



Exploring Our Faith Together

Contact us at:

Diocese of Saskatoon
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Cathedral change

Designated the diocesan cathedral when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon was created in 1933, St. Paul's Cathedral is now too small to accommodate diocesan gatherings such as the Chrism Mass, the Rite of Election and ordinations. As a result, Bishop Albert LeGatt recently announced his decision to designate the new church building being planned by Holy Family parish as the new Cathedral. The change will take place several years down the road, once the new Holy Family building is constructed on the site at Attridge and Forest Drive. *The bishop's message about the cathedral is printed on Page 2.*

Parishes and deaneries provide grassroots input in diocesan review

Analyzing and responding to grassroots input gathered from pastoral leaders and laypeople is the next step in a review of diocesan services underway in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

A grassroots consultation took place in November, when Director of Pastoral Services Dorothy Fortier traveled to each of the six rural deaneries to meet with the pastoral leadership teams.

In five of the deaneries – Eatonia, Kerrobert, Saskatoon Rural, Humboldt and Wadena – Fortier and various representatives of diocesan ministry offices also met with laity from parishes across the diocese. Pastors in the city of Saskatoon were consulted earlier in the year.

"We received a lot of very good and valuable information, and we have a strong responsibility to take time to reflect on what we heard," Fortier said. "The next step will be to closely examine the significant material gathered, to digest it and see where it might lead us in terms of providing diocesan services."

The diocese of Saskatoon has been using a model of service established for a diocese half the size, before boundary changes that added St. Peter's Abbey, portions of the former Gravelbourg diocese and of the archdiocese of Regina, Fortier noted.

"We do need to be aware of the history and the unique reality of different geographic parts of our diocese," Fortier said. Each deanery has unique struggles and unique history, she noted, citing Wadena deanery's striking cultural diversity, Kerrobert deanery's strong Oblate roots, Eatonia deanery's relationship with Gravelbourg, and the Humboldt deanery's roots in the Benedictine tradition of St. Peter's Abbey.

Diocesan Services Review *continued on Page 3*

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Cathedral designation will shift from St. Paul to Holy Family with construction of new building

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

I am writing to let you know of a decision that I've recently made and then publicly announced to the parishioners of St Paul's Cathedral on Nov. 13, 2005 and to the parishioners of Holy Family on Dec. 18. I now wish to announce to the whole of the diocese that **the new church being built for Holy Family parish will also be the new Cathedral for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.**

I would like to set out for you the reasons for this decision and the history of the decision-making process. As well, I wish to note the implication for both St. Paul's and Holy Family parishes.

Holy Family parish serves the Sutherland, Erindale, Arbor Creek, Forest Grove, Silverspring, and Willowgrove sections of Saskatoon and needs a new church facility with adequate room for worship space, hall, meeting rooms, offices, etc. Faced with the limits of a church building already too small for the present number of parishioners and also in anticipation of planned new growth in that area of Saskatoon, about two years ago I requested that the parish undertake a project to build a new church facility. We will not start a new parish in that part of the city, and so Holy Family must plan for and build a larger "parish home". Land was found to be available on the site of St. Joseph high school. A lease has been arranged with the Saskatoon Catholic school division and the site was dedicated in June 2005.

As this project has developed, the question of a new Cathedral also surfaced. The present St. Paul's Cathedral with seating for 400 to 450 people is too small for diocesan celebrations or gatherings which regularly number between 800 and 1,200 people. For the last 10 to 15 years, whenever the diocesan church has assembled for Christ Mass, the Rite of Election, ordinations, anniversaries or other special occasions we have had to use other larger churches of the city: St. Patrick, Holy Spirit, or St. Anne.

The very nature of a Cathedral Church is to be the church where the bishop invites the faithful and clergy of the diocese to gather as a sign of the communion of faith, prayer and life that marks the oneness of the diocese. The presence of the "cathedra" or bishop's chair within the Cathedral marks the bishop's ministry of teaching and governing the diocese. The Cathedral is the

bishop's church and is to be the visible and functioning centre of the diocesan church's life and liturgical celebrations.

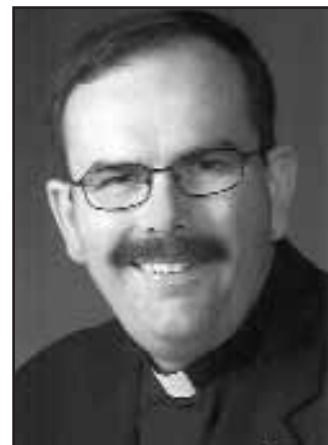
Since in reality the present St. Paul's Cathedral cannot serve (and for 10-15 years has not served) as the gathering place of the diocesan church, and since Holy Family is the only new church to be built in the foreseeable future, it made sense to designate the new Holy Family church as the new Cathedral for our diocese. This is especially so since the projected size of the Holy Family church (eventually with seating for about 1,200 people) is also the size our diocese would need in its Cathedral.

In coming to this decision I have consulted the Diocesan College of Consultors, the Diocesan Council of Priests and the parish councils of both St. Paul's and Holy Family.

The parish of St. Paul's will continue to exist and continue to gather in the present church building. A parish is needed in downtown Saskatoon, especially with increasing condominium housing in that area. St. Paul's parish has a vibrant life and will continue to serve the needs of parishioners and many others who come for Sunday and weekday masses and for the sacrament of reconciliation.

This having been said, I nevertheless recognize that this change of designation has an emotional impact for many of the parishioners of St. Paul, as this church has a long-time and historical significance for them. I have assured the parishioners of St. Paul's that I will do what is possible to continue to mark that significance. One recent step was to officially name the St. Paul's parish hall as the Bishop James Patrick Mahoney Memorial Hall. As well, an open public meeting was held to hear and discuss the thoughts of St. Paul's parishioners. Given an understanding of the need for a larger Cathedral space, feedback from the people since the announcement has been in favor of the change.

As for Holy Family parish, they have begun a fundraising campaign and planning for their new church. The diocese will make a significant



Cathedral Announcement *continued on Page 3*

Cathedral Announcement *continued from Page 2*

contribution to the cost of building the Cathedral, consonant with the added cost associated with ensuring the elements proper to a Cathedral are included in the new building – details such as a larger sanctuary, a place for the bishop's chair, a degree of beauty proper to a diocesan Cathedral, etc.

However, this whole project remains the initiative and responsibility of Holy Family parish, and the far greater part of the construction cost will be carried by the parishioners of Holy Family parish as they build their new parish home. The diocese will be a full partner with them in planning what will be both a beautiful Cathedral for the diocese and a proper home for all of Holy Family's parish life.

The timeline for this change will depend on fund-raising efforts. Sufficient money must be raised and pledged according to diocesan norms for Holy Family to go ahead with designing and building this new church building. I am hoping we will be at this stage at least five years from now.

Therefore, for the time being St. Paul's remains as the diocesan Cathedral. The change in designation will come with the completion and dedication of the new church as our diocesan

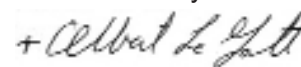
Cathedral. Further details about planning of the new Cathedral, about cost, about the diocesan contribution and whether it will necessitate a diocesan collection, about timelines, etc. will be conveyed to the diocese when we are in a position to do so.

