

# Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XX, NO. 4

AUTUMN 2011

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## Annual Appeal responds to needs in the diocese

By: Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI

The beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Annual Appeal allows an opportunity to pause and reflect.

Many people and groups reflected long and hard before the decision was made to institute an annual appeal. Ultimately the decision to inaugurate an appeal was based on the need to balance the diocesan budget in order to help provide for the future of the church in Northern BC.

The success of the Appeal right from the beginning can be attributed to the groundwork that was laid before inauguration. For that I am deeply grateful.

Each year the focus of the Appeal shifts slightly according to the needs that are identified for the various ministries of our diocesan Church.

Faith Formation has remained a prime area for funding: \$150,000; a large portion of that allocation supports the ministry of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre which provides programs and ministry throughout the diocese.

Returning to Spirit, which seeks to bring about healing and reconciliation between aboriginal peoples and Church and the rest of society has also been a major focus in recent years. The Council of Priests affirmed that Returning to Spirit must remain a major focus in our diocese for a number of years into the future.

There is a large amount of attention given to youth as well. This is emphasized on the front of our Appeal brochure which features the St. Joseph's, Vanderhoof youth group banner from the Diocesan Youth Conference.

Funding to the schools, youth camps and the Diocesan Youth Office totals another \$150,000 from our goal of \$400,000.

Other articles in the Northern Catholic News focus on the support various groups and ministries receive from the Diocesan Annual Appeal. They make very interesting reading.

From the start, the decision was made not to focus on obtaining large gifts from a few people to

"jumpstart" the Appeal each year. Rather, we chose to invite everyone in the diocese to participate in the Appeal to whatever level they are able.

Our belief is that if everyone contributes as they are able, we will receive what we need for the Appeal goal and the parishes will benefit as well.

Remember that all funds received over the parish goal are returned to the parish for its own needs without having to pay cathedraticum (diocesan tax) on that amount. It is to the advantage of each parish to go over goal as much as possible, as this is "free" money for the parish.

As we contribute to the Appeal, we also need to remember that we are responding to the needs of other communities in our diocese as well as the ministries of the diocese. We grow in our appreciation of being part of one Church throughout the diocese; we truly are Becoming Church.

## End of an era



At the end of August, Elaine Farrell, second from left, resigned her position as Pastoral Life Director of St. Theresa's Missions to pursue further studies. An informal farewell at the Diocesan Centre allowed staff to celebrate her many years serving in First Nations communities throughout the diocese. Pictured with Elaine are: Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, Father Nestor Silva, OMI (the new pastor of St. Theresa's Missions) and Father Richard Beaudette, OMI. PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell

## Where does all the money go?

*Northern Catholic News*  
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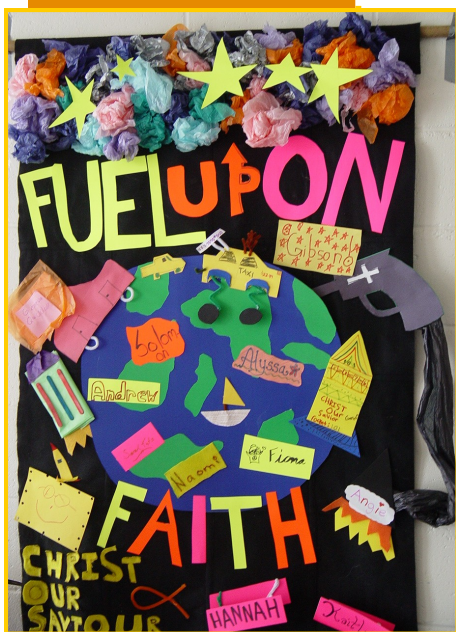
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One of the many colorful posters  
celebrating DYC 2011.  
PHOTO BY: Simone Waller



By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin  
The kick off for another Diocesan Annual Appeal year brings to mind some comments overheard during the past three years of this initiative. People want to know why we need so much money for this or that project.

Where does all the money go? This is a legitimate question and so what follows are a couple of examples of how money is spent.

One of the expenses supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal is Vocations. The education and formation of seminarians, ongoing education for our diocesan priests and vocation promotion come under this category.

Father Terry Brock provides leadership in vocations' promotion for the diocese and anyone who has experienced his presentation in parishes can see he is doing an excellent job.

But these presentations are only a small portion of what is done to promote vocations to the diocesan priesthood. Father Terry spends a great deal of time and energy working with young people in the diocese.

While Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace generously supports their pastor in this ministry, the travel costs, venue rental and administrative support expenses add up. In this past year close to \$7,500 was spent on vocation promotion.

Currently the diocese is financially supporting two seminarians. When you factor in their seminary tuition, room and board, books, bus passes, car insurance, outside formation and travel expenses, the diocese spent just over the budgeted \$30,000 per seminarian.

We look forward to supporting more



Seminarian Rene Antonio, far right, is pictured with some of the participants in the Returning to Spirit workshop held in Smithers in August. This past summer Rene also took a unit in Clinical Pastoral Education in Vancouver. He returned to Edmonton in September for another year of education and formation at St. Joseph's Seminary. PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell.

seminarians in the future!

The ongoing education of priests is a necessary and important part of every diocesan budget. In the past fiscal year our diocese spent \$43,000 for this purpose.

As you can see, Vocations expenses totaled over \$110,000. The revenue side of the ledger did not quite meet this amount. We received \$45,000 from Catholic Missions in Canada, \$3,300 from donations (individuals and Knights of Columbus) and \$56,000 from the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal also supports youth ministry. When consultation was undertaken prior to the inauguration of the Appeal, people overwhelmingly designated youth ministry as the number one priority.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Youth Conference, which took place at the end of April, is the longest continuously running annual youth conference in Canada.

