



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications
Phone: 306-242-1500; Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Bishop Donald Bolen ordained March 25, 2010 in Saskatoon

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Donald Joseph Bolen was ordained the seventh bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon on the Feast of the Annunciation March 25, 2010 in a joyful celebration that brought together family and colleagues, ecumenical guests, priests and bishops from several continents, and representatives from across the dioceses of Saskatoon and Regina.

Archbishop Daniel Bohan of Regina was the principal consecrator during the ordination liturgy, along with co-consecrators Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg and Bishop Brian Farrell of Rome's Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

Thirty other bishops from across Canada, as well as Archbishop John Bathesby of Brisbane, Australia and the Holy See's representative in Canada, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Pedro López Quintana also participated in Bolen's episcopal ordination held at St. Patrick's church in Saskatoon.



Archbishop Daniel Bohan (left) of Regina and Archbishop James Weisgerber (right) of Winnipeg welcome the newly-ordained bishop of Saskatoon.

Diocesan consultor Rev. Michael Koch read the apostolic letter from Pope Benedict XVI appointing Bolen as bishop of Saskatoon, and those assembled gave their assent by saying "Thanks be to God" followed by a thunderous round of applause.

CONTINUED



After making his promises to uphold the faith and carry out his duties as bishop, Bolen laid prostrate on the floor during a litany of the saints. Led by Archbishop Bohan, the Catholic bishops present at the celebration laid hands upon Bolen's head in silent prayer.

During the prayer of consecration, the opened book of the gospels was held over Bolen's head, signifying that the bishop is to live under the gospel, and faithfully preach the word of God. Other elements of the celebration included the anointing of the bishop's head, the presentation of the book of the gospels, and the investiture with the ring, a symbol of faithfulness; the mitre, signifying the bishop's resolve to pursue holiness; and the pastoral staff or crozier, symbol of the bishop's role as shepherd of the flock of Christ, the Good Shepherd.



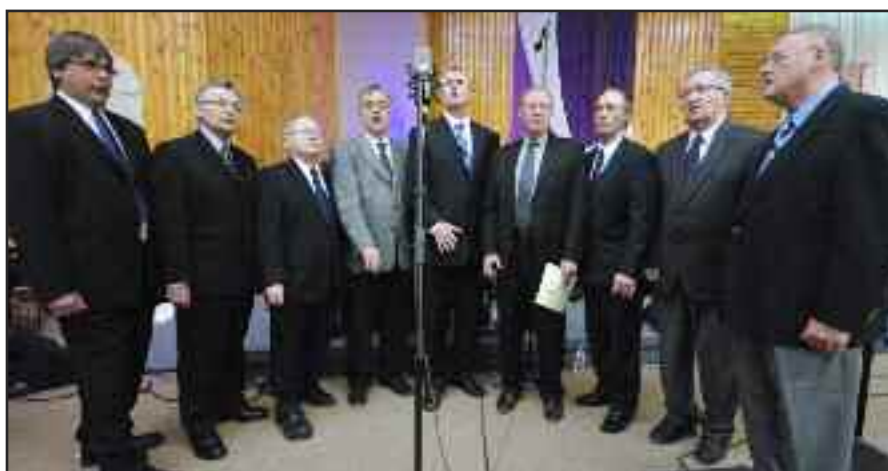
During the homily, Weisgerber reflected on the Feast of the Annunciation, which set the pattern of God's action in our midst. "God continues to take flesh in his people," Weisgerber said, for instance in the presence of the community gathered, and in the presence of the bishop.

He noted that the heart of the gospel is repeated in the new bishop's slogan: Mercy within mercy within mercy. "This is a changeless message and it is a message that our world so desperately needs to hear. We need to hear that this is a world in which God delights. We are called to joy; we are called to community; we are called to deepen our love," Weisgerber said.



The papal nuncio, on his first visit to Western Canada, also reflected on the annunciation, whereby through Mary's yes, God was able to take on a human face. The life of the church is renewed whenever the faithful receive in obedience the word of God, said Quintana.

CONTINUED



At the conclusion of the ordination, Sr. Teresita Kambeitz spoke on behalf of the religious communities of the diocese, pledging to place the new bishop at the centre of a community of colleagues.