Please pray for this effort to be undertaken by the parishioners of Holy Family and by the diocese. I look forward to seeing rise up on that corner of Attridge and Forest Drive a beautiful functional Cathedral for the diocese and a beautiful appropriate new home for Holy Family, a building that speaks to the presence and importance of God in our diocesan and parish life as we gather in faith and prayer to give God glory and praise.

May this whole effort unfold in a way that builds community and communion both for Holy Family and for the whole diocese so that we truly reflect God's loving, unifying presence.

Wishing you all the best of God's blessings in all parish communities.

Sincerely in Christ



Most Rev. Albert LeGatt
Bishop of Saskatoon

Review of diocesan services underway

Diocesan Services Review

continued from Page 1

"How do we form a diocese that has a common vision, that is a community recognizing and respecting this diversity? It was about time that we asked the question," Fortier said.

Those participating in the consultation were asked to share the hopes and challenges being experienced at the parish level in each of the seven deaneries, and to provide feedback about the helpfulness and relevance of the ministries and services provided by the diocesan office, including Ministry Development, Lay Formation, Rural Catechetics, Foundations, Small Christian Communities, Justice and Peace, and Youth Ministry.

The review is appropriate, Fortier said, in light of a call in "The General Directory for Catechesis" for diocesan

offices to analyze the state of adult faith formation, taking real needs into account and developing a plan of action. Diocesan ministry coordinators have also expressed a need for a review of how services are provided.

There is a growing awareness of the effect of the changing demographics in the rural areas of the diocese with the accompanying reality that fewer people are carrying the load for community and church, said Fortier. Within the city as well, parishes are grappling with the busyness of people's lives and a corresponding reluctance to volunteer. "Are we providing adult faith formation in ways and circumstances that take this reality into consideration?"

The review of services began almost a year ago, with a similar consultation held among members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council in March 2005. The council – an

advisory body to Bishop Albert LeGatt that includes representation from the seven deaneries in the diocese – received an update about the diocesan review at their meeting Jan. 28 in Saskatoon. Fortier reported to the Diocesan Pastoral Council that a committee has been established to recommend a process for reflecting on the information that has been gathered.

Fortier also expressed appreciation for the welcome and hospitality extended throughout the diocese.

"I am most grateful for the generous gift of time, openness, honesty and hospitality we encountered at each of the meetings. It was a very rewarding experience," said Fortier, describing how she has a greater sense of what different areas of the diocese are experiencing. "And it is amazing to see the love of the church that is out there."



1 Peter 4: 10: "As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received."

Puppets and service

St. Theresa of Asquith catechism classes performed puppet plays for patients in the Pediatrics ward at Royal University Hospital Dec. 21. After the puppet plays, they also helped the children decorate gingerbread cookies. This is the second year that the catechism students have used their time and talents at the hospital.

City Wide
Thinkfast!

in support of Development and Peace

For Youth Grades 9-12

Saturday, April 1

9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

at St. Joseph's Parish Hall
535 - 8th St. East, Saskatoon

For information and registration forms, contact Christian Ethics teachers; high school chaplains; Erin McKay at the Catholic Centre at 242-1500; or parish offices. More information is also available on the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com



"Nite Life" is designed for youth in Grades 9 to 12.

Saskatoon youth gather for 'Nite Life' sessions

Once a month youth gather for a city-wide event known as Nite Life. Designed for youth in Grades 9 to 12, Nite Life is a chance for young people from different parish and school communities to gather to listen to a speaker and participate in an activity.

Nite Life gatherings take place on Friday evenings from 6:45 p.m. to 11 p.m., and the cost is \$3. Upcoming events include:

- **Friday, March 17** at St. Philip Neri parish, 1904 Munroe Ave – the topic is St. Patrick and the activity will be "Ultimate Frisbee and indoor games". Contact Catherine Fletcher at 343-0325.
- **Friday, April 7** (location to be announced) – the topic is prayer styles and the activity is Campus Cove. Contact Gerry Grimard at 653-4945.
- **Friday, May 26** at St. Anne parish, 217 Lenore Drive – the topic is euthanasia and the activity will be Rucker's Game Centre. Contact Matthew Townley-Smith at 931-4700.
- **Friday, June 29** at Our Lady of Lourdes, 1235-12th St. E. – the topic is chastity and the activity will be swimming at Riversdale Pool. Contact Brigit Martin or John Mann at 343-0289.

YOUNG ADULTS

Theology on Tap

SERVING YOUNG ADULTS THE FINEST IN: SPEAKERS, CONVERSATION & THEOLOGY



7 p.m. Thursday, March 2 - Fr. Ron Rolheiser
Topic: "Sin and Forgiveness"

7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 - Fr. André Lalach
Topic: "The History and Tradition of Married Clergy in the Byzantine Rite"

Contact Erin McKay, Youth Ministries Office for more information. Phone: 242-1500, Tollfree: 1-877-651-5005

Tap into your life...Tap into your faith...Tap into your heart.

Sponsored by Ukrainian Catholic Youth and Campus Ministry, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and St. Thomas More Campus Ministry.

Young adult mission held Feb. 26 to 28 at St. Mary's

A mission for young adults will be held over three evenings in February at St. Mary's parish hall, on 20th Street West, between Ave. O and Ave. P.

The Redemptorist Young Adult Mission will take place in a relaxed coffee house setting, and will explore the virtues of faith, hope and love from a young adult's perspective.

The mission will be held 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27; and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28.

For more information call St. Mary's parish at 244-2983.



Marriage nourishment

Rob and Sandra Blom were among the couples to gather for a meal served with reflection questions at a marriage enrichment evening organized by St. Francis Xavier parish in November. The Saskatoon parish modeled the event after similar evenings organized by the diocesan Marriage Task Force.

Marriage Preparation / Engaged Encounter / Marriage Enrichment

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Engaged Encounter is a "weekend away" in which couples explore their feelings and dialogue about their future together.

Engaged Encounter
St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster
March 31, April 1-2, 2006

Contact: Tanya and Todd Schuler 682-0777

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

AT LOCAL PARISHES:
 Marriage Preparation is offered at several parishes. Contact your local parish to inquire about availability.

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES:

Weekend Marriage Preparation:

March 3-4 / April 28-29 / June 2-3

(Workshops run Friday 6:30 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5p.m.

Cost is \$150 per couple.)

Contact: 244-7773

E-mail: staff@cfsaskatoon.sk.ca

SUZETTE SZUMUTKU: 1-800-652-1251

Weekend Marriage Preparation

(Workshops do not have a

specifically Catholic perspective)

March 10 - 11, 2006

June 23 - 24, 2006

Re-marriage Workshop: April 28-29, 2006

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for a married couple to take time to rediscover one another and focus on their relationship in a loving encounter.