For many of our young people it is the highlight of the year as it provides support for their faith as well as connecting them

with others in the diocese. Lifelong friendships often begin at the Diocesan Youth Conference.

And they have a lot of fun! The success of the conference depends a great deal on volunteers. But, again, there are financial costs. The \$14,000 spent on the Diocesan Youth Conference paid for catering, guest speaker honorariums and travel expenses, materials and supplies.

Registration fees paid by participants totaled \$5,100, leaving the nearly \$9,000 shortfall to be covered by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

The balance of the \$55,000 raised for youth initiatives in the Appeal last year went towards our two summer camps, campus chaplaincy and programs and salaries in the Diocesan Youth Office.

That is where some of the money raised each year by the Diocesan Appeal is spent. Vocations and Youth: both vital to the health and future well-being of the diocese. And we are part of making that possible by our contribution.

# Appeal funds adult faith formation

By: Susan Campbell

“Lay Formation has been, unequivocally, the most significant thing I have ever done on my faith journey. The knowledge gained, the people encountered – team, resource personnel and fellow participants alike, have all been a huge blessing to me.

“I have been provided with a clearer vision of my Catholic faith and a renewed commitment to let it permeate all aspects of my life. It has given me strength, provided enormous comfort and reassurance and elevated my relationship to and my understanding of God.” (Lay Formation graduate)

“When I go to mass today, compared to two years ago, I am truly an ‘active participant’. I understand the Eucharist like I have never before. The value of knowing why we do what we do as Catholics is huge; it adds so much more meaning and depth to the experience.” (Lay Formation graduate)

Lay Formation began in this diocese in 1994 by Bishop Gerald Wiesner. Over the past 17 years it has been offered in Prince George, Terrace, Camp Emile (Moberly Lake) and Smithers.

Almost 300 people have completed the program.

Each program takes place over two years, one weekend per month. The presenters come from both inside and outside the diocese. Presentations cover a wide range of topics, including scripture, liturgy, history, spirituality, prayer, community life and service.

Bishop Gerry has consistently named adult faith formation as a priority in our church today. He quotes church documents, popes and bishops to show how critical it is to have a well formed.

In an address given in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI noted that a shift in mentality is needed in the church where lay people are seen

not simply as collaborators with the clergy, but “recognizing themselves as truly ‘co-responsible’ for the being and acting of the Church.”

This requires a mature and committed laity. And it requires formation in faith. As we have often heard from participants: “I didn’t realize how much I didn’t know.”

Many of those who have completed the Lay Formation Program are very active in the parish communities and provide a strong Christian witness in their communities at large.

The funding received from the Diocesan Appeal ensures the program will continue to be a source of on-going formation for the people of the diocese. Thank you for your continued support.

The first weekend of the next Lay Formation Program takes place in Prince George September 30-October 2. Telephone 250-964-4424 for more information.



*Hugh and Mary Jo Norman of St. Mary’s Parish in Prince George receive a blessing from Bishop Gerald Wiesner at the Lay Formation graduation ceremony at Sacred Heart Cathedral in June. PHOTO BY: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin*

### Adult Faith – Adult Church

#### Accept the Challenge to Grow in Faith

Are you ready to explore your faith in a deeper way?  
Are you considering a new path or form of service in the community?

**Lay Formation** is a two-year program of adult faith education designed to provide laity with the opportunity to deepen their faith, grow in their baptismal commitment and to serve more effectively within the Church and society. It is held at the Domano Renewal Centre on one weekend per month, 10 months per year for two years. Each weekend includes input on specific topics, time for prayer, personal reflection and social activities.

**The next Lay Formation Program begins**

**September 30 – October 2, 2011**

Brochures and application forms are available in each parish or on the Diocesan website ([www.pgdiocese.bc.ca](http://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca)).

Contact Susan Campbell at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for more information ([smcampbell@pgdiocese.bc.ca](mailto:smcampbell@pgdiocese.bc.ca) or 250-964-4424).

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## Knights of Columbus

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in Prince George

Come and Join us — New Members Welcome

## Camp Morice

By: Gerry Chidiac

FORT ST. JAMES - Nestled in Sowchea Bay on the beautiful shores of Stuart Lake, Camp Morice is a Catholic camp servicing the Diocese of Prince George with summer camp programs and a workshop or conference venue.

It boasts breathtaking sunsets, lots of space, beautiful scenery and great swimming.

Camp Morice is a place where one can see and feel the hand of God, a place where faith comes alive. Young people participating in camp activities feel a sense of

Campers came from all over the diocese and beyond. Nadine Encinas was hired as director for all three camps. She did a wonderful job teaching about the sacraments, virtues and several important saints.

Of course there was also a lot of fun, with games, skits,

crafts, campfires, songs and swimming.

We have already begun planning for next year when we hope to be able to



community; they are loved and accepted for who they are and they feel the tender presence of God's love in their hearts.

Despite the cold, wet weather, we had a wonderful summer at Camp Morice. This year we hosted two children's camps, for those ages 6-12, and one teen camp, for those ages 13-18.

provide transportation to and from the camp, especially for residents of the western part of the diocese.

Plans for an expanded schedule next year include a 'tween camp, for those ages 10-12, a shorter camp for children ages 6-9 and possibly even a young adults' camp for those 19 and over.

