of great importance to the League.

## Interest from K of C Vocation Endowment contributes to education of seminarians

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI,

Fourteen seminarians from Saskatchewan this year received \$1,000 to support their studies thanks to a Saskatchewan K of C Vocation Endowment initiated in 2018-19.

Diocese of Saskatoon seminarian Van Tam (Luke) Tran was one of those to receive support through the endowment. He entered his second year of seminary at Christ the King Seminary in Mission, BC this fall.

"The Sask K of C Vocation Endowment initiative has proven to be a rewarding and satisfying experience," said Harvey Granatier in a letter sent to bishops, pastors and parishioners on behalf of the Vocation Endowment Steering Committee.

"In our initial year, we exceeded our target by raising in excess of \$300,000 in donations. Coupled with the commitment made by the Sask K of C Charitable Foundation to match the first \$250,000, we now have approximately \$550,000 in the Sask K of C Vocation Endowment Fund," said Granatier.

The Vocation Endowment was introduced as a three-year initiative, with preparations underway for a second year of fundraising, with a \$250,000 target this year.

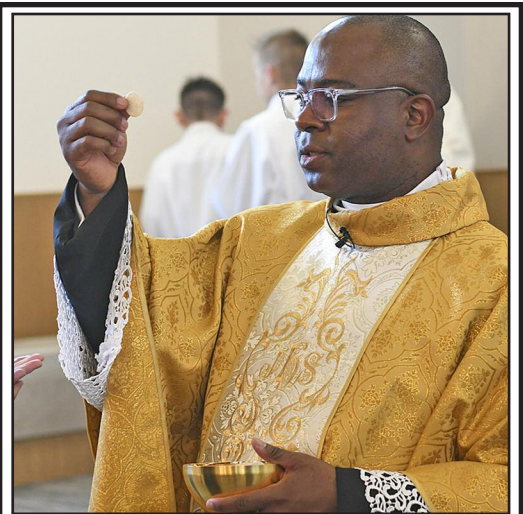
"The Sask K of C Vocation Endowment strategy was designed to pay an equal amount to each seminarian based on the earnings generated from the Fund each year," Granatier explained. "This year we paid out \$1,000 to each of the 14 seminarians associated with the dioceses and eparchy in Saskatchewan. It is important to note that the



Diocese of Saskatoon Seminarian Van Tam (Luke) Tran is one of those to receive support.  
- Submitted photo)

\$14,000 paid out to the seminarians was from the earnings of the Vocation Endowment fund. We will not pay out any of the principal. Every dollar donated to the Sask K of C Vocations Endowment will continue to earn revenue in perpetuity for the training and development of priests."

In addition, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Office offers a program to encourage Knights of Columbus Councils and members to support the training and development of clergy, which will provide a rebate of 20 per cent for each dollar paid out to seminarians. "When received, these RSVP rebate dollars will be deposited directly into the Vocation Endowment fund to further assist in future earnings," said Granatier.



### Martensville celebration

In July 2019, Fr. Peter Ebidero of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination as a priest. A parish celebration included celebration of Mass, a dinner, and entertainment. It has been a busy year for the Martensville parish, with many ministries and events underway, as well as celebration of another milestone: paying off the parish mortgage on a recent church expansion project. - Submitted photo

## Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, returns to St. Peter's Abbey

BY FR. PAUL PAPROSKI, OSB  
ST. PETER'S ABBEY, MUENSTER

Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, is known for his sense of humour and gentle disposition – qualities he is remembered for while serving as a parish priest. He continues to share his joy with the Benedictines of St. Peter's Abbey, where he attends daily Mass, prayer and meals.

The Benedictine community's hope is that Fr. Joseph can continue to enjoy good health, says Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB. Fr. Joseph Ackerman turned 95 on Sept. 20, 2019, and was recognized by the monastic community and friends.

Fr. Joseph retired in August 2016 at the age of 91, after serving the parishes of St. Bruno in Bruno, and St. Agnes in Peterson, SK, for 19 years. In 2017, he was honoured by the community of Bruno for his support of local events, in the naming of a local park as "Fr. Joe Park." Also in 2017, Fr. Joseph moved from the rectory to the



Fr. Joseph Ackerman, OSB, recently celebrated his 95th birthday. - Submitted

Prairie View residence in Bruno. He transferred to St. Peter's Abbey in August 2019.

Fr. Joseph worked in parishes for some 60 years. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1958.

Baptized Peter, Fr. Joseph was born in the village of Balgonie, SK on Sept. 20, 1924, one of 15 children of Andrew and Emilia Ackerman. He received his early education in Wolseley, Estevan and Regina. After a brief period of employment, Fr. Joseph enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, serving overseas in the Second World War from 1943 to 1945.

