



**DIOCESE
OF
PRINCE GEORGE**

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Published by the
Diocese of Prince George

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Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXVI NO. 1

Winter 2017



Frontier Apostles 50th Anniversary Reunion

By Dr. Valerie Giles
August 19-21, 2016

PRINCE GEORGE: 250 Frontier Apostles came back to Prince George this summer, more than anyone anticipated, to reconnect, remember and reminisce about their participation in a remarkable movement.

What brought them here to in the first place? It was the Holy Spirit working through Bishop O'Grady over many decades, who recruited and inspired the participation people from 87 cities around the world to serve the Diocese of Prince George. Many stayed on after their tours of duty and added to the vibrancy and growth of communities throughout the diocese.

This year marked the 60th Anniversary of the foundation of the Frontier Apostolate, a good reason to organize a reunion. Terry and Christine Murphy, Ann Robertson and Mary Jane Wirges formed a committee, spread the word and organized the events.



Holding the gathering in familiar places was essential. The organizers were delighted that Bishop Jensen offered the use of the Domano Renewal Centre and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre.

The following abbreviated account of the work undertaken by FAs conveys a glimpse of what happened here from 1956 until the early 1990s.

Celebrating the O'Grady Legacy

Bishop John Fergus O'Grady was a man of extraordinary vision, whose aim was to bring educational opportunities wherever they were needed. He was directly responsible for building a dozen elementary schools throughout this part of BC (Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Smithers, Hazelton, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof,



(Continued on page 2)



EDITORIAL POLICY

The Northern Catholic News (NCN) provides news and information about the Church throughout the diocese.

We welcome submissions, but to allow us to share as much parish news as possible, all submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity.

GUIDE TO WRITTEN LENGTH

Most news stories can be told effectively in 300 words or less.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

To Be Announced on Diocesan Webpage and Wednesday Weekly



The Northern Catholic News is undergoing change to better serve its mandate. The areas of content, frequency of publication and distribution will be modified in 2017. Stay tuned for more details.

*"A Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."
May you enjoy His peace and receive His favour through out the coming year.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bishop Stephen Jensen and the Diocesan Pastoral Centre Staff



Frontier Apostles Reunion cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and two in Prince George.) Sacred Heart School had already been established by the Sisters of St. Ann in 1949. He also built Prince George College, which was later re-named O'Grady High School in his honour.



To make this massive project possible, Bishop O'Grady conceived the idea of creating the Frontier Apostolate. He recruited people from all over the world to volunteer to build and staff the schools. More than 4,000 people responded to the call and participated in the adventure. It was fitting that people came from so many different countries because Bishop O'Grady believed that the influence of many cultures was important decades before the term "multiculturalism" was common.

Frontier Apostles were recruited with the understanding that they would be housed and fed, but would not receive remuneration other than a very small monthly allowance.



The majority were lay people along with some priests and religious who served for various periods. The program was proposed in 1955 and began the next year. It lasted thirty-five years until 1990.

Strong bonds of life-long friendship were formed.

After their terms of service, many stayed on; two became priests in the diocese and two communities were founded, the Domano Brothers and the Domano Sisters.

Priests who served with Bishop O'Grady describe his vision as "a path to the right solution". He had the knack for assigning the right person for the right job and made appointments matching the work to be done with the person's capabilities. Some remember that there was never any sign of a superior attitude from Bishop O'Grady; he was incapable of talking down to anyone.

The Frontier Apostles felt valued and were aware that Bishop O'Grady took a special interest in their well-being. He prayed for every FA on his or her birthday, as recorded in the book that he kept



(Continued on page 3)

Frontier Apostles Reunion cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

on the altar. He welcomed their suggestions and if an idea could translate into action, it happened.

Everywhere Bishop O'Grady inspired an infectious enthusiasm. He laughed heartily and was fun to be around. During the years Prince George College operated, he ate most of his meals with the students. Many of the FAs invited him to share dinners on a regular basis and he always accepted. As the result of one of their discussions around the dinner table, St. Patrick Transition House for Alcoholics was established, to this day a source of support to many. Catherine's House was founded the same way.

