



Newsletter of the Diocese of Saskatoon

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Fall 2003

Evangelization is our priority says Bishop

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

The future of parish leadership in the diocese of Saskatoon was explored at an annual Diocesan Congress held Sept. 8-12 at Queen's House.

Priests, lay leaders, ministry coordinators, and representatives of the Diocesan Pastoral Council joined Bishop Albert LeGatt to consider several issues, including the creation of pastoral leadership teams, the challenges and advantages of inviting international priests to serve in the diocese, and how to foster a "culture of vocations."

Issues of leadership structure and vocation promotion were selected for the Congress agenda because of an ongoing need to address a shortage of priests in the diocese, noted LeGatt. A decline in vocations and the prospect of several priests retiring in the near future adds to the urgency of the question, he said, adding such discussions will be ongoing.

But more importantly, such issues of parish leadership all boil down to evangelization and how the people of the diocese can fulfill the fundamental call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world, he said.

"That was the other thrust of the Congress and it's the broader, ongoing challenge, the big call. It's what the church is about," he said. "The church doesn't exist for itself, the church exists for the kingdom."

Parishes operating with a leadership team – consisting of a non-ordained person working in conjunction with a priest who can't be there full time – have existed in the diocese for some time. This situation was clarified and new terminology was introduced at the Diocesan Congress.

The roles of each person in such leadership teams will hopefully be clearer thanks to new terminology of "Parish Life Director" and "Priest Moderator," said LeGatt, who recently sent a letter of explanation about the new terms to parishes currently served by these teams.

Appointed by the bishop just as full-time priest pastors are appointed, the teams of Parish Life Directors and Priest Moderators permit parishes to remain as fully functioning faith communities when it is not possible to have a priest named as full-time pastor.

"The blessing of these parish leadership teams would be in the desire of the community to continue as a vibrant



Balloon outreach

A volunteer presents a balloon to one young visitor at St. Mary's parish in downtown Saskatoon during a neighbourhood outreach event held in the church parking lot. The initiative to "get to know the neighbours" was organized because a Parish Vitality Reflection called for increased evangelization efforts (see story Page 3).

and welcoming parish," he said. "And again, the main thrust is not so much on functions and roles, but on how the parish can be a vibrant community, formed by the gospel and being sent out in the world to fulfill the mission of the church."

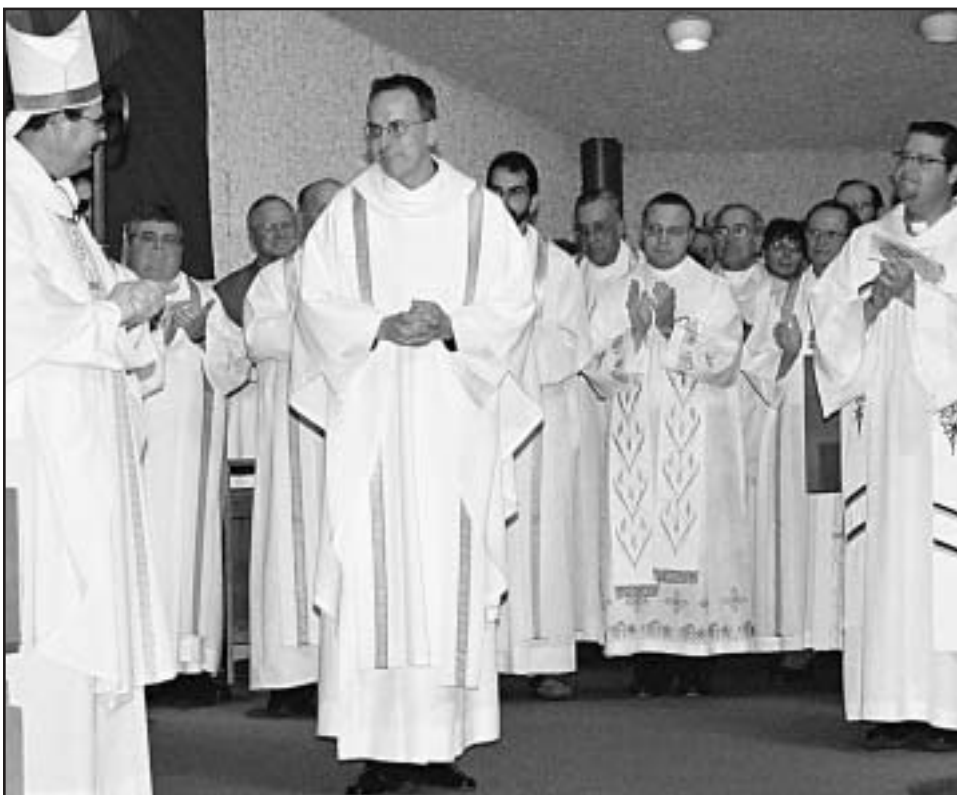
Similarly, vocation promotion is undertaken for the sake of evangelization, LeGatt stressed. "The goal is to help young people to be open to the reality that God is calling them to ... many people may not have a sense that both the dignity and meaning of their life is ultimately about responding to God's call."

A diocesan vocations director, Fr. Hans Eibich, is now

Bishop Albert LeGatt commissions Mary Jacobi to be Parish Life Director of St. John Bosco in Saskatoon.



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Bishop Albert LeGatt (left) leads applause for newly-ordained priest Fr. Pius Schroh during a joyful ordination celebration held Aug. 1 at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon.

Diocese celebrates August ordination of Pius Schroh

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Surrounded by family and friends, Pius Schroh was ordained to the priesthood for the diocese of Saskatoon Aug. 1 by Bishop Albert LeGatt.

Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, former bishop of Saskatoon, joined LeGatt and hundreds of others gathered at Holy Spirit parish for the celebration of the ordination liturgy.

Two of Schroh's mentors – Monsignor Len Morand, pastor at Holy Family parish in Saskatoon, and Fr. Shayne Craig, vice-rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton – were concelebrants. Priests from across the diocese participated in the ordination. Members of Schroh's family also participated, presenting the gifts for the Eucharistic celebration.

Born Oct. 18, 1958 in Kerrobert, the second child and eldest son of Madeline and Peter Schroh, Pius began life in Denzil, as a member of a faith-filled German Catholic community.

"My faith was always important to me. My grandparents' faith and my parents' faith was part of who I was," he said, recalling how as a child he would pretend to be a priest celebrating Mass.

When Schroh was a teenager, his family moved to Saskatoon. A member of St. Augustine parish, he attended St. Matthew school and then Holy Cross high school. "At that time I never seriously thought of being a priest. I thought that it was something only for special people."

Schroh said he began to take his faith more seriously after a live-in retreat in 1992. He began to attend daily Mass, reading scripture every day and praying the psalms. He also began to pray a vocation prayer, asking God for direction in his life.

"I said that prayer for about eight months," he recalled, continuing his faith journey while working at a Saskatoon

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Seeking ways to reach out to youth

By Dorothy Fortier,
Director Diocesan Pastoral Office

"What can we do for our youth?" is a common concern within the church today. We worry, "Why are our young people not in church on Sunday?" or "What will their attitude be to church when they are away from our influence?" or "How can we instill in them the importance of the faith?" More often than not we feel paralyzed rather than activated by this concern.

Pope John Paul frequently refers to the call each one of us has to "new evangelization" and "enculturation". Just recently the priests, parish life directors, pastoral associates and some members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council spent a significant portion of the September Diocesan Congress reflecting on what these words mean for the diocese. Simply put evangelization is our baptismal call to proclaim the good news of God's love for us manifest in the person of Jesus. It is God's love for us and our response: loving God in loving others that gives meaning and direction to our lives.

Putting these two thoughts together: our concern for our youth and our call to evangelization suggests that a significant focus for this "good news" should be our young people. But adolescence isn't a time when great dialogue with adults is happening or is even welcome. All teenagers

want to do is be with each other wherever it's happening.

Can we let ourselves be paralyzed or do we have to do something? What greater gift do we have to give them than the "good news"? If we miss this opportunity and they move away, when will we have another chance?

What are some of the things we can do? When our young people watch us reach out to others in the community do we explain that our caring is inspired by the example and love of Jesus who reached out to others, who suffered and died for us? Do we make them an active part of our reaching out? Do we find people within our community who appear to be able to have good dialogue with young people and support them in inviting our youth and young adults for good times together and good, meaningful discussion? Are we willing to create an opportunity for our young people to challenge, openly and honestly, what we are doing and saying? Maybe in the resulting conversation they can help us to grow in our faith and we can help them to find an expression of this faith within their lives and their youth culture. Do we invite our young people to share their gifts within our parish communities – a personal invitation? Do we give them leadership opportunities? Do we journey with them giving them confidence as they respond to various parish needs? Do we utilize diocesan resources such as Youth Ministry,

Youth Works, and the Diocesan Youth Retreat Team?

Pope John Paul II has focused much energy and love on youth throughout his pontificate. In his recent visit in Toronto with youth from all over the world he calls them the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world". Let us join him and acknowledge our young people as salt and light in our own parishes. Let us not be paralyzed but be moved to action even at the risk of taking the occasional false step.

(Please contact Shannon Granger the diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator for encouragement and assistance at 1-877-661-5005 or 242-1500.)



Director's Corner

Dorothy Fortier

Commission submits draft policy on sacramental sharing

By Michael Paynter
Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism

The Saskatoon Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism (SDCE) has completed a preliminary draft policy and "pastoral directives" for sacramental sharing between Catholics and baptized Christians of other denominations.

These documents have now been submitted to Bishop Albert LeGatt for further study and review. The subject of sacramental sharing has been the chief work of the SDCE for the past year.

This work of the commission arose out of several realities that exist in many dioceses. One is the large number of marriages between Catholics and other Christians. Another is the extensive sacramental preparation programs for children, which require the participation of

parents, many of whom are of other Christian denominations. A third reality is the growing number of requests for sacramental sharing.

The draft policy and pastoral directives are being prepared to assist the bishop and priests to determine cases of spiritual need, whereby Christians of other denominations could on occasion receive the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick from a Roman Catholic priest. Similar policies have already been prepared in the diocese of Calgary, Alberta and the diocese of St. George's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The SDCE was re-established in 2000 and consists of seven members representing rural and urban areas of the Saskatoon diocese with lay, clergy and religious participation. Current members of

the commission are Ken Saunders, diocesan ecumenical officer and chair of the commission, Angie Fleischfresser, Sr. Kay Macdonald, Michael Paynter, Carol Pek, Fr. David Polzen, and Margot Taylor.

The Roman Catholic vision of ecumenism is founded on the will of Christ and the shared communion of all Christians through baptism. The "soul" of the ecumenical movement, is a "change of heart" and "holiness of life" along with "public and private prayer for the unity of all Christians." These three elements are called "spiritual ecumenism" by the second Vatican council's Decree on Ecumenism #8.

During the past three years the commission has prepared a brochure which outlines the commission's ministry and offers resources to support the many ecumenical initiatives that are already

bearing much fruit, both in the Saskatoon diocese and the province as a whole. A prayer card has also been printed inviting all to enter into ecumenical activities through prayer.

Copies of the brochure and the prayer card are available from members of the commission. The commission also has prepared two units for the "Exploring our Faith Together" program. The first is on baptism, and explores the ecumenical meaning of baptism and how to live out this meaning of baptism in local communities; the second is on the shared Scriptures, and explores how the Bible is "a precious instrument" for Christian unity.

(For more information visit the commission's pages (including links to other ecumenical sites) on the diocesan website at www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca)

Bishop calls baptized to be "prophets of the new evangelization"

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in place (see story on Page 7). As well, the bishop recently announced the creation of a marriage task force, led by Jim and Adele Longstaff, which is asked to find ways to improve and support marriage enrichment efforts in the diocese (see story on Page 6).

In another issue related to parish leadership, Congress delegates addressed questions surrounding the possible recruitment of international priests to serve in the diocese of Saskatoon.

"In discerning whether the diocese invites priests from outside the country to serve here, we must again consider whether that would enhance our ability to proclaim and

live out the gospel," said LeGatt. "And if this were to happen, what needs to be in place concerning recruitment and formation."

Questions of acceptance, adaptability, cultural and language differences were raised during the Congress discussion. Delegates called for careful discernment and screening of international priests, as well as stressing the need for support, orientation, mentoring and formation for newcomers once they arrive in the diocese. The justice of recruiting priests from countries where they are needed was also questioned during the Congress discussion.

Part of the larger picture of how we as a church proclaim the gospel in the world is an ongoing need for each baptized person to fully take up their role as "prophets of the new evangelization," LeGatt said.

It's a theme he explored in depth during a recent retreat for alumni of the diocesan lay formation program.

Part of our prophetic mission must be to examine the culture we live in and discern what needs to be transformed, LeGatt told the gathering.

"Yes, we are influenced by culture, but we are also called to influence that culture. We are called even more to create a culture of light and life."

Knowing the "signs of the kingdom" is crucial, he added, urging the faithful to develop a prophetic heart that strives to "see the finger of God" in events.

"In the midst of the world, we must see and judge the world in terms of light and darkness ... according to the values of the kingdom."

We are then called to action, he said, saying the focus is always the same as Christ's focus – reconciliation and communion. It is part of our ongoing call to heal divisions in our world – whether it's racism, or the division between rich and poor, or divisions within families, LeGatt said.

Even in the small things we do or say, the kingdom can be advanced, he stressed.

"It's in our conversations at work, or how we sit down with another group of parents and organize a soccer schedule ... it's however we can bring forward the name of Christ and gospel values," he said. "But it will only ring true if our lives are lived in integrity."

Newly-ordained priest reflects on vocation

ORDINATION continued from Page 1

restaurant operated by his sister Gloria and her husband Albert Katsiris.

He was surprised to experience a call in his heart to become a priest. "My first reaction was 'you must have me mixed up with someone else,'" he recalled.

The call became stronger, and Schroh finally discussed it with Monsignor Len Morand, who prayed with him and arranged for a meeting with Saskatoon Bishop James Mahoney. "The next thing I knew, I was kneeling down in front of the bishop, and three weeks later I was on my way to Mission, B.C. to study."

He obtained a philosophy degree at Christ the King seminary in Mission, and then studied at Newman

Theological College and at St. Joseph's seminary in Edmonton, obtaining a masters of divinity.

"Everything fell into place. I found that I loved to study. I received a very good formation, and many people helped me to grow and to affirm my vocation."

Schroh was ordained a deacon at Holy Family parish in 2002, where he served his internship under Msgr. Morand. "He is an excellent mentor and the people were extremely affirming and caring and welcoming."

Reflecting on his journey, Schroh recalled many people along the way who helped him to realize he had a vocation. "After that retreat in 1992, several people – some of whom weren't even Catholic – suggested that I should consider the priesthood," he said.

"When you see someone you think might have a vocation, tell them so. You can plant a seed in a person's heart."

The newly-ordained priest is associate pastor at St. Mary's parish in Wadena with pastor Fr. Gerard Cooper, also serving the communities of Kelvington, Lintlaw, Fosston, Rose Valley, St. Front and Quill Lake.

"My wish is to serve God and his people with all my heart," he said.

This newsletter is published twice a year
(spring/summer and fall/winter) by
the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

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Diocese gathers for Congress

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Representatives from across the diocese of Saskatoon "cast out into the deep" of another year with a week of prayer, reflection, learning and sharing held Sept. 8-12 at Queen's House.

Priests, pastoral associates, diocesan pastoral council members and ministry coordinators were among those attending the annual Diocesan Congress with Bishop Albert LeGatt.

"It is important for us to gather together, to reflect and to listen to each other," said LeGatt. "I really value this gathering."

In an address to Congress, LeGatt borrowed an image from Pope John Paul II to describe the priests' council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council as "two lungs" which work together to provide life to the diocese. "The Spirit is alive among us."

Fr. Bernard Stauber, OSB, of St. Gregor said the Congress was a time for reflection and renewing vitality. "It's phenomenal. We can connect with the living forces of all the people in the diocese."

"The wholeness of Christ comes to the diocese when the leaders of the diocese come together in union with the



Members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council reflect on the deanery structure during the annual Diocesan Congress held Sept. 8-12 at Queen's House.

bishop and our strength is seen when we work together with the same vision," said Blanche Bandet, a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

"I find the week very revitalizing. It is so good to be among these church leaders, who are such strong men and women of the Lord," she said.

The week of Diocesan Congress also provides an

invaluable opportunity to obtain pertinent information to take back to the community, Bandet said. "The open communication is so important."

Liturgy and prayers held throughout the five-day event reinforced Congress messages about evangelization and journeying together, she added. "It is all extremely life giving."

Evangelization requires creative spirit says Chafe

Creativity and flexibility are vital for evangelizing in today's culture, participants at a Diocesan Congress heard Sept. 8-12 at Queen's House.

"We need a major dose of creativity," suggested facilitator Joanne Chafe, director of the National Office of Religious Education for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC). "If we put on an event, and the same six people show up, we get discouraged. Yet what we did, we did very well... it met the needs of those six."

The challenge is to find ways to broaden the scope of our evangelizing work, and use new methods and new opportunities to meet the needs of all those hungering for Christ, she said.

As an example, she described how Catholic bishops along the Columbia River watershed got together to write a pastoral letter about caring for the river and its environment. The letter was written, and it could have ended there, she said. "But then someone had a brainwave: what if there were boat rides out on the river, picnics, family days?" Along with the tours, there were presentations about the document, she said. "They had waiting lists."

One parish set up a booth at the annual fall fair in Timmons, Ontario, alongside the market stalls and other community groups. "Rural sociology kicked in," and people approached, asking questions, Chafe described.

Another parish organized a "Tables for Two" dinner for married couples to have

some quality leisure time together, she said. "With every course they'd be given a question to talk about: 'here, toss this around with your salad.'"

Finding ways to reach out and connect to people in an authentic way is what is most necessary, maintained Chafe.

Evangelization cannot be confined within a particular building or restricted to a particular kind of program, she said, leading the assembly through brainstorming sessions and discussions in study sessions which spanned three days of the Congress.

Chafe peppered her talks with examples of encounters she's had with the "unchurched" – on an airplane, during exercise programs, at pilgrimage sites – and how it is often possible to find an opportunity to share some part of the good news.

"A big principle of missionary activity is the "zipper principle": listen first, don't speak," she said, stressing the importance of a loving encounter.

Using the General Directory for Catechesis as a guide, Chafe outlined three stages of evangelization: missionary activity, catechetical activity, and pastoral activity.

In each case, knowing the "soil" is vital in determining what approach we take in our evangelization efforts, she said.

Missionary activity is needed wherever we encounter people who have drifted away, who can't deal with the

gospel, who have never heard the gospel, or see no need for the gospel, the group determined in discussion sessions.

"Many of our own people have not heard the gospel," said Chafe, adding that we can't assume faith is being handed down. When it comes to missionary activity, key moments such as funerals or marriages can provide an opportunity to reach out in love and respect, she said.

Catechetical activity takes place when conversion is underway, and people are taking on a greater understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, she said, stressing that this is not only for those in Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) or for children undergoing sacramental preparation.

"There are other times in our adult life when we might need catechesis, important times, times of change or confusion," said Chafe. Periods of sickness or stress, the beginning of a new job, the start of retirement, or the death of a loved one – such situations can create a "need to hear again God's own Word. This is not 'ordinary time' ... something big is happening," Chafe described.

At such times it is helpful to take inspiration from the RCIA process, which uses storytelling, is centred on the Word of God, and incorporates liturgy and prayer, she said.

Pastoral activity is directed at mature believers, and includes the ongoing formation of all the baptized. "This is the



Joanne Chafe

rich green of 'ordinary time' ... we work to keep faith alive, active, conscious, living," Chafe said.

Congress participants spent time examining and discussing what nourishes their own faith, generating a list that included: prayer, celebrating the Eucharist, spending time with colleagues, homilies, revisiting personal moments of conversion, contact with the ecumenical community, being affirmed by others, seeking out life-giving resource materials, meditation, and quiet time.

"Notice the diversity?" asked Chafe, stressing that pastoral activity must also accommodate different needs, different learning styles and changing perspectives. "To help faithful people, we need the same levels of creativity and flexibility." - KLY

PVR process is leading to prophetic action in parishes across diocese

Action is following reflection in the diocese of Saskatoon, participants heard during a Diocesan Congress held Sept. 8-12 at Queen's House.

A Parish Vitality Reflection (PVR) process launched last year is helping parishes plan programs and initiatives to meet some of the needs identified in the grassroots reflection, several Congress participants reported.

At St. Mary's parish in Saskatoon responses to the PVR questionnaire suggested the parish should increase evangelization efforts, said Fr. Remi Hebert CSsR. As a result, the downtown parish planned a neighbourhood celebration in the church parking lot this summer, inviting people from the neighborhood to stop by for refreshments and children's games. Faith testimonies and gospel music were featured on an outdoor stage, he said.

"The event was a direct result of

looking at the PVR and seeing that we needed to reach out," Hebert explained.

St. Mary's experience is one small example of the potential for the PVR process, said Bishop Albert LeGatt, stressing that the process is ongoing.

"This coming year, in the midst of all the other things you are working at, I would ask you to continue to look at the PVR in terms of how can we carry it forth in a creative, visionary way," LeGatt said in his remarks to Congress delegates from parishes across the diocese.

This year's focus continues to be living as a prophet, or one who interprets and teaches the Word of God. In future years, the PVR will also be used to reflect on the priestly and shepherding dimensions of the baptismal call.

Congress delegates spent time discussing the PVR process, sharing what worked in their communities, and making suggestions for improvement. - KLY



Mitten season launched with donations

Catholic Women's League members at St. Paul's Cathedral recently sorted through over 250 knitted items made by Melanie Blok, including 92 pairs of mittens, 98 sweaters, 53 pair of slippers, 14 pairs of socks and seven baby sets. The items were given to Interval and Adelle House, Guadalupe House, St. Mary School, Open Door Society, Tamara House, Crisis Nursery, and the Global Gathering Place. Pictured are (left to right) Marlyne Reindl, Melanie Blok, Monica Beavis and Marilyn Wilchuk.

Diocese farm advocacy group reflects on complex issues facing agriculture

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Complex issues facing the agriculture industry were discussed during a recent meeting of the Farm Crisis Advocacy Committee for the diocese of Saskatoon.

The committee includes farmers from across the diocese, as well as individuals involved in land trust initiatives and social justice work. Formed at the request of Bishop Albert LeGatt, the advocacy committee is examining how the local church might best support the besieged agriculture sector.

Several of the many issues facing farmers were discussed by the committee, including genetically modified crops, seed patents, low commodity prices, high costs, and the differences between organic and conventional farming.

Background papers on the issues of rural property education taxes and the low price which farmers receive for their product were also presented at the meeting.

Tony Haynes, director of social justice for the diocese of Saskatoon also circulated a recently-released statement from the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops about the need to protect the environment.

The question of whether church leaders might issue a similar statement about genetic modification of crops was discussed.

The introduction of genetically modified (GM) wheat is opposed by the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) and by the Canadian Wheat Board, and is rejected by a vast majority of wheat-buying customers, said Charles Boser of Luseland.