He took a new direction from 1947 to 1951 when he attended St. Peter's College and then entered the Order of St. Benedict, where he received his present name "Joseph." He completed a year's novitiate at St. Peter's Abbey, and then continued his seminary studies at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Fr. Joseph was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter's Cathedral,

Muenster, by Saskatoon Bishop Francis Klein. Following ordination, Fr. Joseph taught at St. Peter's high school, assisted in various parishes, served as assistant business manager at St. Peter's Abbey and became pastor of the Muenster and St. Gregory parishes.

In 1970, Fr. Joseph went on a sabbatical, where he studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and then Duke University, Durham, NC.

Fr. Joseph then served the parishes of St. Anthony and St. James at Lake Lenore. His next assignment was to the Pilger and Middle Lake parishes. His final parish work was in Bruno and Peterson.

Wherever Fr. Joseph served, he was active in parish and community groups and clubs. He enjoyed the outdoors, having a fondness for hunting, fishing, hockey and golf.

## Latin Mass community hosts workshop on Gregorian chant

BY JULIE ABERNETHY

The Latin Mass community in Saskatoon recently held its first-ever Gregorian chant workshop.

Fr. Robert Fromageot was welcomed in October from the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter (FSSP) to review the basics of chant and bring a greater understanding of how this ancient music is sung.

The Second Vatican Council document on Sacred Liturgy – *Sacrosanctum Consilium* – states clearly that "Gregorian chant... should be given the pride place in liturgical services." (SC #116)

Recently there has been an



Fr. Robert Fromageot led a Gregorian chant workshop. -Submitted photo

increased desire expressed in the diocese to bring chant into worship, and organizers were happy to bring people from a variety of parishes together for the workshop.

Fr. Fromageot is well-known

for the work he has done in helping teach Gregorian chant. He has appeared as a guest on EWTN's "The Call" and "Life on the Rock," and was in charge of the musical formation of seminarians when he was in his

formation years as a priest.

The Saskatoon workshop is one of a long list of workshops that he has conducted in Canada and the United States over the past 20 years. Originally from New York State and now serving in Vancouver, he said that he was happy to spend some time getting to know Saskatoon. His passion for chant and his expertise inspired those attending the workshop to take this most sacred music and great gift of the Church more seriously.

"It is not about what we want or like," said Fr. Fromageot, "but what the Church regards as the highest form of music – the most

fitting music whereby we worship God."

For those interested in hearing chant sung during liturgy, there are sung Latin Masses in the Traditional Form every Sunday at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Saskatoon, and sung Latin Masses in the Novus Ordo (New Form) on the first Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Co-Cathedral.

The Latin Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church, 301 Avenue Y South, and at various times throughout the week. For information visit: [www.saskatoonlatinmass.com](http://www.saskatoonlatinmass.com)

# Queen’s House focuses on Oblate ministry of retreat and renewal

By **BRENDAN BITZ**  
**QUEEN’S HOUSE**

For over 60 years, Queen’s House has served as a home for the Oblate mission of faith and spirituality focused on retreat and renewal.

As a face of Oblate ministry, Queen’s House serves our diocese, our local, extensive and vibrant faith community, and many individuals and groups from near and far who seek space and place for their work and planning – both central to and beyond an explicit faith focus.

Many expressions of faith and community continue to find a home at Queen’s House.

The Advisory Board and staff at Queen’s House continue a planning and decision-making dialogue with the newly appointed national Oblate Leadership Team to select the path forward for optimal ministry and renewal at Queen’s House well into the future. To this end, we have completed a detailed review of the facility and grounds in order to more clearly understand renewal planning. We continue with a technology renewal plan designed to assist us with all aspects of the operational work of our ministry.

Further, through the support and engagement of our board and the financial commitment of our Oblate community, Queen’s House has hired Martha Fergusson to serve as Events and Engagement Coordinator, to assist in all areas of development. Martha encourages participation in community events and has been an active participant in the work and leadership of Women in Ministry at Queen’s House since 2013.

Planned events that are unfolding in support of Queen’s House include:

• **Snowball Fling Raffle 2019:** This is a new raffle to assist in Queen’s House mission and ministry. Tickets are on sale until Nov. 30. Daily draws begin Dec. 1 and conclude on Christmas Day, with a special Mazenod Oblate Feast Day draw for \$1,000 on Dec. 8, 2019;

• **Gala Dinner 2019 on Thursday, Nov. 21:** Queen’s House staff and board host this annual Gala Fundraising Dinner. Since its inception in 2003, this event has raised over \$280,000. Please consider attending or supporting this major fundraising event through a sponsorship donation. Tickets for the Nov. 21 gala are \$125 per person (includes \$75 charitable receipt). Tables of 8 and 10 are available.

