



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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“What’s On Your Plate?” A conference about food, poverty & health Nov. 5, 2011

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Food – it’s essential, fundamental and always of interest. It is also intimately connected to living the gospel, to justice and peace, to health and well being.

Some of those issues and implications will be explored at an upcoming conference being organized in Saskatoon by the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace.

“What’s On Your Plate? Addressing food, poverty and health” is the theme of the conference to be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Nov. 5** at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Drive in Saskatoon.



“This is an invitation to learn where our food comes from; where, how and how much it is processed; and how poverty of nutrition impacts our lives, especially the poor,” said planning committee member Carol Zubiak.

“Together we will explore ways that we can respond, as Catholics from all areas of the diocese and beyond, and working whenever possible with our ecumenical partners.”

Questions addressed during the conference will include: “What kind of food are you eating? What is food poverty and what are the health consequences? How can we help?”

Other volunteers on the organizing committee are Sean O’Connor, Connie Crichton, Sr. Judy Schachtel, SMS, Sr. Virginia Scissons, NDS, and Lissette Couling, working with Bishop Don Bolen.

Zubiak said the hope is that “people in the pews” from parishes across the diocese – including areas outside the city – will participate in the conference and engage in the questions and possible responses.

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Conference sessions will include “*Food and Agriculture for fully nourished living, within a gospel perspective*” presented by speaker Nettie Wiebe, professor of Church and Society at St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon. She teaches ethics, ecology social justice and positive human rights, especially the right to food. The mother of four, Wiebe is an avid gardener and organic farmer of livestock and grains, peas, lentils and oilseeds.

A panel discussion led by Patrick Lapointe will address “*Food and healthy partnerships that work.*” Recently retired from Saskatoon Community Clinic, Lapointe has been active in health system development for more than 30 years, in areas of home care, long term care, and health care coordination. He advocates for the needs of the vulnerable, such as the elderly, those with disabilities, the poor, and First Nations people.

The conference fee is \$30, which will include a nutritious lunch, said Zubiak. Pre-register before Oct. 30, by calling the Catholic Pastoral Centre at 242-1500 or toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

“These are powerful, fundamental questions,” she said, noting how the conference echoes with the Beatitudes and with Jesus’ challenge “whatsoever you do to the least of my people, you do unto me.”