However, the question involves more than just GM wheat, said Leo Kurtenbach of Cudworth. For instance, "Roundup ready" canola has been grown by western

Canadian farmers for more than a decade.

Bernard Hamoline of Aberdeen noted that the process of selective breeding and natural selection is as old as farming itself, and wondered about where to draw the line with biotechnology. Independent research into the long-term health effects of GM food is needed, he said. "Are GM foods actually going to be harmful?" he asked. "Is there any general agreement in the scientific world?"

"If you can't show the evidence that it is beneficial, that it is safe ... then we shouldn't be there," suggested Boser.

Gary Zdunich of Kenaston cautioned against making broad statements about the issue without more information and a clear understanding of all the implications.

Researcher Brian Murphy of Saskatoon reported that no statement about the use of genetic modification has yet been released by the church, saying that complex questions of economics and science surrounding such issues make it difficult for church leaders to take a quick position.

However, he added that the church could speak out strongly on questions of stewardship, on the possible evils of corporate control of food sources through seed patents, and on the continuing need to solve problems with the worldwide distribution of food.

Guidelines for making ethical decisions can be provided and stressed by the church, said committee member Duane Guina of Humboldt, emphasizing the need to consider the common good. "If society has reached the point that our decision-making is so skewed that the economic bottom line is our only consideration, then we are in trouble."

Farmers and consumers require guidance about social and environmental

issues, "so we can make better economic decisions," asserted Guina. Once people are aware of the moral issues, then conversion can happen and change can begin, he said.

Hamoline noted that large corporations are not speaking for farmers, and are not developing products to help farmers, but are involved in agribusiness to make a profit. "Large corporations are not going to have any consideration but the bottom line."

Economic forces are also what is driving the push for GM crops, noted Murphy, who said large corporations are looking at genetic modification as a way to increase profit.

Kurtenbach called for a distinction between the "industry of agriculture" and "the people on the land." He noted that farmers are producing more efficiently and exporting more than ever before, but neither farmers nor consumers are benefiting. "We can't stay in the situation where large corporations are controlling everything."

Bigger farms and larger acreages are not helping to feed the world, Kurtenbach added.

"Farmers may want to stay small, but they can't stay there and survive," said Boser. "And the big guys are not going to survive either, because wheat is \$2 a bushel."

Bulletin inserts, information packages, and public presentations were discussed as possible methods for increasing awareness of moral and ethical questions facing both producers and consumers. An information sheet or "monograph" about stewardship will be distributed to all faith communities in the diocese of Saskatoon in the near future, Haynes said.



Social Outreach

Tony Haynes

"It is important for the people off the land to understand where their food is coming from, and important for me as a farmer to understand what stewardship is all about," said Hamoline. "It is vital for me as an agricultural producer to understand how gospel values impact on my work as a farmer."

Ray DeMong of Cudworth noted that when talking about what the church should do, it is important to remember who the church is: "the church is all of us. When we start pointing to the church, we have to point at ourselves. We have to mutually work this out."

(The diocese of Saskatoon Farm Crisis Advocacy Committee includes Arden Andreas of Lancer, Blanche Bandet of Blucher, Charles Boser of Luseland, Ray DeMong of Cudworth, Duane Guina of Humboldt, Bernard Hamoline of Aberdeen, Tony Haynes of the diocese of Saskatoon, Leo Kurtenbach of Cudworth, Brian Murphy of Saskatoon, and Gary Zdunich of Kenaston.)

We are accountable to the Creator for stewardship of the land

By Andréa Ledding

Since our spiritual journey is so often connected to our relationship with the land, it is vital to close the growing gap between the field and the table, Duane Guina told a small gathering Oct. 23 at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

"I personally think that as God's greatest creation, we are accountable to the Creator and to all life...and it is our responsibility, each of us, to ensure the health and well-being of the land, and all that it sustains," said Guina, who left his job as a government worker to pursue ecological stewardship as director of Earthcare Connections in Humboldt, east of Saskatoon.

Throughout his presentation, Guina referred to a recent pastoral letter from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) on the Canadian ecological imperative which he called a "wonderful, wonderful letter...which helps give a spiritual context" to ecology.

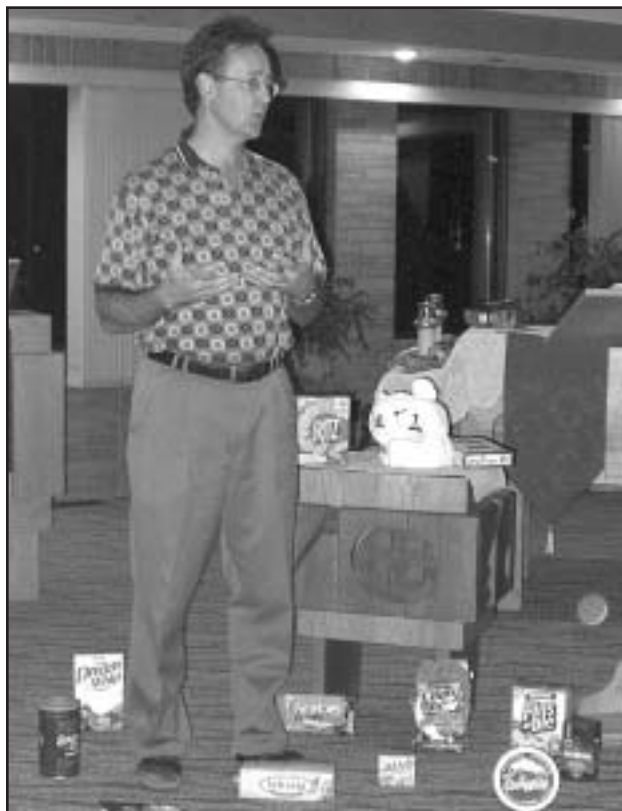
Guina's multi-media presentation included Psalm 104 set to background prairie nature sounds and music, and a video produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists entitled "Keeping The Earth," which featured an interfaith approach to the spirituality and science of ecology.

A display of boxed food products from large corporations tangibly demonstrated how our society is out of touch with God's creation. Many are more familiar with packaging than with the God-created raw materials, Guina pointed out.

"We can go for days, weeks in the city and never actually set foot on land - land that at one time actually grew wheat or some other sort of food," he said. "Some of us now are asking questions about the cost of that kind of disconnection."

Of the many "brand-name" products that were displayed, most were owned by a single multi-corporation which began almost a century ago with tobacco, Philip Morris (known as "Altria" as of 2003). There are economic and moral dilemmas surrounding the operation of multinational corporations and their vast control over resources, Guina said.

"It's very easy to get sidetracked, paralyzed, bogged down, spiritually drained by all these issues that are out there," said Guina, listing biotechnology, water, and environmental issues. "We rely on the Divine...to help us and tell us the way that will bring us closer."



Duane Guina of Earthcare spoke of the need to "close the gap" between field and table.

"I think that God's plan was that we need to be interdependent," said Guina. "I think the natural way is that we need to be more conscious of our connections towards the land, towards where the food comes from."

He noted that the CCCC letter also emphasizes interconnection, saying "thus all creatures great and small are connected in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The Christian teaching is important to evaluate, Guina said, inviting his audience to ask themselves basic questions and to continually evaluate and pray.

Guina also emphasized the fact that each and every cumulative choice has led society to this point. "As we're flying down the aisle we start to make choices, one food

box at a time, one acre at a time, one person at a time," he said. "Systems and resources are in jeopardy. There are environmental concerns, from smog to the safety of food that every Canadian family will eat."

The universality of the problem and the ecumenical concern which crosses all genders, cultures, and race barriers to unite all peoples is a positive side of the crisis, said Guina.

"All our voices are needed," according to the film "Keeping the Earth" which Guina presented during his lecture.

The video emphasized that the human job of "dominion" over the earth is one of protection and service, not abusive destruction. Adam, the first human, was asked "to serve the garden" in Genesis: "a fundamental call the Lord places on us all."

In the film a Harvard biologist talked about how each species, including humanity, is "adapted in exquisite detail" to this planet, but that human actions and lifestyles are altering this environment at an alarming and accelerating rate. This frightening impact is not a matter of techniques or approaches, but rather of values; an issue of morality and ethics as to how we treat the environment we depend on.

The film also described Noah's Ark as "the first endangered species act."

"The rainbow is to make us remember that every species is worthy of our efforts of preservation today," said one commentator. Another likened the destruction of even a single species to metaphorically "tearing a page out of Scripture."

The video emphasized the powerful role that science and religion have in partnership, coupled with changes in government and grassroots support. The film is one of the resources available through Guina's Earthcare office.

Formed about six years ago, Earthcare Connections is funded by Roman and Ukrainian Catholic, Anglican and United church organizations in Saskatchewan.

EarthCare and its sister organization "Genesis", a land conservancy project, share the credo "Living in balance with God's creation." The organization manages about 2,600 acres of land which has been put in trust.

More information can be found on the group's website at www.earthcare.sk.ca

Blessings and challenges of farming life explored in Foundations program

The local church is called to celebrate the blessings of rural life, while trying to find ways to support farmers, parishioners of St. Theresa's parish in Asquith heard during a recent Foundations program entitled "Agriculture and the Church."

Opening with prayer and reflection centred around a display of grain stalks, seeds and bread next to a crucifix, presenters Arden and Sherry Andreas of Lancer connected the faith journey with realities facing agriculture in Saskatchewan.

The disparity between high costs and low commodity prices was graphically illustrated in an example of what it cost to clothe a farmer compared to the price of wheat. In 1930, when wheat sold for 80 cents a bushel, it took 26 bushels of wheat to outfit a farmer in clothes, Arden reported. In 1998, when wheat sold for \$2.12 a bushel, it took 206 bushels of wheat to purchase the same articles of clothing. The cost of most things has risen, but the price that farmers get for their product has lagged far behind, he said.

Seeking a just price for commodities through advocacy work is one way in which the diocese of Saskatoon may be able to help farmers, suggested Arden. Other ways in which the diocesan church is trying to support the farm community include education, communication and prayer, he said.

"It's not all doom and gloom, we know that," Arden said, inviting participants to examine both the positive and negative aspects of life in a rural area.

Low commodity prices and unfair subsidy systems were high on the list of

"weeds" or negative factors listed during the meeting. Other negatives included the devastating effect a single case of "BSE" has had on the beef industry; the distance from services, including health care; and the education tax imposed on rural land. Fewer education opportunities and isolation were also deemed as drawbacks of rural life.

"Bouquets" or positive factors of rural life listed by participants included the strong sense of community, the wholesome family atmosphere, and closeness to nature. Farmers are "their own boss" and a farm was seen as a good place to raise children. A quiet, relaxed pace of life, where community members know each other and help out is another benefit of the rural lifestyle, the group decided.

Arden challenged the Asquith faith community to try and think of ways to address some of the negative issues, while also finding opportunities for celebrating the positive factors of rural living.

"Is there anything here that we as a church could be focusing on?" he asked, stressing "we are all in this together."

One participant suggested increasing the understanding between rural and urban people by having a partnership between a rural school and an inner-city urban school. "Many of these city children have no clue about farming at all. Maybe we could make some link, and invite a city school out to the farm."

In hard times it's particularly important to be aware of our neighbours' needs, noted Arden. "Who in our area could really be struggling?" He encouraged



Arden and Sherry Andreas of Lancer combined faith and agriculture — in a display, in prayers, and in discussion — during a recent Foundations program presented Oct. 23 in Prelate and Oct. 26 in Asquith.

participants to watch for signs of stress or isolation among members of the community.

"There are a lot of people out there, when stress hits financially, health care goes to the bottom of the list. Maybe they

need medication, and they don't get it, they just can't afford it. As for dentistry, when times are tough you don't want to look at a farmer's mouth."

A parish community is called to support people facing difficulties, he said. - KLY

Grassroots work needed to ensure a safe democratic food supply

By Terry Craig

Work is needed at the grassroots level to secure a safe and democratic food supply, according to speakers at a Good Food Forum held Oct. 16 and 17 at Mayfair United Church in Saskatoon.

During the two-day conference, delegates heard suggestions for taking models from alternative economic and social programs and implementing them to initiate positive changes.

On the local level the Saskatoon Food Charter was cited as a significant document for bringing about positive change.

Adopted in principle by Saskatoon city council a year ago, the charter calls on citizens to promote food security measures in their home, workplace, and community. The charter identifies a need for citizens to

work locally for justice in the growth and distribution of food.

Community activist Don Kossick said the Saskatoon Food Charter has become a vehicle to build alliances between rural and urban communities.

The document enables the municipal administration to take a proactive approach in working with the community to ensure food security and justice, added former city councilor Lenore Swystun, who played a role in council's adoption of the charter.

"The city has begun to recognize that social development is linked with food security," Swystun said, adding that the implementation of the charter at the local level could eventually lead to changes at the provincial and national levels.

"We've seen evidence of citizens organizing, and that radiates to the structure of government," Kossick said. "We have to ensure that voices are heard."

The first steps toward change begin at the grassroots level, Nettie Wiebe told delegates.

"Food sovereignty comes from the voices of small-scale farmers," said Wiebe, past president of the National Farmer's Union and coordinating member of Via Campesina, a global movement of peasants and small-scale farmers.

In her travels Wiebe said she has witnessed first-hand the changes in global agriculture policies, adding that she is passionate in her belief that the industrialization of agriculture is culturally devastating.

"There are deep-seated cultural symbols built around what nations grow," she said. "For example Japan and rice, Mexico and corn."

But multi-national corporations have flooded Mexico with inexpensive imported American corn which has devastated the small independent Mexican producers.

"We don't want a market place where there is more food available that consumers cannot afford," she said.

The Forum was sponsored by Oxfam Canada, the Saskatoon Food Coalition, Council of Canadians, Saskatchewan Child Nutrition Network, Child Hunger and Education Program and the Saskatchewan Food Security Network.

Resource Library provides variety of faith enrichment materials

By Fran Turner

Diocesan Resource Library

A wide assortment of video and print material is available through the diocese of Saskatoon Resource Library, including resources for the Advent season.

Videos of interest include a family movie, **The Miracle of the Cards**, based on the true story of an eight-year-old cancer patient who breaks the world record for receiving get-well cards, amassing an astounding 1.3 million cards from around the globe.

Why Catholics Do What They Do (In Church) explains how and why we use symbols and signs in our Roman Catholic liturgy.

Responding to Grief is a video that introduces bereavement ministers to the context in which they will minister, with emphasis on the emotional and spiritual needs of the bereaved, while the video **Funeral Planning** explores how the church's funeral rites can help the bereaved in their journey from grief to hope.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Past and Present is a video explaining to parents the very important

commitment both they and the community are making in choosing to baptize a baby. **The Sacrament of Eucharist: Past and Present** offers an understanding of Eucharist and its centrality to the Roman Catholic faith. The video explores how the ritual has changed throughout history, and how the present Mass was "re-formed" to more adequately reflect what we believe.

The animated video **VeggieTales: The Ballad of Little Joe** tells the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colours as a Wild West yarn to teach children to keep the faith when facing hardship, because God can work all things out for good.

Print materials available at the Resource Library include **Journey to Wholeness: Healing Body, Mind and Soul** by Thomas D. Maddix and Ian C. Soles, a book which contains a series of reflections on spirituality to help us understand how to open ourselves to the deepest longings of mind, body and soul in our quest for wholeness. Each chapter is followed by questions to facilitate ongoing discussion or personal reflection.

Reaching Teens Through Film: Volume 10 by

Michael Scully, OFM, is a how-to book for using movies as a discussion source for teens. Each movie is related to a Christian theme, Scripture passages, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This volume contains lessons on *A Beautiful Mind*, *Harry Potter* and *The Sorcerer's Stone*, *Hearts in Atlantis*, and *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings*.

Saints to Lead Me: Feast Days Through the Year provides reproducible handouts for intermediate grades that offer a fun way to learn about the saints.

First Eucharist: Reproducible Games, Crafts, Activities for Young Children by Francine M. O'Connor is the perfect complement to preparation programs for first Eucharist.

The Saskatoon Resource Library is located at 100-5th Avenue North, Saskatoon, telephone 242-1500, toll free 1-877-661-5005. In Humboldt the resource centre is located at 521-7th Street, phone 682-1534.

Those with an Internet connection can search the library database for materials by visiting the diocesan website at www.rcdiocesaskn.sk.ca

Bishop LeGatt asks couple to lead marriage task force

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Responding to a call from Bishop Albert LeGatt to find ways to enrich and support marriage, Jim and Adele Longstaff of Saskatoon will lead a marriage task force for the diocese of Saskatoon.

Providing support for married couples is a priority, LeGatt said in announcing the new task force. "We must do all we can to help married couples live out their vocation in the world," he said.

Married for 36 years, the Longstaffs have long been passionate advocates for marriage, serving for 25 years in the Marriage Encounter movement as well as assisting with marriage preparation classes.

Building strong marriages has a ripple effect in families, in parishes and in communities, and it's a ripple effect that reaches right into the next generations, say Jim and Adele.

The love that a husband and a wife have for each other is the greatest gift they give to their children, said Jim.

However the gift of a strong marriage doesn't happen by accident, added Adele, rather it's something to be learned and developed. "There's an idea that marriage should be easy," she said. "But it requires a lot of work."

Adele said she hopes that more people will realize there is no stigma to participating in programs or events to help strengthen marriage.

The bishop's marriage task force and events such as World Marriage Day in February are sending out a positive message about making every marriage stronger, she said.

The importance of strong role models can't be underestimated, added Jim and Adele, recalling the many couples who provided them with a strong witness for marriage. Such role models in our parishes and our communities are vital, said Jim, particularly with many people living far from extended family. "We are all called to support each other."

There is also a need to follow up on the marriage preparation courses that many couples attend before marriage, added Adele.

"A lot of the material doesn't have the same meaning before you are married," she said. Issues dealt with "in theory" may need more work when they actually come up in a relationship, she said.

Excellent programs such as Marriage Encounter exist for marriage enrichment but not everyone is able to take part in them, noted Jim. There is a need for a variety of programs and initiatives to meet the needs and schedules of couples, he said.

The task force will include several other couples who are currently being approached about the job, said Jim. "We are trying to get a broad base of experience on our task force," he said, noting the group will include couples with experience working in various marriage ministries as well as couples new to this type of ministry. The task force will have representation from rural and urban areas, as well as including couples living in an inter-faith marriage.

"It's humbling for us to be asked to lead this group, and it's extremely exciting as well," he said, noting the



Adele and Jim Longstaff

positive and proactive nature of the task force. "We want to come up with ideas that will be very practical, that can be put in place and used."

The marriage task force will be looking for input and is open to all ideas and suggestions, said Jim.

"We are looking for, and open to, creative and innovative ways to assist marriages that are practical and 'user-friendly'," he said, adding that anyone wishing to contact the committee can call 931-0982 or e-mail stoonmarriage@sasktel.net

Family of the Year honoured by Knights

A life-long commitment to family and decades of involvement in church and community organizations was honoured when Dan and Rose Scherr were presented with the Knights of Columbus State Family of the Year award.

Dan and Rose raised seven children and also dedicated hours of service to the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League and many other community organizations said State Family Director Allan Hartl in his introduction of the Scherr family to the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus state convention in May. Twenty members of the Scherr family were able to attend the awards ceremony held in Saskatoon.

Dan and Rose were married in Saskatoon in 1956. In 1960 they moved to Carrot River where both were active in the church and the community. They now live in Saskatoon.

Dan Scherr joined the Knights of Columbus in 1961, and was a charter member of four different councils, holding executive offices at the council level, and a number of positions at the state level. Rose has been a member of the Catholic Women's League for the past 50 years, serving as president of the CWL in Carrot



Rose and Dan Scherr

River, and as president of the Prince Albert diocesan CWL. She also served as president of the St. Anne's CWL in Saskatoon and still serves as convener. Rose was president of St. Anne's parish pastoral council and served as president of the CWL clothing depot board. She has also served on the board of directors for Saskatoon Friendship Inn.

The Scherrs are the parents of seven children, including two sets of twins. They have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Dan and Rose always found time for their family, be it coaching hockey to curling, bowling and golfing at state events," said Hartl. "Their enthusiasm for helping others is an example of how one family can make a difference." - KLY

World Marriage Day provides an opportunity for parishes to support married couples

Setting aside a day to honour and recognize the sacrament of marriage is an easy and creative way for parishes to give married couples much-needed support, according to Michelle and Dean Yurkowski, local coordinators for World Marriage Day.

"With all the pressures facing couples today, it's time that we recognize marriage and thank married couples for their commitment," said Michelle.

World Marriage Day 2004 will be held **Sunday, Feb. 8** and can serve as a focal point for activities that honor marriage and recognize the efforts of couples to live out their vocation, said Dean.

The Saskatoon couple is leading this year's World Marriage Day committee within the diocese, with support from Bishop Albert LeGatt.

World Marriage Day is one event which parishes can use to reach out to married couples, suggested the bishop in a recent interview. "We must all find concrete ways to support married couples and to help strengthen their vocation," said LeGatt.

Ideas and suggestions for celebrating World Marriage Day will be forwarded to parishes by the local committee in the near future, accompanied by a letter from the bishop, noted Michelle.

"This can be a way to congratulate couples for their commitment to living out their love in the world," said Dean.

"Every couple has struggles and faces challenges in their relationship, but it's that daily decision to love one another and communicate with each other that keeps us connected and on track," added Michelle.

The event began in 1981 when Valentine's Day was proclaimed "We Believe in Marriage Day" in one American city. The idea was presented to Worldwide Marriage Encounter leaders. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day" to be celebrated on the second Sunday in February.

Since then the idea of the celebration has continued to spread throughout the world and in 1993 Pope John Paul II imparted his apostolic blessing on the event.

Although World Marriage Day is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage



The World Marriage Day symbol pictures a husband and wife as two candle-like figures; a reminder that married love calls couples to enlighten the world. The couple is joined by a heart, focusing on love as the power that fosters unity within the couple and generates the capacity to be life giving, while inspiring others to fruitfulness and unity. The symbol also includes the World Marriage Day theme "Love One Another" the commandment Jesus gives in John 15:12.

Encounter, it is not directly tied to that experience, noted the coordinators. "This event is about celebrating marriage, regardless of the faith expression of the couples, or whether or not they have participated in a Marriage Encounter weekend," said Dean.

Any couple interested in serving as a parish contact for World Marriage Day activities in their local parish, or who may be willing to assist their pastor in promoting World Marriage Day is encouraged to contact the committee for more information, said Michelle. -KLY

Parishes or individuals seeking more detailed information or other ideas for celebrating World Marriage Day can contact Michelle and Dean Yurkowski at 373-2741 or by e-mail: theyurks@shaw.ca

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

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

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

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

Engaged Encounter Saskatoon
Feb. 27 - 29, 2004

May 7 - 9, 2004

Contact: Sherry & Al Richert 373-9889

Engaged Encounter,

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster

April 16 - 18, 2004

Contact: Carol & Dezi Monz 682-3175 or
Fr. Demetrius Wasyluniuk 682-1777

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

(A 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.)

