

Northern Catholic News

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SUMMER 2011

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Fuel up on Faith: Diocesan Youth Conference 2011



Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer of APeX Ministries pose at the 17th Annual DYC with team member, Jessica Donovan.
PHOTO BY: Simone Waller

By: Caitriona O'Callaghan
PRINCE GEORGE - April 29, 2011, 7 p.m.: the official time and date that DYC 2011 kicked off.

The theme this year, "Fuel up on Faith", set a basis for the start to a great, fun, faith-filled weekend. Youth and young adults of all ages from throughout BC - from Fort St. John to Victoria - gathered at the Diocesan Centre in Prince George to participate in the Annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

During the weekend, Brad Farmer and Gene Monterastelli of APeX Ministries, led the youth in understanding their faith as well as helping them make that faith stronger.

From juggling pins, to balancing plungers on their faces, APeX brought an energetic vibe and a new way to get the message across.

Along with the amazing talks

and performances by Brad and Gene, DYC consisted of small group sessions where youth were encouraged to share stories about their faith and to ask the questions they struggle with. Games such as Trivial Pursuit and scavenger hunts were also among the weekend

activities.

On the second night there was also the opportunity for participants to interact and burn some energy out on the dance floor.

Great music provided a background for the chance to strengthen friendships.

Not only is the Diocesan Youth Conference a place to grow in your faith and to try and understand where your footstep is on the journey of faith, it is also a place to create new friendships, strengthen old ones and to understand more about God and his plan for each person.



The DYC is an amazing experience and I do not hesitate to invite any youth or young adult to it. It is an experience, a memory that cannot be forgotten.

Some youth hang out during break time at the DYC 2011.

PHOTO BY: Simone Waller



A letter to Bishops of Canadian Dioceses



Development and Peace Poster: The Spirituality of Social Movements

*Northern
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Very recently, Development and Peace has had to cancel a Southern Partner's visit. This is filling me with indignation, uneasiness and worry for the future of the organization.

Groups with a socially conservative ideology, claiming to be "real Catholics" have given themselves the right to question your integrity and your moral authority. They make slanderous statements about priests who legitimately accomplish their ministry, attacking their reputation by spreading insinuations and false allegations.

For many years these groups have been viciously attacking Development and Peace. This has had disastrous consequences on people and groups in the South who benefit from Development and Peace's essential support to their work.

Groups, such as Lifesite News, with no organizational ties to the Catholic Church are attempting to usurp the authority

of individual bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

They sow seeds of confusion among Catholics by using shoddy and deceitful "journalism" to portray Development and Peace partners as evil-doers. They completely ignore the tremendous work being accomplished by Development and Peace partners. They pressure bishops to join in their crusade by claiming that some bishops have abandoned the real faith and the Church's teachings.

We feel that Development and Peace continues to be true to its mandate:

"Inspired by the Gospel values, in particular the preferential option for the poor, Development and Peace has the following objectives: support partners in the Global South who promote alternatives to unfair social, political and economic structures, educate the Canadian population about the causes of

poverty and mobilize Canadians towards actions for change. In the struggle for human dignity, the organization forms alliances with northern and southern groups working for social change."

This organization is ours. We support this treasure of the Canadian Church with our prayers, our donations and our commitment.

In the name of numerous southern partners who contribute to building a world of justice, we ask you to firmly support Development and Peace in its original orientations and actions towards firm partnerships of solidarity which has proven themselves over the past forty years.

Monsignor, please accept my kindest regards.

Soeur Thérèse de Villette
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

"Shining Star" recognized

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin
PRINCE GEORGE – Sister Beverly Bobola, OP, was the recipient of Volunteer Prince George's "Shining Star" award at a ceremony held at the AiMHi Centre, April 8, 2011.

The awards are given annually to "someone who has done a very good deed, volunteer act of kindness or community service for others".