March 10 - 12, 2006

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster

April 21 - 23, 2006

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster

October 27 - 29, 2006

Ramada Hotel, Saskatoon

Contact: Marc and Anita Loiselle
 P.O. Box 25, Vonda, SK. SOK 4N0
 Phone: 258-2192: Fax: 258-2169
 E-mail: loiselle@sasktel.net

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENRICHMENT EVENINGS

For those couples who have taken a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend community enrichment evenings are offered, beginning at 8 p.m. on the following dates:

Saturday, Feb. 25:

St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon

Saturday, March 27:

St. Francis Xavier, Saskatoon

Saturday, May 27:

St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon

Contact: Dean & Michelle Yurkowski

Phone: 373-2741

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE:

4th Annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet
Saturday, April 1, 2006

All married couples are welcome to join in this evening celebration recognizing the sacrament of marriage.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with Mass celebrated by Bishop Albert LeGatt at St. Patrick parish, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon. Celebrations continue downstairs in the hall with supper, featuring guest speakers Blake and Brooke Sittler. To register please contact the diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Pastoral Center at 242-1500 or toll free at 1-877-661-5005 before March 29, 2006. Cost: \$20 per couple.

MINISTRY TRAINING SCHEDULE SPRING 2006

DATE	DEANERY AND TOPIC	PRESENTER	LOCATION & REGISTRATION
Monday Feb. 13 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	DIOCESE OF SASKATOON Grief Ministry: When a Child Dies This gathering is an opportunity for those involved in Spiritual Pastoral Care Ministry and Ministry to the Grieving to expand their understanding, to share ideas, to network and to be supported in their ministry.	Dr. Phil Carverhill Dr. Phil Carverhill was born in Montreal. He attained his Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan and is currently a clinical psychologist with Prairie Therapists and Trainers.	St. Paul's Cathedral Bishop Mahoney Hall Saskatoon For more information call Kathy Hitchings at 242-1500, ext 227; toll free: 1-877-661-5005 or e-mail: layform@saskatoonrcdiocese.com
Thursday Feb.16 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.	DIOCESE OF SASKATOON Diocesan Core Community Dinner & Meeting A gathering of people involved or interested in the development of Small Christian Communities in their parish or otherwise. Organized by Donna Donaldson of the Offices of Scripture Resources, Small Christian Communities, and Vocation Promotion.	Michel Fortier will speak on "The Image of God in Scripture"; Dolores Crawford , diocesan coordinator of RCIA, will be speaking on "The RCIA as a Model of SCC's". A special guest speaker will also be presenting on "The Value of Gathering Around the Word."	St. Paul's Cathedral Bishop Mahoney Hall Saskatoon For more information call Donna Donaldson at 382-4240. Please RSVP by Feb. 10.
Tuesday Feb. 28 & Tuesday March 7 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	SASKATOON URBAN & RURAL DEANERIES Introduction to Spiritual Pastoral Care The Ministry of Spiritual Pastoral Care is a way of being present to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound, bereaved and lonely in a way that brings comfort and healing. This workshop is for all those who visit or take Communion to the sick, or walk with the sick or grieving. Practical skills will be offered during this workshop.	John and Rita Kelly John and Rita Kelly have work-ed together as a team in various capacities for over 30 years. They developed and taught a Basic Skills Pastoral Care Lay Training Course. This provincially-recognized program involves the training of facilitators who then teach the course in their own area.	St. Paul's Cathedral Bishop Mahoney Hall Saskatoon \$15 For more information call Marci Deutscher at 242-1500, ext 222; toll free: 1-877-661-5005
March 3-4 March 10-11 March 17-18 March 24-25 (Friday evenings, Saturdays)	INTERCHURCH HEALTH MINISTRIES & LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY Parish Nurse Ministry: Level I, Level II, or Level III Parish nurses, clergy and health cabinet members of partnership congregations and agencies are automatically eligible for enrollment in Levels I, II, and III of the Parish Nurse Ministry Education Program. A Parish Nurse is a registered nurse who is called to a health and healing ministry. As a church or agency staff team member, the Parish Nurse is committed to ongoing theological reflection and education, working with clergy, the congregation or agency and community. All nurses registering for Level I are required to submit a letter of application, a letter of reference from their clergy and a current nursing Certificate of Competence.	Interchurch Ministries is offering this Parish Nurse Ministry program in partnership with Lutheran Theological Seminary . There are three levels of education and supervised practice for Parish Nurses serving in ICHM-SK partnership congregations, agencies and special ministries. Health cabinet members and clergy are encouraged to attend the classroom sessions. Classroom content in Levels I and II is followed by practicum experience for Parish Nurses in a congregation or agency setting.	Lutheran Theological Seminary, U of S, 114 Seminary Cres. Saskatoon For congregations or agencies to become an ICHM-SK partner the fee is \$600. For registered nurses in independent study (Level I only), the course cost is \$300. For more information call Joyce Beckett, RN at 966-8547 or e-mail: beckett@duke.usask.ca Register before Feb. 21.

MINISTRY TRAINING SCHEDULE SPRING 2006

DATE	DEANERY AND TOPIC	PRESENTER	LOCATION & REGISTRATION
<p>Saturday March 11</p> <p>9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>WADENA & HUMBOLT DEANERIES</p> <p>Presiding at the Sunday Celebration of the Word</p> <p>All liturgical ministries — from proclaimers of the Word to music — will find this workshop useful. A step-by-step understanding of the various aspects of the liturgy. The principles for presiding are discussed and participants are invited to reflect on the spirituality of the presider.</p>	<p>Karen Schreiner Karen Schreiner was born and raised in Lake Lenore, Sask. She attained her BEd from the University of Saskatchewan and taught for 30 years in Saskatoon Catholic schools. She is currently a Pastoral Associate at St. Anne parish in Saskatoon and the chair of the Diocesan Commission for Liturgy.</p>	<p>St. Mary Wadena</p> <p>\$15 (includes lunch) To register, please contact Marci Deutscher at 242-1500, ext. 222; toll free: 1-877-661-5005</p>
<p>Saturday April 1</p> <p>Mass with Bishop LeGatt at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Banquet at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>SASKATOON CITY DEANERY</p> <p>4th Annual Marriage Appreciation Banquet</p> <p>Presented by the Diocesan Task Force on Marriage and Worldwide Marriage Encounter, this supper is a celebration of the sacrament of marriage and a show of appreciation by the diocese for all those who offer their gifts to marriage preparation and enrichment.</p>	<p>Keynote address by Blake & Brooke Sittler Blake has a Master of Divinity and works in Ministry Development for the diocese. He was a key developer of the national umbrella organization for lay ministers, Réseau Ministeria Network. Brooke graduated from the University of Saskatchewan and is a lawyer for the Federal Department of Justice. They have been married for ten years and have three children.</p>	<p>St. Patrick Parish Centre 3339 Centennial Dr. Saskatoon</p> <p>To register for the supper, please call 242-1500 (toll free: 1-877-661-5005). Cost for supper is \$20 per couple at the door. The supper is free for couples who assist with marriage preparation or enrichment at their parish; please ask your pastor or parish leadership to register you.</p>
<p>May 26 to May 28</p>	<p>DIOCESE OF SASKATOON</p> <p>Western Conference of the Catechumenate: "RCIA in Rural and Small Churches"</p> <p>This conference will be very helpful, not only for rural parishes, but for all parishes for those years when the number of inquirers is small.</p>	<p>Fr. Mike Clay Author of "A Harvest For God: Christian Initiation in the Rural and Small-town Parish", Fr. Clay serves the diocese of Raleigh, NC as pastor, director of liturgy, and director of vocations. He holds a doctorate from CUA in liturgical studies with an emphasis on the RCIA. He has presented workshops in over 50 North American dioceses.</p>	<p>Holy Spirit Church, 114 Kingsmere Pl. Saskatoon</p> <p>Cost TBA</p> <p>To register or for more information call Fr. Mike Koch at 373-0404</p>

FOUNDATIONS: EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Spring 2006

General Information: The cost of each course is \$5 per person, per two hour session. High school students: no charge. The number in brackets after the title of the course indicates the number of sessions.