• **Roots and Wings Campaign:** Our roots are alive in the rich mission tradition and charism of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Their model, witness and faith provide the guidance and inspiration that plays out in our tranquil facility and grounds located by the river in the heart of the city. Their commitment to all through hospitality and community remains as true as ever. Our wings extend this commitment to hospitality through events, programs, and other happenings that occur each day for and with our community. Be part of our Roots and Wings Campaign by contributing to the ministry and mission of Queen’s House.

**Queen’s House contact information:**

**Reception:** (306) 242-1916; receptionist@queenshouse.org  
**Events:** (306) 270-2378; devofficer@queenshouse.org  
**Website:** www.queenshouse.org  
**Address:** 601 Taylor Street W., Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training offered in Saskatoon Jan. 17-22

Training in Level 1 of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be offered Jan. 17- 22, 2020 at St. Vincent Lerins Orthodox Church, 821 Avenue E North, Saskatoon.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based catechetical approach for young children that deepens their love of Jesus and their experience of liturgy and scripture.

This training is open to anyone interested, which includes parishioners, parents, family members, or anyone who works with children or youth, including teachers, youth ministers, sacramental preparation leaders and home schoolers.

For more information contact Linda Funk at lfunk@shaw.ca or register online for the course at [www.cgsac.ca/home.html](http://www.cgsac.ca/home.html). Childcare is available at an additional cost.

“I have seen the children blossom and their eyes light up, (and) a deep joy and great understanding grow as they work with materials and are at peace in the Atrium, the space where Catechesis of the Good Shepherd takes place,” says Lisette Fontaine of the Trinity pastoral region, which hosts one of the CGS atrium locations now offered by volunteers in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

“I have also had lovely moments with children preparing for their sacraments with the CGS materials,” she said.

“I have become a better mother and educator thanks to this method, and my faith continues to grow with my experiences in CGS. I hope you all will be touched by the grace, beauty and faith-filled experience Catechesis of the Good Shepherd brings.”

**Retrouvaille: A Lifeline For Troubled Marriages**

*Is your marriage in crisis? Communication problems?*

**You are not alone.**

RestoreMarriage.ca

Next weekend: April 3-5, 2020

HelpOurMarriage.com

For more information, contact: 306-652-7155; retrouvaille@sasktel.net

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

*First Nations and Métis Parish*

## KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE TEAM

The Kairos Blanket Exercise is a unique, participatory process that assists in building a better understanding and awareness of our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. The Team presents this powerful and healing exercise to parishes, groups and organizations. For more information contact:

Ivan & Kathy Hitchings

[hitchings.ink@sasktel.net](mailto:hitchings.ink@sasktel.net)

### Simbang Gabi – A pre-Christmas Novena

Mass will be celebrated by the Filipino Catholic Community of Saskatoon at a different Saskatoon parish on nine evenings from Dec. 15 to Dec. 23. There is a potluck meal after every Mass, please bring something to share. Everyone is welcome!

- 5 p.m., Sunday Dec. 15** at St. Paul Co-Cathedral, 720, Spadina Crescent
- 7 p.m., Monday Dec. 16** at Holy Spirit, 114 Kingsmere Place
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17** at St. Francis Xavier, corner of Hilliard Street and Melrose Avenue
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18** at St. Philip Neri, 1902 Munroe Avenue
- 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19** at St. Anne, 217 Lenore Drive
- 7 pm. Friday, Dec. 20** at St. Mary, 211 Avenue O South
- 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21** at St. Patrick, 3339 Centennial Crescent
- 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22** at St. Peter the Apostle, 1121 Northumberland Avenue
- 7 pm. Monday, Dec. 23** at Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Road



### QUEEN’S HOUSE PROGRAMMING

601 Taylor Street W, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9

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

**Centring 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 and Tuesday of the month, beginning and ending at noon

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

**“Come Away with Me” Silent Guided Retreat Nov. 25 to 28** with Dianne Mantyka will be held from 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25 to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28 at Queen’s House. Live-in only. Cost: \$525 (includes lodging, meals, spiritual direction); (306) 242-1916.