The naming of Domano Boulevard is another legacy. The name was coined from the first two letters of three Latin words: *Domine Mane Nobiscum*, a prayer asking the Lord to remain among us.

Bishop O'Grady served as Bishop of the Vicariate of Prince Rupert from 1955 until the region was elevated to the status of Diocese in 1968. Ordained as a priest of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate at the age of 26, Fergus O'Grady celebrated 63 years as a priest and 42 of those years as a bishop. He entered eternal life on March 3, 1998.

Coming Together in 2016

Friday's welcome package included a copper-coloured replica of a pin for each FA. An original pin was given to each FA after the completion of his or her term of service. Everyone also received another very special gift, a print of the Domano Chapel. It was sketched by Father John Brioux, OMI while he served in the diocese.

Saturday was a full day of sight-seeing in Prince George. After that, everyone gathered for the celebration of Mass at St. Mary's Parish, with Bishop Stephen Jensen as the main celebrant. Bishop Jensen's welcome included his own personal tribute and gratitude to what Bishop O'Grady and the Frontier Apostles accomplished throughout the Diocese. As homilist, Father Terry Brock recounted some of his experiences coming here as a Frontier Apostle and then deciding to stay and serve as a diocesan priest. He concluded that Bishop O'Grady's vision had been played out by having "people of faith come to his diocese and infiltrate and build faith into the life of this Diocese".

A wonderful dinner followed in St. Mary's auditorium, catered by Michael Labonte. The hall was beautifully decorated in blue and white by Ann Robertson. She was aiming for the WOW factor and hit the mark! On-going photographs and videos were projected overhead by Vince Ramcharran. The organizers were able to keep the costs affordable, thanks to generous donations from: St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Cathedral CWL, Dave Fuller, Dunkley Lumber, Knights of Columbus, and the Novak Family Foundation.

The feature speaker was Danny Brock, who had been convinced by his brother, Fr. Terry Brock to come with him from New York City to Prince George in the 70s. Danny came prepared with audio-visual aids of the era: slides. He thought the audience would take comfort in a familiar medium (once called a "magic lantern show"). It was authentically a retro presentation!

Danny's commentary was educational, just what you would expect from a teacher. He pointed out that Bishop O'Grady's exhortation to idealistic young people to come and work for nothing but the thrill of hard work was actually a precursor to the Peace Corps. That movement was founded in 1961 by President JFK's administration. According to Brock's memory, Bishop O'Grady had the idea first!

Brock showed many photos of couples who met while FAs. He alluded to Bishop O'Grady's legendary match-making ability and claimed that "serving as an FA" is what became online dating today. Because Bishop O'Grady was an astute observer of people, he not only knew which person to assign to the job, but also who belonged together. Bishop O'Grady's response to "But, Bishop, I don't know how to . . ." was always the same reply: "Just do it!" Brock claims that in 1988 when Nike launched the slogan, the advertising agency got it from Bishop O'Grady.

Apart from the fun and the non-stop teasing, the expressions of fond memories were numerous and sincere. The most commonly uttered phrase was; "We had such fun!"

Perhaps, it was summed up best by Danny Brock in his closing comments: He said "We received growth in faith. We came as conventional Catholics and we left as committed Catholics. We didn't give up two to four years of our lives. Instead, we discovered real life and injected that into our future lives. We were changed for the better. If I had a million dollars, I'd start the Frontier Apostolate, Part Two!"

Others followed expressing alike sentiments during an open microphone session. The evening ended with a tribute to the late Arleigh Slanina who was an essential part of the FA movement.

The closing Mass was celebrated Sunday evening at Immaculate Conception Church with celebrant Father Chris Lynch, also an FA, and was followed by a reception with promises of a future reunion. Perhaps, the 75th Anniversary? Stay tuned!



Renewal of Vows in the Consecrated Life

Reflection written by Joseph McDaniel, OSFS, seminarian with the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. Joseph spent two months in the diocese last summer serving in a variety of ways.

In our life, we give our heart to many things, most of which are indeed good things. We give our heart to human love, relationships, work, and favorite recreational pastimes. These are all good, but at some point in our lives, even these may leave us feeling disappointed; a relationship gone cold, a job become tedious, an activity we no longer can enjoy. When these disappoint us, we may feel like the prophet in Ecclesiastes: everything is vanity.