We are so grateful for the

support of Bishop Wiesner and the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Campers and camp staff are also grateful for the presence of our priests, especially Father Pier Pandolfo from Sacred Heart Cathedral and Father Frank Salmon, OMI, from Our Lady of the Snows in Fort St. James.

Thanks to the hard work of so many staff members and volunteers we are blessed to have a wonderful camp in our diocese!

For more information on Camp Morice, go to the website, [www.campmorice.com](http://www.campmorice.com).

*Nadine Encinas, camp director at Camp Morice this past summer, is pictured leading morning prayers during one of the children's camps.*

*PHOTO BY: Gerry Chidiac*



*We are so grateful for the support of Bishop Wiesner and the Diocesan Annual Appeal*



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## Seasonal changes provide a natural time out

The parable of the 10 bridesmaids, five of whom were wise and five of whom were foolish, reminds us that we need to be constantly alert, awake, attentive, lest some possibilities pass us by and we fail to capitalize on them.

In the parable, at a given time, the door was shut and those who had not been alert were refused entry to the party. They missed out on the celebration.

We are presently moving out of the summer season and into fall. Perhaps we can see that the seasonal changes are opportunities for us to benefit, such that if we are not alert to the change we can miss out on opportunities.

Clearly the seasonal changes are the work of our Creator. It is said that creation reveals God's power, whereas history reveals

God's providence.

Seasonal changes are part of history. They clearly reveal that God is present to creation, providing for it and caring for it in a very concerned and compassionate manner.

Fall is the season to reap the fruits of the land, to bring in the harvest that provides livelihood for humankind. We need a good fall season to obtain food for people to live healthy lives.

Fall is a time for all of us to realize that God is caring for God's people; God is providing. Consequently, it is a time to render deep thanks.

Seasonal changes also serve as a reminder for us to simply stop and take stock. They are timely reminders, natural "time outs" that enable us to review what has

transpired in the last season.

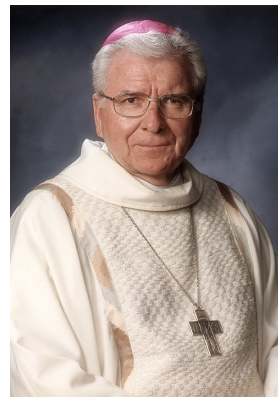
They provide us with a natural opportunity to prepare for what is to come.

What is there that needs to be corrected? What is there that could be improved upon? What is there for which we need to give deep thanks?

May the opportunities that our provident God provides for us serve as opportunities for us to cash in on benefits that could so easily pass us by.

Being alert to seasonal changes provides us with opportunities to enter the celebration before the door is shut. May we see these changes as true invitations to greater life and growth, celebrate them appropriately and be grateful.

Blessings for this fall season!



### Bishop's Letter

Most Rev. Gerald  
Wiesner, OMI

## Bishops' Schedule

### September

1-10 Home visit  
11 Mackenzie  
13-16 Office  
17 Sacred Heart Cathedral  
18 Christ Our Savior Parish  
20-23 Office  
23-24 Diocesan Music Workshop  
25 Fort St. John  
27 Office  
28 Council of Priests meeting  
28 CIS Board meeting and AGM  
29-30 Diocesan Study Days  
30- Oct 1 Prince George Lay Formation

### October

1-2 Chetwynd – parish anniversary  
3-7 Monterey, CA – priests' retreat  
10-14 Domano Renewal Centre – priests' retreat  
15 Diocesan Pastoral Council  
16-21 Ottawa – CCCB Plenary  
22-23 Prince George Lay Formation

25 Edmonton – Ursulines of Jesus  
27-28 Office  
27 St. Mary's Parish – anointing of the sick  
28-30 Domano Renewal Centre – women's retreat  
31 Edmonton – International Priests' Inculturation Program

### November

1-3 Office  
4 Vancouver – CISCBC and BC Bishops meetings  
5 Ottawa – COLF meeting  
8-9 Office  
10-13 Banff – Western Religious Education Conference  
14-18 Vancouver – Canadian Oblate Convocation  
18-20 Domano Renewal Centre – men's retreat

### November and December: Advent Diocesan Mission

November 21-24: North Region Parishes  
November 28-December 2: West Region Parishes  
December 5-9: Prince George Parishes  
December 11-15: Mid-West Region Parishes

## Church blessing in Kluskus

Community elders and Most Rev. David Monroe cut the ribbon marking the opening of a new church building at Kluskus. Bishop Monroe traveled from Kamloops to the small First Nations community for the August 5<sup>th</sup> blessing of Our Lady of the Forest Church. While Kluskus

marks the southern most boundary of the Diocese of Prince George, its proximity to Quesnel in the Kamloops Diocese means it is primarily served by the pastor of St. Ann's Parish in Quesnel, currently Father Martin Peyton.



## CWL holds 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

By: Maureen Sander  
FRASER LAKE - On April 8-10, members of the Prince George Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada met in Fraser Lake for their 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention.

The convention, which was preceded by parish presidents' and committee chairpersons' meetings, focused on the theme, "Centred on Faith and Justice".

Opening ceremonies following Mass at St. Andrew's Parish officially opened the convention which took place at Mouse Mountain School. The amazing magical feats of Brother Roy Joseph, CMSF, entertained participants at the evening social.

Sister Jude Van Baalen, OP, spiritual advisor of the Diocesan CWL, provided a very informative session on the changes in the liturgy and the new Roman Missal that will be inaugurated this fall. She

encouraged us to remain positive through these changes.