Sister Beverly was nominated for her tireless work over the past five years as a volunteer chaplain at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia. "Her devotion to patients and staff well-being is remarkable," a member of the hospital's spiritual care department, Lau-

ren Aldred, said.

Along with her primary role as Catholic Chaplain, Sister Beverly also serves on the hospital ethics committee. She visits the detox and rehab centres and participates in wakes and funeral services. When a patient moves into hospice care, Sister Beverly continues to provide care and comfort.

The awards are presented each year to recognize "everyday heroes" in the community. This year Volun-

teer Prince George celebrates its 20th anniversary of promoting, enhancing and supporting volunteerism.



Sr. Beverly Bobola, OP, with her "Shining Star" in recognition of her ministry among the sick and dying in Prince George.

Who we become in relation to God

At this time of year many among our diocesan family are completing the sacraments of initiation. Many children are celebrating the sacraments of confirmation and first holy communion.

A few adults across the diocese have celebrated these same sacraments at the Easter Vigil and so completed their initiation into the community.

It is quite clear that the majority of people who will read this message have long since celebrated the sacraments of initiation. Still, it is well for all of us to review the true significance of these sacraments in our lives together with the lasting effects they have on us.

As I was preparing my homily for the celebration of these sacraments with our young people an observation that struck me deeply was that sacraments have less to do with what we get and more to do with who we become in relation to God.

So, in baptism, while we are forgiven, we become adopted daughters and sons of God. We become true children of God for whom God cares in a very personal way.

We are made special friends of Jesus and become priestly persons. We share in Jesus' priesthood. We are able to pray and our prayers are heard. As priestly persons we are able to offer the Eucharist. The Church teaches that we offer the Immaculate Victim (Jesus) "not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him" and we need to learn to offer ourselves.

Baptism makes us members of the Church, sisters and brothers in the

family of Jesus.

Through the sacrament of confirmation we are blessed with the gift that cannot really be described, the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace. It roots us more deeply as God's children and we are able to cry with great confidence, "Abba! Father!"

It unites us more firmly to Christ. It renders our bond with God's family more perfect. Confirmation gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the message of Jesus as true witnesses.

As baptized and confirmed persons we have a job. The words that the risen Lord spoke to his disciples are spoken to us in the same way: "As the Father has sent me so I send you".

We are given a direct order. Each one of us, in our own way, is sent to continue the work of Jesus. This is a lifetime job that we have received.

We can see what all of this has done in our relation to God.

And that is not all. Over and above all of this every time we go to Mass we receive holy communion. This is certainly the high point in terms of participation during Mass.

As we prepare for the communion procession we are reminded of the basic liturgical principle which calls for full, conscious, active participation.

So we walk:

We walk away from the past with

its fears, hurts, harms; we walk away from the chains that bind us: sin, selfishness, bigotry and prejudice.

We walk forward not to receive some thing, not even some thing very holy. We are walking forward to meet and receive the Son of God. We meet the risen Christ; we share in his Body and Blood.

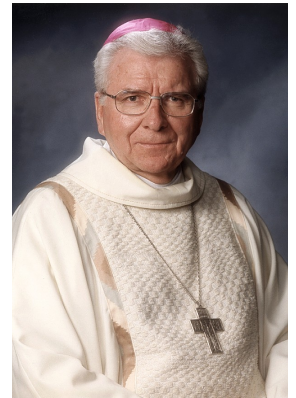
The Church teaches that "Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it is received under both kinds". To eat and drink is to survive, and to share what one eats and drinks is to survive in a manner fitting to the redeemed daughters and sons of God.

Having stopped to meet the risen Christ, he now walks with us, guides us and we follow. He takes us back to the Body of Christ where the illiterate and the scholar are side by side, poor and wealthy, virtuous and sinful, single and married, gay and straight, parents who loved children and raised them well and parents who aborted a child, regret it and are forgiven.

Only Jesus can do all this.