Classes are from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Note: Anyone is welcome to attend sessions – it is not necessary to be a member of the parish organizing the event.

Pre-registration with the contact person is required. A minimum of 15 people required for course to run.

Course	Parish	Dates	Contact	Resource Person
Take Time to Forgive (1) The process of forgiveness can teach us much about ourselves, relationships and God. We will consider the stages of forgiveness and the lessons at each stage.	Holy Family Saskatoon	Tuesday March 7 7 p.m.	Eileen Materi 374-7981	Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU
Eucharist: A Way of Life (1) We will look at the Sacraments of Initiation with an emphasis on Eucharist as a way of life as well as worship.	St. Anne Saskatoon	Wednesday March 15	Dolores Crawford 931-4700	Sr. Dianne Sehn, OSU
The Seven Last Words of Jesus (1) A meditation of Jesus' words from the cross leads us into the mystery of "letting go" and finding new life.	St. Augustine Saskatoon	Wednesday March 29	Toni Ducklow 373-3453	Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU
Israel and Palestine: What will it take for Peace? (1) An unbiased presentation of the history of the region followed by discussion of what will be needed before peace can be brought about in the Middle East.	St. Francis Xavier Saskatoon	Tuesday February 28	Irene LeGatt 933-1108	Michael Murphy
A Funny Thing Happened on My Way Through the Bible (1) A search for the use of humour in the Old and New Testament and a discussion about the importance of making the Word relevant to people today.	St. Francis Xavier Saskatoon	Thursday March 9	Irene LeGatt 933-1108	Blake Sittler
Symbolism in the Liturgy (1) Our liturgy is rich with symbolism. We will look at the symbols, colors and postures used during the Mass and discuss their meaning.	St. Francis Xavier Saskatoon	Thursday March 16	Irene LeGatt 933-1108	Karen Schreiner
Prayer Forms (1) Our personality influences the type of prayer form we use. This session will look at why you prefer one type of prayer over another.	St. Patrick Parish Centre Saskatoon	Thursday March 9 7 p.m.	Shirley Hyshka 384-4319	Marci Deutscher
Water: A Sacred Gift and a Basic Human Right (1) A presentation on the sacredness of water, which connects all life, and on the need for access to clean water to be recognized as a basic human right; followed by participant discussion.	St. Theresa Asquith	Monday February 20	Louise Brecht 329-4705	Michael Murphy

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Pre-registration with the contact person is required. A minimum of 15 people required for course to run.

Course	Parish	Dates	Contact	Resource Person
Living Wills (1) Guidelines for Living Wills are discussed within the context of church teachings.	St. Joseph Kindersley	TBA	Toni Fiest 965-2572	Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR
Echoing the Word (1) The call from the Gospel “to put out into the deep” requires us to echo the Word of God in daily living. This session will deepen our understanding and association of the Word in our lives. Rituals, symbols, song and reflection will highlight the session to enable participants to proclaim and share the Word with others.	Sacred Heart Lancer	Saturday March 25 3 - 5 p.m.	Paulette Andreas 689-2889	Mary Comeault
The History and Theology of Marriage (1) The history and theology of marriage and how we live our lives through the sacrament of marriage.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Outlook	Monday, February 20	Rita Gifford 867-8085	Blake & Brooke Sittler
The Future of Farming (1) Where are we headed in the new millennium? Each of us can contribute to what the future of farming becomes. Examine choices and their impact from a Christian perspective.	St. Alphonse Viscount	Tuesday, March 7	Bill Comeault 944-4446	Duane Guina
Celebrating the Eucharist (3-5) The Eucharist is the centre of our life. This course will identify the Mass as covenant meal, and a paschal banquet where we are nourished. Other areas covered will be the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist, and the significance of the call to Sunday gathering.	Vonda St. Denis Prud’homme	Mondays, March 6 to April 3.	Sr. Marguerite Dumont, SND 258-2047	Mary Comeault
The Virtue of Chastity How can parents teach Christian values when children are bombarded by the media? This session is for parents and youth.	St. Mary Wadena	Monday, March 20	Holly Parsons 338-2526	Bonita Mechor
The Church's Teaching on Social Justice (1) Explore ways in which we as members of the church should live our faith within the context of our complex and often unjust world. We will focus on scriptural and church teachings on social justice as well as on contemporary social justice issues.	St. James Wilkie	Tuesday, February 21	Shirley Holzman 843-2493	Tony Haynes

Parish celebrates refugee sponsorship at event organized to raise awareness

By **Andréa Ledding**

Holy Spirit parish has more than 20 years experience in refugee sponsorship, and the Saskatoon parish recently took time to celebrate while raising awareness.

"Canada and Australia are the only countries in the world that permit private sponsorship of refugees," explained Ellen Erickson, a member of the parish social justice committee that hosted the event. She recalled the events in South Vietnam which led to the legislation enabling the so-called "boat people" to be privately sponsored by church groups and citizens, in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

More recently, families from places such as Iraq and Kosovo have been sponsored by the parish, as well as by the larger community. Currently, a family from Columbia is being oriented to their new home, sponsored by Holy Spirit church.

The Rubiela Rodriguez family includes six immediate family members – a mother and her children – as well as extended family and friends. Forming a small community of their own, they are also supported specifically by two families in the parish, Rob and June Young, and Yvette and Gus Sander.

"It's time consuming but very rewarding. We've become good friends," said Yvette Sander, explaining that the

Columbian families are so happy and genuinely grateful that it's a pleasure to be able to do something for them. Since her husband Gus is retired, he is available during the day, while Rob Young takes on evening activities. They have also been able to organize other volunteers to assist with specific activities, which include many appointments, errands, tasks, and orientations to a new culture.

"There are so many everyday things we take for granted," said Rob Young, adding that other parish members help share the responsibility. Harold Jones was a frequent visitor as a translator. Jones decided to learn new languages after retiring, and has picked up three languages so far, including the Spanish he speaks with the Columbian families.

"Just to give you an idea, in a two-month period we had 19 dental and nine optometrist appointments that I attended with the family as a translator," commented Jones. He and Young also helped with getting the school registrations and ESL classes organized for the youth and children.

The information evening Jan. 21 was held in Holy Spirit parish hall after a Saturday evening Mass, and included food, entertainment, and a slide show.