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, 2004:

Ramada, Saskatoon

March 12 - 14, 2004 :

Parktown Hotel, Saskatoon

April 23 - 25, 2004:

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster

Contact provincial registration couple:

Marc & Anita Loiselle: 306-258-2192

E-mail: loiselle@sasktel.net

Diocesan Vocation Team embraces broad vision

Helping each person discover and live out God's call is at the heart of vocation promotion says Fr. Hans-William Eibich, vocations director for the diocese of Saskatoon.

A vocation is the path in which each person lives out one's baptismal call to holiness and shares in the mission of Jesus – whether this call is to ordained priesthood, to consecrated life, to marriage, or to single life, said Eibich. Similarly, when it comes to vocation promotion, no one is left out: it is the role of each and every baptized person to encourage, foster and invite others to discern God's call.

This broad vision is reflected in the membership of the diocesan vocation team, which includes representatives from religious communities, parishes, schools and youth organizations, he noted.

Eibich's own long-time interest and involvement in vocation promotion has been expanded and formalized by Bishop Albert LeGatt, who recently assigned one third of Eibich's time to the job. Eibich also serves as pastor in Rosetown, and as priest moderator in Elrose, Beechy and Forgan.

Since his first involvement with vocation promotion in the diocese five years ago, people and events have provided Eibich with a sense of hope and a passion for this ministry.

"A lot of incredible things have happened and are continuing to happen," Eibich said in a recent interview from the new vocations office at St. Paul's Cathedral.

"Initially when Bishop James Weisgerber invited me to do the work of vocations in the diocese of Saskatoon I had no idea where to start, so I turned to Sr. Lise Paquette. Her order, the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, offers a discernment house where young women can take time to examine God's call for them in their lives; they also offer a novitiate program for their community in Saskatoon. Sr. Lise and I got together to see what we could do in combining our efforts to help foster and promote vocations for the diocese of Saskatoon," said Eibich.

A gathering including priests, married couples, single people and youth was organized to discuss vocations; then a vocation retreat for young people was held at Queen's House; and eventually a vocations project was initiated in local schools with the help of Lynda Browning, religion coordinator for the Saskatoon Catholic school district, Eibich said.

Sr. Jo-Ann Duggan, SGM, who was involved with vocation promotion for the Grey Nuns, offered to help in any efforts to nurture a "culture of vocations" in the diocese. Eibich was also contacted by Holy Family parishioners Reg and Angie Bilodeau who said they felt a strong desire to help with promoting vocations.

"You pray, and God answers," Eibich said of the people who stepped forward to

help on the diocese Vocations Team.

In addition to Paquette, Browning, Duggan and the Bildodeaus, the team currently includes Erin Hickey of Catholic Christian Outreach; Rev. Richard Meidl, OSB; Rev. Remi Hebert, CSsR; Rev. Michael Koch; and teacher Terry Cratty, who is active in various youth ministries, including the Nite Life program in Saskatoon.

At an all-day planning workshop last year with Bishop LeGatt in attendance, the team identified priorities and a timeline for vocation promotion in the diocese, he said. "The enthusiasm was so great, it seemed like we wanted all our endeavors, hopes and dreams for this ministry to materialize immediately. Looking back, we have already seen much of what we have planned come into effect - the creation of this vocation office being one of those goals."

Enthusiasm is also in evidence at provincial, regional and international vocation gatherings he has attended over the past five years, Eibich said. He described a growing emphasis on combining forces and coordinating vocation efforts.

For instance, vocation directors from across Saskatchewan have discussed sharing resources and ideas, and the coordination of events such as retreats. The idea of joining diocesan vocation efforts with the work being done by religious orders is another idea whose time has come, Eibich added. "Our message is stronger and clearer if we can work together."

Fr. Gerald Langevin, vocation director for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, and Eibich envisioned organizing the western provinces in the area of vocation promotion and sharing. The idea was presented to diocesan vocation directors who gather in Edmonton each year at St. Joseph's Seminary. As a result, the first gathering took place in January 2002 and again in January of 2003.

In addition to diocesan participants, the conference was opened up to include anyone involved in vocation and formation ministry. Representatives from the Ukrainian Catholic eparchies who were also interested in uniting, and the Western Ukrainian Conference participated in the conference.

"We hope to continue as we have started: inclusive of all areas of the church," said Eibich.

The trend toward collaboration continues, he said, describing how diocesan vocation directors were invited to the National Association of Vocation/Formation Directors of Canada (NAVFD) in Calgary last April. For the first time the Western Vocation Conference and the NAVFD will be organizing a joint venture in an upcoming national conference to be held in Saskatoon in May 2004.



Members of the vocation team for the diocese of Saskatoon include (back, left to right) Lynda Browning, Fr. Hans Eibich, Reg Bilodeau, (front, left to right) Sr. Jo-Ann Duggan, SGM, Erin Hickey, Sr. Lise Paquette, PM, Angie Bilodeau, and Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB. The team also includes Fr. Remi Hebert, CSsR, Rev. Mike Koch and Terry Cratty.

The theme for this gathering will be, "Fostering a Vocation Culture in North America." The keynote speaker will be Fr. Ray Lafontaine, editor of the pastoral plan which emerged from the North American Vocations Congress held April 2002 in Montreal.

A broad vision for vocations also emerged from that Montreal congress, Eibich said.

"There was a wholistic approach to doing vocation ministry which began to emerge from this gathering, including not only those called to ordained ministry and consecrated life, but also men and women who discern vocations to married and single life. Far too often, when we think of vocations, we think mostly of priesthood and religious life," he said.

"The pastoral plan which has emerged from our gathering in Montreal is much healthier and much more inclusive for doing the work of vocation ministry. We need to help young and old discern where and how God is calling them to live out their baptismal call in the church and how to be strong witnesses of the Christian life in the world around us."

The 1,100 delegates at the Montreal congress represented the "fullness" of the North American church, he said, noting that proceedings were held in English, French and Spanish. Delegates included diocesan vocation directors and those from religious orders, as well as lay people and a strong youth component, he noted.

The congress was a source of "great joy, great hope and great fervor," said Eibich. The vision which emerged from the Congress was hopeful, and called for a "preferential option for the young," he said.

Concrete ways and means to foster a vocation culture in North America came out of this gathering and are included in a

resource book which outlines a pastoral plan for "Fostering a Culture of Vocations in North America". Eibich presented this plan to diocese representatives at a recent Diocesan Congress at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

The time is ripe for vocation promotion, with a new generation of young people eager for spiritual growth and dedicated to community service, he said.

Dubbed "Generation Y" or "the New Millennials," young people born since 1980 are showing a community-minded dedication to service and an interest in faith – "more so than the 'Gen X' or 'Baby Boomer' generations ever did," said Eibich, sharing information provided by Sr. Cathy Bertrand, SSND during their international gathering.

Eibich described how 127 youth delegates at the Montreal Congress spontaneously asked to meet on their own to discuss issues and needs concerning the Church from their perspective.

"This gathering affirmed their love for the Church, their love for the ordained and consecrated life, but more importantly their need for support and guidance from the church, and requesting a spirit of open and respectful dialogue," said Eibich.

The youth delegates identified their need for mentors and wisdom figures in the faith community, and asked for a more thorough formation in the Catholic tradition. They also expressed a desire to be entrusted with real responsibilities, Eibich said.

"It was a source of great hope to see the faith of these young people in the church, and to have them there, asking us to help them," he said. "This combined with the World Youth Day event held in Toronto only affirms all the more that the time is ripe for the harvesting." - KLY

Fr. Leo Engel honoured on 65th anniversary of ordination

Fr. Leo Engel, OMI, was honored as a spiritual hero and as a beloved friend June 20 at a celebration marking the 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Hundreds of colleagues and well-wishers gathered at St. Patrick's parish in Saskatoon to honor Fr. Leo and to share how his vocation influenced their lives.

Bishop Albert LeGatt recalled the advise and direction which Fr. Leo provided him as a young parish intern.

Those gathered also heard how 40 years ago Fr. Leo was novice master to Brother Walter DeMong, OMI, and how he taught Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, in the seminary. DeMong read the prayers of the faithful and Wiesner, bishop of Prince

George, gave the homily at the celebration.

"All were guided by the example of one who throughout these 65 years has been a man of encouragement, a man of deep wisdom, of common-sense wisdom, of a wisdom based on the love of God," LeGatt said.

Archbishop Adam Exner, OMI, of Vancouver recalled how Fr. Leo intervened to help him as a young priest doing post-graduate work, and he thanked Fr. Leo for his "long-lasting friendship and inspiration."

Scripture readings about the good shepherd were an apt reflection of Fr. Leo's years of service, said Rev. Richard Wolak, OMI, superior of Mazenod Residence in Saskatoon. "Fr. Leo is a good example of

somebody who has a heart for the people. He is a man of compassion ... a man of never-failing optimism."

"It is because of Fr. Leo that I am an Oblate," said Rev. Chris Pulchny, OMI, provincial of the order's Assumption Province in Toronto. Pulchny described how on visits to the Pulchny home in Vancouver, Fr. Leo urged the parents to send their sons to St. Thomas College in North Battleford, where he served as teacher and rector.

"Fr. Leo has strived all his life to be the best that he could be," said Pulchny, one of several speakers at the celebration.

The program focused on five connections in Fr. Leo's life: his family, the Knights of Columbus, his career as an

educator, his connections with Poland, and his order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Family memories were shared by Carol (Engel) Walker, who

as a child participated in the first Mass which her cousin Fr. Leo celebrated in his hometown of Regina after returning from Poland where he was ordained in 1938. - KLY



Fr. Leo Engel, OMI

Family and community work together to ensure inclusion for six-year-old Daniel

By **Andréa Ledding**

If there's one thing Keri Kotyk and her husband Wes would like to see in more churches it would be a sign on the last few pews: "Reserved for parents of SPECIAL NEEDS or young children."

Keri is quick to add: "I'm not saying, 'If you have kids sit at the back.' Certainly (parents, children, and special needs parishioners) can sit anywhere they like or at the front too. That's what we did with our eldest daughter Sarah when she was young, and it was great, she just watched."

But their second child, Daniel, was diagnosed with autism at age three. "It's definitely one of those things you don't think about until it happens to you. I'm afraid if we sat at the front now he would be right up on the altar, especially if it was Fr. Paul (Donlevy, his favourite priest). He'd have the place in an uproar."

At six, Daniel still doesn't use much language, but he can make all kinds of noise in "his own language" and particularly loves to sing while vocalizing.

"Music ministry is key, it's very important to many children with autism. Many of them have this God-given gift of music," says Keri. "He can sing quite clearly; when we ask him what video he wants to watch, he will sing 'Veggie Ta-a-ales' perfectly and point to it, but we can't get him to say it."

Music is Daniel's favourite part of the Eucharistic celebration, so his parents have catered to his tastes. "Certain Masses are better because of the time of day and the music type," says Wes. If the sermon is too long, it can be challenging. "Where they sing parts all through, that works the best."

Daniel looks like any other six year old, but Keri wishes she could order him the t-shirt she saw recently in her "Exceptional Parent" magazine which reads, "I'm not naughty, I'm autistic."

It might counter some of the looks she sometimes gets when he's being "less than quiet" at places like their home parish of St. Anne's in the north end of Saskatoon.

"It's such a big parish, there are always some who don't know," says Keri, so when asked about whether they feel inclusion in the church, their answer is, "By those who

know us, yes!" But for those who don't, especially older people who are distracted by Daniel's vocalizations or activity, they do get occasional disapproving looks.

"You don't just say in the middle of church, 'we're not bad parents, he's autistic' – you can't just stand up and explain yourself to everyone looking over at you," says Wes.

And if Daniel is having a bad day, sometimes Wes will walk him home right away. "We can tell if it isn't going well, and we live so close," explains Wes. "He behaves better for Dad," says Keri.

"We're very conscious of not being disruptive," she adds. "We know him well enough to know when it's not going to (work)."

Like many children with autism, Daniel has sensory issues. He prefers a firm touch to a light touch, and seems to prefer Fr. Paul Donlevy's blessings. "He just loves Fr. Paul. He likes to touch his vestments. And with the autistic sense of touch, he loves the blessing at communion."

To help Daniel deal with the other sensory issues of a well-attended liturgy, they usually arrive at least a half an hour early. "We always go early, to everything we do. He can handle a large crowd like Mass if he's one of the first ones in."

So they locate a back pew and settle in.

Daniel's older sister Sarah, 12, who is "fantastic with him", has taken him to the parish's children's liturgy program, but at this point they feel he's too disruptive, and Sarah is also busy as an altar server.

Sarah has also been matched as his care partner in school in the past, and the Kotyks are very pleased with the support the Catholic school system has provided at St. Angela school. Classmates from kindergarten who responded well to Daniel were selected for his first grade classroom.

On the downside, Daniel's classroom aide left earlier this fall because of funding and seniority issues, and it has been a difficult adjustment. "Consistency is so important to him...change is hard on special needs kids."

He is just beginning to settle in with his two new aides, and Joann Simon from the school district has been a "fantastic resource" in their regular meeting and planning sessions.



Wes Kotyk cuddles his son Daniel, 6.

Looking ahead to sacramental preparation, Keri recalls a conversation she had with a priest from their former home in Regina, Fr. Brian Meredith. "What do you do with someone like Daniel? Father, he won't understand what he's receiving (at communion)." Meredith answered: "But he will understand to the best of his ability to understand."

The diocese of Saskatoon has created a special committee to address the needs and inclusion of those with disabilities, including creating awareness and fostering a welcoming and supportive attitude. The Committee for Inclusive Catholic Communities also addresses the immediate concern about reception into the sacramental life of the church.

Members of the committee are available to speak to interested groups across the diocese as well as to be a resource wherever needed. For more information contact Dorothy Fortier at the Catholic Centre at 242-1500.

Additional information about inclusion, including articles, prayers and a letter from Bishop Albert LeGatt, can be found on the diocesan website at www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca

Connecting God's Word to the joys and woes of life: resources for Lent 2004

By **Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers**

Scripture Resources & Small Christian Communities

One day I found the following message on my answering machine: "Our small group met around the upcoming Sunday Scriptures last night. We sure had quite a time figuring out how to respond to one of the questions on the reflection sheet. We want you to know that it was not as frustrating as it sounds: our sharing was surprisingly fruitful."

Another day, another message: "Are you sure you gave us the right Scripture reference for this coming

Sunday? It didn't seem right to us. You goofed!" Someone who dropped by had this to add: "Sharing on the Genesis creation story brought out our fear of intimacy with God; it turned out that most of us thought of a God who is vengeful instead of loving."

What strikes me about these comments is that people are truly reflecting and sharing on the Scriptures.

Learning to connect and apply the Word of God to our daily joys and woes is both exhilarating

and challenging. In order to accommodate different learning stages and interest levels, the diocese offers a variety of resources for the small groups operating in parishes.

A number of resources will be available for Lent 2004.

1. "Drawing Near to Jesus"

A diocesan order will once again be placed for the Lenten booklet "Drawing Near to Jesus" by Karen Sue Smith and Donna L. Ciangio, OP, which is published by St. Anthony Messenger.

Evaluations of the Lent 2003 booklet included words like "user-friendly," "easy to follow," "thought provoking," and "inspiring." Many small parish groups, groups of families or friends, various ministry groups, parish pastoral councils, CWL and Knights of Columbus councils learned to connect faith and daily life through this reflection guide on the Sunday gospel.

Those who were happy with this booklet last year, or those parishes introducing the concept of sharing on the Scriptures for the first time in Lent 2004 are encouraged to participate in our diocesan order. The cost is \$3 per booklet.

Please note that this resource does not include the readings for the RCIA Scrutinies.

2. "Celebrating the Word"

"Celebrating the Word" is published by Fr. Frank Ruetz of Waterloo, Ont. This resource can be delivered electronically, by fax or by regular mail. Subscription information and a sample can be found on the website: www.celebratingtheword.com

This resource is recommended in particular for groups which are already established and would appreciate a bit more "meat." Note that this resource covers all three Sunday readings, and Fr. Ruetz also addresses the readings for the RCIA Scrutinies. A special diocesan subscription rate for Lent 2004 is under discussion, therefore, it would be most helpful if anyone selecting Celebrating the Word as a resource would inform me of their choice.

3. Diocesan guides

The 2003 evaluations indicated a strong appreciation for our own "Diocesan Scripture Reflection Guides." These reflection guides are available all year round and can be downloaded from the diocesan website at www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca (click on "Scripture Resources" or "Small Christian Communities") with Adobe Acrobat software.

If you don't have Internet access, the reflection guides can be faxed or mailed to you. Even if you

download them from the Internet, I would still appreciate keeping a record of where in the diocese the guide is used, so make sure to inform me if this is your chosen material.

4. Other resources

For parishioners who are interested in studying certain aspects of the Bible apart from the Sunday Scripture readings, check the list of video-based Scripture studies found on the website on the "Scripture Resources" page under "Scripture Resources Brochure". There are certain videos especially suited for the Lenten season. All videos come with a study guide for group use. These resources may be borrowed from my office or from the Resource Library, both located at the Catholic Centre.

Please contact my office about your choice of resource by December 19, 2003 by fax at 306-244-6010, by email at scriptrres@rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca or by regular mail at the Catholic Centre, 100-5th Avenue N., Saskatoon, S7K 2N7.

Several workshops are available for parishes who are beginning small faith sharing groups and for those who want to continue to journey in existing groups:

- Introduction and orientation to Small Christian Communities (one evening)
- Facilitating groups: joys, challenges, pitfalls, rewards (one evening)
- Evangelization and outreach through small group development (one evening)
- Feasting at the Table of the Word: basics of the Bible (one-day workshop)

Anyone wishing to plan one of these workshops is asked to contact me as soon as possible. Together we commit ourselves to helping parishioners deepen their faith in Jesus, the Lord.

Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers is co-ordinator of Scripture Resources and Small Christian Communities for the diocese of Saskatoon. She can be reached at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 100 - 5th Ave. N., Saskatoon, S7K 2N7; telephone: 306-242-1500, Ext. 243; toll free: 1-877-661-5005; fax: 306-244-6010; or email: scriptrres@rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca
For more information, visit the diocesan website at: www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca



**Scripture Resources
& Small Christian
Communities**

**Marie-Louise
Ternier-Gommers**

Schools work with home and parish to nurture faith

By Agnes Rolheiser
Rural Catechetics

"In all the ministries and services which the particular Church performs to carry out its mission of evangelization, catechesis occupies a position of importance... In the diocese catechesis is a unique service performed jointly by priests, deacons, religious and laity, in communion with the Bishop.

The entire Christian community should feel responsible for this service."

(General Directory for Catechesis #219)

Schools are important partners with the home and the parish in this service of the catechesis of children and adolescents. Faith nurturing in the home, liturgical experience, sacramental preparation, and celebration in the parish are supported by systematic religious instruction in schools.

In our diocese of Saskatoon there are 47 Catholic separate schools, 41 are elementary, six are high schools. All but six, including all the high schools, are located in the city of Saskatoon. Of the schools outside of Saskatoon St. Augustine and St. Dominic in the city of Humboldt. St. Peter in Unity, and St. George in Wilkie are part of the Northwest Catholic school division. St. Gabriel in Biggar and St. Alphonse in Viscount each are separate school divisions operating one school. In addition to the six Catholic schools, there are seven public schools which provide religious instruction: by regular teaching staff in five schools, and by volunteers from the community in the other two.

Catholic separate schools do not provide religious instruction for all the Catholic students in their school boundaries. A number of situations exist where some Catholic students attend the public school. In most instances a second program of instruction takes place either in the home, in the parish, or in the public school during recess or after school hours. The parish coordinates the preparation for the celebration of sacraments. These situations provide the parish with unique challenges of community building as well as adequate instruction.

The majority of school and parish programs end with the preparation for confirmation usually at the Grade 6 to 8 level. School programs end when students leave elementary school at Grade 7, 8 or 9. Thus the systematic instruction of children and adolescents generally ends at that time, much too early for achieving formation in adult faith.

The diocese Rural Catechetics ministry is dedicated to helping provide systematic religious instruction for children and adolescents outside the city of Saskatoon.

Approximately 1,600 of these students receive their religious instruction in schools during school hours. Staff in the schools, volunteers in the parishes, and pastors and parish life directors work together to share the "good news" with students. The diocese is richly blessed with dedicated, joyful women and men sharing their faith and gifts.



Rural Catechetics

Agnes Rolheiser

Did you know :

- The largest Catholic School, outside of Saskatoon has approximately 315 students: St. Augustine in Humboldt
- The smallest Catholic School in the Diocese has approximately 20 students: St. Alphonse in Viscount.
- The first school established in a district is always a public school. A separate school, which may be Catholic or Protestant, can then be established in the area and must share boundaries with the public school. As schools are amalgamated or closed this situation may change.
- The most recent separate school established in our diocese is a Protestant separate school in Englefeld.
- Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario are the only provinces which guarantee full public funding for separate schools for religious minorities.
- The number of students required to request the establishment of a separate school is six.
- Fewer schools in the diocese are providing religious instruction than there were two years ago.



Students from St. George school in Wilkie participate in a liturgical celebration.



A St. Peter's student gives a "thumbs-up" during a fire prevention program. Catholic schools throughout the diocese work in partnership with home and parish to educate the whole child.



Bishop Albert LeGatt visits a classroom at St. Peter school in Unity.



Fr. Waldemar Reschney presents a Good News Bible to a student from St. George Catholic school in Wilkie.

Cyber School offers catechesis through an Internet connection

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

High school credit classes in Christian Ethics are available to students through the Internet, parish representatives from across the diocese of Saskatoon heard Sept. 12 during a Diocesan Congress at Queen's House.

Teachers Corinne Baumann and Todd Paslawski described the program offered through Saskatoon Cyber School, a project of the Saskatoon Catholic school district.

"This is another tongue in which we can preach the gospel," said Baumann.

Distance education has a long and healthy tradition in the church, said Paslawski, noting that the letters of St. Paul are some of the earliest examples of long-distance teaching.

Sometimes there is resistance to the idea of educating students "online," noted Baumann, but the attitude of staff at Saskatoon Cyber School is that "the best



way to predict the future is to invent it now."

Parish representatives from across the diocese heard how new technologies provide ways to meet the needs of students. Whether it's because a program is not available in a rural area, or because a student's schedule does not permit them to take the course in a regular classroom setting, or because computer-based learning best matches a student's learning style, cyber

school is a viable option, the teachers reported.

All classes offered at Saskatoon Cyber School, including Christian Ethics 10, 20, and 30, use Saskatchewan Education curriculum, stressed Paslawski.

Saskatoon Cyber School operates through the Internet, with closed "classrooms" entered only through a student's password.

Features such as student e-mail "lounges" and discussion pages help to build connections between students and create a sense of community, noted Baumann, describing how students sending messages to the student "lounge" were recently trying to organize a potluck dinner.

Saskatoon Cyber School includes a chapel, with Rev. Andrew Wychucki serving as chaplain.

"Online education is a good way of evangelizing," said Baumann, describing how students share prayer intentions and faith questions.