**Iconography series with Anna Mycyk and Gisele Bauche:** An eight-week class will be available either Wednesday or Thursday evenings from **January to March 2020** at Queen’s House. Cost: \$230 for classes, plus \$110-\$130 for the gesso wood panel board. Register with Gisele at (306) 380-3577 or gbauche@sasktel.net

**Incarnation, Spirituality and Cultural Transformation** with Simon Laser, PhD, will be held 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., **Friday, Nov. 29** and 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 30** at Queen’s House, 601 Taylor St. W., Saskatoon. Cost: \$95 (includes lunch). Register before Nov. 25: (306) 242-1916.

## Events & Announcements

**Learn and Pray the Divine Office:** Every Saturday there is an opportunity to learn the Divine Office beginning at 9 a.m. at St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral, 720 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, followed Divine Office Morning Prayer (with Gregorian Chant) at 9:30 a.m. All welcome; booklets will be provided. Arrive at side door facing 22nd Street. Information: Hudson (306) 220-7236.

**Catholic Deaf Community Mass** in ASL (sign language) is offered every Sunday of the year, at 10 a.m., as well as for seasonal liturgies, at St. Paul Co-Cathedral, corner of 22nd St. and Spadina Ave. in Saskatoon. Info: Roberto Godoybaca at rgodoy@gscs.ca

**“Nothing Will Be Impossible For God” – Advent Conference 2019** will be held from **Nov. 29 to Dec. 1** at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, Bruno, SK with Catholic author, speaker and biblical scholar Dr. Mary Healy. Registration fee \$90; meals \$45; accommodations \$60; or full package for \$190. (Please add \$10 per person after Nov. 15.) Find more details and registration at [www.sttherese.ca](http://www.sttherese.ca) or call (306) 369-2555.

**62nd Annual Knights of Columbus Carol Festival** will be held 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 at TCU Place, 35-22nd Street East, Saskatoon. Rush seating only. Tickets are available at participating Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and at [www.tcutickets.ca](http://www.tcutickets.ca)

**Attention women and mothers of all ages: Time Out For Moms** will be running new sessions beginning **Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020**. 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 9:15-11:15 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. All women are invited to attend. To register, visit: [www.rcdos.ca/time-out-for-moms](http://www.rcdos.ca/time-out-for-moms) For more information please contact: tofmsaskatoonsk@gmail.com or check out the Facebook group “Time Out For Moms Saskatoon.” Note: Volunteer caregivers are needed to watch the children while the moms meet. Email tofmsaskatoonsk@gmail.com for info.

**Dueling Pianos Cabaret** is presented by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation 7 p.m. **Friday, Feb. 7** at the German Cultural Centre, Saskatoon, an all-request live show featuring the talented performers of the "World Famous Dueling Pianos." Tickets Eventbrite.ca (Charities and Causes) \$65 each (\$40 charitable donation receipt) or table of eight for \$500 (\$300 Charitable Donation Receipt). The GSCS Foundation provides ongoing funding and support for initiatives leading to educational excellence, spiritual growth and enhanced learning opportunities for students and staff of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

**Gala Fundraiser in support of Serena Saskatchewan** natural family planning service, will be held **Saturday, Feb. 8** in Saskatoon, featuring a Mexican theme. For more info, email [sask@serena.ca](mailto:sask@serena.ca)

**Natural Family Planning:** Are you getting married soon? Do you want to improve your marriage? Do you want the recipe for an extremely low divorce rate? Are you trying to achieve or postpone a pregnancy? Do you need guidance as you journey through post-partum, infertility, or pre-menopause? Serena Saskatchewan invites you to take a couple-to-couple class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning. This method is highly effective, natural, inexpensive and free of health risks. For more info, contact Serena at [sask@serena.ca](mailto:sask@serena.ca) or (306) 934-8223, or visit [www.saskserena.ca](http://www.saskserena.ca)

**Marriage Preparation at the Cathedral of the Holy Family** in Saskatoon will be held **March 6-7, 2020**. For info, contact Cathedral Administrator David Polzen by calling (306) 659-5805 or e-mail [dpolzen@holymfamilycathedral.ca](mailto:dpolzen@holymfamilycathedral.ca)

**Marriage Preparation at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Martensville** will be held March 20-21, 2020. For info, contact Marilyn and Ken Jackson at (306) 249-3635 or the parish office at (306) 931-3111 or e-mail the parish at: [ihmp@rcdos.ca](mailto:ihmp@rcdos.ca)

**Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) for couples preparing for marriage:** Learn more about one another through deep and meaningful discussions dealing with all aspects of married life. Deepen and enrich your relationship with each other, with God, the Church and the world. In the diocese of Saskatoon, Catholic Engaged Encounter weekends are held at St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster, SK. Register for **April 24-26, 2020** or **Oct. 23-25**. Cost is \$480 for the weekend and this includes all meals and accommodations. Register online at [www.ceewest.com](http://www.ceewest.com) or e-mail Elizabeth and Deryk Meszaros at [deryk200@hotmail.com](mailto:deryk200@hotmail.com)

**Blumenfeld Pilgrimage** - The annual pilgrimage to Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Our Lady of Sorrows Grotto at Blumenfeld, SK will be held **Sunday, June 7, 2020**, with Bishop Mark Hagemoen presiding at Mass. Rosary is at 3:00 p.m., Mass at 3:30 p.m., followed by supper and fellowship. Banquet and Fellowship. The Blumenfeld pilgrimage site is located 16 km south and 6 km east of Leader, SK, just off Hwy 21.