In the afternoon, Provincial CWL President, Nancy Simms presented a workshop on League Protocol. Questions explored included what makes for a great leader, why do some members choose not to accept leadership positions and what are members' expectations of their leadership and of one another.

This was a very open workshop where at times members were asked to yell out their answers.

Members were also encouraged to write letters to their politicians about issues of concern. Depending on the subject, one letter, it was noted, represents 50 to 500 taxpayers to our MLAs and MPs. We were also told to remember to thank our politicians when they do things for or about us.

Elections during the convention saw Lorraine Thibeault of Vander-

hoof elected as the new Prince George Diocesan CWL President.

Other positions filled included: President elect, Laura Esposito from Prince Rupert, First Vice president, Carmen Foucher from Prince George, Chairpersons, Betty Ruksys from Terrace, Carol Handfield from Dawson Creek, Helen Gordon from Fort St. John, Eileen Bouvier from Smithers and Susan Steiner from Fraser Lake.

The Prince Rupert Council issued an invitation to 2012 convention in April.

Bishop Gerald Wiesner was on for the closing Mass at St. Andrew's Parish. The Bishop was also guest speaker at the closing banquet.

Well done Fraser Lake! The friendship, hospitality and hugs were great.

### Catholic Women's League of Canada DEVELOPMENT FUND BURSARIES

- #1 Purpose: Training for the League through Convention attendance  
Available to: All CWL members traveling to a Provincial convention  
Priority: accredited delegates  
Send Applications to: Provincial Organization Chairperson  
Deadline: March 15<sup>th</sup>
- #2 Purpose: Subsidize Diocesan presidents attending National CWL Convention (travel, accommodation and food)  
Amount: \$1000  
Available: Once per two-year term  
Send Applications to: Provincial Organization Chairperson  
Deadline: March 15<sup>th</sup>

For more information, including criteria for each bursary, please contact Provincial Education & Health Chairperson Dodie Bond ([dodiebond@shaw.ca](mailto:dodiebond@shaw.ca))

### Catholic Women's League of Canada LIFE MEMBERS' ART AND CULTURE BURSARY

Purpose: Further study in the field of Arts and Culture  
Amount: \$500  
Available to: children or grandchildren of CWL members – must be high school graduate  
Send Applications to: Provincial Life Member Liaison  
Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>

For more information, including bursary criteria, please contact Provincial Education & Health Chairperson  
Dodie Bond  
[dodiebond@shaw.ca](mailto:dodiebond@shaw.ca)

### Catholic Women's League of Canada MOLLY BOUCHER BURSARY

In 1990 a bursary was established in memory of Honorary Life Member, Molly Boucher. She was a mother of eight and long-time secretary for Archbishop Carney in Vancouver. As a member of the CWL she served in a number of capacities including National President. She was also involved in various organizations throughout Canada. The work Molly Boucher did for the League and the Church (especially in the field of education) is an inspiration for all Catholic women.

Purpose: financial assistance for further education  
Available to: BC/Yukon CWL members  
Amount: \$500  
Send Application to: Provincial Education & Health Chairperson  
Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>

For more information, including bursary criteria, please contact Provincial Education & Health Chairperson Dodie Bond ([dodiebond@shaw.ca](mailto:dodiebond@shaw.ca))

## CWL members encouraged in faith and justice

By: Jeanne Wilson

PENTICTON – “Amen I say to you. As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.”

This quote from Matthew 25 set the tone for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual BC and Yukon Provincial CWL Convention held in Penticton, June 1–5.

Velma Harasen, CWL National President, quoted Jesus and reflected on the National theme, Centred on Faith and Justice, and encouraged all 238 attendees at the convention to be “Women Against Poverty”, an initiative of the National Council and a focus for all CWL members for 2011.

Velma presented social justice scenarios and asked attendees to discuss what would Jesus do and what can we do. As CWL members we are asked to work for justice in our communities and in Canada.

Provincial President, Nancy Simms, congratulated the CWL in BC and Yukon for having the courage to reach out and take the challenge to fight as united women against poverty.

The convention carried this theme throughout the two-day business meeting with reports from standing chairs and the six diocesan presidents who told what each area was doing to fulfill this initiative.

Evelyn Vollet, Coordinator of Social Justice in the Vancouver Archdiocese, gave an overview of her job which covers the entire social apostolate from social justice issues to human rights advocacy to corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Evelyn asked the CWL to be aware of proposed legislation which

will affect refugees entering Canada.

The Gleaners of the Okanagan provided an excellent example of faith put into action by taking the surplus and imperfect fruits and vegetables of the Okanagan Valley and drying it, bagging it and making the dried surplus available, free of charge, to registered Canadian charities that ship and distribute the food to the poor throughout the world.

Father Tien Tran, Provincial CWL Spiritual Advisor, shared his story of coming to Canada in 1980 as a refugee and becoming a priest in 1993. He spoke about the medical missions to Viet Nam he organizes every year to help the poor by bringing medicine, doctors, nurses and medical services.

Marie Cameron, a past National CWL president, enlightened us on the importance of archiving and ways to do it.

Deacon Paul Simms, our Provincial President’s son who was ordained in May, shared the influences in his life that lead him to the priesthood. He gave four ways to encourage children and grandchildren in the faith: pray; set the example – be a witness for Christ, go to confession, talk positively about the church; teach the children – answer their questions about the faith and finally love.

Children will develop a lasting relationship with Christ through



Bishop Monroe of the Kamloops Diocese, Rose Sehn, Nelson Diocesan President, Deacon Paul Simms and Nancy Simms, Provincial President

parents, he said.