Christian Ethics classes are able to use the Internet to access "solid resources in the Catholic community," she described. Links to the Catechism, to an on-line Bible, and to a variety of resources and information sites can enrich the lessons that teachers send out over the Internet, she said.

Students are also required to complete a service project component, logging hours of service completed in the community or parish, said Baumann.

Because of agreements between school districts, students outside the Saskatoon Catholic school system can usually enroll in the cyber school Christian Ethics program at no cost, depending on the circumstances, said Darren Cannell, assistant principal. He added that students without a computer at home have made arrangements with local schools to access the program from school computers.

Director's faith journey enriches ministry

By **Andréa Ledding**

Between phone calls, Parish Life Director Verna Vandale notes there's "never a dull moment" at Guadalupe House.

Located in inner city Saskatoon, Guadalupe House runs a much-needed pantry, oversees sacramental preparation, prays with those in crisis, leads prayer in homes and hospitals, and spends one-on-one time whenever needed.

This fall Bishop Albert LeGat commissioned Vandale to be the Parish Life Director in this busy and demanding ministry.

Vandale said she appreciates the team-led approach. The Guadalupe team also includes three religious sisters and a lay pastoral associate. Redemptorist priests at St. Mary's parish provide liturgy and assistance as needed.

"We're very much a team. We all do whatever needs to be done," states Vandale.

The team can offer several languages besides English, including Cree, Dene,

French, and the Métis language "Michif", a blend of Cree and French. This diversity enriches small Christian community faith-sharing circles that meet to reflect on Sunday readings. "It's very interesting because the Scripture applies to each individual in different ways. They can each say it in their own language...it's very powerful."

Guadalupe House also provides a weekly sacred healing circle that is confidential. "We provide that safe place to release any emotions, any feelings attached to their individual situations, which might be anything – an abusive spouse, addictions, struggles, a painful past. There's a very spiritual component attached to the circles."

Vandale is Cree, hailing from Gordon First Nation, in the Fort Qu'Appelle/Regina region. She moved to Saskatoon in 1967. She says her life hasn't always been immersed in faith: for a time, she wasn't practicing Native or Catholic spirituality,

but was suffering from alcohol and self-hate, under the burdens and weights of her life and situation.

She attended a residential school from age seven to 14, and "it was not a good experience, put it that way." She says she has learned to forgive and let go. "You do not punish the whole, because of a few," she says, adding, "How would I feel if my whole family was condemned because my son or daughter was an addict?"

"You don't forget, but the intense emotions aren't connected with it anymore. Forgiveness in my heart enabled me to let go of the hurt, pain, and shame. The memories remain but no longer have power to control my behaviour."

When a friend introduced her to the Catholic Church and Guadalupe House, she learned "how to take God out of the residential school and put God into (my) life."

Vandale speaks matter-of-factly about fleeing an abusive first husband with her four children, and her initial disbelief and mistrust at her second husband's kindness because "nobody is that nice. But he was." She has now been widowed 11 years, but with God in her life, "I'm never alone."

The values and beliefs taught by her Anglican grandmother on the reserve planted the seeds which would help her reclaim her Christian heritage. "When I first came in (to Guadalupe House) and saw a braid of sweet grass (representing the Trinity) on the coffee table, that was the beginning."

Sweetgrass is a symbol of both her Native identity and Christian Catholic beliefs, and she uses the "smudging" of sweetgrass in her worship, as do many Natives in traditional or Catholic practice.

"The Church provided the tools to change, and I had the desire in my heart. I've been Catholic for 8, 9 years now," explains Vandale. "I found a path and I just stayed on it."

Vandale emphasizes that both Native and Catholic spirituality provide valuable and meaningful ways to heal from past trauma. "Catholic and Native culture and traditions are universal," she explains.

In working with non-Native and aboriginal groups, Vandale describes the experience as "sharing myself in order to build a bridge" between the two cultures.

"Our people get very confused, they desire to go back to their Catholic roots but without abandoning their Native-ness," she says, noting some go back to solely traditional ways. Vandale says she is happy with the balance and integration she has found between the two traditions. "Native



Verna Vandale was recently commissioned by Bishop Albert LeGat as Parish Life Director for the Guadalupe House faith community.

spirituality allows us to express our faith in one God through music, song, sharing, dance, language, and prayer which all ties in with worship. Whether we say 'Creator God' or 'God, my Creator' – it matters only that we use these names in a good and respectful way."

Vandale recognizes how helpful it is for Guadalupe House to have an aboriginal person in the office. "They see that visible Native, and they're more open, more involved," she says of the largely Native parish, and the importance of holding on to the First Nations identity. "I've gone through so many years of an identity loss, that now that I have the grace to know who I am, I want to show others how to do the same."

"We all need to work hard at healing the pain of the past; to admit and accept that wrong has been done, and to promote peace and unity," says Vandale. The biggest problem she has encountered is the lack of understanding from both sides. "Instead of being so angry, we need to work at letting it go," she says, describing the process of separating the past from the present, dealing with the emotions involved, and moving on.

Vandale describes Guadalupe House as "a bowl of roses", and relates a conversation with a team member during a hard time. She said: "Can you see the beautiful blooms, the wonderful smell of roses? Now look closer, underneath, there are thorns. That's just part of the experience, sometimes there are troubles, hurts, pain, but it's still a beautiful bowl of roses."

Guadalupe House faith community reaches out

By **Sr. Janice Fournier, PM Guadalupe House**

Life at Guadalupe House is never boring. This year's pastoral team is the same as last year, but Verna Vandale is now Parish Life Director, with Sr. Diane Lajeunesse, PM, Gerry Grimard, and Sr. Josephine Bouvier, SGM, as part-time pastoral associates. Sr. Janice Fournier, PM, continues to serve as half-time secretary.

Besides regular Sunday Eucharist at St. Mary's church, sacramental preparation (baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriage preparation), RCIA/RCIC, junior and senior youth groups, prayer evenings, healing circles, responding daily to needs at the door, Guadalupe has also been reaching out to other communities and groups.

In July, Guadalupe House was responsible for the youth ministry at the Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage in Alberta. Evaluation of this experience will affect plans for next year's pilgrimage.

At the end of May, Guadalupe produced a second music CD: "I Am Free", with 18 songs, and a larger number of singers. "Keep the Circle Strong" and "I Am Free" have touched many lives in various ways. With the proceeds from the sales of these two CDs/tapes help has been

provided to more people in a variety of situations, in addition to purchasing equipment for the music ministry.

The Guadalupe House music team was invited to sing at a pilgrimage in Wollaston in July, and to return to Wollaston in September for a weekend of prayer, faith growth and healing. In early November, some of the group went to Jan's Bay to be recorded for NBC (a northern radio station).

Guadalupe House hosted a 12-Step Pilgrimage Nov. 13-16. We plan to hold two of these per year. Previous pilgrimages have been very well attended and were sources of healing for many. These pilgrimages are based on 12-step methods, and also integrate aboriginal elements.

Guadalupe House meets regularly with the Muskeg Lake community at their request for praise and worship.

Guadalupe House joined with St. Mary's parish for a benefit concert "Picking Up the Pieces" Nov. 2 to raise funds for repairing windows which have been broken in St. Mary's church and hall.

Guadalupe is also in partnership with Bishop Klein school in a project to develop greater awareness of how to live our faith as aboriginal people. Meetings with staff and some classes have already taken place, and a banner making project is underway.

Mission explores baptismal call to develop a "prophet's nose"

By **Kiply Lukan Yaworski**

A prophet's nose, a sabbath heart, and shepherd's feet were images of the baptismal call evoked during a parish mission held Oct. 5-8 as part of 50th anniversary celebrations this year at St. Francis Xavier parish in Saskatoon.

Baptism is the focus of the mission prepared by the Redemptorist mission team of Rev. David Cottingham CSsR and Deacon Bob Williston. The theme coincides with an ongoing reflection underway across the diocese of Saskatoon about the baptismal call to be prophet, priest and shepherd king, said Williston, noting the mission will eventually be presented to several parishes across the diocese.

"The diocese is in the process of revitalization, revisioning, and looking at the future with the eyes of a prophet, standing with the shepherd's staff in our hands," said Cottingham.

"A prophet is one who detects the person, plan and presence of Jesus in all things," he described.

"We are a people looking for meaning, and the person with a prophet's nose is able to sniff out the real and true meaning," he said, urging the faithful to develop their faith and to study Scripture. "These are our stories and they should form us. They tell us how to find right meaning, based on the events of Scripture and the words of Jesus."

The prophet will see Christ in other people, and will also be a sign of Christ in the world, described Cottingham.

Upcoming Redemptorist Missions:
Dec. 7-10, 2003 - St. Aloysius parish, Allan
Dec. 13-16, 2003 - St. Alphonse parish, Viscount
(For more information call Natalia Schrader at 257-3286)

"The discovery that Jesus is hidden in all the events of our own life is a source of great joy," he said. "We must develop a prejudice that says God is everywhere to be found, if only we know how to look."

As for developing a "Sabbath heart," it is the duty of those baptized as a priestly people to celebrate, proclaim and maintain a sacred balance of life, "where there is a place for God in every part of life," he said, calling for balance in all dimensions: the physical, intellectual, social, creative, emotional, and spiritual.

"A priestly heart is a heart for others," added Williston, who throughout the four-days shared stories and songs around the mission themes.

The Exodus journey into the desert formed the scriptural background for the team's discussion of the baptismal call to be a shepherd king. Williston reflected on the "deserts" in the life of Mary and what they reveal about our own dark moments.

Cottingham used the image of "shepherd's feet" to explore the call to be a pilgrim people, who are moving ahead with faith and hope, fed by the Eucharist.

As with the shepherd meal and the Passover supper in



Fr. David Cottingham, CSsR, prays over the baptismal font at St. Francis Xavier parish.

ancient Israel, the Eucharist calls the faithful to "leave behind the things that slow us down ... those things which will mean death to us," he said.

"And we, the pilgrim people of God in the diocese of Saskatoon are being asked to launch out into the deep under the leadership of Jesus our shepherd."

Lay formation graduates sent forth to be "church for the world" - Bishop

A two-year commitment to grow in faith culminated for 28 people journeying through a diocesan Formation program as they were sent forth in a missioning ceremony June 15 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Muenster.

"We're here to recognize and give thanks to God for this marvelous work God has begun in these holy people," said Louise Gantfoer, a member of the Formation team for the diocese of Saskatoon, as the joyful celebration began with the sound of trumpets and voices raised in song.

"Over the past two years these members of the diocesan church have diligently and conscientiously deepened their knowledge of the faith and intensified their spiritual life," she said.

"You have come to know God in both understanding and experience, but especially in the experience of his love in communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," said Bishop Albert LeGatt, addressing the Formation graduates in his homily on the feast of the Trinity.

"Go and be church, church for the world," he said, urging the 28 graduates to "proclaim by experience who our God is" in the family, in the workplace and in the community.

"You were serving before, and now your service has a new dimension, a new joy," said LeGatt.

In a missioning ceremony during the Eucharistic celebration graduates renewed their baptismal promises and each one was called forth to be anointed and sent forth by the bishop.

The Formation program involves weekend-long sessions held every month for two years. The 15th Formation graduating class, this year's group is the first to have taken their sessions at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, rather than at the Queen's House setting in Saskatoon.

In a weekend retreat before the celebration, the 28 participants reflected on where they are being called to serve, said Formation team member Kathy Hitchings.

"Some are being called to risk something new, while others are being affirmed in what they are already doing," she related.

Service within a parish is only a small part of how the Formation graduates will share their faith, Hitchings said. "It involves a whole spectrum of things – family, neighbours, community, coaching, working for political and economic change, justice. It will include everything they are involved with in the world."

This group has a great maturity of faith and a high level of commitment to the church and to being "people of the gospel," she said.



Twenty-eight people participated in a June 15 missioning ceremony at St Peter's Cathedral in Muenster after journeying for two years through a diocesan Formation program.

Although the Formation program was intense and required a strong commitment, participants were overwhelmingly positive and joyful about the experience.

"It's been the best experience of my life," said Lillian Hinz of Muenster. She is working to encourage other people – including those with young families – to participate in the Formation program.

"It has been such a blessing. Everybody should do this," said Judy Ledding of Rosetown.

"It's been a wonderful experience in growing in faith, knowledge and confidence. It's about knowing and living our baptismal

commitment," said Blanche Bandet who added that the Formation program was particularly enriching because she and her husband Paul participated as a couple.

"I never dreamed when I started that it would be the way it is," said Marguerite Wapple of Biggar.

"The team is just incredible. The presenters were amazing. It was just a glorious experience."

There is a mixed feeling in ending the two-year program, said Barb Diederich of Biggar.

"It's both sad and happy. There have been lots of tears." - KLY

Christian mystics model a "heart" relationship with God



Sandra Prather

A knowledge of the Christian mystics can greatly enrich our faith journey. Sandra Prather told the second year lay Formation group in a recent session at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

The director of Star of the North Retreat House in Edmonton, Prather set about to take some of the mystery out of the great mystics and to connect their intense, personal relationship with God to everyday Christian life.

"If you don't have that experience of God, and don't have that relationship with God, and don't have an encounter with God, how can you be Christian at all?"

Some of the great mystics in the Catholic Christian tradition include St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich and St. Therese of Lisieux.

"We often don't know very much about them, and we don't know too much about how mysticism connects with our faith life." But getting to know the mystics

can shine new light on our own experience, she said.

"We all have an opportunity to be in relationship with God," she asserted. "Not just to read about God, to study God – God invites us into personal, loving union."

The mystics can help us enter into the "heart stuff," Prather said. "There are a variety of ways to enter into that relationship. Some will resonate with us ... others won't appeal at all." Like all the saints, the great mystics can serve as coaches or mentors for our own faith growth, she said.

In our baptism we are all called to communion with God, Prather said. "You can't leave your life for a dogma, a catechism or a teaching ... but you can leave your life for the beloved."

When Jesus speaks about his relationship with God as Abba, or daddy, it is the close, personal, intense relationship of the mystic. It is a relationship characterized by an "intimate communion"

that we are all called to share, Prather noted.

"This is what it means to be a Christian mystic: 'the Father and I will come and make our home with you' ... this is not just for an extraordinary few."

All the baptized are called to this communion, and are also called to holiness even in the small things – in everyday life, within families and in the workplace, Prather asserted.

Jesus is a model for our spiritual life – incarnate, lived in the ordinary, contemplative but not cloistered, and profoundly relational, she said.

God wants to touch us and be present in the everyday experiences of our life: in taking care of the kids, cooking breakfast 365 days of the year, and going to our jobs over and over and over again, Prather said.

She suggested undertaking a "noisy contemplation," to take a "long, loving look at the Real" and to become aware of the presence of God everywhere.

Too often we have confused "contemplative" with "cloistered" and have given up, because our lives in no way resemble the monastic model.

Similarly, mystical prayer has often been talked about in terms of "union with God," but for Prather it has proven more helpful to speak of encountering "the presence" of God.

"God is already present to us and it's a matter of attending to that presence ... encountering God who is always present in us and around us."

In addition to her presentation on Christian mystics to Year II participants, Prather introduced the history of spirituality to the Year I group of the Formation program.

Thirty people began the two-year program in September 2003. The 40 Year II participants, including 13 participants from the Saskatoon eparchy, will complete their program in June 2004.

The diocese Formation program is currently offered at Queen's House in Saskatoon, with weekend sessions held monthly over the two years of the program. - KLY

Community called to gather when priest absent

Lay presided services are a way for a faith community to celebrate and to nurture itself when a priest is not available, Karen Schreiner said at a recent ministry development workshop in Muenster.

In the 40 years since the Second Vatican Council, the faithful have come to an ever-increasing understanding of their role as members of the Body of Christ. "Before we went to church, and now we've become the church," she said. "We are a people called to gather."

"We are the assembly of the risen Lord who gave himself to unite us. That underpins our whole identity," said Schreiner, a member of the diocesan liturgy commission.

It is important to continue to gather as a parish community, even when a priest is not available to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist – a more frequent occurrence because of declining numbers of priests in the diocese. One priest is often serving several communities in the rural area, and may not be physically able to celebrate at each one on a weekend, she noted. Or perhaps a pastor is ill or away: at such times, it remains an imperative on the community to gather, she stressed.

"It is important to the life of your community... to keep your community united and viable," she said. "You are called by the spirit to come and be community."

In situations where the Eucharist cannot be celebrated, it is recommended that a Sunday gathering be held to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, with a communion service using reserved consecrated hosts.

At the same time there must be a realization that this is a second-best situation, and it is no substitute for the celebration of the Eucharist – "we will celebrate and we will be nourished, but we will go away hungry," said Schreiner. "You come together as a community to share in communal prayer, to share the presence of Christ in his word, to share the presence of Christ in yourselves... to share the reserved Blessed Sacrament in communion, but you do not celebrate Eucharist."

It is important that lay presiders follow the accepted form for such a celebration, which is quite clearly differentiated from the Eucharist, Schreiner said. "Stay strictly with the ritual," she recommended.

In addition, it is necessary to inform and educate parishioners about the celebration ahead of time, she said.

Schreiner reviewed the steps of the lay-presided celebration, encouraging the leaders to share the gestures, rituals and symbols with thoughtfulness and meaning.

"It is not hurried ... but celebrated deliberately, with bold gestures," she said. - KLY

Farewell to Oblates highlights pilgrimage

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Tributes and farewells were part of an annual pilgrimage at Blumenfeld June 8 as the Oblate order ended more than a century of service in the area.

Fr. David Polzen began serving the area July 3, taking over from both Fr. Robert Stang, OMI, and Fr. Anthony Schmidt, OMI.

As the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of St. Mary's province reorganize to undertake new evangelization initiatives, it is appropriate to reflect on the order's legacy in nurturing strong faith communities in the area, said Bishop Albert LeGatt.

"The Spirit has indeed been strong among you," LeGatt told the Blumenfeld gathering.

In a tribute to the Oblate fathers, Sister Teresita Kambeitz of the Ursulines of Prelate described the history of the Oblate order and their charism as missionary evangelists in difficult situations.

"Once communities are established, they move on to other pioneer areas," she said.

Recalling the close connections the Oblate priests had with the Ursulines and with all the people of the area, Kambeitz said the order embodied "enculturation" long before the word was ever in use.

"You have been our brothers in ministry, our fellow pilgrims, our friends," she said. "Above all you have been the presence of Christ in our midst."

The Oblate fathers became family to the communities they served, agreed area resident Arden Andreas. "Know that we are filled with sadness," he said. "But go knowing that you have accomplished what the Oblates set out to do."



Music and prayers filled the air during the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Sorrows grotto.

"You have given your best, and you are leaving with our thanks, our prayers, and our love," Andreas said.

Although it may not be obvious, God is in charge and is "doing something wonderful for your community," said Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI, provincial superior of the Oblates of St. Mary's Province.

Jeffrey presented a picture of OMI

founder St. Eugene de Mazenod to representatives of the seven area parishes of Leader, Prelate, Lancer, Fox Valley, Burstall, Liebenthal, and Richmond (*see photo below*).

About 400 attended the pilgrimage to the heritage site of St. Peter and Paul church, built in 1914, and the grotto of Our Lady of Sorrows, built in 1936.

Sandhills Pastoral Region adjusts to new reality of one less priest

A new name coincides with a new reality for seven parishes being served by a single priest in the southwest corner of the Saskatoon diocese.

The unique geography of the area stretching from Richmond to Lancer is reflected in the name "Sandhills Pastoral Region" which residents selected in a recent vote, said pastor Fr. David Polzen.

Polzen was named pastor of the area

this summer, replacing Fr. Anthony Schmidt, OMI, in the parishes at Leader, Lancer and Prelate; and Fr. Bob Stang, OMI, in the parishes at Richmond, Fox Valley, Burstall and Liebenthal. In addition to the parishes in each of these seven communities, the Sandhills Pastoral Region includes St. Angela's Convent and Academy in Prelate, as well as the Blumenfeld and district heritage site of St.

Peter and Paul Church and Our Lady of Sorrows Grotto.

Parishes are gathering together to undertake several initiatives on a regional level, noted Polzen. A combined pictorial directory is being organized, a project that will help people throughout the region get to know each other, he said. A single Sunday bulletin is now published for the whole pastoral region, he added.

All parishioners in the region were invited to attend a meeting Sept. 30 to discuss matters of common interest. Meanwhile, pastoral council meetings will continue at the local level, stressed Polzen.

"Each parish has its own unique personality and circumstances that make it impossible to attend a regional meeting to deal with local parish issues," he said. "At present it has been decided that we should meet as a pastoral region three times a year. This way it keeps us in touch with one another, and gives us the ability to share ideas and brainstorm solutions to certain challenges."

Organizational questions must often be addressed on a regional basis, he noted. For instance, the question of a celebration schedule for the Christmas liturgies was recently discussed.

"People here are still dealing with the challenges of being served by one less priest," said Polzen. "It is a loss that we need to grieve, but also to see the hope within the loss," he said.

"Together, along with God for whom nothing is impossible, we shall continue to build up God's kingdom, but in a new way. And that new way is not totally clear ... so we take it one step at a time with a whole lot of discernment and prayer and

encouragement and support for one another."

He commended the patience and cooperation of the people throughout the region. "We're all in this together, he said, crediting Fr. Schmidt and Fr. Stang for preparing the parishes to make needed changes.

Parish communities are encouraged to gather together for prayer even when the priest can't be present, he said, noting it is not physically possible for him to celebrate weekday Mass in all the parishes. Lay-led liturgies happen every other Sunday in all of the seven parish communities, and people have answered the call to help as lay presiders, or to lead ministries such as sacramental preparation.

One of the challenges facing the new region is "tracking down Fr. David," he noted. Telephone answering services in the Leader and Fox Valley offices, along with e-mail and a cell phone are helping to solve that problem.

"And I have two wonderful part-time administrative assistants, Marie Stimson and Gwen Buye who have been lifesavers for me," Polzen said. "They have given me the guidance and direction on those days when I was lost, and have been a tremendous support for me."

Polzen says he is hopeful that people will feel free to contact him, and won't perceive him as being "too busy."

Everyone across the Sandhills region has been extremely supportive, Polzen added. "I've been very warmly welcomed - incredibly so. It's superb!" he said, noting how the community at large and representatives of other denominations have also welcomed him to the area. - KLY



Presentation recalls Oblate saint

Parishes from across the new Sandhills Pastoral Region participated in a farewell to the Oblates at the Blumenfeld pilgrimage in June. On behalf of St. Mary's province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, provincial superior Fr. Doug Jeffrey presented a picture of OMI founder St. Eugene de Mazenod to representatives from each community. Those present for the ceremony included (**back row standing, left to right**) Fr. Anthony Schmidt, OMI; Tom Dietrich, Little Flower Parish, Leader; Charles Tumback, Sacred Heart Parish, Lancer; James Deis, St. Mary's Parish, Fox Valley; Fr. Robert Stang, OMI; Sister Hermana Blatz of the Ursuline Sisters of Prelate (on behalf of St. Francis Xavier parish); Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI; (**front row, kneeling left to right**) Mary Horst, St. Mary's Parish, Richmond; George Hoffart, St. Michael's Parish, Burstall; and Joan Bosch, Sacred Heart Parish, Liebenthal.