# Sisters of Presentation bid farewell to Discernment House

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

For decades the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary have opened their doors at Discernment House in Saskatoon, sharing their life, their charism, and their home with young women, offering retreats, and welcoming friends and visitors.

The well-known Discernment House hospitality was most evident during a come-and-go tea Oct. 5, 2019, held as a way for friends to join in bidding farewell to the building on University Drive, sold with a possession date at the end of that month.

Friends and supporters gathered to share memories, to

take a last look around, to enjoy many treats, and to hear the plans of the Sisters in the days ahead – which include keeping a presence in Saskatoon at a new, smaller home in the Willowgrove area.

“This has all been good – very good,” said Sr. Lise Paquette, PM, reflecting on the impact of Discernment House on the lives of many young women, retreat participants (both men and women), and their families. “But we had to do this before it becomes too difficult.”

A handout provided to visitors at the Saturday afternoon tea related how in 1968, the Sisters of the Presentation found “a roomy, solidly-built place, very well situated with a character of simplicity and of poverty which is good to find in a religious house.” The occasion for that observation was the blessing of the congregation’s two houses, located side-by-side in the Nutana neighbourhood of Saskatoon: one serving as a residence for Sisters taking university classes, the other for the religious formation of their newest members.



Sisters of the Presentation of Mary held a come-and-go tea at Discernment House before the move-out date. - Submitted photo

The two houses had a similar size and style and were joined together into one connected building in the summer of 1969. In 1972, one side became a residence for female university students, and in 1980, vocational retreats started at the Saskatoon house.

In 1986, the Sisters were preparing for a General Chapter, in the midst of a focus on “the awakening of vocations.”

In response, the Sisters of the Presentation decided to convert their formation house into what became known as Discernment House.

It became a residence for young women to share community and prayer life with the Sisters, a place to discern their baptismal call.

Popular weekend retreats continued to be offered a few times each year until 2019, which along with the live-in program, has helped to form men and women for the Church and for the world, impacting thousands of young women and men.

At a prayer service during the Oct. 5 event, the sisters and their guests prayed for vision, wisdom, courage, trust, love and grace.



### Anniversaries

The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary gathered June 30 in Prince Albert to rejoice and give thanks for 50 years of fidelity by Sr. Lucie Hamel, PM, (centre) who was celebrating her golden jubilee. Silver jubilees were also marked: Sr. Re-Anne Letourneau, PM, (left) and Sr. Chantelle Bonk (right) are both celebrating 25 years of consecrated religious life.

- Submitted photo

# Ursulines of Prelate celebrate 100 years in Saskatchewan

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

One hundred years ago, three Ursuline sisters from Germany arrived in Prelate, SK, to help meet the spiritual, educational and social needs of a Catholic community struggling to establish itself near the Sandhills of Saskatchewan.

A century later, hundreds of community members, friends, family and associates gathered with the Ursulines of Prelate for celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Mark Hagemoen, Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB, of St. Peter’s Abbey, Bishop Albert Thevenot of Prince Albert, Archbishop Murray Chatlain of Keewatin-Le Pas, Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, and Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, and priests from across the diocese.

In his homily, Bishop Hagemoen reflected on the history and service of the Ursulines of Prelate, and their prophetic example. “Gratitude, generosity, and magnanimity are now more counter-cultural and prophetic than ever,” he said.



The Ursulines of Prelate sing “Hail St. Angela” to wind up the centennial celebration June 1 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. For more photos, search “Ursuline” on the Catholic Saskatoon News site: news.rcdos.ca - Photo by Tim Yaworski

“We thank them – and God – immensely, for a radical and committed taking-up of the gospel of Jesus Christ, by word, mission, and life. The Ursulines of Prelate have shaped the Catholic and wider community of Saskatchewan. We continue to look to their example as we discern how to build on such faith and service.”