When this happens, we may take one of two approaches. In the first, we may become suspicious, even of giving our heart to God, because we're afraid of being let down. We tend to give our heart to whatever we can absolutely control and possess. This was the approach taken by the rich man in Jesus' parable, and as Jesus tells us, this approach does not satisfy.

Or, we may take the other approach, and feel that we must reject the world completely, and that loving God means completely excluding everything and everyone else, as if we think that we ourselves can possess God solely on our own.

In the early 17th century, St. Francis de Sales met a young woman named Jane de Chantal who was dealing with the loss of a husband. With the emptiness that comes from having given one's heart to another person and then having them be taken away,



On the 31st of August Joseph renewed his temporary vows during Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Fr. Timothy McIntire, OSFS received his vows on behalf of the Oblate community

Jane often felt like the only option was to reject the world. But Francis de Sales taught her how to give her whole heart to God and to live a life, as St. Paul writes to the Colossians, "hidden with Christ in God," but in a way that her love of Christ was shared with others rather than possessed for herself. Together, St. Francis and St. Jane founded the sisters of The Visitation of Holy Mary, who 300 years later inspired a simple French priest named Louis Brisson, now Blessed, to found the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. Their mission is to reveal Christ Who is the life of hearts given entirely to God, in the world, school and parishes and in everyday life.

We live in an age where many people are searching for their personal identity and sense of self-worth. The irony is that, if one searches solely in him/herself, they will never find what they seek. It is only in giving of oneself wholeheartedly to something greater that one's true vocation and identity is revealed. At some point, my life stops being about me.

Francis de Sales once said, "Let us be what we are and be that well," he added that the only way we can do this is "to bring honor to the Master Craftsman whose handiwork we are." When we give ourselves to God, we may be afraid that we may lose ourselves in the process, but we lose nothing. God gives back to us in ways we can't even imagine. As St. Francis de Sales said about his own vocation, "God has taken me up from myself and taken me to Himself, but now God has given me back as a gift to the people."

Giving one's heart doesn't just involve emotion or sentiment. Since the heart stands for the whole person, it involves an intentional decision of mind and will that must be constantly renewed.

The vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience are a sign that God never lets anyone down. One who gives oneself to God receives an overflowing abundance to be shared with others for the life of the world.

Let us pray that together we may give ourselves wholeheartedly to God in the way that he has called each one of us.

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BC Yukon K of C distribute wheelchairs to Philippines



The Canadian Wheelchair Foundation estimates that there are at least 100 million children, teens and adults across the world that need a wheelchair, but cannot afford one.

As a registered charity, the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation helps transform the lives of people by assisting them with their mobility, one wheelchair at a time.

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) is one of the foundation’s partners in delivering this gift of mobility.

Since 2003, the K of C has sponsored the delivery of tens of thousands of wheelchairs to people in need all over the world.

In July 2016, a delegation from the BC and Yukon K of C contributed to this exemplary legacy of compassion and community service. Led by State Deputy Arcie Lim, the delegation travelled to the Philippines to deliver wheelchairs across the country. The delegation included State Community Director Frank Visentin and his wife Susan and former State Public Relations and Communications Chairman Edgar Ursua and his wife Priscilla.

According to Lim, “Everywhere we went the show of hospitality from our hosts was truly commendable. To share the gift of mobility is an experience beyond words that one cannot fully describe. Sharing joy and hope is an act that is worth trying in one’s lifetime.”


Ursua reported on the mission in a special edition of the BC and Yukon K of C newsletter. In Pangasinan “The distribution was held inside the Saint Louis Bertrand Church, founded by the Dominicans in 1669. We were privileged to have the event graced by the Most Rev. Jacinto A. Jose, bishop of the Diocese of Urdaneta. One recipient was a little boy with cerebral palsy; the joy was evident on the faces of each recipient and the families. Despite the very humid and hot weather, it was a wonderful and emotional experience.”

Visentin added that there are many individuals and organizations in Canada who have contributed to the purchase of the wheel chairs. “I feel fortunate that I was chosen to be a part of the Philippines team and to meet the recipients of these wheelchairs,” he said.

