



UNITING IN FAITH UPDATE

Project relates to “Rooted in Christ” vision



Members of the *Uniting in Faith* team at St. Peter's Parish in Unity (l-r): Peter and Irene Gartner, Betty Culbertson, and Sheila and Leonard Grant.

Unity volunteers reflect on meaning of campaign

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign is a sign of new beginnings, according to campaign chairs Leonard and Sheila Grant of St. Peter's Parish in Unity.

“God wants us to seek his vision for us in the future: that it will draw us all closer together as one – and that people will realize the importance of our diocese and how it connects, encourages, cares and serves us,” said the couple, reflecting on the campaign.

“We have decided to help because we have a deep desire for the generations to come – that they will be able to practice their faith, knowing there is a whole faith community out there for support and guidance,” said Leonard and Sheila Grant.

Volunteer Betty Culbertson said her hope for the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is that it will “strengthen our faith in our own community as we reach out to the bigger community, and that we are prepared for the future.”

This effort can also help us understand the sacrifices of previous generations, she noted. “I’m still in awe that my forefathers gathered and erected a church before their own buildings on the farm,” Culbertson said, describing it as a “sacrifice that built faith and church.”

Large and small, urban and rural, the 98 parish communities across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon make up a diocesan family, called to work together in unity. The diocese exists to nurture and support all that is being lived out in our parishes, says Bishop Albert LeGatt.

The common effort to be “Rooted in Christ” and continue the mission and ministry of Jesus in the world is outlined and expressed in a new diocesan vision – and it also relates to construction of a new diocesan Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre.

“Both the vision and the *Uniting in Faith* campaign are about growing together as a diocese,” explains Bishop LeGatt. “Both speak to the fact that we truly are a family, linked together and growing together into the future.”

Six priorities identified in the *Rooted in Christ* diocesan vision are evangelization; ongoing faith formation; liturgy and worship; justice and peace; building community; and strengthening diocesan unity. Individual parishes, deaneries and the entire diocese will be working together over the next five years to focus on and improve efforts related to these six areas.

Whether it involves youth ministry; reaching out to the poor, the imprisoned, the sick and the suffering; strengthening marriages and family life; working for justice; enriching our life of prayer and worship; nurturing vocations; or providing life-long faith formation that ranges from teaching children to equipping and empowering adults to live their faith more fully – this common diocesan effort to be *Rooted in Christ* is also what the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is ultimately about.

Uniting in Faith is underway in the following parishes:

KERROBERT DEANERY	
Unity	Macklin
Wilkie	Kerrobert
Biggar	Luseland
Denzil	Major
Landis	St. Donatus
Handel	Leipzig
	Tramping Lake
EATONIA DEANERY	
Kindersley	Eston
Richmound	Dodsland
Liebenthal	Marengo
OUTLOOK DEANERY	
Outlook	Davidson
Kenaston	Elbow
SASKATOON RURAL DEANERY	
Martensville	
Prud'homme*	
St. Denis*	
Vonda*	
Langham	
Delisle	
Asquith	
SASKATOON CITY DEANERY	
Our Lady of Lourdes*	
St. Patrick	
St. Thomas More	
St. Michael	
St. Augustine, Saskatoon	
St. Francis Xavier	
St. John Bosco	
HUMBOLDT DEANERY	
Lanigan	Cudworth
Lake Lenore	Bruno
St. Benedict	LeRoy
WADENA DEANERY	
Wynyard	Wadena
Foam Lake	Rose Valley
Wishart	Kelvington
Quill Lake*	St. Front*
Fosston	Perigord
Lintlaw	Nobleville
Archerwill	High Tor

* Achieved or exceeded diocesan goal

Uniting in Faith campaign continues across diocese

A diocesan-wide *Uniting in Faith* campaign to raise \$12.5 million for construction of a new Cathedral and Catholic Pastoral Centre is well underway. Holy Family Parish has already raised nearly all of its \$16-million share for its new parish home.

Hundreds of volunteers across the diocese are now in the process of inviting their fellow parishioners to reflect on their connections to the diocesan church, asking them to participate in this project.

In response, parishioners are making pledges and donations, investing in the future of our united faith community.

Several parishes have already reached their diocesan goal, others are at various stages of the campaign, and some have yet to start (*see chart at left.*)

For more information about the history of the project, the reasons for undertaking it at this time, and the vision for the *Uniting in Faith* campaign, please visit the website: www.unitinginfaith.ca



Diocesan Chrism Mass
Priests and parish representatives from across the diocese gathered at the start of Holy Week for the diocesan celebration of the Chrism Mass, in which the bishop blesses the sacred oils that are then taken back to parishes for celebration of the sacraments over the next year.