During a program following the Mass, Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OMI, presented a slide show of photographs, and recounted the history of the Ursulines of Prelate, starting with the arrival of Mother Clementia Graffelder, Mother Luitgardis Kratochwill,

and Sister Thekla Bonus, at the invitation of Fr. Joseph Riedinger, OMI. Originally from Cologne, Germany, the three Ursuline sisters had originally come to Winnipeg at the invitation of another Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Fr. Paul Hilland, OMI.

Within a year of the Ursulines’ arrival in Prelate, volunteers in the pioneer Catholic community had built St. Angela’s Convent, and the sisters had their first postulant. Within 25 years, the Ursulines of Prelate had grown to include 25 members.

The sisters served in many

capacities, but the primary charism of the Ursuline order established by founder St. Angela Merici was education, with a particular focus on educating girls.

The Ursulines of Prelate operated St. Angela’s Academy for 88 years until the school and the convent were closed some 12 years ago.

Over 100 years, the Ursulines of Prelate have served in some 88 schools, 67 parishes, 38 educational centres, 11 hospitals and care facilities, she listed. A total of 236 women entered the congregation: of those, 120 eventually followed other paths;

81 have died; and from a peak membership of 157 sisters in 1967, the Ursulines of Prelate presently number 35 sisters, with all but four now living in Saskatoon.

“It is all about Jesus,” Sr. Teresita concluded. “To him be the praise and the honour and the glory, forever and ever.”

As well, during the program emceed by Bill Shumay and Andy Praksas, Fr. Ephraim Mensah read a message of congratulations and blessing from the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi.

Fr. David Tumback then offered a personal reflection on the impact of the Ursulines of Prelate on his own life and vocation, and on the life of the community: “We have been blessed by the presence of these women.... God’s love has been revealed to us by the sisters.”

Sr. Anne Lewans, OSU, presented words of thanks, and then all of the Ursulines of Prelate present at the celebration came forward to sing “Hail Saint Angela” together to end the afternoon.

# Ministry to Tourism will focus on enhanced reflective travel for retirees

By FR. RALPH KLEITER  
MINISTRY TO TOURISM

Over the years, Ministry to Tourism has served travelers with all kinds of travel programs around the world. The intent has been to help people discover the sacred in reflective travel during an increasingly secular age.

I have decided that, God willing, I ought to continue offering, especially to retirees, clearly designed opportunities to “Discover the Sacred in Reflective Travel,” sensitive to their different backgrounds, but always adding enrichment and joy to their retirement. This will in turn be an example and gift to their families and friends.

For seniors, a cruise setting supports their objectives such as stability, good variety, mobility convenience, accessible health professionals and exceptional enrichment opportunities.

A cruise offers more time, which supports moving beyond simply being a tourist.

Ministry to Tourism has several cruise possibilities selected for 2020 and 2021. All are 12-16 days, allowing some personal options before or after the cruise. The details of a respective Ministry to Tourism Retiree’s Enhancement Program will be provided before final commitment.

“A Cruise to the Land of the

Midnight Sun” from June 19 to July 3, 2020 will travel past the Arctic Circle during the extended summer sunlight sailing from London (Dover) to the Fjords of Norway and as far north as the North Cape terminating in Oslo.

An option to extend the cruise by 11 days after Norway from Copenhagen to Baltic ports, including St. Petersburg, is also available, July 3-14, 2020.

Although there will be countless opportunities for many life-enriching moments, Ministry to Tourism will also be offering a time for private gatherings on the cruise.

The focus of a “Sea Days” program on the cruise will be

Leonard Doohan’s book *Enjoying Retirement - Living Life to the Fullest*. Based on his research and feedback from retirees, each 45 minute session

will conclude with helpful suggestions to live this time in enriching and enjoyable way.

Information: kleiter@shaw.ca  
or (306) 244-3747

### Ministry to Tourism presents VOYAGE à PARIS et à LOURDES

Pilgrim Cities of Light and Healing - May 25-June 2, 2020  
with Fr. Ralph Kleiter, Celebrating 60 Years of Group Travel

May 25 - Paris arrival Guided Walking tour Montmartre  
May 26 - Walk of Historic Paris- Notre Dame façade to Sainte-Chapelle  
May 27 - Private tour Chantilly domain, Orsay and Louvre Museums  
May 28 - Versailles to Champs Elysees  
May 29 - Chartres to Eiffel Tower  
May 30 - Pentecost Pilgrim Journey to Lourdes via TGV train  
May 31 - Pilgrims’ Day at Sanctuary  
June 1 - Return to Paris, Farewell dinner & illuminated Seine River cruise  
June 2 - Flight home or individual extension in Europe

Small Party cost per person will be in the 3,000.00 Euro bracket (subject to final numbers); the estimated Air-Saskatoon return cost is about \$1,011.00.