Holy Spirit parishioner Harold Jones and a young friend from Columbia participate in an awareness evening about refugee sponsorship held Jan. 21 at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon.

Erickson said that she hopes in future more parish members will attend evenings like this to learn more, as well as to help in welcoming newcomers. Perhaps more people will also begin to "work against the causes creating displacement in the first place," she added. The parish's next social justice meeting takes place Feb. 20, and new members are welcome.

Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated with Bishop LeGatt

By **Kiply Lukan Yaworski**

A special celebration to mark the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe was held Dec. 11 at St. Mary's church in Saskatoon by the Guadalupe House parish community.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas. In the Canadian Catholic Church, the Dec. 12 feast day is also the "Day of Prayer for Aboriginal Peoples".

Serving a community of First Nations people and others in Saskatoon's downtown core neighborhood, Guadalupe House integrates symbols and traditions of native spirituality into the community's Eucharistic celebrations. Smudging with sweetgrass, drumming, a gift blanket, and turning to the four directions at the *Great Amen* are part of the Guadalupe celebrations.

Bishop Albert LeGatt presided at the Eucharist, which began with a procession bringing in the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and concluded with a round dance and social gathering.

In his homily, LeGatt spoke about the role of a prophet as revealed in the Sunday gospel's image of John the Baptist, and as lived out by St. Juan Diego who encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe on a hilltop in Mexico in 1531.

The prophet is one who points to God, the bishop explained. "The prophet says 'here God is present among his people, here God is coming, here God is at work.'"



Drummers provide music ministry during the preparation of the gifts at the Eucharist celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

All the baptized are also called to be prophets, the bishop added. "Your mission as people of Guadalupe among the first Nations people is to say 'here is where God is' – in all that you do to reach out to each other, to support each other, to walk the path together, to work for healing."

Prayer is vital if we're going to be prophets, he added. "We must hear the Spirit's voice in the lives of ourselves and others, and be people who turn to the Creator again and again."

Lay formation session explores First Nations experience

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Lay formation participants in Saskatoon recently spent a day reflecting on the First Nations experience in Canada, hearing personal stories of healing and reconciliation and exploring historic context, current issues and native spirituality.

Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie of the diocese of Keewatin Le-Pas, Harry Lafond of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, and First Nations speaker Frank Monroe of Saskatoon joined the lay formation team from the Roman Catholic diocese and the Ukrainian eparchy of Saskatoon to present the day-long session Dec. 10.

The day began with an overview on the history of contact and relationship with the First Nations peoples of Canada, led by Lavoie. Lafond and Monroe then described struggles and healing at both the community and the individual level. A reflection, where blankets represented the land, symbolically re-enacted First Nations history in Canada. The participants then spent the afternoon examining issues in more depth.

At the end of the session, Archbishop Lavoie presided at the Eucharist, incorporating First Nations symbols into the celebration.

Taking time to focus on the experience and the spirituality of First Nations people is an opportunity for growing in understanding and solidarity, according to members of the formation team.

"It helps us to grow in our awareness of native spirituality as it is practiced in the Catholic tradition and to recognize that our church has been trying to be more respectful of aboriginal culture," said Kathy Hitchings, a member of the diocesan lay formation team.

"It was a day of healing, reconciliation and thanksgiving," said team member Louise Gantefer. "We were able to grow in understanding and in walking together."

The Saskatoon formation program has always had



Participants in the lay formation program for the diocese and the eparchy of Saskatoon participated in a symbolic re-enactment of First Nations experiences in Canada .

aboriginal participants, Hitchings noted. "We try to create an environment where they can feel respected and valued for who they are and can bring that forth and share that with the rest of us," she said.

Such sharing is an integral part of the formation process, she noted. "One of the reasons for formation is to equip us to bring our experience of God in our lives and share that with others."

Lay formation is a two-year program, with participants gathering for ten weekends each year to grow in understanding, faith and friendship.

Topics addressed throughout the two years help participants grow in understanding of the Catholic faith, and include such areas as scripture, theology, morality, liturgy, social justice and spirituality. Prayer and a Christian community experience are also integral to the formation program.

Currently the program has 24 second-year participants, as well as 38 first-year participants who come from both the Roman Catholic and the Ukrainian Catholic tradition.

New Year begins with prayers for peace and justice

By Andréa Ledding

The New Year was welcomed by members of many faiths in a prayer service on the theme of world peace.

The Dec. 31 event held at St. Paul's Cathedral was organized by the diocesan Office for Justice and Peace. The evening began with a half hour of candle-lighting and silent prayer. Each person was given a candle to place on a large quilted map of the world.

Jan Norris, a Buddhist and a member of the Saskatoon Peace Coalition, introduced the speakers and prayer leaders. She said the first vigil was held on the New Year's Eve prior to the American invasion of Iraq. Since then, various faiths have continued to come together sharing their wealth of traditions and joining together to pray for peace.

The theme of the evening was "Poverty, a barrier to peace", and was developed by many members of the multi-faith community, including young members of the United Church who had volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in Nicaragua, members of the clergy, representatives of the Sikh, Jewish, and Ba'hai communities, and Joe Littlecrow, a local First Nations man who shared his life experience.

"I believe how I spend my New Year is how the rest of my year will go, and I choose to be violence-free, drug-free, and alcohol free," said Littlecrow. His painful past was shared as he described his family and history, and how happy he was to be

home this Christmas with his children for only the third time in the past 15 years.

Kamil Parmar of the Sikh community spoke of the incongruity of our age. Cutting-edge technology and affluence are on one side of the coin, while suffering and poverty are on the other. "Over 800 million suffer from poverty, and more than 10 million children die each year from preventable causes," said Parmar. "Poverty is a never-ending cycle."

A member of the local Pakistan community spoke of the horrific earthquake this fall, and a collection was taken up for the victims of the disaster, which has killed more than 70,000, over half of whom were children.

"They went to school never to return home. In six minutes, people's lives were turned upside down forever ... the earth swallowed many whole, never to be recovered," reported Nayir Javad, formerly of the area which was most devastated. She has lost family in the earthquake and explained the tie to poverty. "There were no building codes or disaster measures – people were buried alive with nobody to dig them out."

Norris concluded the evening by encouraging everyone to continue to pressure the federal government to increase foreign aid and eliminate the debts to the poorest nations, as well as recommending the website www.makepovertyhistory.ca

Conference explores future of Catholic education

Donna Ziegler

Affirming Hope Conference organizing committee

The future of Catholic education has always rested in the hands of all Catholic partners. On May 5, 6 and 7, the Catholic school trustees of Saskatchewan and the Knights of Columbus invite all those interested in Catholic education to join them for the Affirming Hope IV Conference in Saskatoon.

It is an opportunity for all supporters to come together and rediscover the connection between school, home, church and the community. This year's theme "*Pride in the Past - Passion for the Future*" explores the blessings and the challenges of Catholic education.

Darci Lang will kick off the weekend conference by inviting participants to recall the blessings and challenges of Catholic education in a humorous and heartfelt presentation.

