



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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Myron Rogal combines three jobs in one position: vocations promotion, Diocesan Youth Retreat Team, and Scripture Resources/Small Christian Communities

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Myron Rogal is the new coordinator of Vocation Promotion in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – a position that has been expanded to include both the coordination of the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT) and the work of the former part-time office of Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities.

The three hats go well together, Rogal said during an interview from his office in St. Paul's Cathedral rectory, which currently houses overflow staff from the adjacent Catholic Pastoral Centre.

“I look at vocation promotion as the heart of the three ministries. After all, vocation is rooted in scripture,” he said of the new combined position that he took over in June. “And vocation also ties in very well with the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team.”

The Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (or DYRT as it is known to the young people involved in the program) plans and provides youth retreats at schools and parishes throughout the diocese, but it is also a faith formation program for the youth and young adults serving on the team, he notes.

Bringing vocation themes into every diocesan retreat is really a natural fit – and a “dream come true opportunity to work on building a culture of vocations,” says Rogal, who is presently



Myron Rogal is the new coordinator of:

- the diocesan Vocation Office
- the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT)
- the diocesan office of Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities

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connecting with retreat team members and preparing for an Oct. 3 training session. DYRT is open to any young adult 14 years of age or older who belongs to a parish in the diocese of Saskatoon. For more information about DYRT or the training day, call Myron Rogal at 382-4240.

Rogal will also be working with the new diocesan coordinator of Youth Ministry, Colm Leyne, to design and implement retreats in support of the Grade 8 “Steps in Faith” program, in which youth study, pray and reflect; provide service; and then make a public reaffirmation of faith in a parish celebration. Once again, an element of vocation reflection fits very well with the *Steps in Faith* program, he notes.

“Any ministry done well is vocation ministry,” says Rogal, quoting the words of a Redemptorist priest who has been part of his own faith journey.

Born in Saskatoon, Rogal grew up as a member of St. Mary’s parish, ministered to by members of the Redemptorist order who provide pastoral leadership and community outreach in the core neighbourhood. Since graduating from high school, he has worked in construction, undertaken political studies and fallen in love with philosophy. He also seriously discerned whether he might be called to the priesthood, attending St. Peter’s Seminary for one year, before realizing that was not his vocation. Rogal then worked for L’Arche in Edmonton before returning to Saskatoon to serve as the Youth Minister at St. Mary’s.

His personal experience discerning his own vocation, and in coordinating youth ministry are now enriching his new ministry for the diocese.

Although coordinating Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities is a whole new area of ministry for Rogal, he is quickly learning more about scripture, and the many resources that are available for deepening understanding and personal holiness through an encounter with God’s Word.

Rogal will continue posting small group reflections about the upcoming Sunday readings each week on the diocesan website. (www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com/scc/small_christian_communities.cfm)

The well-established weekly resource features reflections, discussion questions and prayer, and over the past several years has become one of the website’s most popular offerings. Rogal also responds to requests from small groups for materials, and will provide suggestions during special seasons such as Advent and Lent.

Rogal notes that in his new position coordinating vocations promotion, he works closely with the diocesan Vocation Commission, appointed by the bishop, which includes married, single, religious and ordained representatives from across the diocese.

The mandate of the commission is to promote vocations broadly, stresses

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Rogal. “The Vocation Commission strives to inspire and assist the people of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon in fulfilling their mission of fostering the vocation of all the baptized. Our special attention is placed on vocations to the ministerial priesthood and religious life.”

Vocation discernment happens in the diocese in such settings as regular weekend retreats at Discernment House, run by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary near the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon, and at “Come and See” weekends organized by Rev. Marc Mireau for young men seeking more understanding about the priesthood. The commission also keeps in close contact with the nine seminarians who are presently studying and discerning a call to the priesthood.

Rogal enthusiastically describes some new ideas for vocation promotion, such as a traveling vocations “tuck shop” with t-shirts, buttons and other items for sale. It would accompany speakers when they are giving testimony at schools or parishes.

Another idea is to organize an hour of Eucharistic adoration in parishes to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

A pilot project establishing parish vocation committees in two parishes was well-received last year, and plans are in place to expand the program to other parishes this year, Rogal adds. A simple-to-use kit has been prepared, containing everything a parish vocation committee needs to meet four times a year to pray, discuss and reflect on vocation, and consider ways to highlight and promote vocation awareness in the parish.

During a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 9, details of last year’s pilot projects at Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens and St. Mary’s parishes in Saskatoon were discussed. Other parishes were encouraged to consider establishing similar committees, said Rogal, announcing an information session planned for 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon.



Myron Rogal (left) and Rev. Tony Bidgood, CSsR demonstrate the kit for parish vocation committees during a presentation at a diocesan Administration Day Sept. 9 at St. Mary’s Parish in Saskatoon.

Rev. Tony Bidgood, CSsR of St. Mary’s parish said the vocations parish committee was very easy to operate, following the discussion formats outlined in the kit that includes everything needed to host the committee, right



down to a prayer candle

“For me, the message that comes across is that by our baptism we are all called to spread the Good News, and the Good News is that God loves us unconditionally,” described Normand Rivard, who participated in the pilot project at Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens. “What we have to recognize is that all vocations are important. I think there is no vocation more important than the others. They are all vocations of service.”

As part of the pilot project, the parish recognized all those celebrating wedding anniversaries every month, Rivard described. Another special initiative was to have children present a flower to religious sisters in the parish, acknowledging their vocation to consecrated life.

Reflecting on his experience since beginning the job in June, Rogal says he is delighted with his new role in the diocese, and happy to be working with people of all ages and all vocations. He is also grateful to have already experienced some “dream ministry moments” when someone has just stopped by to talk over their own personal faith journey, their discernment, or their experience with scripture. “It feels like home.”