Contact Fr. Ralph Kleiter • E-mail: Kleiter@shaw.ca • Phone: (306) 244-3747

# St. Mary parish centennial: 100 years of faith, hope, charity

By KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

A century of parish life and faithful discipleship was celebrated Oct. 20, 2019, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Saskatoon. Parishioners, family members, former pastors, spiritual leaders, and special guests gathered from near and far to share in the joyful 100th anniversary program.

Established in 1919 as Our Lady of Victory Parish, St. Mary’s was first served by French-speaking Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In January 1927 the first church building suffered damage in a fire, and the cornerstone of the present building was laid by Bishop Prud’homme of Prince Albert in May 1930, with the new building completed and blessed by the end of that year.

After the diocese of Saskatoon was formed, the first Bishop – Most Rev. Gerald Murray, CSSR – decided to place the parish in the care of priests from his own Redemptorist order — the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer. It is the 85th anniversary of the arrival of the Redemptorists in the parish, another milestone marked during the celebrations.

A treaty land acknowledgment and an honour song by First Nations drummers



Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark presents a certificate to St. Mary pastor, Fr. Mick Fleming, CSSR.  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

opened the centennial celebration. Celebrating Mass were Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen; Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI; Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB; Provincial Superior of the Redemptorist Province of Canada Fr. Charles Duval, CSSR; and Superior General Fr. Mark Miller, CSSR (homilist). Among the many other priests also in attendance were former St. Mary pastors Fr. Ciro Alfonso Perez, CSSR, and Fr. Remi Hebert, CSSR, as well as present pastor Fr. Mick Fleming, CSSR, and Deacon Donat Davatz.

In his homily, Fr. Mark Miller, CSSR, reflected on the history of St. Mary Parish, through hard times, Depression and war, and through years of re-



Former pastor Fr. Ciro Perez, CSSR, cuts the birthday cake.  
- Photo by Kiply Yaworski

building and of community building, as well as of outreach to those in need, and in welcoming wave after wave of newcomers.

Speaking on behalf of the Redemptorists, Miller expressed his gratitude to the people of St. Mary Parish. “We learn so much from you. What a gift you have been: the friendships you have built up, the work we have done together for the sake of the kingdom.”

A banquet and program followed in the parish hall next to the church, with Don Brophy serving as master of ceremonies, and greetings brought by a number of special guests and

dignitaries, including Bishop Wiesner, representing the Oblates, and Fr. Duval, representing the Redemptorists; as well as Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark and Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

Bishop Hagemoen thanked St. Mary Parish and the Redemptorists for the “prophetic witness” that the parish has been over the past century — most especially in outreach to those who are most vulnerable and in need in the core city neighbourhood that faces many significant challenges.

Provincial Superior of the Redemptorist Province of Canada Fr. Charles Duval, CSSR, reflected on the impact that faithful people had over 100 years or longer. “We are the giants of tomorrow, if we will be faithful in the same way that our grandparents and our great grandparents have been throughout the ages... simply by following what God has asked us to do.”

Duval also thanked the parish “for supporting, welcoming and helping” the Redemptorists for the past 85 years.

Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark began his remarks by thanking the parish for beginning the 100th anniversary celebration with the sacred drum and the

treaty acknowledgement, saying it is a sign of commitment to the journey of reconciliation.

“This is a church that has gathered from many nations, and it shows in your congregation, it shows in the story of the church, and it shows in the opening of the drum as you gathered today — this sense of renewal at a centenary is very inspiring. And you are undertaking that renewal in a church that stands in the midst of some of the most broken people in our community, some of the biggest challenges of our community.”

Throughout the evening many other special guests were acknowledged, including representatives of the Sisters of Charity of Montreal (the Grey Nuns), who established neighbouring St. Paul’s Hospital, and who have served in the parish in a number of ways — including the present time, with Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, serving as Parish Nurse. Also acknowledged were the Sisters of Sion, who taught in nearby schools, and other religious orders who served the community. The gathering also acknowledge some of the oldest parishioners, and members of founding families who are still part of the St. Mary community 100 years later.

## St. Anthony Church: Community gathers for annual celebration at Grosswerder

By NADEN HEWKO

An annual Mass was celebrated at historic St. Anthony Church in the Grosswerder district June 13 to mark the Feast Day of St. Anthony of Padua.