Four resolutions were presented, discussed and passed: CWL representation at the United Nations for World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations; respect and protection for human embryos and human reproductive material; mandatory reporting of deliberate termination of pregnancy and prohibition of practices regarding human genetic material.

These resolutions will be taken to the National CWL convention in August in Toronto.

Father Tien Tran presided at the convention’s opening mass at St. John Vianney Parish and Bishop John Corriveau of the Nelson Diocese was the presider at the closing mass at St. Ann’s Parish.

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## Youth minister joins Franciscans

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin  
PRINCE GEORGE – After a year of discernment as a postulant with the Franciscans in Edmonton and Cochrane, Joseph Glaab resigned his position as Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator to further pursue a Franciscan vocation.

In July he was invited to the next phase of the vocational journey and in August entered the Franciscan novitiate in Burlington, Wisconsin along with 20 other novices from throughout North America.

“One thing we have come to know about you, Joe, is your deep and abiding faith,” Susan Campbell, Director of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, said at a farewell luncheon in Joe’s honor held in July. “Over these past 20 years you have sought to answer God’s call and to put your gifts at the service of God and God’s people.”

She noted that turnover among youth ministers, whether in parishes or dioceses, is high. “It takes a great deal of energy and commitment to maintain the type of pace required for this ministry.”

“Your perseverance and fidelity, good cheer and positive attitude, despite everything that comes your way - renegade bands, snow storms that send a keynote speaker back to Vancouver, power outages - is a credit

to your character and your deep desire to serve this community as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Joe Glaab came to the Diocese of Prince George as a Frontier Apostle in 1991. He served in Fort St. John before entering St. Joseph’s Seminary in Edmonton.

After three years of formation Joe discerned diocesan priesthood was not his vocation and in 1998 he accepted the position of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator.

In this position he oversaw the annual Diocesan Youth Conference, coordinated Diocesan participation in World Youth Days and traveled extensively throughout the diocese to provide support for youth ministers and parish leaders.

Joe was a charter member of the UNBC Inter-faith Chaplaincy and he became an integral part of that community. He also worked ecumenically with the Walk of Sorrows and World Day of Prayer.

Joe is known for his environmental commitment. Recycling, composting and careful use of resources are an ongoing subject wherever Joe lives and works. Diocesan Centre staff members were encouraged, cajoled and enticed into getting on board; the legacy Joe leaves includes compost bins and a recycling system.

He also was active nationally and served on the



Western Canada Association of Catholic Youth Ministers (WCACYM) holding positions as treasurer and president.

In her thank you speech Susan noted Joe’s faithfulness in service: “You have put yourself, all you have and are, at the service of Jesus Christ, in and through your ministry within the Church. You have been a sign of God’s caring and compassion.”

“You are childlike in the best sense of the term; one who is open to the wonder of God and who is not afraid to inject a little humor and light heartedness into events.”

“We offer you our most heartfelt thanks and our prayers and support as you again see where God is calling you now to serve. You are not as old as Abraham when God called him to travel to a new country, but you show the same sense of trust that God will be faithful to you.”

*“You have put yourself....at the service of Jesus Christ in and through your ministry within the Church”*



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## Little things that count

By: Jo-Anne Allison

Sometimes the most profound things in our lives are the simplest.

It is the little things that tug at our heartstrings; that give us pause; that make us realize the magic of a moment; that cause us grief.

Just like it is the thought that counts when giving or receiving a gift, so it is with relationships. They change and mature over time and it is this which gives them richness and depth.

Relationships are made up of countless small acts of kindness and unfortunately also of innumerable thoughtless acts of hurt. Relationships are fragile and delicate and sometimes all-too-easily destroyed through careless words or actions.

A seed of hope exists in a moment, a tentative moment that cannot proceed unless what is about to bud is valued and nurtured without judgment and without criticism.

Small deeds can and will yield healthy fruit, but only if cultivated.

The trick is making room in our lives for new people and new experiences. If we do this, the possibilities are endless.

Throughout his life Bishop Emile-Marie Buno, OMI, first Bishop of what would become the Diocese of Prince George, cherished the people under his care.

He wrote thousands of letters in his lifetime. He wrote letters of condolence, letters of praise and letters of encouragement.

Sometimes he badgered, pestered and demanded but he

never stopped writing. He wrote to some people only once but with many others he maintained a correspondence spanning over 40 years.

Bishop Buno answered every letter he received. I read these letters and am struck by the humanity I witness.

By the simple act of writing a letter Buno demonstrated charity and compassion. He actively connected with those in his flock who were – sometimes desperately – in need of another’s gentle touch.

As I catalogue this material I speculate on the amount of time and effort involved in all this correspondence. There are files and files of letters in long hand and later more files of letters done in type.

Bishop Buno wrote letters in English, French, Latin and sometimes German. He wrote to his mother, his brothers, his nephews, to his priests, to members of religious communities, to chiefs, elders, housewives, business people, politicians, strangers and friends.

He must have spent hours each day at the task.

And as I continue to ponder, I realize that Buno would never consider doing otherwise. Writing letters was the best tool he had for spreading the Word and for demonstrating his faithfulness and his love.

But there is more to these letters than meets the eye.

What Buno’s body of work reveals is the power each of us has if we take it upon ourselves to seize the moment to mindfully perform selfless acts of thoughtfulness.

In such circumstances even the smallest gesture becomes an opportunity to value, validate and cherish members of the community to which we belong.

Bishop Buno took the time to answer his mail. It is a simple thing. However, the consequence of his intentionality was that, one letter at a time, Bishop Buno built the foundations of Church and Christian community in northern British Columbia.



