



NEWS ARCHIVE: March 2011

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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

# Provincial Knights of Columbus men's retreat held in Saskatoon: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski and Pat Meuse

Some 200 men from across the province gathered March 4 and 5, 2011 for inspirational talks, reflection and prayer as part of a men's retreat held at St. Patrick Parish Centre in Saskatoon. "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" was the theme of the spiritual weekend

organized by the Saskatchewan State Council of the Knights of Columbus, with sponsorship from the Saskatchewan Charitable Foundation, Knights of Columbus Insurance, and Msgr. Robinson Council.



Bishop Bryan Bayda, the MC for the event, and Bishop Albert Thevenot open the men's conference with prayer.

Prince Albert Bishop Albert Thevenot was the opening speaker March 4. The next day, the program of speakers included Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Connecticut; Ken Miller, former coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders; and singer/songwriter Mark Mallett.

"It is a wonderful thing to see so many men come together to reinvestigate

what we are in our church and what we are in our community," State Deputy Ed Gibney told the crowd, stressing the importance of gathering to share faith.



**CONTINUED ....**



Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie

“Together all believers make up God’s family, and it is only by meeting together that you can bond. One purpose of the church is to equip God’s people to do God’s work and to encourage them in their faith. The church is where Christians learn to work together in unity, reconciling among themselves in a way that is only possible through Christ and his Spirit,” said Gibney.

“When you meet together with other believers, you build each other up and help each other. The Church needs you, because the body of Christ is not complete unless you are there,” he said.

**Deputy Supreme Knight Savoie** brought greetings from the Supreme Council and commended the Saskatchewan Knights for initiating the spiritual weekend.

“This is exactly the type of event our Supreme Knight is encouraging our state councils and our local councils to have,” he said, expressing a hope that the event would plant spiritual seeds in the lives and hearts of men gathered to participate. “Let’s make it a weekend that will have a ripple effect throughout the communities you are involved with.”

A retreat is a time of encounter with self and with God, said **Prince Albert Bishop Albert Thevenot** in the opening address. “But the God we have is the God of love. He is not here to judge us, he is not here to condemn us. He is the one that wants to lift us and carry us, so that we can journey on in life.”

Thevenot encouraged men to recall and embrace their identity as beloved sons of God. “God is telling us: ‘you are my beloved son.’”

This is also a call to love others in the same unconditional way, he said. “How do you express the fatherly love of God to your children or to you grandson or granddaughter?”

It is necessary to nurture this relationship with God, Thevenot added. “The Bible is not a book to collect dust. It’s a book that should be used, opened, meditated upon, prayed with,” he said. “Being the beloved son of God means we have to listen.”



Prince Albert Bishop Albert Thevenot

**CONTINUED ....**



Every Knight, every Catholic man is called to be a man of God, a follower of God who not only defends the faith, but affirms the

faith of those around him through his life and his actions. "We have to be present in our church: Not only because you are a Knight. Not only because you are baptized, but because you are a beloved son of God."



They have not acknowledged the pain of seeing the next generation leaving their faith, rejecting what they have been taught. "Remember: you are not the only one bringing up your child. Society also brings up your child and that's a challenge." It is through our unending and faithful love that we will bring people back to faith, he stressed.

"Show that your faith is life-giving," he said, challenging his listeners to be joyful witnesses of God's love.

Youth are longing to see the faithfulness of their parents and grandparents, he asserted. "Show that your faith does have value, that it is the most important thing in your life," he said. "Take their hand and walk with them. It's these gentle things that will bring people back."

In a session March 5, **Bishop Bryan Bayda** explored the weekend's theme "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" examining the story of Cain and Abel from the book of Genesis. Using video presentations and reflection questions he helped participants engage in one-on-one discussion about issues such as anger and being open to God's Spirit working in their lives.



**CONTINUED ....**

State Chaplain Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon greets a fellow Knight during the men's retreat.



“There’s this constant struggle in our hearts, in our human integrity: We know what’s right, but there’s always this tug – sometimes we call it original sin – toward selfishness: for serving ourselves rather than God, for serving ourselves rather than others,” said Bayda.



Men attending the retreat spent time in faith discussion.

During his session, Bayda distributed “post-it” notes, suggesting participants write down a prayer they would take away from the retreat and perhaps post on their bathroom mirror or refrigerator as a reminder to themselves and a witness to family members and all others who might see the prayer. “You don’t need a pulpit or a microphone” to evangelize, he stressed. “That’s your free gift to others... to share this with whoever the Holy Spirit might lead past your refrigerator.”

Former Roughrider coach **Ken Miller** talked about teamwork, leadership and inspiration, describing how the Roughriders wore t-shirts with the acronym “FEELING” printed on the front. F stood for faith, family and the rider family; the “Es” for excellence and effort, the “L” for leadership; “I” for integrity; “N” for now: doing what is needed now rather than later; and finally “G” for showing gratitude.

**Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie** reflected on the weekend’s theme, and shared his story about becoming a Knights of Columbus member, and what the organization means to him. As Catholics we are representatives of Christ, he told the gathering, challenging participants to be their “brothers’ keepers.” It is necessary to move beyond society’s individualistic focus and be representatives of Christ in the world, he said.

Savoie concluded by challenging each participant to find an opportunity every day for the next 21 days to demonstrate that he is the presence of Christ on earth – the hope being that after 21 days, the practice would become a habit.

Singer-songwriter **Mark Mallett**’s presentation included music, and discussion about different papal encyclicals.