“We welcome you with the hospitality and affection that Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus into their home in Bethany,” Kambeitz said. “Please know that we surround you with our friendship and you can count on us to be your community of prayer and support and love. Our hearts are as open as the prairie sky: a big warm welcome to you Bishop Don.”

Diocesan Administrator Rev. Ron Beechinor surprised the assembly by calling up Bev Hansen, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools director of education and enacting a dialogue about the arrival of the new bishop, with a name so similar to the Archbishop of Regina. The duo delighted the assembly with their presentation, touching on Bishop Bolen’s youth, personality, and smile; and his passion for Christian unity.

“On behalf of the priests and Parish Life Directors of the diocese of Saskatoon I would like to formally welcome you into the diocese, with the great hope that you will find a home with us,” Beechinor stressed. “In cooperation with the laity, we look forward to walking you’re your side, as together we forge a new identity for the church in Saskatoon.”

As both of Saskatoon’s previous bishops have been transferred to dioceses in the province next door, Beechinor added one caution, greeted with laughter

CONTINUED ...



and applause: “Please, please, stay away from the province of Manitoba.”

Gertrude Rompré of the St. Thomas More College chaplaincy office spoke on behalf of the laity, reflecting on the call to act with justice, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God that is found in the words of the prophet Micah.

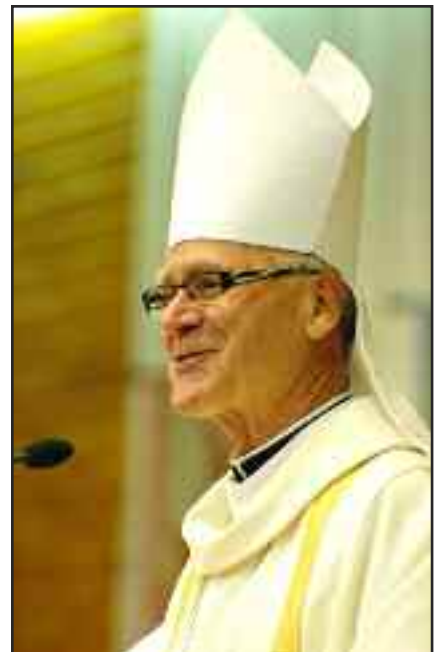
“In us, you will find a people who act with justice in our ministries to those in prison or as we referee our children’s hockey game. In us, you will find a people who love tenderly, be it as we teach our youngest in our Catholic schools or in the way we reach out to our loved ones in palliative care homes,” Rompré said. “In us, you will find people serving one another in the community gathered at Friendship Inn or in the potluck supper in our parish hall. And finally, in us, you will find people who walk humbly with God, be it farmers standing in rapt contemplation of God’s earth, or the wonderful, powerful and moving liturgies that we celebrate as a diocesan family,” she said.

“Together we are rooted in Christ. We will support you and stand with you as we proclaim the Good News together, reach out to the least amongst us and become evermore fully Christ in our world today.”

Bishop Brian Farrell of Rome also spoke, bringing messages from a number of international leaders, including Cardinal Walter Kasper of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Looking out at the assembly at the end of the celebration, Bolen said that it was a glimpse of the kingdom. “My whole life is before me – in the sense that people from every particular moment in my life are here, people whom I love a great deal and to whom I am profoundly indebted,” the new bishop said, as well as greeting the people from the diocese with whom he will share a future.

CONTINUED





Bolen also expressed appreciation to the special ecumenical guests, the representatives of the First Nations communities, members of the Jewish community and other community

leaders attending the celebration.

“The greatest privilege I’ve known in life, beyond life itself and the love I’ve received, has been the sense of having been addressed by a word, of having been summoned by a word, and in a very profound sense, of being given a word to speak, over and over again,” said Bolen, whose coat of arms includes an open book on which is inscribed “verbum vitae” — word of life.

“I promise you that I will try to be faithful to that word, and with you to listen to that word, to walk with you, and being summoned by that word, together to be transformed by that word, and to find ways of speaking it,” he said, adding he also hopes to work closely with brothers and sisters from other Christian communities.