Pilgrims gather to honour Mary

For 71 years faithful pilgrims have gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary at Reward for an annual day of prayer established during years of Depression drought.

Praying for God's blessing through good times and bad, offering praise and thanksgiving in a gathering of people from across St. Joseph's Colony has become a tradition for many since the pilgrimage began in 1932, said Rev. David Tumback, deanery priest representative on a pilgrimage committee.

About 400 attended this year's July 13 event, which was briefly interrupted by an afternoon storm. It was a day of devotion and prayer which included the rosary, the Angelus, Stations of the Cross, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and

the sacrament of reconciliation, as well as celebration of the Eucharist presided by Bishop Albert LeGatt. The program also included a parade of banners from area parishes (past and present), children's activities and time for visiting.

St. Joseph's Colony was founded May 12, 1905 and includes parishes and communities in and around Denzil, Handel, Kerrobert, Landis, Leipzig, Luseland, Macklin, Major, Scott, St. Donatus, Tramping Lake, Unity, and Wilkie.

This year's pilgrimage patron was Fr. Karl Groetschel, OMI, who was pastor at Holy Rosary parish in Reward for 32 years, from 1926 to 1958. It was during his years of service that the pilgrimage site was chosen and the annual devotion was established. - KLY



An annual pilgrimage to the Reward-area shrine began in 1932.



Pilgrims spent the day in prayer at Mount Carmel.

Pilgrims gather at Mount Carmel

Bishop Albert LeGatt led a Eucharistic procession to the top of Mount Carmel and blessed the flowering fields during the 81st annual pilgrimage to the site July 20.

The shrine north of Carmel is located within St. Peter's Colony, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, invited those assembled on the hillside to join in centennial celebrations as hundreds of blue and yellow balloons marked with the 100th anniversary logo were released after celebration of the Eucharist.

It was only a few years after the colony began that the first pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was held, LeGatt noted in his homily to the hundreds of faithful gathered on the hillside.

"Very soon after settling the land and beginning to farm in this area, people with a devotion to Mary found this site, overlooking this beautiful land, and instituted this pilgrimage," he said. Every year the faithful return to give thanks and to ask for Mary's prayers and intercession in times of challenge and suffering, he said.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity to rejoice and to praise God as Mary did in her Magnificat; and to ponder our life in Christ as she did, LeGatt said.

"With Christ at the centre of our lives, when we see suffering and see injustice, when we see people trampled upon, cast aside or used ... we need not give in to indifference or despair, but we can become instruments bringing life and love to all."



Bishop Albert LeGatt blessed the surrounding fields during the annual pilgrimage.

In addition to the Eucharistic celebration, the pilgrimage included prayer and devotions throughout the day: the rosary, the sacrament of reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Stations of the Cross. - KLY

Local pilgrims encouraged to contemplate the face of Christ through the rosary

Pilgrims gathered to celebrate the Year of the Rosary at the shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies Sept. 5-7 at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon.

The 21st annual pilgrimage featured reflections on the "Luminous Mysteries" recently added to the rosary by Pope John Paul II, who in October 2002 proclaimed the Year of the Rosary.

Contemplating the mysteries of light is one way to contemplate the face of Christ, said Bishop Albert LeGatt, who spoke at celebrations throughout the three-day pilgrimage.

"Mary is the model of our faith: Mary contemplating the face of Christ, leading us to Jesus," he said, quoting from reflections on the rosary written by John Paul II.

"Let that echo in our minds: Mary, in contemplating the face of Christ, comes closer to Christ ... coming more and more into conformity with him by pondering all things in her heart." The rosary can help us to do the same, he said.

In meditating upon the mysteries of the rosary we can journey with Mary through gospel moments of revelation, gazing on Jesus, he said. Praying in this way with Mary helps us to conform our hearts, minds and lives to Jesus, he added.

"Mary as the mother of us all will lead us to be true brothers and sisters to each other," he said.

The experience of praying the rosary is enriched if we announce each mystery, listening to the word of God about that mystery, noted LeGatt. In addition, the rosary should be prayed at a "lingering pace" with moments of silence and "contemplative entering into the mystery of Christ," he suggested.

Finally, it is helpful to recall how "each Hail Mary we pray has at its centre the fruit of her womb: Jesus," he said.

"I invite you to once again consider the



Thomas McKay, Megan Dyck, Marc D'Eon, Tara Nestmann, and Donna McKay (left to right) presented a dramatic tableau about the institution of the Eucharist, one of the new Luminous Mysteries of the rosary. Erin McKay provided narration for the drama, held during the pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies at Holy Spirit parish in Saskatoon.

rosary and our relationship with Mary as she leads us to Jesus, drawing us to the heart of Jesus, contemplating the face of Jesus so that we can become more and more like him."

Throughout the three-day pilgrimage the five new Luminous Mysteries were highlighted: the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, the miracle at Cana, the proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the institution of the Eucharist.

The pilgrimage opened Sept. 5 with a candlelight rosary featuring dramatic enactments of each of the five Luminous Mysteries and petitions brought forward by those gathered for prayer. Fr. Denis Phaneuf led a candlelight procession with the statue of Our Lady of the Prairies.

Pilgrim prayer times were held throughout the weekend, with groups from various city parishes leading different sessions.

The sacrament of the anointing of the sick was celebrated Sept. 6 and celebrations of the Eucharist were held throughout the weekend, culminating with a liturgy for the Feast of the Birth of Mary Sept. 7.

A concert featuring hymns and classical works with a Marian theme was



Our Lady of the Prairies is depicted as a fellow pilgrim.

held Sept. 6. Keyboardist Gregory Schulte, violinists Marla and Geoff Cole and cellist Linda Bardutz were joined by several singers for the event.

The shrine was the dream of J. P. Leier who in 1957 began the Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation.

Our Lady of the Prairies is depicted as a fellow pilgrim, holding a sheaf of wheat, a prairie symbol as well as a symbol of Christ, the Bread of Life. - KLY

Ester and Miriam revealed as women of courage and risk

By Sr. Kay MacDonald, NDS

The Sisters of Sion welcomed a group of 25 to their convent on Acadia Drive Oct 18 to examine Holy Scripture and its relationship to daily life.

The day was spent studying Scripture texts about two biblical women of great courage and risk: Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, and Ester, the queen of King Ahasuerus, a Persian ruler during the Babylonian captivity of the Hebrew people.

Through biblical texts, presenters Sr. Audrey Gerwin and Sr. Mary Babic, both Sisters of Sion from Toronto, led the participants in an experience of learning about these great women of the Hebrew Scriptures. The group re-created the stories of Miriam and Ester in study, drama, ritual, celebration and song.

"The workshop opened for me an understanding of two very different women, Miriam and Ester, and of how they responded to God's call to be instruments of salvation history," said one participant.

"They were truly women of the covenant who, in the Jewish tradition, were risk-takers, willing to share themselves with their community in a situation of great personal danger. It was in their risk-taking that God was most present, and most able to accomplish God's work. They put themselves 'out there,' a challenge and an invitation that I believe women face in the Church today."

Another participant said "I learned more about the Scriptures today than I have in the last ten years."

"I am astonished to see how these women faced life and death situations and courageously put their own lives on the line for their people many millennia ago," said a participant. "This is still happening today. We only have to think of Shirin Ebadi who just won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Iran. She too is a woman of courage and risk."



Alice Aubichon made a beaded stole for Bishop Albert LeGatt to commemorate the anniversary.

Cathedral marks 100 years

St. Paul's Cathedral celebrated 100 years as a faith community July 26-27 in Saskatoon.

Events throughout the weekend included children's activities, prayers, Sunday breakfasts, church tours, an afternoon tea, and special celebrations of the Sunday Eucharist, including an evening "jazz Mass."

The 100th anniversary of St. Paul's is an opportunity for remembering the past with thanksgiving and praise, for rejoicing in the present, and for looking to the future with hope and commitment, said Bishop LeGatt during celebration of the Eucharist July 27.

"We give thanks for the ways Jesus has given himself to us," LeGatt said, adding that in response we are invited to give ourselves in return.

The first Catholic church in the city and the cathedral seat for Saskatoon bishops since the diocese was created in 1934, St. Paul's history was summarized in displays in the building's welcoming area.

A century of growth and change was also detailed in several souvenir publications, including a history by Duncan Robertson. Michael Scissons prepared an audio-visual presentation about the building and its history.

In 1903 work began on the first church and mission house under the direction of Joseph Burnouf, with the assistance of Brother Duclaux, OMI.

Burnouf's daughter Alice Aubichon of Ille à la Crosse attended the 100th anniversary celebration, presenting Bishop LeGatt with a beaded leather stole. Stoles made by Aubichon have also been presented to Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II. - KLY

Watson celebrates centennial

The year 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish in Watson, and the 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Parish church building.

Sacred Heart Parish began Aug. 16, 1903, with a Mass celebrated in a private home, five miles north of the present town of Watson. The community did not have a church building for another two years.

Fifty years after the parish was established, construction of the current church was completed and blessed May 31, 1953.

To mark these two anniversaries, the parish community held a Mass and a brunch social Sunday, Nov. 16, with Bishop Albert LeGatt, Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, and several previous pastors.

La paroisse célèbrent 75e

By Sr. Albina Labonté
Sts. Martyrs-Canadiens

La paroisse des Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens célèbrent cette année son 75e anniversaire.

Cet évènement fut marqué par une rénovation de notre espace liturgique pendant l'hiver 2003. Ce fut une belle expérience de partage pour la communauté paroissiale.

Nous avons aussi voulu célébrer par une liturgie qui sera télédiffusé par Radio Canada le 23 novembre prochain. Nous remercions le Seigneur en cette année de grâces.

Canadian Martyrs Parish in Saskatoon is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The members of the parish chose to renew the interior of our church, built in 1960, to enhance our liturgical celebrations and to rekindle our faith. This project proved to be a wonderful parochial experience involving many professionals and volunteers from the parish. On Sunday, Nov. 23, the parish's Sunday celebration was televised on Radio Canada channel 2.

Holy Guardian Angels parish celebrates 100th anniversary

By Lori and Danny Breker

Bishop Albert LeGatt presided at a special celebration of the Eucharist Aug. 31 marking the 100th year of Holy Guardian Angels parish in Englefeld.

Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB, and Fr. Emile April concelebrated the Mass commemorating the 1903 dedication of the mission to the Holy Guardian Angels. Former parish priests in attendance were Fr. Werner Renneberg, OSB, Fr. Andrew Britz, OSB, and Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB.

Former school principal Sr. Aquinas Schulte who played the pump organ in church for many years was also in attendance.

Following the Mass, LeGatt blessed a plaque commemorating 100 years of parish life.

A video prepared by Manny Lefebvre showing the history of the parish's 100 years was presented to the large crowd attending the celebration.



Fr. Werner Renneberg, OSB, Fr. Andrew Britz, OSB, Fr. Emile April, Bishop Albert LeGatt, Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, and Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB (left to right) participated in a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Holy Guardian Angels parish in Englefeld.

A barbecue followed the celebration, with the bishop cutting the 100th anniversary cake.

St. Joseph parishioners recall 75 years of blessings

St. Joseph parishioners gathered Oct. 4 to remember the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future during a 75th anniversary celebration for the first Catholic church on the east side of Saskatoon.

Celebrations were held in various neighborhood buildings for several years before a group of 60 parishioners signed a request for construction of a new church. The sod was turned for the new building in June 1928, with the new church blessed a year later, recounted Bishop Albert LeGatt, who presided at the anniversary Eucharistic celebration. Cost of construction for the original church building was \$85,000.

"Those parishioners were saying yes to something greater than the four

walls of a church building," he noted. "They were saying yes to God's desire that his people be united in his love, active in his love, and gathered together in Christ."

"It is still an expression of 'yes' that God's people come together at St. Joseph's in love and community," he said, noting how the parish is no longer served by a full-time priest pastor, but is led by Parish Life Director Mary Ann Shepel and Priest Moderator Rev. Raymond Senger working in collaboration. Rev. Paul Facht, OMI, also assists the Parish Leadership Team.

Several priests who served at St. Joseph's over the years returned for the celebration, including Rev. Richard Wolak, OMI; Rev. Matthew Hertz,

OMI; Rev. Kasper Klein, OMI; Rev. Clem Novakowski, OMI; and Rev. Tim Riffel, OMI. Greetings were also sent to the parish community by former pastors Rev. Lester Kaufmann, OMI, and Fr. Leo Casey, OMI, said Shepel.

An anniversary program at the parish hall led by MC Frank Roy featured presentations and displays recounting history and highlights of 75 years of parish life. Special guests included Sr. Kay MacDonald of the Sisters of Zion; Sr. Regina Jack, the first pastoral associate to serve in the parish; and Emelda Connor, who worked as parish secretary at St. Joseph's parish for many years.

A "powerpoint" presentation by Kathy Trotter-Houghton focused on the rich history of the parish. -KLY

St. Ann's has provided 50 years of faith-based care to seniors

Fifty years of faith-based care was celebrated June 14 at St. Ann's Senior Citizens Village in Saskatoon.

An afternoon anniversary celebration featured the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt of the diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Michael Wiwchar of the eparchy of Saskatoon. The anniversary also included an open house held in the recently-renovated facility.

"This is a time to remember all the generosity and hard work that helped this home grow to be the place of care it is today," said LeGatt.

Heather Kolla, St. Ann's board chairperson, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Elected officials from three levels of government brought greetings, as did Bob Bundon of the Saskatoon Health Region.

During the program St. Eleonore Hanus of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth recalled the history of St. Ann's home.

In 1953 the first St. Ann's home opened on Clarence Avenue, the result of the Catholic community's response to a vision expressed by Bishop Francis Klein for a faith-based "circle of care" for the elderly.

The current St. Ann's Home opened on Louise Street in 1979, along with St. Ann's Residence, which provides 60 apartments for seniors living independently. In 1988,

the "village" expanded again, adding St. Ann's Place, providing a further 60 apartments for seniors needing some support to continue living independently. Today the three facilities that form St. Ann's Senior Citizens Village provides care, support and housing for about 210 residents.

It is almost 25 years since St. Ann's opened in the present location and the building and equipment are beginning to show their age, said Steve Buttinger, director of development. As a result, St. Ann's has initiated a fundraising campaign to help raise money for much-needed equipment upgrades such as new power beds, he explained.

The new beds will allow residents to adjust their position and be more comfortable without having to wait for a caregiver each time. The new beds cost around \$3,500 apiece, said Buttinger. - KLY

(Donations to St. Ann's Home to help with the power bed campaign can be sent to 2910 Louise Street, Saskatoon, Sask. S7J 3L8, or by calling 306-374-8900. For more information about the power bed campaign, or about St. Ann's Planned Giving program, contact Steve Buttinger at (306) 374-3345 or by e-mail at sbuttinger@hotmail.com)

Diocese joins worldwide rejoicing on John Paul II's 25th anniversary



Cudworth celebration

St. Michael parish in Cudworth celebrated the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II Oct. 16. After celebration of the Eucharist, the community gathered for refreshments and "Happy 25th anniversary" cupcakes.

Just as God revealed to Peter the truth about Jesus being the Messiah, God has used John Paul II to proclaim Christ to the world, Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt said during a Eucharistic celebration held Oct. 16 to mark the pope's 25th anniversary.

John Paul's first words as pope were "praise be to Jesus Christ," noted Bishop LeGatt, describing how the Holy Father has never stopped proclaiming the mystery of Christ to the church and to the world.

"He will be remembered for many things: for firmly proclaiming the faith, for facing up to the forces of communism, and also the forces of capitalism; and for opposing all the forces in our world that would denigrate the dignity of the human person."

This pope will also be remembered for his travels and "how he spent himself to bring to all the good news of Jesus Christ who came to bring the fullness of life," said LeGatt. John Paul II has always been a messenger of peace, and a voice of hope, he added.

"We bless God for the ministry of John Paul II and we pray for his continued strength ... and his continued ministry among us," said the bishop. - KLY



St. Peter's Colony centennial provides opportunity to reflect on faith journey

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

One hundred years ago, a faith-filled people seeking a new land began to settle in the area called St. Peter's Colony. The fruits of that adventure were celebrated with joy and thanksgiving Aug. 1-3 during a weekend of centennial celebration in Muenster.

About 3,000 people gathered at the St. Peter's Abbey soccer field Aug. 3 for a celebration of the Eucharist and heard homilist Abbot John Klassen, OSB, of St. John's Abbey, Minnesota connect the colony's establishment and growth to the Scripture readings.

"Ultimately, this is not a story about us, it's a story about God," said Klassen. "The desert functions as a mirror to the people of Israel, and so the prairies have served as a mirror to you."

Faced with the hardships of settling the land, the years of challenge and growth, and with all the difficulties of creating a community of faith, the people of St. Peter's Colony were continually blessed by God, he said. "God does the heavy lifting."

"As a community we can have a hard time recognizing the Bread of Life amongst us," he said. "The bread we seek is not 'out there' – it is right here, in our prayer, in our faith and in each other."

During an afternoon program, speakers paid homage to the pioneers who settled the area with the help of the Benedictine community.

"Those who established St. Peter's Abbey and the many communities in the colony were equipped with extreme courage, determination and strong faith," acknowledged Lt.-Gov. Lynda Haverstock.

Most of the settlers who came to the area beginning in 1903 were German-speaking Catholics from the United States, who wanted to create a better life for their families, to practice their faith, and to preserve their cultural heritage, said Abbot Peter Novacosky, OSB, of St. Peter's Abbey.

The colony they established eventually became known as the "sure crop district," with economic development



Lt.-Gov. Lynda Haverstock chats with former Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB, during celebrations.

assured by the arrival of the railway in 1904, he said. Life in the colony was greatly enhanced by the arrival in 1911 of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, who provided health care, and in 1913 of the Ursuline Sisters, who established schools, he added.

"It has been a successful story," said Bishop Blaise Morand of Prince Albert, noting in particular the spiritual blessings and special graces of having the Benedictine community at the heart of St. Peter's Colony.

The appreciation which St. Peter's College alumni express for the "spirituality of this place" is particularly striking, said Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB, who brought greetings from the American-Cassinese Congregation of the Order of St. Benedict.

"We do not take credit for the grace God gives us to be faithful," Kelly said. "Rather we are thankful to God."

The difficulties and blessings, joys and sorrows of earlier days were described in several poems presented by



Representatives from Lake Lenore participated in a parade through the grounds of the abbey.

Bernadette (Gerwing) Greuel of Bruno. Walter Sarauer related several "pioneer tales." Others born and raised within the colony also participated in the program, including Mayor Dennis Korte of Humboldt and the Korte Family Singers.

A presentation by Cliff Haggerty and Dr. Gerald Junk looked to the future, providing details about a capital campaign for St. Peter's College, which includes plans for construction of a student residence.

The celebration Aug. 3 also included a parade, demonstrations, displays, and a performance by the Cold Spring "Maennerchor." The choir also performed in Lake Lenore Aug. 1.

An alumni reunion was also held at St. Peter's College Aug. 2, and senior citizens were honored at a special afternoon gathering Aug. 1.

The event was also the occasion for several book launchings, including a Muenster community history book, a Saskatchewan Writer's Guild anthology entitled "Listening with the Ear of the Heart," and a history of the abbey "A Good Work Begun" by Colleen Fitzgerald.

Kyle parish closes and joins Elrose parish community

By Sr. Marie Gartner, SMS
Parish Life Director

After a long, prayerful discernment by parishioners, Assumption of Mary parish in Kyle has closed, and the community is now part of the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Elrose.

The community gathered with Fr. Gerard Dewan April 26 to celebrate the last Eucharist in Kyle.

In his homily, Dewan spoke of how some parishioners might have felt like the apostle Thomas, who was deeply wounded by the death of his friend and master. Unbelief, grief and despair filled Thomas' heart and he therefore decided not to stick with the community after the crucifixion. As a result, Thomas missed out on the risen Lord's first appearance to the rest of the disciples.

Some parishioners may also be tempted to leave the larger community, since the closure of a parish that one has served and loved for many years is not easy, said Dewan.

He asked parishioners to reflect on the symbol in the altar before them, noting that the strongest, most solid part of the wood



Fr. Gerard Dewan presided at the final Eucharist for the Kyle parish April 26, before the community joined the Elrose parish at a May 4 celebration.

was a knothole, where the tree had been hurt and healed. He noted that parishioners experiencing a death in the closure of the Kyle parish, can also experience resurrection and become strong and solid in a new parish community.

Dewan encouraged parishioners to take this opportunity of being open to share their pain, their scars, their wounds, and their questions within the Body of Christ. These wounds that are healed may be the strongest part of the faith they bring with them, he said.

He reminded parishioners to turn to Mary when experiencing isolation, to hold

for them what is dying or needs to die within them. He noted that Mary, under whose title they had been gathering all these years in Kyle is still their patron, only now under the new title of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, items used at Kyle parish were presented to parish representatives to bring to the new parish in Elrose.

On May 4, at the Rite of Welcome and Acceptance in Elrose, these items – a chalice, the parish banner, a crucifix, hymn books and candles – became part of the new parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

St. Mary's parish at Richmond celebrates 75th anniversary

A 75th anniversary celebration was held Oct. 19 for St. Mary's parish at Richmond.

Bishop Albert LeGatt and Fr. David Polzen celebrated the Eucharist, which was a homecoming for many past parishioners and a thanksgiving celebration for 75 years of faith and commitment in the parish community.

A beef supper and program followed in the community hall, under the leadership of MC Blair Bosch. Archives, pictures and articles from the past assembled by Debbie Gergely were on display. Commemorative mugs and postcards were available.

The program included: songs by the grades 1-7 youth choir led by Ruth Lerner, a song from the camp group "Operation Sunlight" led by Debbie Gergely, a solo by JaraLee Miller, a guitar solo by Edward Gergely, a history report by Debbie and Bill Gergely, and finally a message from Bishop LeGatt.

Mary Horst, parish pastoral council chairperson, concluded the program with letters and emails from former priests - Fr. Ron Rissling, Fr. Charles de Campigneulles, Fr. Bob Stang, and former Bishop Noel Deliques.

Rock the Mount youth gathering attracts 1500 to pilgrimage site

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Youth and their families gathered for a powerful day of praise and worship under the open skies of Mount Carmel Aug. 30 during the second annual Rock the Mount Catholic youth rally.

About 1,500 people attended the day-long event which included Catholic bands, the rosary, reconciliation, celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Albert LeGatt, and Eucharistic adoration.

Speakers Rev. Marc Goring and Nick Simonie from Companions of the Cross of

Ottawa challenged youth to encounter Jesus and live their faith in the world.

The event also included presentations by Catholic Christian Outreach, and performances by the bands "Sheep" and "Roadside Cry."

Eighteen priests and representatives of many religious orders also attended Rock the Mount, noted organizing committee member Elaine Boskill of Saskatoon. "It's so important for our youth to connect with these people and their faith, to know these different charisms exist."

Rock the Mount, began last year as a follow-up to World Youth Day, explained Boskill.