Saturday's keynote speaker, Fr. James Mulligan, will issue an urgent wake-up call to all Catholic partners about the need to immediately address vital issues or face the demise of publicly-funded Catholic education. Mulligan will present both hard news about our education system and some hopeful solutions for ensuring its future.

Saturday, May 6 also features 16 break-out conference sessions relevant to the eight biases of Catholic Education that are revealed in Mulligan's book: "Catholic Education – Ensuring A Future."

Star highlights Bethlehem high school's Catholic identity

By Donella Hoffman

From a star-shaped skylight to a circular chapel at its front entrance, Bethlehem Catholic High School in Saskatoon will include several distinct features that will highlight its identity as a Catholic school.

"We know that our Catholicity is first and foremost within this project," says Scott Gay, Bethlehem's principal. Scheduled to open in fall 2007 with students in grades 9 and 10, the school will be part of the multi-district park at the west end of 22nd Street, between the Parkridge and Pacific Heights neighbourhoods.

Plans for the \$17-million Bethlehem high school project call for construction to start in April 2006 and to be complete by Sept. 1, 2007.

Saskatoon Public Schools is building its new high school, Tommy Douglas Collegiate, on the site as well. A civic leisure facility that includes an Olympic-size swimming pool will be located between the two schools.

Because Bethlehem is part of a larger project, it is especially important to preserve its unique Catholic character, says the school's principal. "I think we as a staff will instill in students that we don't have to be better – we have to be who we are, guided by the teachings of Christ," says Gay.

The star-shaped skylight will be one of the most visible symbols of the school's Catholic distinctiveness, says Jim Carriere, chair of the Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education.

At a meeting in fall 2005, Carriere and his board colleagues approved the preliminary design of the school, as presented by AODBT Architects. The school's name was an important consideration in how the building was designed, states the report from the architects.

"Bethlehem means a place that is inclusive and welcomes

Sessions will be facilitated by a variety of Catholic partners from across the province, including teachers, youth ministers, parents, music ministers, First Nations Catholic community members and more.

Take a journey to Jerusalem and experience the life of Jesus through the strands of arts education; learn how to "*Breathe Life Into the Trinity of Catholic Education*" as parish members share how to build community in the inner city; or learn how to gather quality Catholic leaders who are willing to "*Cast Out Their Nets*" in support of their passion for Catholic education. Thirteen other break-out sessions on such topics as value and virtues, bullying, liturgical music, and First Nation prayer experiences will also be available.

Also on Saturday, May 26, delegates will share time together at the banquet featuring entertainment from all corners of the province.

Sunday, May 7 will bring conference participants together as a faith community to share in the Liturgy of the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt. Closing speaker Fr. David Tumback will share his passionate and light-hearted discussion that calls on each person to recognize and mobilize the silent majority – the 70 per cent who don't have kids in school.

For registration information, contact (306) 445-6158 (North West Catholic School Division) or visit: www.catholicsection.ca

all of us despite our weaknesses and blemishes. The most recognizable visual symbol identified with Bethlehem was the star and its guiding nature," says the architects' report.

During the day, the star-shaped skylight will allow natural light to fill the commons area of the building, while at night, the skylight will be illuminated, becoming an unmistakable landmark for those approaching the new school.

In addition to the symbolic star, Carriere says he will be "particularly vigilant" about ensuring there are further signs of Catholicity on the school's exterior.

Carriere commends other aspects of the preliminary plan. "I was impressed with the openness of the design and the welcoming aspect, which is what Catholic education is all about," he says.

The hub of the school will be the cafeteria/commons area in the centre of the building. It will open directly to the large gym, theatre stage, resource centre, and main office area. From there, people will be able to easily get to the three main classroom wings and the visual and practical arts wing.

Community consultations were held to gather ideas about how the school should be built. Students, teachers, parents, trustees, business and community groups as well as Saskatoon Catholic Schools staff all offered input.

Several key areas were discussed, from symbolic elements – such as the use of the star atop the school – to practical considerations about hallways, classrooms, music rooms and gymnasiums. Many suggestions were incorporated into the preliminary design, says Carriere.

"We really wanted a school that would be ready for future educational needs as well as current educational needs," says Gay.

Catholic high school continued on Page 13

Trustees from Humboldt, Biggar and Saskatoon rural areas welcomed in commissioning service for Catholic school board

By Donella Hoffman and Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Board members for the newly-expanded Saskatoon Catholic school division participated in a commissioning service Jan. 9, to welcome three new trustees.

The new division was created Jan. 1, 2006 when Saskatoon Catholic amalgamated with Catholic school divisions in Humboldt, Biggar, and Viscount, and with newly formed Catholic rural divisions Aberdeen, Clavet and South Corman Park.

The new board members — Debbie Berscheid, representing Humboldt; Todd Hawkins, representing Biggar; and Wayne Stus, representing Viscount, Aberdeen, Clavet and Corman Park — join the original seven members of the St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division (RCSSD) to govern the expanded district until municipal elections are held in October.

The division is now the largest Catholic school district in the province, with 40 elementary and high schools in Saskatoon and a total of four elementary schools in Biggar, Humboldt and Viscount, serving approximately 15,500 students, with 1,736 teaching, service and support staff.

"We are thrilled to welcome our new partners," said Jim Carriere, board chair. "We look forward to working together and building on the strengths each of us bring to this new board."

Berscheid, a special care aide in Humboldt, said amalgamation will enhance Catholic education in her community, as staff and administrators from the school systems exchange expertise about their shared mission. "It's going to be a blending of cultures," she said. "I think we will all benefit and learn from that."

Each new board member is committed to preserving Catholic education. "Our number one priority is to make sure all decisions are made in the best interests of our students and that we ensure the long-term viability of the Catholic school in our community," said Hawkins, a financial planner in Biggar.

Stus, a construction and facilities supervisor who lives in the Aberdeen area northeast of Saskatoon, says he will bring a different perspective to what has historically been an urban board. "I felt it was very important for this board to have a rural connection," he said.

The commissioning service led by Rev. Ron Beechinor, pastoral services associate for the Catholic school division, focused on unifying the new trustees in living out their mission to provide Catholic education, with each trustee lighting an



Saskatoon Catholic trustees (l-r) Debbie Berscheid, Fred Wesolowski, Alice Risling, Diane Boyko, Ron Boechler, Lisa Lambert, Jim Carriere, Tom Fortosky, Todd Hawkins, Wayne Stus participated in a commissioning ceremony Jan. 9 marking the reconfiguration of the board as a result of the recent amalgamation of Humboldt, Biggar, Aberdeen, Clavet and South Corman Park Catholic school divisions with Saskatoon Catholic.

individual candle from a single unity candle and joining in prayer.

The board is going to have to deal with significant issues in the months ahead, Beechinor said, and members are challenged to improve and strengthen Catholic education during their terms of service. "You do not stand alone. Find your strength and your wisdom by standing together," he said.

"We celebrate the past, present, and future of our Catholic schools — schools which aim to educate the whole child, spiritually, academically, socially, physically and emotionally," Beechinor said. "Hundreds of former and current students are faithful witnesses to the love of Christ and to the value of Catholic education that nurtured in them the seeds of justice, faith and love."