*From the Archivist’s Notebook*

By: Jo-Anne Allison



### Chalice (formerly Christian Child Care International)

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## 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

PRINCE GEORGE – Sacred Heart School principal, Sister Irene Baker, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph of Peterborough at Sacred Heart Cathedral on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Bishop Gerald Wiesner presided at the celebration with Fathers Pier Pandolfo and Thomas Magusin, OMI, concelebrating. Sister Irene invited

the nine other sisters at the mass, along with the Bishop and Father Tom, to renew their religious vows with her.

All nine of Sister Irene's siblings were present and each took an active part in the mass.

Sister Irene was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan but grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. As a Sister of St. Joseph of Peterborough, she served as local leader, member of the Leadership Team and General Superior of the Congregation.

She is a gifted educator and administrator at all levels

including special needs.

Principal of Immaculata School in Burns Lake from 1980-1983, Sister Irene returned to the Diocese of Prince George in October 2010 when she was asked to become principal of Sacred Heart School.

Bishop Wiesner expressed gratitude to Sister Irene for her willingness to forgo her retirement to take on responsibility at the school. He praised her not only for her competence but for the affection that students, staff and parents all have for her.



Sister Irene Baker, CSJ, is pictured with Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, prior to the celebration of her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. PHOTO BY: Frank Jamin

## iLearn, iBelieve, iPray

By: Lynn McCracken

The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time for students and their families, teachers, school staff and administrators as well.

I am proud to be starting my third year as Superintendent of the Catholic Independent Schools in the Diocese of Prince George. Our eight schools in the communities of Prince George, Dawson Creek, Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert are vibrant, exciting places for children to learn and grow.

The theme for Catholic schools in the province of BC this year is "iLearn, iBelieve, iPray." These 3 'words' encapsulate what we attempt to

nurture within our school walls.

**iLearn:** Key to the success of all our schools is the high quality of learning that takes place in each of them. Consistently our schools rank within the top educational institutes in their communities and that is made possible through the incredible dedication of the school staff in conjunction with the support and encouragement of the families and parishes.

**iBelieve:** Belief in God, belief in the Catholic Church, belief in the goodness of others and belief in one's own abilities and talents; in our Catholic schools we believe.


**iPray:** All things are possible

through prayer. When the trials of life present themselves to those within our schools, prayer brings us through. Whether those trials be financial, emotional or physical, prayer solidifies our reliance on God's goodness and mercy and binds us together in one Spirit as community.

As we begin this new school year, with all its challenges and exciting new ventures, we take a moment to thank God for continuing to bless our schools and to remember to focus on the priorities that our 2011-12 theme invokes:

iLearn, iBelieve, iPray in the Catholic Independent Schools of the Diocese of Prince George.

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## Local group supports nation-wide campaign

By: Gerhild Neugebauer  
 FORT ST. JOHN – Development and Peace members from Resurrection Parish participated in a Banner Action Campaign organized by the Canadian ecumenical justice group, KAIROS.

Roll with the Declaration was a national campaign to raise awareness about the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The campaign called on the Canadian government to use the declaration to improve conditions faced by many First Nations communities in Canada.

People from across the coun-

try were involved in creating banners which then traveled by train to Ottawa. Hundreds of banners were joined together to create one giant banner and then carried to Parliament Hill.

Development and Peace is a partner of KAIROS.

*Jana Leslie displays the banner made by Fort St. John Development and Peace members and sent to Ottawa. PHOTO BY: Gerhild Neugebauer*



## Drought in Horn of Africa puts 10 million at risk

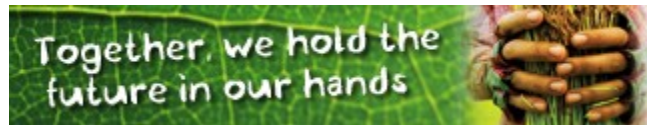
The worst drought to impact the Horn of Africa in 60 years has put an estimated 10 million people at risk of severe food shortages and famine.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact with local Caritas offices throughout the area to assess the needs of those most vulnerable.

Although scarcity of food has long been an issue in the region, the situation has become increasingly critical due to consecutive years of poor rainfall coupled with ever rising food costs which have made food and water inaccessible for many.

The people of Somalia have been hardest hit by this drought, which is also affecting other countries in the region, including Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.

Thousands of Somalis are making an exhausting trek to Kenya in hope of reaching camps where they can receive humanitarian aid. However, the long journey is worsening the health of many already weakened by malnutrition, particu-



larly children who often arrive with critical medical needs.

Caritas Kenya, the development and aid agency of the Catholic Conference of Bishops of Kenya, will provide food and water to 30,420 families living in the most drought-affected parts of the country over the next six months.

This far-reaching emergency relief program, which will help over 180,000 people, will cost a total of \$5.6 million. The program will also help communities to rehabilitate and gain better access to local water sources.

It is predicted that the needs of the population will continue to grow over the coming weeks if expected rains are insufficient. Development and Peace is committed to maintaining its support in the region for several months even after the first phase of the emergency is over.

Canadians have donated \$1.5 million to Development and Peace for this crisis.

The Canadian Government matched each dollar donated to Development and Peace before September 16<sup>th</sup>.

“This emergency operation will provide food and water in 14 dioceses until the beginning of 2012,” says Danielle Gobeil. “We also plan to support families through the distribution of seeds and livestock. This is how they will be able to regain their livelihoods,” she added.