What all of this tells us is that the communion procession never really ends. The One whom we meet in communion is continuously leading us back into his Body with its many members who are in need.

Try to imagine, add up and calculate all that we have become in our relation to God through the sacraments of initiation.



Bishop's Letter

Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, OMI

Bishops' Schedule

June

- 1 Office
- 2 World Catholic Education Day Mass
- 2 St. Mary's, Prince George – anointing Mass
- 3-5 Smithers – Lay Formation
- 6 Finance Council meeting
- 6 Fort St. James – Confirmation/1st Eucharist
- 7 Takla – Confirmation/1st Eucharist
- 8-10 Office
- 10 CIS Board meeting
- 10-13 Prince George Lay Formation Graduation Weekend
- 13-17 Hamilton Diocesan Priests' Retreat
- 18 Ottawa – COLF Board meeting

19-24 Collegeville, MN – Liturgy Workshop
27-30 Office

July

- 1 Canada Day Mass
- 1-3 Denzil, SK – 100th Anniversary
- 3-8 Vancouver - St. Mark's College
- 8-10 Lejac Pilgrimage
- 11-15 Vancouver – St. Mark's College
- Diocesan Office Closed +July 16 – August 14

August

- 15-26 Office
- 29-31 Home visit

September

- 1-10 Home visit
- 12-13 Office
- 14-16 Vancouver – Catholic Health Association
- 17 Sacred Heart Cathedral
- 19-23 Office
- 23-24 Diocesan Music Workshop
- 26-28 Office
- 28 Council of Priests meeting
- 29-30 Diocesan Study Days
- 30-1 Prince George Lay Formation

A prayer campaign of Biblical proportions

By: Linda Pettipas

TERRACE – For forty days - from Ash Wednesday to Passion Sunday - parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish engaged in a peaceful, prayerful crusade against abortion modeled after the 40 Days for Life campaign.

The campaign emerged in 2004 when a prolife group in College Station, Texas sought to invigorate their prolife endeavors at the local abortion facility. This movement spread rapidly over the next seven years to encompass most Canadian provinces, the US, Australia, England, Ireland, Denmark, Spain, Belize, Georgia and Armenia.

The 40 day action was chosen for its Biblical significance exemplified by the transformation of Noah in the flood, Moses on the mountain, Jesus in the desert and the disciples after Christ's resurrection.

Although too late to officially register the Terrace action, long time prolife member Holly Panchuk decided to attempt the 40 day plan in a modified format.

"All I knew is that the Lord said 'do it' and I said 'yes'", she said.

"I knew there were many people around to help who have such a heart for prolife ministry."

Father Terry Brock at first felt the campaign needed more planning. But after some reflection and discussion he concluded that "if the action was of God then hearts and minds would be moved" to volunteer.

The parish responded generously by pledging to keep vigil at Mills Memorial Hospital for 243 hours over the course of campaign - an average of 6 hours per day.

Father Brock was amazed at the number of people who signed up and added his own name, taking a shift every Friday night from 9 to 10 p.m.

He remarked that, "Each Friday evening was an opportunity to pray the rosary and reflect on the truth that unborn babies are being killed in a place of healing and care. It is shocking to reflect on this truth, God made this reality more present to me on Friday evenings."

Volunteers came from Knights of Columbus, CWL, Sacred Heart Youth Group, Prolife Society members and several members of the Christian Reformed Church along with a number of Catholics from Kitimat and Prince Rupert.

All had a specific goal, to pray for a change of heart regarding support for abortion.

The three-pronged approach of 40 Days for Life is prayer, fasting and community outreach.

Prayer incorporated a number of devotions as well as spontaneous prayer. Six people were unable to be physically present at the hospital but they faithfully joined the on-site offering with their prayers from home or at Eucharistic Adoration.

Fasting, a form of physical prayer, was not limited to food but included giving up TV, sweets or the internet.

Community outreach was accomplished by peaceful witness to hospital staff and passers-by by walking and praying on the two streets bordering Mills Memorial Hospital. Some volunteers wore identifying badges featuring baby feet.