VISION AND HOPE:
“Our vision and hope for the *Uniting in Faith* campaign is to build a united leadership in our parish and our diocese that’s truly faithful to Jesus’ call and the participation of all.... This effort helps to deepen and strengthen our understanding of Jesus and the love of God.”
“We decided to help in this campaign to deepen our faith, to help build this united leadership and to share some of the blessing we have received.”
- Peter and Irene Gartner
Uniting in Faith team members, St. Peter’s Parish, Unity

A FAMILY OF FAITH:
“Some benefits and blessings for parishes participating in this campaign might be the realization of being and becoming a real family of faith; to reach out to each other and be there for one another; and being grateful for the diocese we have.”
“God is calling each of us another step closer to becoming one body with Jesus as our head..”
- Leonard and Sheila Grant
Uniting in Faith campaign chairs, St. Peter’s Parish, Unity

STRENGTHENING THE PARISH:
“The opportunity to meet and reconnect with other members of the congregation can only strengthen the parish and bring it closer together. We are about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. John Bosco Parish and I cannot think of a better way to renew the parish than the successful completion of this campaign.”
- Rob Christensen
Uniting in Faith campaign chair, St. John Bosco, Saskatoon



St. John Bosco parish volunteers Bill Preston, Diane Cote and campaign chair Rob Christensen (*left to right*) stand outside the existing Catholic Pastoral Centre. *Uniting in Faith* is raising funds to replace the centre, which faces critical space shortages. A wide range of programs and ministries are planned from the centre and implemented across the diocese.

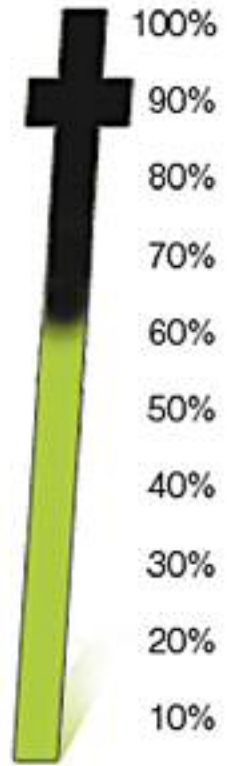
St. John Bosco volunteers grateful for parish community

The *Uniting in Faith* campaign is providing an opportunity for St. John Bosco parish to come together and build connections, while working toward an important diocesan goal, say volunteers. “We have had some great visits and have met some people for the first time and gotten to know some other people better,” said parish campaign vice-chair Diane Cote. “I have been so encouraged and supported by our enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers who have stepped forward to commit so much time and energy.” she added
“The people of St. John Bosco are my parish family. It is a community that consistently sees and responds beyond the needs of the people who fill the pews, to the needs of the larger community,” she said of the Saskatoon parish.
“My hope for the campaign is that we come together as a Catholic community to support a project that is both needed and timely,” said Cote,

noting she originally stepped forward to help because of her respect for the bishop and the call she felt to share information about the project with her fellow parishioners
Rob Christensen, parish *Uniting in Faith* chair, said he sees a great potential for building community and strengthening the parish through the campaign.
Christensen said his own initial doubts about the campaign were dispelled once he received more information about the diocesan project.
“Then Fr. Ron (Beechinor) made an appeal for volunteers to step forward. I felt it was a chance to give back to the parish that has given so much to our family for the last 50 years,” Christensen said of the faith community where he once served as altar boy.
The bonding that is happening through the *Uniting in Faith* campaign helps in “overcoming the slide into feeling that a spiritual journey is a lonely trek in modern society,” said St. John Bosco

volunteer Bill Preston. “We are also learning that we can together stretch to finance very worthy outreach programs.”
Preston said that he hopes the campaign at St. John Bosco will exceed the diocesan goal, with the additional money raised coming back into the parish, which is working hard to meet the needs of youth, young families and shut-in seniors. Preston believes this is achievable: “Really, it is simply committing only 2.8 per cent of our family’s gross income as opposed to the 1.4 per cent we are now giving.”
Preston also noted how special the parish is in the way it responds to needs in the community. “St. John Bosco is going to thrive; we’re not ever going to turn out the light.”
Ongoing support from the diocese and the Catholic Pastoral Centre, as well as the community bonding achieved through the *Uniting in Faith* campaign makes that even more certain, he said.

Diocesan Goal:
\$12.5 million



Uniting in Faith
parish campaign
progress to date



Youth from Wilkie, Langham, and Saskatoon participated in a diocesan Thinkfast March 27 and 28, fasting to raise funds for Development and Peace, while raising awareness through presentations and activities hosted at St. Anne Parish in Saskatoon.



Participants in the diocesan Lay Formation program prepare for a celebration of the Eucharist. Lay Formation is a two-year program, in which ordinary Catholics grow in their relationship with God and in understanding of their faith. For more information contact the Catholic Pastoral Centre.


Diocesan moments



A Pastoral Care workshop was recently organized through the Catholic Pastoral Centre. The diocesan offices of Hospital Chaplaincy and of Ministry Development coordinated the training session held in March.



Representatives from deaneries across the diocese, as well as from Catholic groups and organizations, serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, which meets regularly with Bishop Albert LeGatt.

	Learn more about the Catholic Pastoral Centre: www.saskatoonrcdiocese.com	Learn more about the Uniting in Faith campaign: www.unitinginfaith.ca
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BUILDING OUR NEW DIOCESAN HOME. BUILDING YOUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.