In the last ten years Development and Peace has contributed close to \$2 million to food security projects in the region, including \$450,000 in 2009-2010 for projects in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Donations can be made by telephone (1-888-234-8533), on the website [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org) or by sending a cheque made out to Development and Peace and indicating Horn of Africa Drought to: DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West. 3rd Floor Montreal QC H3G 1T7

## Flood at Camp Emile



St. Theresa's Church at Moberly Lake was flooded during heavy summer rains. This picture shows the road, lawn and front steps under water. PHOTO BY: Gerhild Neugebauer

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## Children raise funds for famine victims

By: Matthias and Kathleen Steiner

FRASER LAKE – While we were eating lunch one day we thought about the famine in Somalia.

We thought of people who are starving and how we could help them. We thought we could have a bake sale with all the other young people at our church.

At the bake sale people were very generous. They brought and bought food. There were cookies and other desserts, canned goods and herbs. People donated money too.

People at St. Peter's Church in the nearby village of Nautley also bought food from the bake sale.

We raised \$872.38. We feel pretty good about this big amount; we raised quite a bit.

I hope the money will help the people of Africa.

*Kathleen, Mae and Matthias Steiner pose with their bake sale poster. The money raised by the young people at St. Andrew's Parish was sent to Development and Peace for the Horn of Africa Drought Fund.*



## Visitors welcome in parish

By: Detta Smith

MCBRIDE - Located in the picturesque Robson Valley, St. Patrick's Parish is accustomed to receiving visitors at weekend liturgies.

The first weekend of July proved to be no different.

Rev. Tom Smith, former parishioner of St. Patrick's Parish and currently pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Burnaby, returned to visit family and to the delight of the parishioners celebrated Mass here on Sunday, July 3rd.

"Tommy," as he was known to the seniors of the parish, commented on the various improvements and renovations to the church, comparing it to when he was an altar server. He especially noted the brightness of the sanctuary due to the two added windows generously donated by the Garneau and Kolida families.

St. Patrick's parishioners were also delighted to welcome back Sr. Olive MacInnis, SMS, who had been invited to a wedding that weekend. Sister Olive was the Pastoral Life Director at St. Patrick's for 10 years before returning to her community in Saskatoon in July 2009.

Much loved and highly respected, Sister Olive's leaving created a void which her visit

helped to fill!

Prior to her departure, work to build a kitchen in the parish Gathering Room had begun. It was financed by the first Diocesan Annual Appeal rebate and Sister Olive was happy to see the project completed.



*Sister Olive MacInnis, SMS helps with the wash up in the kitchen that was not yet completely installed before her departure from the parish in 2009.*

PHOTO BY: Detta Smith

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## A canopy under which to pray

By: Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI  
Do we ever really understand or master prayer?

Yes and no. When we try to pray, sometimes we walk on water and sometimes we sink like a stone.

Sometimes we have a deep sense of God's reality and sometimes we can't even imagine that God exists. Sometimes we have deep feelings about God's goodness and love and sometimes we feel only boredom and distraction.

Sometimes our eyes fill with tears and sometimes they wander furtively to our wrist-watches to see how much time we still need to spend in prayer. Sometimes we would like to stay in our prayer-place forever and sometimes we wonder we even showed up.

Prayer has a huge ebb and flow.

I remember an incident years back where a man came to me for spiritual direction. He had been involved for several years in a Charismatic prayer-group and had experienced there powerful religious emotions.

But now to his surprise, those emotions had disappeared. When he tried to pray he experienced mostly dryness and boredom. He felt that there was something wrong because his fiery emotions had disappeared.

Here is how he expressed it: "Father, you've seen my bible, seen how most every line is highlighted with a bright color because the text spoke so deeply to me. Well right now I feel like pitching my bible through a window because none of that means anything to me anymore! What's wrong with me?"

The quick answer could have been: "God is wrong with you!"

I pointed him towards the experience of Theresa of Avila who, after a season of deep fervor in prayer, experienced 18 years of boredom and dryness. Today I would have him read the journals of Mother Theresa who, like Theresa of Avila, after some initial

fervor in prayer experienced 60 years of dryness.

We nurse a naïve fantasy both about what constitutes prayer and how we might sustain ourselves in it. What often lies at the center of this misguided notion is the belief that prayer is always meant to be full of fervor, interesting, warm, carrying spiritual insight and carrying the sense that we are actually praying.

Coupled with this notion is the equally misguided notion that the way to sustain feeling and fervor in prayer is through constant novelty and variety or through dogged concentration.

Classical writers in spirituality assure us that while this is often true during the early stages of our prayer lives, when we are neophytes at prayer and in the honeymoon stage of our spiritual lives, it becomes less and less true the deeper we advance in prayer and spirituality.

Much to the relief and consolation of anyone who has tried to sustain a prayer life over a long period of time, the great mystics tell us that once we are beyond the early, honeymoon stage of prayer, the single greatest obstacle to sustaining a life of prayer is simple boredom and the sense that nothing meaningful is happening.

But that does not mean we are regressing in prayer. It often means the opposite.

Here is a canopy under which to pray even as we struggle with boredom and the sense that nothing meaningful is happening: Imagine you have an aged mother who is confined to a retirement home. You are the dutiful daughter or son and every night after work, for one hour you stop and spend time with her, helping her with her evening meal, sharing the events of the day and simply being with her as her daughter or son.

I doubt that, save for a rare occasion, you will have many deeply emotive or even interesting conversations with her. On the sur-

face your visits will seem mostly routine, dry and dutiful.

Most days you will be talking about trivial, everyday, things and you will be sneaking the occasional glance at the clock to see when your hour with her will be over.