In conjunction with a restructuring program launched by Saskatchewan Learning, a number of Catholic school divisions have voluntarily amalgamated across the province in the past 10 years, reducing the number of Catholic divisions from 22 to eight. Public school divisions have also been affected by restructuring, with the number of public divisions in the province now standing at 14.

Catholic high school plans reflect community consultation

Catholic high school *continued from Page 12*

In part, this means ensuring that various areas in the school are built so that they can serve more than one purpose, he says. For example, the school stage opens toward a theatre with almost 300 seats and toward the student commons area.

Accessibility was also important, Gay notes. Bethlehem is a one-storey school that has wheelchair accessible washrooms in all parts of the school. There are several special needs classrooms as well.

Bethlehem will be the first new "community" high school for Saskatoon and the first planned and built with the *School Plus+* model, which means that the school's role is more than a place of teaching and learning. It is to be a place where students can access other agencies like the police, Department of Community Resources and Employment, Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Saskatoon Health Region.

For a summary of consultations done to date for Bethlehem Catholic High School, see the Saskatoon Catholic Schools website at www.scs.sk.ca

Aptly-named Rite of Election held March 5

By Dolores Crawford
Diocesan RCIA Coordinator

The Rite of Election might seem like a strange name for a step in the RCIA process, but it is a name that has been carefully selected.

God chooses us, elects us, in Christ, to be a holy people, to be a church, to be signs of the reign of God on earth. The catechumens who have been preparing for baptism and those

who have been working with them believe that God has chosen them to be one of us, the baptized.

At the Rite of Election, their godparents, sponsors, catechists, pastors and friends will testify before the bishop that God has chosen these people and they are ready to be initiated at the Easter Vigil. After listening to this testimony, the bishop affirms God's call in their lives and declares them to be the Elect of God. They sign their names in the Book of the Elect to formalize their commitment.

Those candidates who are preparing for confirmation and Eucharist also attend the Rite of Election; they are already part of the community of the faithful because of their baptism. The bishop welcomes the candidates at the beginning of the liturgy and they are dismissed after the homily along with the catechumens to "break open the Word".

The Rite of Election is a diocesan event celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent in a eucharistic liturgy. The role of the diocesan church is to welcome, support, and pray for and with our catechumens. Please join with them in prayer and celebration at the Rite of Election. Your support is not only an essential part of the initiation process but also part of the call of every baptized person to evangelize.

The Rite of Election Mass will be held 3:30 p.m., Sunday, March 5 at St. Patrick's Parish, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon.

Ministry to Tourism designs variety of travel experiences

In the diocese of Saskatoon, the Ministry to Tourism office will be offering a variety of enriching travel experiences during 2006-2007. Director Fr. Ralph Kleiter said that the tours will "offer traveling in a way that one wouldn't want to do on one's own."

"It is time for Western Canadians to experience Atlantic Canada and Quebec," Kleiter said, noting that the autumn 2006 programs will present Newfoundland and Labrador with the assistance of the "McCarthy Party". This family travel operator provides "an authentic experience — a total immersion, Newfoundland and Labrador style." Via Rail's "The Ocean" will highlight a Maritime learning experience between Halifax and Quebec with the guiding expertise of a learning coordinator on board. Several historic and religious sights will also be visited.

The wonders of Saskatchewan will not be forgotten in 2006 when several short excursions to cultural and religious events will be offered.

In May 2006 two Crystal Cruises will entice travellers out of London to western and northern Europe. Fr. Kleiter said that an optional visit to Lourdes, Lisieux and the Normandy Beaches in France would be available. "Saskatchewan people, once they take a cruise, return again and again because the differences and benefits in such travel are crystal clear," Kleiter said.

Currently, Fr. Kleiter and Rita Gillies, an experienced Israel guide, are planning to return to the Holy Land with a pilgrim journey in late April-May 2007.

An informational "Afternoon Travel Tea" will be held Sunday, March 5, 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Saskatoon. For more details contact Kleiter at 306-244-3747 or Rhonda (Sinfonia.Mytravel) at 306-934-5306 or 1-800-667-6961; email: Kleiter@shaw.ca

Queen's House

retreat & renewal centre

february

- 14 Taizé
- 15 A Day Away
LUCIE LEDUC & PAUL FACHET, OMI
- 15 Parish Secretaries' Retreat
LUCIE LEDUC & PAUL FACHET
- 18 Speaking of God: Exploring & Expanding
Our Names for the Divine
MARIE COWIN, OSB
- 24-25 Gesture from the Soul:
Painting without Hesitation
ROLAND DAUM

march

- 1 Journeying with the Scriptures
Paul Fachet, OMI
- 8 A Day Away
LUCIE LEDUC & PAUL FACHET, OMI
- 14 Taizé
- 15 A Day with Art
GISELE BAUCHE
- 17-19 Lenten Retreat
BISHOP ALBERT LEGATT
- 18 Spiritual Emergencies
NANCY REEVES

april

- 5 Journeying with the Scriptures
PAUL FACHET, OMI
- 11 Taizé
- 12 A Day Away
LUCIE LEDUC & PAUL FACHET, OMI
- 17-20 Faith Speaking to Violence in our World
DIARMAID O'MURCHU, OMI
- 21-22 Seminar: Finding Your Voice
through Art & Spirituality
DEAN BAUCHE
- 29 Liturgy Workshop: Renewing Ourselves
in the Eucharist
BISHOP GERALD WIESNER, OMI

Please call ahead or register through website if you plan to attend

601 Taylor Street West Saskatoon SK S7M 0C9
tel: (306) 242-1916 fax: (306) 653-5941
info@queenshouse.org http://www.queenshouse.org



Nicole Detillieux, Daniel Denis, David Yasinski, Colin Roy (back, l-r) and Dan Yasinski (front) provide music ministry for the monthly "Face to Face Encounter" at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Resource Library will e-mail information about new material

Patrons of the diocese of Saskatoon Resource Library can now be notified by e-mail when new materials arrive. The e-mail bulletins provide a summary of the print and video materials, including details such as topic, length, and suggested audience.

Anyone interested in signing up for this new e-mail service is asked to contact librarian Fran Turner at library@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

A wide variety of materials for faith growth and development are available from the diocesan Resource Library. Videos, audio cassettes and books are available to enrich religious education programs for all ages or to enhance any individual's spiritual journey. The library catalogue can be explored on the diocesan website: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com

The Saskatoon Resource Library is located on the lower floor of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 100 - 5th Ave. N., Saskatoon. It is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. For requests and information, phone 242-1500; toll free: 1-877-661-5005.

The Humboldt Resource Library is located at 521 - 7th St. (south door), Humboldt. Hours are Monday to Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; phone 682-1534.

Young and old participate in monthly adoration 'Encounter' at St. Paul's

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Close to 100 young people and others of many ages gathered in prayerful adoration recently at St. Paul's Cathedral for a musical "Face to Face Encounter" with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The monthly hour of adoration follows celebration of the Eucharist at 7 p.m. by Fr. Gerard Dewan on the last Saturday evening of each month at the cathedral, located on Spadina Crescent in Saskatoon.