"During prayer, a faith-filled woman named Emily Hill had a vision of youth filling the mountain at Carmel, praising and worshiping God," she said. The vision became reality thanks to the support of Bishop LeGatt and a committee of dedicated people, she said.

"The bishop encouraged us to do this again. World Youth Day has shown us that youth want to go places and gather together to celebrate their faith," she said.

Years of ground work by many people, including Ken Yasinski of Face to Face retreats, and Armand and Claudette Thibodau of Nipawin have paved the way for the success of Rock the Mount, said Boskill.

"For the past 10 years the Thibodaus have taken kids to the Steubenville Catholic conferences in the United States. Those young people have then come back and evangelized others," she described. "Those kids have come to Rock the Mount and brought their friends."

Yasinski's work with Face to Face retreats for youth have also created a group of young people living their faith and evangelizing others, she added.

Boskill and her husband John were part of an organizing committee that included Rev. Murray Kuemper of Humboldt, Rev. Richard Meidl of Muenster, Luke Wickenhauser of Watson,



Young people kneel in prayer.



Rock the Mount Catholic youth rally included praise, worship, music and the celebration of the Eucharist with Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt.

Marie Rath of Humboldt, Marilyn Flaman of Lake Lenore, P.J. Lewis of Catholic Christian Outreach, and Shannon Granger, Coordinator of Youth Ministries for the diocese of Saskatoon. "Kerny and Pat Korchinski of Saskatoon were also instrumental in getting the whole thing off the ground," Boskill added.

"We just couldn't do something like this without having the support of all these people sharing their time and talents," she said. "When the Lord asks you to do something like this and you do it, there are so many graces and blessings outpoured."

STM student takes part in global meeting

By Marianne Chabot
St. Thomas More College

The news that I would be representing Canadians at an International Movement of Catholic Students' meeting in Spain took me by surprise. I had a few months to read up on international student movements, and then found myself boarding a plane bound for Spain to embark on one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences of my young life.

The IMCS, IYCS International Committee is organized every four years and its objective is to gather students of different backgrounds from all regions of the world to discuss realities that affect them, to take a look at those realities from a diverse perspective, to confront them with the Gospel, and to then determine ways to move forward. The theme for the 2003 International Formation Session was "Students ready for a change: in global solidarity for integral education through a spirituality of action."

My anticipation was great as we headed for Tiana (just outside of Barcelona) to attend the opening ceremonies, which marked the beginning of a very full two weeks. The agenda on the first night of the conference included meeting everyone, attending Mass at a local church in Tiana, being welcomed with

Marianne Chabot is a student at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon and president of the Newman Centre. In August 2003 she served as a Canadian representative at an international gathering of Catholic students near Barcelona, Spain. Rick Benson, national chaplain of the Canadian Catholic Students' Association, also attended the conference as a Canadian representative.

Members of two worldwide organizations – International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) and International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) – gathered for the conference. The IMCS was formed in 1921 in Switzerland after World War I to promote peace and justice within the student milieu. The IYCS, a Catholic youth movement with over four million members around the world, was founded in 1946. Both IMCS and IYCS are recognized as international Catholic organizations and work closely with the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

a traditional cake dance performed by a Catalonian couple, and walking to the town square to be entertained with a Dragon Fire Dance.

We found ourselves in study session after study session learning about integral education and global realities within the education system, the changing reality of the Catholic church, theological reflections and much more. In the span of two weeks, we received almost the same amount of reading that a university student might get in one semester of school.

Although these sessions were informative, the most valuable lessons for me were the ones I learned from the people

I met from all over the world. It was fascinating and yet altogether heartbreaking to hear the stories of other delegates and the realities they faced in their countries.

For example, in some parts of the Middle East, a student will get up in the morning to go to school unsure if the school will still be standing, because of bombings in the area. In India, if two people are seen talking in the street for longer than just a few minutes, it may be viewed as an act of conspiracy. I came home feeling grateful that I lived in Canada, where I have the opportunity and the choice to go to school every day, and



Marianne Chabot
St. Thomas More College student

where I can freely voice and practice my religious beliefs.

Though there were times in Spain that I found myself thinking "What on earth am I doing here?" my overall experience at the IMCS, IYCS International Committee Session was both positive and humbling.

I came home feeling refreshed in my faith, in my relationship with God, and in the people that surround me. I'm encouraged to move forward here in Canada, and I hope to expand the knowledge of our movements throughout the country. With God's help, and in solidarity with national movements around the world, students can make a difference.

CCO "Rise Up 2003" conference focuses on youth leadership

Forming and motivating the leaders of the next generation is the theme of a national conference for young adults to be held Dec. 28-Jan. 1 in Saskatoon.

The "Rise Up 2003" conference marks the 15th anniversary of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), a university student movement dedicated to evangelization which began as a Bible study group among a few young Catholics at the University of Saskatchewan campus. CCO offices presently operate on campuses in Vancouver, Saskatoon, Regina and Ottawa.

Forming young people to be leaders in proclaiming and living their faith in the world is a CCO objective, and will provide the focus for the Rise Up conference, said P.J. Lewis, Saskatoon director of the CCO.

"It's going to be the job of young people to take their faith into the field, into the workplace and above all into the family," said Lewis. The conference would be enriching for any young adults or post-secondary students who are interested in developing their faith, he said.

"CCO is a movement that has richly

contributed to the life of the church of Saskatoon and throughout Canada," said Bishop Albert LeGatt in a letter about the upcoming conference. "God has used CCO's unique gifts and charisms in reaching out to many students with the gospel, bearing fruit in the lives of countless young people and inspiring many to leadership in bearing witness to Christ."

Conference speakers will include LeGatt, CCO founders André and Angèle Regnier, and the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Vancouver Monsignor

Gregory Smith. CCO president Jeff Lockert, Brett Powell of CCO Vancouver, and the founding spiritual director of CCO Fr. Clair Watrin, CSB, will also present sessions during the Saskatoon conference.

In addition to workshops on apologetics, leadership and prayer, the conference will feature daily celebration of the Eucharist, praise and worship, and a New Year's Eve banquet.

For registration information for "Rise Up 2003" see the CCO website at www.cco.ca - KLY



Jessica Witzel of Saskatoon provided a report about the YouthLeader program to the Diocesan Congress. YouthLeader was offered this summer in the Diocese of Saskatoon. Young people enriched their faith and worked on leadership skills during the week-long session at St. Peter's Abbey.

YouthLeader equips participants to take up role in faith community

By Jessica Witzel
St. John Bosco, Saskatoon

A primary concern of the church today is the lack of youth involvement. Various programs have been organized to help expand the role youth play in the church. On July 21-25 a group of young people gathered for leadership training, faith enrichment, and fun at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. People from four different parishes within the diocese of Saskatoon gathered for a YouthLeader course packed with excitement and learning.

Each day we woke up early to a welcoming and peaceful atmosphere set by the Benedictine monks. This amazing atmosphere provided a perfect place to learn and pray. We gathered for an opening prayer, closing prayer, and group prayers before lunch and supper. Between meals we thought about food and learned how to become effective leaders.

Within the five-day duration of the conference the facilitators focused on leadership skills. Sessions covered principle-centered living, being proactive, looking to Christ, recognizing our gifts, communication skills, group facilitation, win/win negotiating, looking for skills in others, and making a mission statement. All sessions provided the participants with skills to bring back to parishes, schools, and relationships. Though all of the

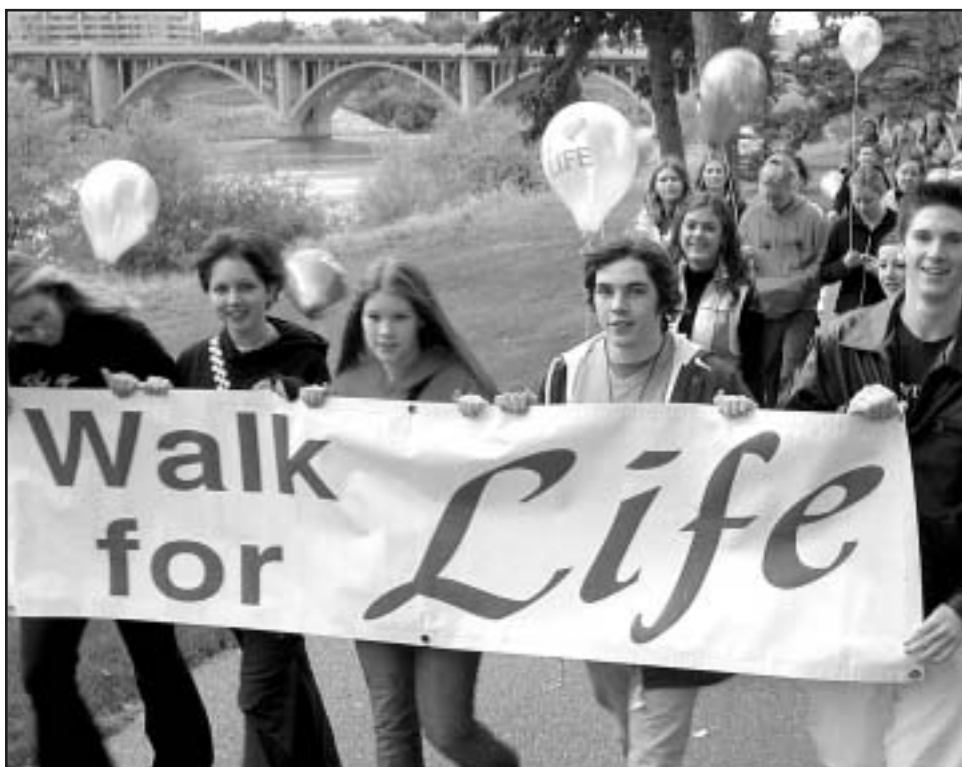
sessions were beneficial, the session I most appreciated addressed communication. I learned that I cannot give anyone the answer to their problem, I can only guide them to their own answer.

Considering the amount we learned, it is hard to believe we also had time to play games and to relax. Before nearly every session a game relating to that session would grab the attention of the YouthLeaders.

After lunch we enjoyed free time – some napped, some played ping pong, and some went for walks. The serenity and beauty of the walks never failed to take my breath away. Tours of the abbey were offered, and participants had a chance to help pick berries. Each evening also featured time for socializing – this was always a blast and something we all looked forward to.

July 21-25 2003 is definitely a time I will not soon forget. The experience developed my faith in God and confidence in myself. Every person involved in YouthLeader contributed so much to the group. It was amazing to experience how soon a group of strangers could turn into friends. YouthLeader 2003 was a very unique and beneficial experience.

Anyone interested in the YouthLeader program is asked to watch for information about the next session, planned for 2004.



Annual walk held

A total of 156 people of all ages participated in an annual Walk for Life Sept. 27 in Saskatoon. Walk for Life is a major fund-raising event for Alliance for Life of Saskatoon, but pledges were down this year, reported executive director Carmel Grabowski. The non-profit resource centre run by Alliance for Life offers a comprehensive library of research information, books, and videos on life issues ranging from abortion to euthanasia, from embryology to genetic engineering. The centre also helps teachers prepare lesson plans on life issues, said Grabowski.

"Theology on Tap" offers ministry to young adults grappling with questions

By Shannon Granger
Director of Youth Ministries

Young adult ministry efforts are currently coordinated through the diocesan office of Youth Ministries. During advent, a program exploring the "hungers" of young adults for relationships, accomplishment and heroes will be offered for three consecutive Tuesdays.

More information is available on the website at www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca under the heading "Youth Ministry" (click on "Calendar of Events").

Another new program for young adults is attracting a lot of interest. "Theology on Tap" will be a place where young adults between the ages of 19 and 35 can listen to topnotch speakers, share their faith through conversation with other young adults, and receive sound theology in the relaxed setting of Lydia's on Broadway.

Offered by the eparchy of Saskatoon, St. Thomas More Campus Ministry, and the diocese of Saskatoon, "Theology on Tap" originated in the archdiocese of Chicago in June 1981.

The program began in response to a conversation between a parish priest and a young man graduating from college, according to the designers of the program, the Young Adult Ministry Office of the archdiocese of Chicago. That young man was looking beyond his last few months of college to the "real world". He was facing a career, and wondering about the future. He was concerned about his personal identity and finding meaning in life. "Will I be more than my job? What will it mean to fall in love? Where does God fit in all this? What does it mean to be Catholic?"



"Theology on Tap" is a place where young adults can explore such questions in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. "Theology on Tap" is for single and married people, no matter where they are on their faith journey. Everyone is invited and welcome.

Speakers for this season include: ethicist Fr. Mark Miller (Nov. 6), author Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers (Jan. 22 during the week of prayer for Christian unity), author Fr. Ron Rolheiser (March 4) and educator Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki (May 13). The evening begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m., with all sessions held at Lydia's on Broadway.

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

Upcoming Youth Events

Advent Series for Young Adults

- Tuesday, Dec. 2: Hunger for Relationships
St. Mary's parish 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9: Hunger for Accomplishment
St. Francis parish 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 16: Hunger for Heroes
Holy Spirit parish 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers
Annual Gathering, Vancouver, B.C. January 8-12
(This is for anyone working with young people who would like to learn more about 'Nurturing a Culture of Discernment'.)

- Saturday, Jan. 17: Grade 6-8 Leadership Day
- Thursday, Jan. 22: "Theology on Tap"
with Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers
- Saturday, Jan. 24: "Where is the Love?"
Youth Making a Difference"
A provincial youth gathering for social justice
St. Thomas More, Saskatoon
- Thursday, Mar. 4: "Theology on Tap"
with Fr. Ron Rolheiser
- March 12-13: "Music with Youth
for Liturgy and Prayer"
Youth-focused music ministry training
- Saturday, Mar. 27: City Wide Thinkfast
St. Joseph's parish hall

More details about all of these activities can be found under "youth ministry" on the diocesan website at www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca or call Shannon Granger at 242-1500 or toll free at 1-877-661-5005.

Community rallies around family after fire

By Barbara Wurzer-Cey
St. Philip Neri, Saskatoon

The Thanksgiving holiday may be over, but for our family, the Thanksgiving feeling will fill us for a long time.

Our home at 1313 Wilson Crescent in Saskatoon was the scene of a house fire in June, and we narrowly escaped in the middle of the night. Area residents recall the barking dogs that roused the neighbours, who in turn were eventually able to rouse us. Due to the "nature of the fire" (up the trees and into the attic), smoke detectors did not sound until we were out of the house – by that time the bedrooms were engulfed in flames.

When it was all over and the multitude of fire trucks departed, we were left homeless, stranded (our vehicle was destroyed in the driveway), shoeless and overwhelmed. The expression about being left with just the clothes (or in our case, the pajamas) on your back was pretty much accurate.

That is where the gratitude comes in. That is where the friends, relatives, neighbours, neighbourhood and extended community comes in. With our house and belongings destroyed, we were in the ensuing hours, days, weeks and months humbled by the kindness and generosity of so many. The rental house we are currently living in was furnished almost entirely from donations. Getting dressed each morning became an adventure; we looked in the bags and boxes to see what we could find; clothes from friends and from perfect strangers. (Some say my wardrobe is better now than before the fire!) We were tended to, nurtured and supported by so many that I will never stop being thankful.

Probably our greatest debt of gratitude is to our neighbours who called "911" and who stood in the smoke banging on our door until I eventually woke up. I got all four of my daughters out of the house safely, the dog, the cat, and even the fish came out alive 12 hours later. My husband was at the farm at the time; you can imagine the thoughts that went through his head when he was awakened from sleep to hear the words "your house is on fire." His cousin prefaced the news with "Barb and the kids are safe."

Truly that is what it boils down to – we are safe and well. As for our lucky number "1313": it is being rebuilt. As far as I am concerned 1313 is a very lucky number and we are all very blessed. To all who brought food, furniture, toothbrushes, and clothes, to all who prayed for us and stopped by with a kind word and a hug, to everyone who came together as a community (not to mention the firefighters) to help a family in need, we say "thank you."

One of my children is currently doing a project in her "Fully Alive" elementary class called "Family Connection, What Friends Do." This is a system-wide separate school activity which talks about disasters which have occurred in Canada, and then invites each child to "go home and find out if there have been other events in your community where people reached out to help those in need."

When I read this project to my daughter she smiled broadly. She knew exactly what I was thinking. We do not have to go far in our family to know how such an event has forevermore touched us.

Grow in faith and service!

Funding is available for
lay people who wish to
pursue further
education in ministry.

For more information contact:

The Adult Education Opportunities Committee

Dorothy Fortier or Sr. Cecile Fahl
at (306) 242-1500
or toll free at 1-887-661-5005



This year marks the 20th Bishop's Annual Appeal in the Diocese of Saskatoon. It has been twenty years of service, ministry, and faith education — that's something to celebrate!

The following "20 Questions" will help clarify your understanding of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, both past and present. (Answers below.)

Celebrating 20 Years With 20 Questions

1. What was the diocesan guideline (goal) in the first Bishop's Annual Appeal in 1984?
a. \$600,000 b. \$1 million c. \$850,000
2. What was the total amount received in the 1984 Appeal?
a. \$700,000 plus b. \$850,000 plus c. \$1 million plus
3. What is the diocesan guideline (goal) in the Bishop's Annual Appeal 2003?
a. \$850,000 b. \$950,000 c. \$1 million
4. What is the official name of the rebate system in the B.A.A.?
a. Diocesan Rebate Program b. Parish Sharing Incentive c. Parish Development Fund
5. Each year every parish receives a guideline based on:
a. how well the parish did in the previous year's Appeal
b. a request from the parish finance committee
c. a formula incorporating the parish's number of families/households and the previous year's offertory collections
6. After a parish reaches its guideline, what percentage of their overage is rebated back to the parish?
a. 50% b. 75% c. 25%
7. Since 1984, how much (in total) has been rebated back to parishes for their own use?
a. \$1 million b. \$2 million c. \$4 million
8. To date, which ministry, service, or program has received the most B.A.A. funding?
a. Native Religious Ministry b. Rural Catechetics c. Education of priests & future priests
9. Which of the following three has never been part of the B.A.A.?
a. Brazil Mission b. Diocesan Synod c. Catholic Missions in Canada
10. Which ministry offers faith education, sacramental preparation, youth activities and crisis counseling through Guadalupe House in Saskatoon?
a. Friendship Inn b. Native Religious Ministry c. Catholic Christian Outreach
11. Which diocesan office funded by the Appeal provides workshops across the diocese covering topics such as lay presiding, spiritual and pastoral care, and parish administration?
a. Lay Formation Program b. Ministry Development c. Catholic Family Services
12. After all expenses have been paid, how much of every dollar goes directly to the ministries of the Appeal?
a. 52 cents b. 76 cents c. 94 cents
13. Parishioners are encouraged to pledge gifts to the Appeal over a period of time. Over how many months can this pledge be paid?
a. 6 months b. 10 months c. 1 – 12 months
14. Which group of people is responsible for the overall success of the Bishop's Annual Appeal?
a. Pastors and Parish Life Directors b. Volunteer Visitors c. Parishioners d. All of the above
15. What was the diocesan rate of participation for 2002?
a. 44% b. 52% c. 76%
16. Which city parish achieved the highest percentage of their guideline in the 2002 Appeal?
a. St. Paul's Cathedral b. Holy Spirit c. Our Lady of Lourdes
17. Which rural parish achieved the highest percentage of their guideline in the 2002 Appeal?
a. St. Scholastica, Burr b. St. Augustine, Humboldt c. St. Francis Xavier, Prelate
18. Participation in the Bishop's Annual Appeal is asked of:
a. those who attend mass regularly
b. those who can afford it
c. all the faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon
19. What one-word biblical term describes the foundation of the B.A.A.?
20. Why do we do what we do?

If you require more information or would like to make a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal 2003, please call the Appeal office at 242-1500 or 1-887-661-5005 (toll free). All gifts are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes.

Thank you for "Sharing HIS Blessings."

Answers:

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. c 8. c 9. a 10. b

11. b 12. c 13. c 14. d 15. b 16. c 17. a 18. c 19. *Stewardship*

20. "...we see the face of Christ in those we serve."

Young women address issues and find support at program

By Wendy Witzel
Catholic Family Services

"At first I didn't want to come. I expected not to like it because my mom put me in it and she usually puts me in stuff I don't like. Now that I'm coming I love it and I can hardly wait to get here each week."

"What Do You Think?" A Forum for Young Women (WDYT) is a program offered by Catholic Family Services that addresses social and emotional issues prevalent in the lives of young women.

The eight-week program is designed to ensure significant youth involvement. During the first session of the forum the participants choose the topics that they would like to see covered in the following weeks.

The most popular topics for discussion continue to be body image, dating, friendships, media, bullying and violence. Facilitators of the program strive to approach the issues in a non-threatening manner and generating discussion through the use of videos, art, music, writing exercises, journalling, games and small and large group discussion.

The purpose of WDYT is to assist girls and young women to strengthen their confidence so they are able to feel strong in their decisions, problem solve successfully and develop a positive self-image. Participants have an opportunity to examine serious issues in a safe and relaxing atmosphere.

WDYT also seeks to motivate the positive influence that peers have in the lives of teenage girls. Since 2000, girls have come together from a variety of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. Each group has had an amazing ability to

transcend some potential barriers and have proven to be wonderful supports for each other. Their respect for diversity has been their strength. It is refreshing and hopeful to see the support they are able to offer one another particularly at a time when there is a tendency for them to become more isolated.

Almost 100 girls between the ages of 12 and 17 have participated in WDYT. The agency began its twelfth group in October.

The forum has been well received by participants. "I feel so much better now and independent - like I can decide what is right for me. This is exactly what I needed," commented one young woman.

"I know I haven't really told you guys about myself because I'm quiet and shy but just listening to you discuss your problems has helped me out a lot. It's given me some ideas plus I don't feel so alone anymore," said another.

In March of 2002 the WDYT program was successfully offered in partnership with E.D. Feehan High School. Catholic Family Services would consider partnerships with schools and other organizations in the future.

WDYT has been supported by the University of Saskatchewan Youth Experience Program, Youth Granting for Youth, an initiative of the Muttart Foundation, Clarica -- Family Service Canada Early Intervention and Prevention of Violence and Abuse in Families Project and the James P. Mahoney Institute of the Family.

For further information about the WDYT program please contact Wendy Witzel or Terry Lowe at Catholic Family Services at 244-7773.



Two new adult members and two young "Marguerites" made a commitment as Associates of Marguerite d'Youville at the anniversary celebration.

Lay associates mark 20 years of service in Saskatoon diocese

By Kiply Lukan Yaworski

Associates of Marguerite d'Youville held a commitment ceremony at St. Mary's parish June 29, marking 20 years of faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ and the poor in the Saskatoon diocese.

The 26 lay Associates "have chosen to live a commitment of love, prayer and service to the urgent needs in our homes, parishes and communities," said Sr. Jo-Ann Duggan, SGM, of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) order founded by St. Marguerite d'Youville.

Twenty-two women renewed their commitment to the Associates, and were joined by two new members and two "Marguerites" or junior members who have received formation in the spirit and charism of Marguerite d'Youville.