However, if you persevere in these regular visits with her, month after month, year after year, you will grow to know your mother deeply and she will grow to know you deeply because, as the mystics affirm, at a certain deep level of relationship the real connection between us takes place below the surface of our conversations.

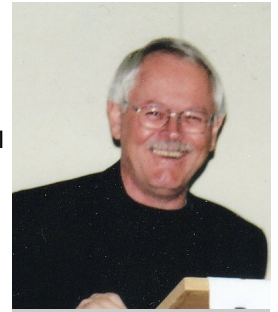
We begin to know each other through simple presence.

You can recognize this in its opposite: Notice how your mother relates to your siblings who visit her only very occasionally.

During those rare, occasional visits there will be emotions, tears and conversations beyond the weather and the trivia of everyday life. But that is because your mother sees these others so rarely.

Prayer is the same.

If we pray only occasionally, we might well experience some pretty deep emotions in our prayer. However, if we pray faithfully every day, year in and year out, we can expect little excitement, lots of boredom, regular temptations to look at the clock during prayer ... but a very deep, growing bond with our God.



### In Exile

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

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we walk on  
water and  
sometimes  
we sink like  
a stone*



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## Local woman makes Cistercian vows

By: Therese Steiner  
FRASER LAKE - In August our family, along with Father Vince James, pastor of St. Andrew's Parish, made the long trek by train and car to Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin to celebrate with the Cistercian nuns as Mary Beth Anderson joined their community.

It was a significant day for our little parish as Mary Beth is the first vocation to religious life from St. Andrew's.

Mary Beth is the oldest child of Tom and Shari Anderson. She spent most of her childhood and young life as a parishioner of St. Andrew's and Father Vince was her priest as she celebrated her First Communion and Confirmation.

We love her and are very proud of her.

Five years ago Mary Beth met and began her life with the Cistercian nuns at Our Lady of the Valley Monastery in Wisconsin.

She knew the contempla-

tive monastic life was the call for her. When I asked her how she knew, she likened it to when a married person first knew their future spouse was the one with whom they were meant to spend their life.

After five years of discernment Mary Beth made her solemn profession of vows on August 11<sup>th</sup> as Sister Mary Regina.

The Cistercian Nuns were originally from Switzerland. Among the 20 sisters now living in the beautiful rolling farmland of Wisconsin there are women from every age group, from young novices to older, infirm sisters cared for by the community. They come from Canada, Mexico, the Philippines as well as the US.

In recent years the monastery has experienced a significant increase in novices discerning their vocations. Mary Beth was one of four new sisters added to the

community this summer. They have almost outgrown the monastery and plan to build a new one when finances allow.

Sr. Mary Regina was very happy to have the love and support of so many on this special day. Her parents, all of her siblings, her grandparents and other relatives and friends travelled many miles to be with her.

The sisters at the monastery opened their doors to welcome and accommodate these visitors.

The Mass at her solemn profession of vows was celebrated by the abbot and four other priests including Father Vince James and Father Scott Whitmore, a family friend from Ucluelet, BC.

It was an honor to witness as Sr. Mary Regina gave her life to God in this way. Our parish and diocese are also blessed to have a sister in this community remembering us in prayer.

## Duelling cameras

A group from St. Mary's Parish, Prince George pauses for lunch, a little fun and to enjoy the scenery at Fort George Canyon during the Creation Hikers jaunt at the end of August. PHOTOS BY: Frank Jamin and Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI



## *Cistercian nuns live contemplative lives*

By: Therese Steiner  
 PRAIRIE DU SAC - It was also an honor to stay at the Cistercian monastery while we were in Wisconsin to witness Mary Beth Anderson make vows as Sister Mary Regina.

The love and laughter, happiness and hospitality, joy and jubilation in this community are obvious.

The sisters live an almost supernatural life of closeness to God and are blessed with outpourings of God's grace.

Cistercians live a contemplative monastic life. Their vocation is to give themselves entirely to God. Through daily celebration of the Eucharist, the sacraments, prayer, spiritual reading, silence, enclosure, communal living and other monastic practices they totally self-surrender to Christ so he may penetrate their whole being and live and love in them.

The sisters constantly re-orient themselves towards Christ in a



*Sister Mary Regina poses with her siblings and parents, Tom and Shari Anderson, far right, who were all able to celebrate as she made vows as a Cistercian nun.  
 PHOTO BY: Therese Steiner*

process of lifelong conversion, praying for perseverance through difficulties. They do not follow this path for their own sakes, but rather to promote the kingdom of God on earth and contribute to the salvation of all.

The primary elements of monastic life include prayer, spiritual reading and manual labor. The monastery forms an environment of silence enabling the sisters to listen to God and be open to Christ.

Manual labor is considered healthy and necessary for service and community economic existence. The community supports itself by producing altar breads.

The growth of each sister is fostered and gifts are coordinated to serve the common good. Community life fulfills the human need to sacrifice themselves for each other's good.

In giving their lives to God in this way they have chosen a life of humility marked by simplicity and personal non-possession; a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Self-restriction in a monastic community helps these sisters to reach inner freedom and spiritual growth. It is a beautiful life for those who hear this call from God and are open to it.

We are grateful for this experience that allowed us to see a glimpse of the spirit of the Cistercian community.



*Mary Beth Anderson has a moment with her former pastor, Father Vincent James, OMI, before her profession of vows.  
 PHOTO BY: Therese Steiner*

*The growth of each sister is fostered and gifts are coordinated to serve the greater good.*

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