A young woman and her mother held a candlelight vigil one night. A few people stood across the street from the hospital's main entrance with a sign bearing the phrase "40 Days for Life." The sign was a magnet for public interaction, questions and generally positive comments.

One participant had verbal contact with over 30 individuals, one of whom shared her regret over her own abortion and another who thanked the volunteers for their witness as her husband had been conceived when his mother was raped.

Although the current vigil has just ended, Holly Panchuk is looking forward to mobilizing the campaign next year.



Linda Pettipas, Isabel Demedeiros and Leanne Derow are pictured in front of Mills Memorial Hospital on the last day of the 40 Days for Life campaign in Terrace.

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Sharing and ceremony featured at retreat



PRINCE GEORGE – People came from a number of places in the diocese, including Prince George, Moricetown, Fort St. James, Burns Lake, Babine and Nadleh, to participate in the annual First Nations Retreat weekend held at the Domano Renewal Centre, April 8-10.

Entitled *Living the Twelve Steps in Everyday Life*, the retreat focused on the reality of being fully human, the journey into addiction, the Twelve-Step healing journey and the role of prayer, fellowship and self awareness in a spirituality of wellness and recovery.

Most Rev. Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas and author of *Drumming from Within: Tales of Hope and Faith from Canada's North*, was the guest speaker. Drawing on over 35 years of ministry with First Nations people, he used the Medicine Wheel as his model in a holistic approach to the Twelve Steps.

The stories and personal experiences he shared throughout the weekend emphasized the healing power of the Twelve-Step program as a way of life.

Those who attended were given the opportunity to learn and grow in their spirituality through informational sessions, prayer and reflection time, sharing time and ceremonies. Drums and dance were also part of the experience.

Drums and dance were featured at a retreat for First Nations held at the Domano Renewal Centre in April. PHOTOS BY: Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI



Grizzly greetings

A grizzly bear and her cub greeted Bishop Gerald Wiesner on May 22nd as he traveled the highway between Kitimat and Terrace to celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist with parishioners in the two communities.

PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell



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School shows concern for others

KITIMAT – Paul Cornthwaite, Principal of St. Anthony's School in Kitimat, presented a cheque to the Holy Childhood Association which represented the funds raised by staff and students during Lent 2011.

The school collected \$1,364.05 over the Lenten period through almsgiving and fund raising.

The Holy Childhood Association is one of many local and global charities the school supports throughout the year.

The staff and students of St. Anthony's School are also concerned for the environment and demonstrated this on Earth Day, April 21st by joining in the *Lights Out Canada* campaign. The school was in the dark

that Thursday as staff and students showed their solidarity for conservation awareness.

With the help of a generous sponsor the school has also been able to adopt a whale called Barnard. The adoption was done through an organization called Cetacealab which is situated on the tip of Gill Island off the Douglas Channel.



Natural light from a window allowed a picture to be taken of the Kindergarten class while St. Anthony's School participated in Lights Out Canada.



Maria Pettit accepted a cheque on behalf of the Holy Childhood Association from Principal Paul Cornthwaite

Sacred Heart students win trophy at festival

Dennis and Tanesha Thomas show off the Choral Speech Trophy awarded to the Grade 2/3 class of Sacred Heart School during the Prince George Speech Arts and Drama Festival Honors Concert at UNBC on May 14th.



Season of sacraments

Children at Annunciation Parish in Prince Rupert posed with Bishop Gerald Wiesner on May 21st following the mass when they celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation and received the Eucharist for the first time. PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell



Knights celebrate 50 years of faithful service

By: Max Patzelt

TERRACE - Christ the King Council 5148 in Kitimat and Father Andrew Allison OMI Council 5149 in Terrace celebrated their 50th Anniversary in Terrace, Saturday, May 21, 2011.