Five university students provide the music ministry for the monthly celebration: Dan Yasinski, Nicole Detillieux, Colin Roy, Daniel Denis and David Yasinski.

Centred on the Eucharist, the Encounter gatherings began three years ago as a follow up to the Face to Face Retreat Ministry founded by Ken Yasinski, brother to Dan and David.

"We like to see everyone come out, it's not just for youth," said David. "For me, having Mass and being able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist and then being able to adore him for a whole hour just tops it off. It's really fulfilling for me."

Participating in the Encounter evening is an opportunity to give something back to the Lord, said Colin Roy. "My faith is growing because I'm doing this," he said, describing the sense of unity that he experiences in the shared prayer.

The experience of shared prayer centred on the Eucharist is powerful, agreed Dan Yasinski. "It's an awesome experience just to see young people kneeling before the Lord and adoring Jesus in the sacrament. It gives me hope."

For Daniel Denis, the time spent at Encounter is a precious time of peace. "We have busy lives ... but this is a moment where people can gather strength from Christ. For two hours they can just relax and be at peace with God."

"I love adoring Christ through music," said Nicole Detillieux, adding that for her the most moving part of the experience is to hear everyone join in the singing.

The young musicians play reflective songs during the hour of adoration, but a period of silence is also part of the prayer time, Denis noted. "It's a time to focus completely on God."

Upcoming dates for "Face to Face Encounter" are: Feb. 25, March 25, April 29, May 27 and June 24. After each gathering there is a time for socializing in the parish hall.

Financial assistance is available for adult faith education.

Apply for funding to offset the cost of courses, conferences, workshops, retreats and other educational opportunities!

Contact:

The Adult Education Opportunities Committee
Dorothy Fortier or Sr. Cecile Fahl
Phone: 242-1500 or toll free 1-877-661-5005

Diocesan Pastoral Council reflects on Bishop's Annual Appeal

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The history and impact of the Bishop's Annual Appeal in the diocese of Saskatoon was explained in a presentation to the Diocesan Pastoral Council Jan. 28 by BAA director Fr. Ken Beck.

"Our annual appeal in the diocese of Saskatoon is recognized by other dioceses in Saskatchewan and beyond our province as being the recipient of the generosity of the people of our diocese," Beck told the council, an advisory body to Bishop Albert LeGatt with representation from deaneries across the diocese, as well as from other key groups, including Catholic institutions, religious sisters, pastoral associates, and the priest's council.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal began under Bishop James Mahoney more than 20 years ago, when it became evident that the number of priests was declining, and that more resources would have to be directed toward forming lay leadership and hiring laypeople to lead ministries in the diocese. "It was recognized that somehow funding was going to have to



be put in place," Beck said.

Professional consultants were brought in to help set up the Bishop's Annual Appeal, but within the first two years the diocese determined that it was able to administer the BAA on its own, he said. Cornerstones of the BAA include contacting every member of every parish, a system of volunteers making home visits, and an ongoing education process about ministry needs and the Christian call to good stewardship.

In the past 22 years, the diocese has always been able to reach its guideline, thanks to the generous response of the people, Beck said. This year, the BAA raised \$1.3 million, again exceeding the annual goal.

Stewardship education around the Appeal has also had an impact in other areas, with regular Sunday collections proportionately higher in parishes in the diocese who have shared the BAA since

its inception, as opposed to those parishes which joined the diocese more recently, Beck said. He described how the years of experiencing the BAA has helped many in the diocese to grow in their understanding about the call to be good stewards

"As stewards we are entrusted with gifts of time, talent and treasure that God has given us and we're invited to use them wisely," said Beck, noting the call to good stewardship includes all aspects of our lives.

This growing awareness helps to define "who we are as people in the diocese of Saskatoon," Beck said. The work of volunteers in going out to talk to their brothers and sisters about the Appeal and about the parish has had a wonderful effect on parishes, he added, describing how the BAA also fosters unity across the diocese, as people work together to meet diocesan needs beyond the individual parish.

"More important than the financial aspect is that we have come to discover who we are as the people of God in this part of the world known as the diocese of Saskatoon."

Lenten resources now available

Resources for Lent 2006 can be ordered from the diocesan office of Scripture Resources, Small Christian Communities and Vocation Promotion.

Materials available for small group work or personal reflection include:

- **Jesus, The Wisdom of God** – Lectionary-Based Lenten Reflections Cycle B from St. Anthony Messenger (\$4 per booklet. Please allow two weeks for delivery).

- **Celebrating The Word** – Lectionary-based reflections on the Sunday readings by Fr. Frank Ruetz (Reflection guides for all six Sundays of Lent are e-mailed or faxed to the parish. Cost is \$3 per participant.)

- **Diocesan Scripture Reflection Guides** – can be faxed, e-mailed or downloaded from the website at www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com and reproduced without cost.

- **Video-based Scripture Studies** – studies available include the Little Rock Series (there is a cost for commentary and study guide) and the Focus on the Family Series.

To order or for more information please contact: the Scripture Resources office at the Catholic Centre, 242-1500; toll free: 1-877-661-5005, or by e-mail: scriptres@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Time Out for Moms

Jan. 18 to April 5

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Holy Spirit parish, 114 Kingsmere Place

Each week mothers gather for a morning of Catholic faith enrichment, discussion, friendship and fun, while their children are cared for by dedicated volunteers. Contact:

Angie Smith 374-6981 to register
or Val O'Reilly 975-1963 to volunteer

Alpha: an introduction to Christianity Parkland Hall, Allan, Sask.

Sunday evenings until the end of March

Sponsored by the Allan Baptist Church and St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church. To make arrangements for child care or for more information contact Pastor Kim Uhren at 257-3550 or Sr. Gina Jacek at 257-4342.

Purity Rally 2006

Saturday, March 4

St. Patrick Parish Centre, 3339 Centennial Drive, Saskatoon

Speakers, contemporary Christian music, skits and games are part of this family-oriented all-day event focusing on chastity. Contact: Carmen Marcoux 934-3512

Website: www.courtshipnow.com

Living Stations of the Cross

7 p.m., Tuesday, April 11

St. Aloysius Church, Allan, SK.

The weekly catechetics program's annual

'Living Stations of the Cross' celebration features students from the Grade 3 to 6 class dramatizing the stations., followed by fellowship in the Parkland Hall, Allan. Everyone is welcome.

Global Gathering Place Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, March 25; Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans, 359 1st Ave. N.

6 p.m. cash wine reception and silent auction viewing; 6:30 p.m. dinner and entertainment. Tickets: \$30/person with tax receipt for \$15. Contact Yvonne at 653-3797 or Global Gathering Place at 665-0268.

Outdoor Way of the Cross

10 a.m. Good Friday, April 14

An ecumenical prayer event focused on justice and peace -- starting at the provincial courthouse on Spadina Cres. and going through downtown Saskatoon.

Contact: Tony Haynes 242-1500
justpeace@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

St. Ann's Senior Citizen's

Village Spring Gala

Sunday, April 30

Noon - 2:30 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn

The Gala will consist of brunch, entertainment, a silent auction and door prizes.

Contact: St. Ann's 374-8900