Their outreach in the community includes ministry in hospitals, parishes and homes; at the Food Bank and at Friendship Inn.

"The Grey Nuns with the Associates together are summoned to be vibrant and

compassionate signs of hope in our broken world," said Duggan.

Being a lay Associate of Marguerite d'Youville provides spiritual support and a sense of community, said long-time member Irene Beauchamps, noting that both women and men are invited to join the Associates. "It's a lot like a family," she said.

New member Irene Cain's long association with St. Paul's Hospital introduced her to Marguerite d'Youville and the Sisters of Charity. "I just feel so comfortable with them."

During the commitment ceremony Cain and the other new Associate Dora Belec joined in the promise "to share in the Mission of St. Marguerite d'Youville and the Grey Nuns by contribution of time, talents and suffering in ministry to the poor."

Mahailia Blom, 11, and Jaclyn St. Denis, 9, also made a commitment as "Marguerites" or junior members of the Associates.



Diocesan CWL president Tillie Aessie (left) and parish CWL president Ileen Boechler (right) attended a 50th anniversary celebration for Sr. Juliana Heisler (centre) at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish honors leader

A circle of love and appreciation surrounded Sr. Juliana Heisler, NDS, Sept. 7 as parishioners, friends, colleagues and family gathered to celebrate her 50th anniversary as a Sister of Our Lady of Sion.

Well-wishers paid tribute to her cheerful nature and energetic service during a celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes parish, where Heisler has served as pastoral minister for 10 years.

Heisler's colleague Sr. Kay MacDonald, NDS, told the crowd that an ancient Hebrew meaning for the word "Sion" is perpetual motion: "Now, don't you think she chose the right congregation?"

Parishioners provided a dramatic enactment of all the roles which Heisler has filled in five decades of service.

Actors marched forward wearing hats labeled with her life's work, including farmer, teacher, principal, CWL spiritual leader, and pastor. "We wanted to find one person to portray Sister, but it took 10 good men to do it," asserted parishioner Carmen Marcoux.

The youngest of 11 children, Heisler entered the congregation of Our Lady of Sion, taking her final vows of chastity, poverty and obedience Sept. 8, 1953.

As a teacher and as the first principal of St. Augustine school in Saskatoon, Heisler was an inspiration and a mentor to many, said Brendon Bitz, a former teaching colleague. "You were the gospel and the face of Catholic education," he said, adding: "you asked much of us, Sister, and you gave us so much."

Heisler always sees challenges as opportunities, and is known for her

creativity and openness, Bitz said. "As a teacher and as a principal she realized it was far easier to get forgiveness than permission," he said, relating how she would move ahead to implement changes or new ideas when needed.

Heisler's key role in establishing a new kind of parish leadership was recounted by Rev. Ron Beechinor, who spoke on behalf of the diocese of Saskatoon.

Ten years ago, when it became evident that a full-time priest was not available for Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Bishop James Mahoney considered the possibility of naming a non-ordained person as full-time pastoral minister, recounted Beechinor. "The next question was 'who' and Bishop Mahoney didn't even pause. He said, 'I know the 'who'. I know the person who can do this and be accepted by the people of Our Lady of Lourdes parish'."

Heisler's pioneering work at Our Lady of Lourdes has paved the ways for many other Parish Life Directors across the Saskatoon diocese, said Beechinor. "This could not have happened unless we had a good first start. Juliana, you opened the door," he said, thanking her for her ongoing example as a "good shepherd".

Parish choirs performed during the program under the direction of Carmen Marcoux, Jackie Couture and Mary Ellen Redl. A musical selection was also performed by Danielle Mase, Don and Charlotte Pion.

Master of Ceremonies Phil Wrubleski paid tribute to Heisler, as did Our Lady of Lourdes representatives Jim and Sue Dosman, who presented her with a gift on behalf of the parish.

"You have led us by example. Not only do you support our many groups, but you participate in them as well," said Jim Dosman. "Congratulations on 50 years of truly living your vocation."

Under the leadership of Gerry Katrick, a circle of men from the parish Knights of Columbus council gathered around Heisler to deliver a blessing.

President of the parish Catholic Women's League (CWL) Ileen Boechler spoke during the program, as did Tillie Aessie, president of the diocesan CWL for which Heisler serves as spiritual director.

"I have truly been blessed all my life," said Heisler in response to the many tributes. "My family has been such a support for me ... Sion has been everything for me."

The years of teaching and school administration were always rewarding, she added. "And I missed teaching until I came to this wonderful, wonderful parish," she said. "You have been a family to me." - KLY

Parish bids farewell to Oblates

Hundreds gathered at St. Patrick's parish in Saskatoon June 8 to say goodbye to pastors from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate order who were leaving the diocese.

Pastor Fr. Ken Thorson, OMI, assistant pastor Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, OMI, and former pastor Fr. Syl Lewans, OMI, moved to new ministries as part of an ongoing reorganization of the Oblate congregation. New appointments took Thorson to London, England; Rolheiser to Melville in the Archdiocese of Regina; and Lewans to the United States.

St. Patrick's parish community gathered for a breakfast program featuring tributes to Thorson and Rolheiser and to all



Fr. Ken Thorson, OMI, (left) and Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, OMI, were the guests of honor at a farewell held June 8 at St. Patrick's parish.

the Oblate pastors who have served at St. Patrick's parish for the past 12 years. A member of the order's provincial council, Rev. Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, also spoke at the gathering.

Diocesan priest Fr.

Brad Bodnarchuk took over as pastor of St. Patrick's parish July 3.

St. Mary's OMI province will join with four other Oblate provinces to form a new Lacombe province as of Dec. 8. - KLY

Parish Nurse:**Position combines nursing and ministry**By **Jacque Moore**

"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Those anguished words, uttered by Jesus during his last moments on the cross, sum up what parish nursing means to Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM.

"We all experience that feeling of utter abandonment, that core experience of suffering," says Borreson. "I think there is something to be said about those moments in our lives when we pass through such a time of vulnerability. And illness is certainly one of those moments."

As one of only two parish nurses in Saskatoon (the other nurse works in a Lutheran church), Borreson started the position quarter-time at St. John Bosco parish last June, but now works half-time to keep up with the needs of the parishioners. Having worked as a nurse in northern Saskatchewan communities, in South America, and most recently at St. Paul's hospital, she is excited about uniting nursing with ministry.

"You cannot split spirituality from health, nor health from spirituality, so for me, this is an exciting fit," says Borreson. "Parish nursing encompasses the whole person; the spiritual care, the physical care,

the mental and the social needs."

Most of her work is done in people's own homes, which Borreson considers a "very sacred space".

"When you're visiting in home, you don't just look at the little piece you're fixing - like in a hospital - but you look at the broader repercussions of the situation. For instance, an illness may mean that spouses of many years are separated because one of them is in the hospital or in long-term care. That situation can be very stressful for people, especially somewhat elderly people who have never been alone."

As a parish nurse, Borreson is able to answer questions about a person's condition or the medications they're taking, as well as to advocate for them in the health system to receive other services or opinions. She educates people about healthy eating, addictions, exercise and lifestyle choices. She sits with terminally ill people to provide respite for family members. She is able to perform nursing tasks such as taking a patient's blood pressure or temperature, as well as providing a general health assessment.

Borreson also talks to patients about God, and about their faith. She reads the Bible with them, and prays with them.

"Parish nursing fleshes out nursing because as a nurse in today's technical world, we often get tied into the 'fixing' part of nursing - the type of health care that takes place in a hospital - which would be things like administering the medications and the treatments, following through with the doctors' orders. But nurses, in their heart of hearts, know that they do much more than just give injections and take temperatures.

"It means so much for people to feel accepted, and to feel heard when they are suffering. To me, the Church is called to be there where people are suffering, where people feel that cry within their own hearts: 'God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'"

Borreson's parish nursing position at St. John Bosco is part of a two-year pilot project which ends in December. As a member of the health council at St. John Bosco parish, Lorraine Bray is hopeful the parish council can keep the position going, and allocate money in that direction.

"Parish nursing is not a duplication of services already in place," stresses Bray. "Sr. Carol is not a home care nurse. She could link you up with a home care nurse if that's what is needed, but a parish nurse is



Sr. Carol Borreson, SGM, serves as part-time parish nurse at St. John Bosco parish in Saskatoon.

not going to come over to change dressings and things like that. However, she can answer your health-related questions, and she can pray with you and answer faith-related questions."

(An annual conference on parish nursing will be held in Saskatoon May 28-30, 2004. For more information, contact Borreson, who is a member of the planning committee, at 652-1045.)

Love is at the heart of faith-based care, physician tells CHASBy **Kiply Lukan Yaworski**

Love is at the heart of faith-based health care, said the keynote speaker at the 60th annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.

Followers of Christ cannot mete out care according to a job description "or in little crumbs," asserted Dr. John Toews, a professor in the department of psychiatry at the university of Calgary. "There are no half measures in the world of love."

"It is not in perfection that we learn to love, but in recognizing our common bond when we are truly vulnerable," he said.

However, deep feelings of vulnerability

and inadequacy also make us afraid to love and be loved, said Toews. "We have so much trouble integrating the love of Christ into our lives ... because we are human beings, and as human beings we run from love. We're terrified by it, because we don't think we deserve it."

Love is not a value that is promoted and nurtured in a secularized health system, Toews said. The secularization of health care transforms "care" into the perfunctory "provision of services," he said. "Care can't be legislated, care arises out of Spirit."

"It is so easy to think of health care as

a program, a service, a public program, a job," he said of the secular system, adding that faith demands a deeper response. "Health care is about people who are in need: you and me, our families and friends and neighbours."

When someone close to us is sick or disabled we are suddenly very aware of the vulnerability of that person in the health care system, and perhaps we get a glimpse of our own future vulnerability, he said.

This is when the importance of love becomes most evident to us, he said,

describing the anguish of seeing a parent with Alzheimer's disease moving into a long-term care facility. "Who will care for her? Why do they care for her? ... Is she just a burden to them? ... How do I know that she will receive the care she needs when she can't ask for it?"

After his mother died, a staff member sought out "Rosa Toews' boy" to tell him how much his mother was loved. That moment of grace and healing was an encounter with Christ, Toews said.

He urged those working in health care to discover God's call in what they are doing. "There's a desperate need for reworking the concept of vocation to include each one of us who feels called by God to serve others."

Finding a vocation in health care means that work becomes an expression of faith. "Vocation makes demands," he said, stressing how faith must be integrated into every part of our lives, and never compartmentalized.

"Recognizing the kingdom of God, the imminence of Christ in the people we meet" is the call of Christ who said in Matthew: "whatsoever you did for the least of these, you did for me," he said.

"I don't think Christ was stretching a point when he said 'I was hungry, I was thirsty' ... this is part of the continuing incarnation of Christ" which we encounter in the people around us, Toews said. "I believe in mystery: it's an opportunity to minister directly to Christ."

And the mystery is also reversed, because "in ministering to Christ in all his suffering forms, we also become Christ to these people."

Toews urged those gathered to find this true meaning in their work, and he expressed concern for administrators and others in the health care field who are removed from day-to-day care of people.

"Never underestimate the value of a moment," in the healing ministry, he said, contrasting the concepts of "healing" and "cure." Healing involves a return to wholeness, a transformation which goes far beyond clinical cure of a disease or condition, he said.

While there may be no "cure" in long term care, chronic care or palliative care, there often is "healing" or a restoration of wholeness, he said. "I believe what we're about as followers of Christ is healing: a cure may come, or a cure may not come, but we are called to healing."

CHAS anniversary convention held

Catholic health care professionals, administrators and supporters from across the province gathered in Saskatoon Oct. 27-29 for the 60th annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS).

"Breaking through our sixty years" was the theme of the convention, which featured an AGM, anniversary celebrations, keynote speakers, and information sessions. CHAS is a non-profit association committed to integrating spiritual and ethical dimensions into health care.

Formed in 1943 as the country was galvanized around discussion of a national health insurance plan, the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan has spent the past 60 years "breaking through" to share the healing ministry of Jesus, said Rev. Paul Donlevy in an opening address to convention delegates.

Health care is an essential ministry for the whole church, said Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGatt, speaking on behalf of the bishops of Saskatchewan.

"We wish to extend our support," LeGatt said, calling for collaboration between all elements of the faith community in supporting and promoting Catholic health care "wherever Christ's love needs to be experienced."

Presentations during the convention included the Moola-Freer Award for excellence in palliative care which was presented to Kim Rutzki of St. Peter's Hospital in Melville.

Convention participants also marked an upcoming change in leadership, as executive director Sr. Anne Collins, SCIC, prepares to retire after 15 years. Sr. Jo-Ann Duggan, SGM, has been selected as her successor.

Collins was honored as a woman of "integrity, vision and mission" who encouraged CHAS to be proactive in the many issues and challenges which faced Catholic health care during her time as executive director.

"For Sr. Anne, CHAS was and is a ministry," said director Michel Thibault,



Marty Schneider presents a lifetime membership in CHAS to Sister Anne Collins who is retiring this year.

chair of the ethics committee.

In response to a program filled with tributes, Collins said her work has only been a reflection of the dedication of the entire CHAS membership. "There are stories of faith that unfold in those (Catholic health care) facilities, and you are the authors." - KLY

Catholic health corporation owns and operates 10 facilities

Sharing in the healing mission of Christ in the world is the task of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation, according to the organization's new chairperson.

"We are all working toward that mission of healing, and working to provide holistic, compassionate care," said Heather Kolla of Saskatoon, recently named chair of the corporation, which owns 10 Catholic health facilities in the province.

In the face of continuous change and ongoing challenges, the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation strives to be rooted in the gospel, stressed Kolla. "We constantly come back to that, back to questions of social justice," and to questions of faith and values.

Staff and patients alike are enriched by the Catholic identity of the 10 health care institutions operated by the corporation across the province, Kolla said. A focus on spiritual care and well-being ensures complete care, she noted.

The Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation was officially created in May 1999, replacing the former Catholic Health Council of Saskatchewan which was established by the Catholic bishops in 1977 to retain ownership/sponsorship of Catholic health institutions in the province.

Facilities owned by the corporation include St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Humboldt. -KLY

Pilgrims trace roots of Ursuline order

By Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU (Prelate)

Thirty-five weary-happy pilgrims returned to Saskatoon Oct. 21 after three weeks of "tracing Ursuline roots in Italy and France." The group consisted of 20 Ursulines, two priests, and 13 lay people.

The pilgrimage, designed by Sr. Magdalen Stengler and Sr. Anne Lewans and led by Fr. Ralph Kleiter, offered opportunities for spiritual, intellectual and cultural enrichment. What ancient historic sites, unbelievable cathedrals and fascinating art we saw everywhere.

At first I found it hard to believe that we were really in Brescia, the city where Angela founded in 1535 the Company of St. Ursula, the first teaching order in the Church. One of the highlights happened in the church that bears her name when the group gathered around her incorrupt body and sang "Hail St. Angela."

As we trod the narrow, cobblestoned streets of her birthplace, Desenzano, an ancient Roman town which is now a popular tourist resort on Lake Garda, I tried to imagine her walking these streets in ministry to the sick and the poor of her day. A huge statue of Angela the pilgrim overlooks the market square. We visited her home where she spent many years in prayer and service – between pilgrimages – and also scenic Salo and quaint Cremona where she lived for brief periods.

Other highlights included seeing a peace rally of over 50,000 young people in Assisi; taking part in a huge and festive papal audience in St. Peter's Square; celebrating Mass in the catacombs; and making prayerful visits to dozens of magnificent cathedrals, for example, in Milan, 1100 statues on the roof; Trent, scene of the famous council; Venice and the famous St. Mark's Basilica; Padua and the eight-domed church of St. Anthony; Sienna and its amazing striped marble cathedral; and Rome where we celebrated Mass at a side altar near St. Angela's statue in majestic St. Peter's Basilica.

The third week of the pilgrimage took us to France where we visited Tours and the convent of Marie of the Incarnation, the Ursuline who was the first nun to come



Participants in the pilgrim tour to Europe stand in front of the tomb of St. Angela Merici, foundress.

to North America, arriving in Quebec in 1639. Other memorable experiences included a visit to Lisieux and the magnificent cathedral dedicated to St. Therese; a tour of the Juno Beach Memorial Center; several prayerful days at Lourdes; and how does one speak about Paris? Are there words to describe its elegance, the twinkling Eiffel Tower or the towering white Sacred Heart Basilica?

A pilgrimage, as one writer puts it, is a sacred journey which "expands our conscious vision of the world and transforms our lives in the process."

This pilgrimage certainly deepened my awareness of history, especially the history of our Catholic faith. Standing at the tombs of Peter, Paul and the early martyrs in Rome; being where Ambrose baptized Augustine in Milan; praying at the tombs of Angela, Anthony and Catherine; being overwhelmed at the sight of those incredible cathedrals and countless works of art over the centuries - all this put me in touch with our profoundly beautiful, rich, and deep Catholic faith tradition.

This pilgrimage "transformed my life" by making me aware over and over again that God does marvellous works through lowly people. As Mary tended to her daily

tasks in Nazareth, could she ever have dreamed of the many magnificent cathedrals that would one day bear her name? Did Angela ever begin to imagine what a mighty force for education would grow from her little Company of St. Ursula? Could Bernadette ever have dared imagine that not one, but four churches and basilicas would be built on that remote mountainside and that up to ten million pilgrims, many sick and ailing, would come to bathe in those waters each year? Could St. Therese ever have guessed at the millions of favors God would grant through her intercession, culminating in an enormous basilica built with donations from around the world?

A pilgrimage is not easy. Transformation is never easy, either. Both demand tremendous flexibility, generosity of spirit, and openness to the unknown, but the gains are limitless.

May the fruits of this pilgrimage continue to bless our pilgrim group and all those who helped to make it possible, enriching our lives and our ministries with deepened faith and appreciation of our Catholic – and Ursuline – heritage.

Eucharistic Congress continues tradition of catechesis

By Fr. David Tumback
Director of Liturgy

October of 2004 will see droves of pilgrims making the journey to Guadalajara, Mexico for the 48th Eucharistic Congress. The congress and its location was announced by Pope John Paul at the conclusion of the last congress in Rome in the year 2000.

The history of the Eucharistic

Congress is rich and deep having evolved in the latter part of the 19th century out of a desire to strengthen the catechesis surrounding the Eucharist, the central core of all that we are as Catholic people. The first ever congress was held in Lille, France in 1881.

Throughout the years, the congress has served as an opportunity to continue the catechesis as well as reviewing some of the

current pastoral practices associated with the celebration of the Eucharist, reservation and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and strengthening of the central role of the Eucharist in the lives of God's people.

The fruits of these gatherings are numerous and have undoubtedly played a significant role in the many directions taken by the Church in past years. The decision on the part of Pope Saint Pius X to admit young children for the reception of first communion was a result of the work of the congress and the institution of the Feast of Christ the King as a universal feast by Pope Pius XI came from the 26th Congress held in Rome in 1922. Many scholars point to the Munich, Germany Congress in 1960 as a foundational stepping stone to the Second Vatican Council for it was a Congress in which the renewed image of the Church as communion was first promoted by a young theologian, Professor J. Ratzinger (later Cardinal Ratzinger).

The Guadalajara Congress enters into this historical spirit as it invites pilgrims from all over the world to assemble between October 10-17, 2004 to explore and to celebrate the Eucharist. The theme of the Congress is: "The Eucharist, light and life of the new millennium." The

Congress will look at some of the fundamental aspects of the Eucharist such as, the real presence, the memorial of the Lord's passion, true sacrifice of the new covenant, sacrament of the Church's unity, need for solidarity and evangelization.

Juan Cardinal Sandoval Iniguez, archbishop of Guadalajara stated that the Congress "will be for the Church a great opportunity to glorify Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist, to worship him publicly, to strengthen the bonds of unity and charity. It will be an important opportunity to manifest its faith in the real presence and to deepen its understanding of some aspects of this mystery, which are in many cases not well known, and hence not observed sufficiently by the faithful. It will be also an occasion to underline the central importance of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church in the world today."

(More information about the 48th Eucharistic Congress is available from Fr. David Tumback, Diocesan Director of Liturgy, 753-2063. Information regarding travel packages for individuals interested in attending the Congress are available by calling Fr. Ralph Kleiter at the Ministry to Tourism Office, 306-244-3747.)

Saskatoon school celebrates recent beatification of Mother Teresa

Students, parents and staff at Mother Teresa Catholic School in Saskatoon celebrated the beatification of their patron with prayers, reflections and music Oct. 20.

"The spirit of Blessed Mother Teresa is alive and well among the students of Mother Teresa school," said principal Carl Melnyk, noting the service and caring which students demonstrate throughout the school day.

Even the youngest members of the school community know about Mother Teresa and her work. "She really helped people," said Bryn Stockham, Grade 1.

"She gave up her privileged, normal life to go and help people in the slums of Calcutta," said Nathan Rollack, Grade 7. "It's an honour to attend a school named after Mother Teresa. Everybody knows about her."

During the celebration teacher Jerry Klein described the road to beatification and sainthood, comparing the recognition of saints as role models and heroes to naming athletes to a hall of fame.

"We are honoring Mother Teresa for what she has done, in the same way that God is honoring her," Klein told the assembled students.



The school choir stands before a projected image of Mother Teresa.

Superintendent Brendan Bitz reminded the students that Blessed Teresa of Calcutta was once a child "just like you", attending school in Albania.

"She knew she was very much loved by Jesus, just as you are," Bitz said. "She is a role model for us, an example to motivate and teach us." - KLY

Unique travel offered by Ministry to Tourism

A "Sketchbook/Journal" travel experience to Italy will be offered in June 2004 by the Ministry to Tourism office of Saskatoon.

Artist Cecelia Jurgens will lead experienced and inexperienced artists alike in an exploration of watercolours, acrylics and pastels during the trip to Rome, Tuscany (Florence, Sienna) and Umbria (Assisi).

Travellers who wish to pray and reflect at some of the world's greatest pilgrim destinations will have an opportunity to do so on this trip, added Fr. Ralph Kleiter, director of Ministry to Tourism.

A number of cruises are also available

including a winter get-away around Hawaii Feb. 13-23, and a "Passage to Paradise" through the South Pacific Islands (with an option to explore New Zealand) Feb. 23-March 13. European cruises are planned for May and June.

The Ministry to Tourism office is also coordinating travel plans for the 48th International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico Oct. 7-17, 2004 (see related story above).

For more information on these and other travel opportunities contact Fr. Kleiter at 306-244-3747 or by e-mail at kleiter@shaw.ca or visit the website at www.pilgrimjourneys.ca

BRAZILIAN BULLETIN
Diocese of SASKATOON sharing partilha Archiepiscopal of MACEIÓ (BRAZIL)
NEWS FROM THE SASKATOON MISSION IN BRAZIL
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Sask., (Canada)

Brazilians awaken to evil of inequality

By Sr. Louise Hinz, OSU

Each issue of the Diocesan Newsletter carries articles about our activities here in Brazil. Perhaps it is time to recall the basic situations of the country which gives scope and colour to our commitments.