The Terrace Council organized the event, supported by the Kitimat and Prince Rupert Councils. Frank Visentin, District Deputy for District 16, was a great help with all the arrangements as well as assisting during the ceremonies.

Over 100 people, including State Deputy Michael Yeo and two past State Deputies, Joseph King (1972-1974) and Thomas Harvey (1996-1998), were on hand for the celebration which began with a mass at Sacred Heart Parish.

At the official ceremonies that followed, Master of Ceremonies James Labossiere introduced some of the chartered members. They received certificates and 50-year pins from the Grand Knights and were thanked for their faithful service to the Knights and their parishes.

State Deputy Michael Yeo presented



Charter members of Councils 5148 and 5149 receive certificates and 50-year pins at the anniversary celebrations in Terrace. PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

certificates to the two Councils.

Many Knights came from Prince Rupert to help celebrate the occasion and this was very much appreciated by the two

Councils. After the presentations a photo was taken of all the Knights, 50 in total including Bishop Gerald Wiesner and Father Andrew Takach.

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Dark nights and doubt explored at workshop



Bishop Gerald Wiesner introduced fellow Oblate, Father Ron Rolheiser, right, to workshop participants. He reminded Father Ron that not only do they come from the same part of Saskatchewan, they were born in the same hospital!
PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin
PRINCE GEORGE – The Domano Renewal Centre was not large enough to accommodate the approximately 130 people who filled the meeting room at the Diocesan Centre on May 7th for a one-day workshop with Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI.

At this his sixth visit to the Renewal Centre, the well known author explored the ups and downs of the faith journey especially the more difficult times. He noted that although “our feelings can be up and down, faith is something that is steady.”

He pointed to Scripture as well as the experiences of saints and mystics to demonstrate how we are compelled beyond our reason and feelings to stay committed in our relationship with Christ.

“Your head tells you what you think is wise to do, your heart tells you what you feel you want do, but your gut

tells you what you have to do.” We stay committed because it is something we have to do.

The question is not “are you happy,” he said, but “is there meaning in your life”. This question takes us beyond our head and our hearts and into the deep commitment that characterizes faith.

Father Rolheiser He entered the Oblates in 1965 and was ordained in 1972.

For over 25 years he has written a weekly column which can be found on the internet and in 60 different newspapers and magazines.

Over the years Father Ron has obtained two doctorates at the University of Louvain in Belgium and has taught at Newman Theological College and lectured extensively. In 1991 he was elected Oblate Provincial in Saskatchewan and in 1998 he began a six-year term on the Oblate General Council in Rome. Currently Father Rolheiser is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

In his four talks Father Ron explained what faith is and why faith, rather than a direct experience of God is necessary. He clarified the meaning and experience of the “dark night of the soul” and looked at why God allows these in our spiritual journey.

“We are always creating God in our own image and

likeness,” he said. We also try to possess God. “But God never comes to us on those terms; God cannot come to us on those terms because God is beyond our faculties, our imaginations, our images.”

We have to understand that dark nights are a normal part of our spiritual journey, he said. In the gospel the two places the disciples were told to go following the resurrection were Jerusalem and Galilee.

“Galilee is symbolic of where all the good things happen. This is where they met Jesus; it is the place of miracles.” On the other hand, Father Rolheiser said, the disciples were also told to meet Jesus in Jerusalem. “This is the place of pain, of crucifixion.”

“If you want to meet Jesus, go back to Galilee, back to the happy experiences with Jesus. But also go back to Jerusalem, back to the places of pain. Jesus is there. Both are privileged places where we meet God.”

Each presentation during the day concluded with a fairly lengthy question period which allowed participants to clarify and further explore the topic.

In her thank you to Father Ron at the end of the day, Sister Donna Dolan summed up the experience by saying, “We felt like we were in the company of an expert guide.”

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The gift of belonging

By: Jo-Anne Allison

Lately I have been thinking a lot about the concept of home and how the feeling of belonging impacts our lives.