Preceded by six outriders on horseback, celebrant Fr. Binu Rathappillil, VC, (pastor at Macklin, Denzil and St. Donatus, parishes) and three visiting priests arrived at the prairie church in an old-time buggy pulled by the team of horses belonging to driver Victor Scheck. Priests from neighbouring parishes celebrating Mass with Fr. Rathappillil were Fr. Greg Roth (Unity and Handel, SK parishes), Fr. Dan Yasinski (Kerrobert, Major, Doddsland and Luseland, SK parishes) and Fr. Jean-Claude Ndanga, CFIC (Provost, AB parish).

The ringing of the bells heralded the entrance of the children of the district bringing up flowers that they laid at the altar. The altar servers and clergy followed. It was estimated that 240 persons attended this Mass. There were people from the local district as well as many others from surrounding places like



Fr. Gregory Roth, Fr. Daniel Yasinski, Fr. Binu Rathappillil, VC, and Fr. Jean-Claude Ndanga, CFIC, (left to right) celebrated Eucharist at the historic church of St. Anthony at Grosswerder, near Macklin, for an annual celebration on June 13, arriving by buggy.  
- Submitted photo

Denzil, Luseland, Macklin, Unity, Provost, Lloydminster, Wilke, Camrose, Edmonton and even from the United States. Many of those who came have roots in the Grosswerder district and have family buried in nearby St. Anthony’s Cemetery.

The choir from Sacred heart Church in Denzil, accompanied by organist Mary Lou Schechtel, provided the hymns for the service. Fr. Greg Roth gave the homily, describing the life of St. Anthony, the patron saint of Grosswerder.

At the conclusion of Mass, Fr. Dan Yasinski carried the relic of St. Anthony through the aisles blessing the people. This was followed by the prayers of the Novena to St. Anthony asking for the special blessing of rain. The hymn “Holy God We Praise Thy Name” sung in German closed the Mass.

This annual celebration has been around since 1907 when the settlers arrived. These pioneers from southern Russia were part of a larger group known as the St. Joseph’s colonists who settled in

the area from Leipzig, through Tramping Lake, to Grosswerder and across to the Alberta border. This particular district of the St. Joseph Colony was named Grosswerder after the home village in southern Russia of some of the settlers. The families in the area were devout Roman Catholics who gathered in their homes to pray. As they wished to have a church to worship in they built a small, sod church and named it St. Anthony’s after the patron saint of settlers from another village.

On July 10, 1912, the cornerstone of the new church building was laid. Max Kasberger was the chief carpenter. St. Anthony’s was built by volunteers who walked many miles from their homes to help with the construction.

The church was officially consecrated on November 13, 1912. It still needed interior work but Mass could be celebrated. The church became the center of the district, with a rectory built for the priest.

This beautiful church served the district for 70 years until 1982, when it was closed due to

a shortage of priests. The parishioners chose between attending Sacred Heart Church at Denzil or St. Mary’s Church in Macklin. But the people of St. Anthony’s wanted to keep alive the memory of those early settlers who brought the faith here with them.

The St. Anthony’s Historical Committee was formed in 1982 and in 1983 St. Anthony’s Church was designated as Municipal Heritage Property by the Rural Municipality of Eye Hill.

It was decided to hold an annual Mass in memory of the pioneers and in honour of St. Anthony, our patron saint on June 13 if possible, or on a date close to that day. Local men and women work hard to clean and prepare for this celebration.

In July 2007, the extended community of St. Anthony’s celebrated 100 years of faith with an afternoon Mass. This was followed by an outdoor program. Holding the annual St. Anthony’s Mass remained a priority. The people are keeping the custom alive with the support of parish priest Fr. Binu Rathappillil, VC.

## Our Lady Queen of Peace 100th anniversary: community re-unites

In August 2019, Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at the celebration of Eucharist with Msgr. Stan Urbanoski, Fr. Denis Phaneuf, and Fr. Colin Roy, to mark the 100th anniversary of the construction of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

It was the first parish that Msgr. Urbanoski served in after

his ordination in 1954.

The first church was built of logs and mud in 1904 to serve Polish settlers in the area. As the pioneers settled on their homesteads, this little church was no longer big enough. In 1918 construction of the present church building was started, and was finished in 1919.

Now closed, Our Lady Queen of Peace is located 7.5 miles (12 km) east of Smuts, SK, or nine miles (14.5 km) north of Prud’homme. The centennial anniversary celebration Aug. 11 was a homecoming for many, and included Mass, the blessing of graves in the cemetery, a group photo, and a potluck meal.



Many former residents returned for the centennial celebration at Our Lady Queen of Peace.  
- Photo by Teresa Bodnar-Hiebert

Check out the diocese’s online news site for more on these and other events:  
**Find Catholic Saskatoon News at: [news.rcdos.ca](http://news.rcdos.ca)**