The following is based on a series of reports in a bulletin published weekly by the bishops of Brazil.

The report begins: "A synthesis of the social indicators confirms that the aspect most evident in Brazilian society is inequality."

Whether one looks at the areas of health, education, housing, sanitation or employment, the distances between the extremes is very great.

A case at hand is education. Only one-third of the children from 0 to 6 years attend day-care or kindergarten. And the benefit is greater in the populations that have better social conditions.

Analyzing the age/grade relation shows that, in the poorer areas, the delay is much greater than in the richer south. And as the grade level rises, the age delay

increases, pupils fail a year, are sick, stop to help the family or lose a year from strikes on the university level. Further, spaces in the public universities, which are federally funded, are usually absorbed by the rich part of the population, because entrance depends greatly on the quality of previous educational opportunities.

For those attending private high schools or universities, the cost can be as much as one-third of a lower income family's revenue. A result of these unequal opportunities is that a youth in the south will have an average of 8.5 years of school, while a youth of the same age in the northeast averages only 6.2 years of schooling.

Another factor of inequality, closely linked to poverty, is racism. (Yes, the effects of 300 years of slavery still abound in this country.) Blacks and persons of mixed race receive, on the average, about 50 per cent of the average salary received by the white people.

In general, the richest 10 per cent of Brazilians earn 18 times as much as the



Sr. Louise (right) helps to distribute clothing to one of the poor families in the neighbourhood.

poorest 40 per cent. In the northeast, where we missionaries are working, 60 per cent of the population earns the equivalent of \$240 to \$960 a month. The poorest live on one dollar a day, or simply depend on begging or stealing to survive.

In turn, crime and violence increases, as does drug dealing and prostitution as a seemingly profitable source of money or simply survival.

So, is it worth the struggle? Popular movements are encouraged by small gains, not discouraged by the distance yet to travel.

To mention a few positive points: the

number of infant deaths has decreased, thanks, largely to the work of the Pastoral of the Children; the number of youth, aged 15 to 17, attending classes increased from 60 per cent in 1992 to 81 per cent in 2001, as result of special programs for the education of youth (dropouts) and adults.

Above all, we believe a change in attitudes is possible. Instead of accepting injustices and inequalities as some God-given, normal fact, more people are becoming conscious that such evils are society's doing and, therefore, with struggle and co-operation, society can and should change.

Fr. Sylvester's memory kept alive in communities he served

By Sr. Claire Novacosky, OSU

There are persons who pass through one's life and leave their mark. Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB, was one such person, as we see over and over again.

He was the good shepherd in the parish of St. Joseph's in Trapiche, Maceió for 22 years and in the parish of Marechal Deodoro for nearly three years.

Earlier this fall, two significant events occurred in each parish recalling Fr. Sylvester.

In Trapiche, the kindergarten classes whose school is named after Fr. Sylvester, were celebrating the Day of the Children. Part of the celebration was a parade around the parish. Leading the parade was a huge banner which read, "Fr. Sylvester, we are the seedlings you planted in our community."

In one of the high schools in Marechal Deodoro, the students had a "cultural exposition." Two groups who worked the theme of "important persons in our city" chose Padre Silvestre as one of these influential figures.

The public was invited and many passed by this booth which displayed photos, writings, articles, interviews and the last message of Fr. Syl, written one hour before he died. Recalling his short, but fruitful time in Marechal brought tears to a number of the viewing public.



The kindergarten class in Trapiche starting their parade through the streets with the banner which reads: "Padre Silvestre Vredegoor! We are the seedlings that you planted!"

Here in Brazil, much emphasis is given to "testemunho de vida," giving testimony with your life. This was so evident in Sylvester's case: joy-filled, dedicated, available, compassionate and passionately in love with the person of Jesus Christ. His last message referred to how "Jesus Christ is our only reason for living."



The exposition in Marechal Deodoro about Fr. Sylvester, who is considered one of the important influential people in the city. The shirt is used by a choral group named after him. In the lower left hand corner is a stole he had with him when he died.

Bishop LeGatt calls for discernment about missions

Dear Friends,

Over 30 years ago Bishop Klein, attentive to the needs of the Church beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Saskatoon, heard the request from the bishops of South America, whom he met at the Second Vatican Council, that the North send missionaries to the South. He responded by sending priests and religious women to the diocese of Maceió, and more particularly to the parish of Uniao. St. Peter's Abbey also sent missionaries to the same diocese.

Over the years as a number of different sisters and priests have ministered to parish communities in the diocese of Maceió, the people of our own diocese have generously supported that effort by their prayers, their financial assistance, and their interest. A sense of mission has been built up amongst us that speaks to the universality of our faith and to a sense of solidarity with our Brazilian brothers and sisters in their efforts and struggles.

It is this sense of mission that now impels the discernment we must undertake as a diocese. At present we have no priests serving in Brazil. There are, however, four sisters who continue to work in two communities. What will our continued involvement with Brazil look like in the future? In terms of people from our diocese ministering there (whether lay, religious or priests)? In terms of

financial assistance? In terms of continuing solidarity around issues of justice, such as land? In terms of prolonging the mutual enrichment built up over the years?

These questions of discernment vis-à-vis our Brazil mission, however, link up with other areas of mission. What might our involvement with northern dioceses of Canada look like? They also are desperately short of people to assure pastoral ministry. At present two people from our diocese, Fr. Murray Chatlain and Rene Woytowich, are working in Black Lake and Fond du Lac, part of the diocese of McKenzie in northern Saskatchewan. Will we continue to share people with the north? How can we share a vision of ministry with and by Native people, whether in the north or in Saskatoon? How can we establish, once again, mutually enriching relationships between our dioceses? The modern vision of mission is that of sister churches enriching each other with their own distinctive cultures, strengths, and experiences of faith.

To lead this discernment effort, I have asked Fr. Bernard de Margerie and Mary Jacobi to co-lead a discernment committee of five people. Their first task will be to study the very meaning of mission in our Church today, and to design a process whereby our diocese can grow in realizing how we are called to reach out to sister

churches. Then, upon this basis, they will develop and lead the effort to discuss and decide together as a diocese how we can respond, given our resources.

This discernment effort will of course involve the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, those presently working in Brazil and northern Saskatchewan, the Brazil Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC), as well as providing opportunities for wider consultation with people throughout our diocese. The purpose is to arrive at concrete decisions about sharing people, about financial assistance (for example, the Brazil collection), about establishing knowledge of each other and solidarity with each other.

Please pray for the success of this discernment effort and please support the efforts of the committee.

Thank you.



Bishop Albert LeGatt

+ Albert LeGatt

Children's centre flourishes with Canadian assistance

By Sr. Ana Lúcia Duarte, OSU

The Pastoral da Criança (Pastoral for Children) is promoted by the national Conference of Brazilian Bishops of Brazil. It was initiated by the challenge to combat the high rate of infant mortality and the extreme poverty that many families face in Brazil.

This work began in the parish of Marechal Deodoro in 1993. Today, this pastoral work is going on in 10 different communities in the municipality touching approximately 500 families.

Forty-seven volunteers do the work of visiting the homes, evangelizing, celebrating life monthly on the day in which the children are weighed; accompanying high-risk pregnant mothers and children; and participating in a monthly meeting of orientation for the volunteers. The number is still small, but there are 21 new volunteers preparing to join this family of volunteers.

One of the major difficulties the program faced was lack of space. In 2001, we had the joy of receiving funds from two Canadian groups (Rainbow of Hope for Children and CIDA) to construct a social centre that would enable the increase of activities.

The centre was inaugurated Oct. 12, 2002. During this past year, many difficulties were encountered: lack of support, lack of funds – but at no moment did the workers become discouraged. We recently celebrated the first anniversary of the St. Francis of Assisi Centre of the Pastoral for Children, with much gratitude to God for all that was realized through the team of volunteers.

In the centre, there exists a "brinquedoteca," a room with equipment for orientated play which attends to 30 small children of very poor families who live



A group of children sings congratulations on the first anniversary of the Pastoral for Children's social centre. Frei Gutemberg was the pastor responsible for the construction and happened to be in Maceió for the celebration.

adjacent to the centre. The mothers of these children form another group and they receive basic information about health, nutrition and other related topics.

There also exists a group for pregnant women, who besides receiving formation, also prepare their own layettes. Two groups are learning how to do needlework and crafts.

Two more groups are preparing to begin: a music group for adolescents, and a group teaching the craft of filet, a needlework typical of the area.

The policy of the Pastoral is to help families to be self-sustaining.

All these works are accomplished by volunteers with the help of donations from friends who believe that the right to life is a basic condition for each individual to grow and develop as a person.

We thank all who have contributed so that this dream can be fully realized. Our wish is that the proposal of Jesus become ever more concrete: "I came that all may have life and have it in abundance."



The four Ursulines: (left to right) Neudes, Ana, Louise and Claire with Frei Gutemberg who served as pastor for three years and recently returned for a visit.



A happy throng greeted Fr. Don on his arrival.

Fr. Don returns

By Fr. Don Macgillivray

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fr. Don, 79, wrote this near the beginning of his month-long return visit to Uniao dos Palmares, where he had spent some 37 years as one of the mission team from our diocese. His health had forced him to leave in 2001 and this reunion with his beloved Brazilians was probably more than he, or they, had hoped would ever be possible when he left for retirement in Saskatoon.)

"Fasten your seat belts; chair backs and tables in the upright position for our final descent to Palmares International Airport at Maceió."

The ice cream castles in the clouds give way to the sugar cane, brilliant in the afternoon sun. Unnecessary to kiss the ground. The landing gear will take care of that.

Among the first welcomers, our missionaries from Saskatoon, Sisters Claire, Louise and Marie-Noelle, along with Brazilians Fathers Alexandre and Geraldo.

In the terminal: wall-to-wall well-wishers; tears, singing, dancing; the Canadian flag; the tidal wave of hugs; the children of the poor in their colourful T-shirts; the puzzled security guards; cars and buses marshalled into position; the young pastor warmly embracing the visitor and inviting him into his car.

Out to Highway 110 and we are off to Uniao dos Palmares. At the Uniao exit, myriads of familiar faces accompanying the snail's pace of the cavalcade into town. A brief visit to St. Mary Magdalene Church for a prayer of thanksgiving.

Arrival at the new parish residence to the salvo of kaleidoscopic fireworks. Down to the old house for the welcome evening meal. The sound system too loud; the guitars, dancing, forro, the marching band from one of the local high schools.

I, the visitor, had returned home. In reality, it was as if I had never left.

In the days following, all paths led to the parish house. More hugs, tears, masses, con-celebrations with the faithful of the community.

At this writing, one week into the visit, there is much to observe, to be reflected upon, to be kept deep in the heart, just as Mary did.

One immediate impression: The trip was comfortably possible. Future ones will be seriously contemplated.

Coming home to Brazil after two years bit of culture shock

By Sr. Marie-Noelle Rondot, SMS

Several times, I have been asked, "How's life in Brazil after having been away for two years?"

How I would love to be able to say that it has improved a whole lot for the majority of the people. But, unfortunately, it is not so. What I saw and experienced before I left Brazil continues to be – and in perhaps an even more obvious way.

I found it difficult to leave France, after having re-entered so deeply into family life and the culture there. However, returning to Brazil this time, for one reason or another, never felt so much like "coming home."

It was a happy day indeed. To be with Jeannine again and our people here was very special and the welcome I received is not something that can easily be forgotten!

The simplicity and joy of the people is truly heart-warming. And just to be back in a place where the sun never tires of shining and where the plants and flowers are plentiful, certainly makes you want to stay for a while. This is the beautiful and pleasant side of life in Brazil and so much could be added to it.

There is also the reality of adjustment – especially when going from one country to another where the difference in cultures is so striking.

And so it means having to learn to live again with what makes up life here in our little town of Sao Jose da Laje. That includes such realities as people coming to the door daily to beg for food; seeing in the early hours of the day all the women washing clothes in the dirty river right in front of our house; sensing everything being constantly in motion from sunrise to sunset.

It is quite an adjustment after having spent two years



Sr. Marie-Noelle (right) reunited with friends.

in the countryside of the eastern part of France, where the silence almost keeps you awake at night. However, after a little bit of time here, everything becomes less noticeable and kind of "normal" again.

Two things, though, that one never gets used to are the poverty and the violence.

The cost of living has obviously gone up in the last two years, which is bound to lead to more unpleasant consequences.

But I soon discovered that my reaction to poverty also had to do a great deal with having been away from it for a good stretch of time. It is just amazing (and a bit shocking!)

how easily we forget when we are away from a situation. And actually, it may even be good to forget every now and then, because endless struggle and poverty all around you can also really get to you at times. While here, one is constantly reminded of it – and violence is never that far away.

In the few months I have been back, a member of a religious order in Recife was murdered in his own home, shortly after he had been seen coming out of the bank. Another man here was killed one evening. No one seemed to even know who he was. The body was just left by the railway station until the next morning.

These are, therefore, some of the reasons why I don't hesitate to say that not much has changed in Brazil.

During his time spent in Asia, Teilhard de Chardin prayed: "Lord, I have neither bread nor wine and altar, but I offer you, on the altar of the earth, the work and struggle of our world."

That is truly Eucharist and solidarity. And if each one of us, in our own way, could be a little more of that, then maybe our world would change.

The Brazilian Bulletin is published by the Brazilian Mission Awareness Committee (BMAC) of the diocese of Saskatoon. Editors Lawrence Thoner and Margaret Sanche welcome your comments and suggestions, which can be sent to BMAC, c/o Diocese of Saskatoon, 100 - 5th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7. Or find the Brazilian mission on the Internet: www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca/brazil.html

Up North:**Canoe trip offers challenges****By Fr. Murray Chatlain**

The Dene people know how to travel. In 1868 Father Alphonse Gaste walked with the Dene people from Brochet to Dubawnt Lake in the Northwest Territories. He traveled with entire families and the Dene would make the trip annually. The trip nearly killed Fr. Gaste and weakened him for several years to come. Thus when I received an invitation this summer to canoe with Dene teenagers, I quickly invoked Fr. Gaste's help and intercession.

The canoeing trip began in the Northwest Territories. I journeyed with two elders, John Cook and Charlie Throassie, our leader Freddie Throassie and 10 Dene teenagers. They went out three weeks ahead of me to Flett Lake (about 40 kms into the Northwest Territories) to build a cabin out of logs for winter caribou hunting. The cabin turned out excellent and they are justly proud of it. I joined them and worked on the cabin for a day and a half, then we started canoeing back. Half way on the first long portage we took a detour and went down to "Gu Tue," a little lake revered as medicinal by the Dene. There everyone says a prayer, asks for help with something, and then makes an offering (tobacco, shells, clothing). It is a holy place and I feel honoured that they brought me there. We all brought back some holy water from this little lake.

We paddled through the land where the people of Black Lake have lived, hunted and trapped for centuries. We stopped at an island of rock where an old medicine man asked to be buried. The island is located at a frequently crossed part of the lake. He chose this spot so he could continue to look after and pray for his people. We prayed a couple of decades of the rosary at his gravesite. We visited another grave of a fellow who suffered from cerebral palsy. He could not use his legs and his dad would carry him over portages or he would use his hands to

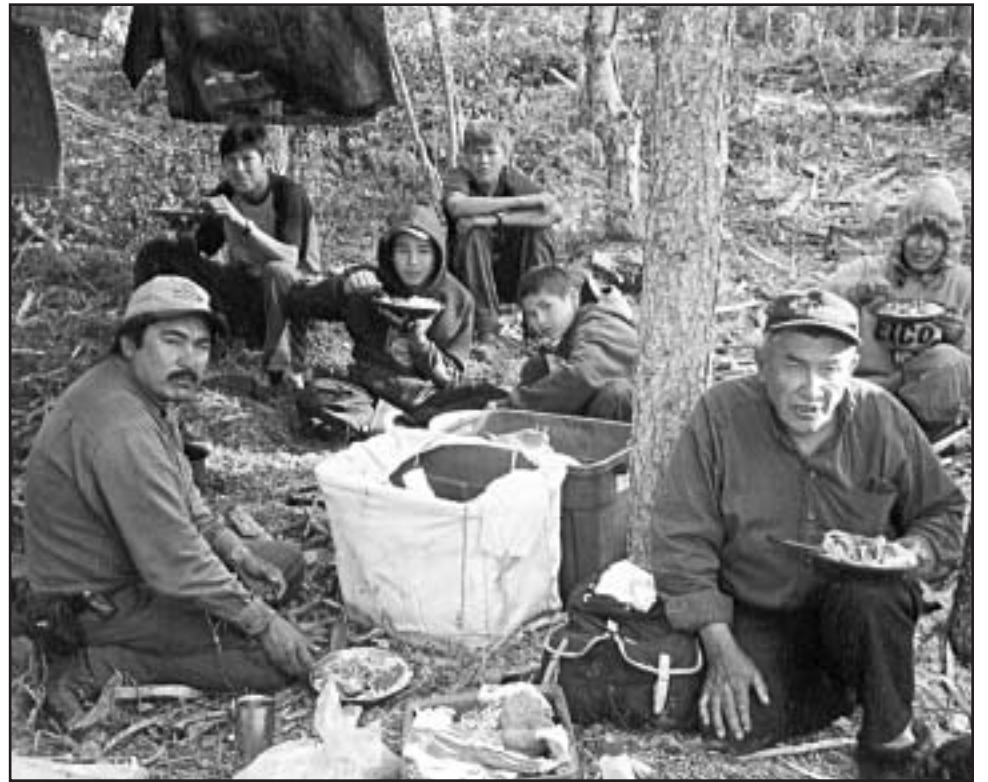
Fr. Murray Chatlain of the Saskatoon diocese is working in the northern parishes of Black Lake and Fond du Lac in the diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

walk. He lived to a good age, which is a real testament to his and the people's stamina and courage in the wilderness.

The weather was pleasant and I can now say I swam north of 60! We followed an old small canoe route and it involved the toughest portages I have ever been on. I was amazed at how the elder could remember where we were going, even though he hadn't been there for well over 20 years.

We were paddling on one lake when we noticed some kind of plaque on a big rock on the shore. We stopped and looked at it and saw that the Saskatchewan government had named the lake after a pilot from Moose Jaw who had died in Alaska during WWII. The Dene were not impressed. They are fine with acknowledging people who have died fighting for our country. What bothers them is the lake is right in their back yard, they already have a name for it, no one asked them at all about it, and they already feel helpless about what happens to the land they have traveled on for thousands of years. The message to the teenagers was loud and clear: get educated, so the Dene perspective can be heard too.

The teenagers were also amazing in how long and hard they worked. Freddie, our leader, ran a tight ship and we usually began paddling by 9 a.m. and often we made camp only at 7 p.m. The last day we were trying to make it to the edge of Black Lake and we didn't make camp until midnight!



Members of the canoeing party enjoying supper on the trail.

We were wading canoes through rapids by the light of flashlights. More than a little tired, I asked for Fr. Gaste's help again.

When we made it into Black Lake town there was a Dene gathering in process. We put big flags in the front of each canoe and there were about a thousand people cheering us on from shore, honking horns and firing rifles (I made sure they were pointing into the air!) As soon as we came ashore we shook a lot of hands, parents hugged their long-away teenagers, and they led us off to a feast.

I realize now that Black Lake and Fond du Lac are new communities. The people would only gather here twice a year and their real camps were off on particular islands, or by rapids, or at caribou crossings. So much has changed so fast for them. Fr. Gaste, help us all on our difficult journeys.



Group members run the rapids.

Development and Peace explores theme of "Water: life before profit"**By Michael Murphy
Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development and Peace**

Following a successful campaign around how food security is threatened by the patenting of life forms, Development and Peace has launched a new three-year campaign (2003 to 2006) with the slogan "Water: life before profit".

The overall aim of this campaign is to ensure access to clean public water by all and especially by poor people in the developing countries.

The 2003 campaign will begin the process of raising awareness around water as a social justice issue by asking Canadians to sign a "Water Declaration" that lists four basic values: water as a sacred gift, as a human right, as a common

good, and as a legacy for all children.

Three workshops have been held in the diocese to prepare for the campaign – in Kerrobert, Saskatoon and Humboldt.

Contact Diocesan Chairs Michelle Dinter-Lipinski (382-0452) or Brother Walter DeMong (653-3113, extension 106) for more information. All of the materials used in the campaign can be downloaded from the Development and Peace website at: www.dev.org

A Development and Peace "Just Youth" group is an organization of young people in a parish, a school or a campus who want to create change in their local and global communities by engaging in faith-based justice work.

Just Youth groups:

- get involved in their local communities,
- follow the mission of Development and Peace
- participate in our education and fundraising campaigns.

Just Youth groups are often involved in other issues as well. Connecting with Development and Peace links youth groups to a larger community of young people, motivated by faith, working for a world of peace and justice.

There are already Just Youth groups at St. Thomas More College and at two high schools in Saskatoon.

If you know of a group that might be interested in joining the Just Youth network, or if you are interested in starting a Just Youth group, contact Shannon

Granger at the diocesan Youth Ministry office, 242-1500.

Marguerite Hounjet has resigned as deanery leader for Saskatoon Rural because of other commitments.

If you would consider taking on this position, or know of someone who might, please contact Provincial Animator Michael Murphy at 653-5636 in Saskatoon.

Other Development and Peace deanery leaders in the diocese are: Shirley Kucher (463-2054) for Eatonia; Gwen Stang (753-2553) and Muriel Neumeier (834-2779) for Kerrobert; Leo Kurtenbach (256-3638) for Muenster; Armella Rollheiser (882-2278) for Outlook; Betty Jmaeff (975-1109) for Saskatoon City; and Holly Parsons (338-2526) for Wadena.

Second "Making Peace" conference will be held Nov. 28-30 in Saskatoon**By Michael Murphy
Saskatoon Peace Coalition**

The second annual "Making Peace" conference will be held at Holy Cross high school in Saskatoon Friday Nov. 28 to Sunday Nov. 30.

The 2002 conference was attended by 225 registered participants and many day visitors. The peace movement in Saskatoon was revitalized by the first conference and it helped prepare people for the many rallies and vigils that were held to try to prevent the invasion of Iraq.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Kathy Kelly of the Chicago-based "Voices in the Wilderness", who has organized numerous delegations to Iraq and brought medical supplies to the children of Iraq

despite sanctions and threats of lawsuits by the US government. She was in Baghdad during the recent invasion.

The conference "observer" and closing speaker is Michelle Leclair Harding, a Metis woman with a background in native studies who has participated in numerous aboriginal justice initiatives.

At the heart of the conference are 20 workshops, including 'The ABCs of peace' (offered in French and English), "Building communities of peace," "The violence of poverty," "Making peace with our environment," "Voices of youth," "The spirituality of peace" and "Israel and Palestine – what is needed for peace?"

For more information call 665-2154 or see the conference website: www.making-peace.tk

**Pennies for Peace**

As a Development and Peace project for Lent, the children of Beechy parish collected pennies in a big jar. It was full by the end of April. Together the children wrapped the coins after a Sunday liturgy, and were surprised to have raised a total of \$83.24.