Being made to feel “at home” is a very potent sentiment in our popular culture. Even in these globalized times – or perhaps because of this – home and belonging have become talismans against the chaos of constant change.

To belong is to be in a safe place where you can be yourself.

Home can be evoked by an aroma, a sound or the way light plays on the landscape. Any of these can bring back feelings, emotions and memories.

When I see light glistening on moving water, I am immediately transported back to long ago days along the Ottawa River when time was endless and the possibilities were infinite.

The images conjured up are not mere nostalgia. Rather, they are part of who I am and they bestow upon me the contentment and confidence of knowing that I belong in that place.

Unfortunately, some experiences in my job as archivist for the Diocese of Prince George have taught me that the feelings which I take for granted are a luxury many others do not have in their lives.

As part of my duties I am often asked to help First Nations people trace their school attendance at the various Catholic schools in the Diocese.

People need these records for

many reasons. They might wish to apply for a job or for a government program or they may wish to continue their schooling. But mostly people want these records so that they can re-connect with their past.

As I do the required research I am struck over and over by the fact that attendance registers from schools that closed long ago are alive with the voices of children yearning for love and acceptance.

And unfortunately, this longing appears to have been all-too-often unanswered. For many First Nations people, especially those who had to leave home to attend classes, their memories of school are barren and empty.

Indeed, thinking about the past recalls the dark anxiety of loss and the anguish of rejection.

I close my eyes to savour the feeling of long-ago summer days and wonder what kind of person I would be if the landscape that makes me who I am had never had a chance to embed itself on my heart. I also wonder how I would cope with the scar of not

belonging if I had been separated from my parents at a young age.

The information requests on my desk are not simply pieces of paper; they are evidence of the despair and pain caused by those lost years. But more important, they are also proof of the strength and resolve that fuels the difficult journey towards a future filled with possibilities.

This is a task fraught with many challenges. But the fact that so many are undertaking it encourages me to hope that someday Diocesan records will tell a very different tale.

We all have a part to play in this process and we all have a stake in building a future where every child enjoys the gift of feeling “at home”. It is us – all of us together – who will determine the tales future archival records will tell.

Will it be laments of loneliness and loss or joyful songs of belonging? The choice is ours.



From the Archivist's Notebook

By: Jo-Anne Allison

Not to be served... but to serve!



There is an opportunity for YOU to Serve.

We are dedicated to assisting the people of the developing nations of the world. There is an opportunity for those 22-64 years of age, single or married, open and adaptable, sensitive to the needs of others, self-confident and willing to make a two-year commitment to serve overseas - **WE NEED YOU!**



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Domano Renewal Centre Schedule September-December, 2011



*Schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please call to confirm.

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Please phone for all registrations or to arrange for Spiritual Direction, Counselling and/or Private /Directed Retreats

September		
30 – Oct 2	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
October		
1	Day of Stillness	Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI
5-7	Retreat for Diocesan Secretaries	
10-14	Retreat for Priests	
21-23	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
28-30	Retreat for Women	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
31-Nov 4	Returning to Spirit – Aboriginal	RTS Team
November		
11-13	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
18-20	Retreat for Men	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
28-Dec 2	Returning to Spirit – Non Aboriginal	RTS team
December		
6	Advent Service	Bishop Gerry Wiesner
9-11	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh

More programs to follow in the fall.

Please see our website the latest updated information.

www.domanorenewalcentre.org

**Music Ministers
Mark Your Calendars!**

Diocesan Music Workshop

September 23-24, 2011
Diocesan Centre, Prince George

Presented by:
Rev. Geoffrey Angeles and Bernadette Gasslein

Implementing the Revised Order of the Mass

Music ministers will be important leaders in implementing the revised Mass texts in the parishes. The changes require new settings for the Gloria, Eucharistic Acclamations, and common chants. It will also mean changes to the Good Friday intercessions and Easter Proclamation (Exultat).

Father Geoffrey is one of three Canadian composers commissioned by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to prepare a new series of acclamations for the revised Order of the Mass.

Bernadette is the editor of *Celebrate!* a highly acclaimed pastoral resource published through Novalis.

Father Geoffrey and Bernadette will include at least two new settings from the soon to be published resource: *Celebrate in Song*, produced by the CCCB. They will also review best practices for music ministers, provide guidelines for developing a musical repertoire, and answer any questions you may have.

A detailed schedule and registration form will be sent out after Easter.

Accommodation is available at the Domano Renewal Centre (250) 964-4475
reception@domanorenewalcentre.org

For more information please contact:
Susan M. Campbell (250) 964-4424; smcampbell@pgdiocese.bc.ca

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Superheroes fueled to take action now



Some Fort St. John youth show enthusiasm during lunch.
PHOTO BY: Simone Waller

By: Patricia Van Hage
PRINCE GEORGE – “When two or more gather in my name I am present.”

The 17th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference was true evidence of this verse from Scripture. Young people gathered together from all over British Columbia to share the love they have for Jesus and their faith as a Church community.

Parishes came with youth enthusiastic to participate in the conference. Christ the King Parish in Kitimat won the DYC challenge by bringing 28 participants!

The energy of the youth and all who attended was unbelievable and there was no denying that God was there among them all weekend.

Derek Joyce led the worship team that got the weekend off to a good start. The team jammed with the youth to Christian rock and this high energy continued on through out the entire weekend.

Conveying the Christian message to youth could not have been done better than by guest speakers, Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer of APeX Ministries. Juggling, balancing and comedy were just some of the many ways that they demonstrated to youth how living a Christian life is extremely rewarding.

Many of the youth came to me after the talks happy and enthused and others voiced their happiness all over Facebook.



Small group sessions gave youth the opportunity to share faith and ask questions. PHOTO BY: Simone Waller

Many of them related to the message that God created them in his image. Gene and Brad reminded the youth that they are all unique and born superheroes.

APeX gave them the task of finding their super power in order to share it with the world.

A beautiful part of the weekend was the reconciliation service that all participated in. Each person was given a footstep as they walked through the door. They were asked to reflect on their life journey and where they felt they were on that journey.

The service was incredible and left many with a new outlook on

their lives.

From the quiet of the prayer service the gym started booming with the music for the much-anticipated dance! I found it unbelievable that they could dance all night and arrive the next morning with the same amount of energy they left with!

The Sunday was extra special this year at DYC because we were able to celebrate the beatification of Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was so involved in the lives of the youth. Being able to celebrate such a beautiful event with the youth was so moving and inspiring in

knowing that his memory still lives on.

Yes, youth are the future of the Church; the Diocesan Youth Conference is witness to that.

However, what these youth showed to everyone during the weekend was that they are ready to take action now.

The weekend had the youth leaving fueled up and ready to spread the word of the Lord!



“Young people gathered together from all over British Columbia to share the love they have for Jesus ...”

Jarod Chidiac and Mark Kulchar are ready to rock DYC 2011.

PHOTO BY: Simone Waller



Rose Prince Pilgrimage

July 8-10, 2011

Tse Yaz Bunk'ut

Guest speaker: Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.A.

Friday:

Opening Prayer 7 pm
Mass 7:30 pm
Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA

Saturday:

Morning Prayer 10 am
Sr. Kateri Mitchell, SSA 10:30 am
Stations of the Cross 11 am
Lunch noon
Confessions 1:00 pm
Healing Mass 3 pm
Supper 6 pm
Living Rosary 8 pm
Candlelight procession 9 pm

Sunday:

Morning Prayer 10 am
Mass 10:30 am
Bishop Wiesner, OMI
Closing Remarks 11:30 am
Lunch 1 pm



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Accommodation

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Pipers Glenn Camping
250-699-7565

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250-699-8500

Free camping onsite