The success of the mission was inspiring for Lim and the membership of the K of C in BC and Yukon, “To be able to share the gift of mobility creates a sense of accomplishment that pushes us to do more.



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New Saint in the Carmelite Order- St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

By: Rev. Ron Sequeira, OCD



Hans Urs Von Balthasar, the famous Swiss theologian, said this of the Carmelite Order: "In our modern time, no other religious order seems to have been more favoured with special graces meant for a 'mission' than Carmel – graces which are undoubtedly a warning and counterweight to the currents which are noticed in the Church as well as in the modern world." An array of

Carmelites who have been canonized in the modern times have shaped the spirituality in the Church. On the 16th of October, Pope Francis declares Elizabeth of the Trinity to be a saint.

She has been given a variety of titles: "the prophet of the presence of God," "the saint of the divine indwelling," "the saint of one idea." She had a deep insight into the words of Paul to the Corinthians: "Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?" (1Cor 3:16). She wrote: "I am going to give you my secret: think about this God who dwells within you, whose temple you are; St Paul speaks in this way, and we can believe it."

How she lived this mystery of God's indwelling is known to us primarily through her writings, which are mostly in the form of letters. Von Balthasar makes this observation: "The result is a work of very high rank, both spiritually and

theologically, an organic and vital growth from a single geminating idea. It pulsates with a vigour and confidence which is not to be found in any of her predecessors, in spite of their eminence as theologians. Admittedly it is narrow in range, but this makes for a magnificent simplicity and concentration of force."

Elizabeth is considered a spiritual sister of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (the Little Flower) and they were almost contemporary. Like St Thérèse, who had a short life of 24 years, Elizabeth lived only 26 years, of which six years were spent in the Carmelite cloister. She is truly a witness of the impact that the presence of the loving God can have within the soul of every human person. What deters us from undertaking a journey to perfection, by treasuring the presence of the Triune God within us?

Hearts Transformed—New diocesan faith formation program



Opening retreats were held in Dawson Creek, Terrace, and Prince George with over 180 participants to begin ten month program. Following the retreat 10 groups are meeting in their local areas every two weeks. Each session includes a video of the week's module (recorded at the Prince George meeting) prayer and daily homework for prayer and reflection. There will be a concluding retreat for each area in the spring.

Here is the experience from one participant:

"Hearing the Gospel proclaimed in a personal way, being shown how to grow in the spiritual life, and how to personally encounter Christ through prayer. It wasn't just a "feel good" retreat that remained abstract, but it transmitted what was most important and did it in a tangible and achievable way. We had periods of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament - so tangible and applicable. There was a great sense

of community. The handouts and direction on prayer and growth are very clear. It's as though what has been big and abstract, has been made doable and personal. LOL! A mouthful, but I really benefitted from it, and the speakers were so merciful."

Diocesan Assembly 2016

Two hundred people from across the diocese gathered at the Pastoral Centre for the bi-annual Diocesan Assembly- The theme for this year was “Embraced by Our Father’s Mercy.”

Our keynote speakers, Jake and Heather Khym, spoke of the Father’s love revealed to us by Jesus, sometimes hidden by life’s experiences and our culture. Fr. Basil Burns gave a workshop on *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis’ encyclical on the ecology and the schools’ office sponsored a workshop to help teachers with the new BC curriculum. On Friday morning there were presentations followed by the closing Mass with Bishop Jensen.



2nd IGNITE camp August 2016

Thirty-five youth attended the second IGNITE camp August 2016 at Camp Morice.

IGNITE is a week-long camp for teens (going into grade 9 through grade 12 graduates) who are serious about growing in holiness. It was an incredible week with excellent talks, amazing people, daily Mass, large group activities, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, adoration, praise and worship, and so much more! Our teens grew in their knowledge of

Christ and His Church and were empowered to strive to be modern-day saints.

This year, we saw the number of IGNITE participants double from last summer. We look forward hosting this camp next summer at Camp Morice. IGNITE BC is put on by FacetoFace Ministries from Saskatoon, SK.

For more information about FacetoFace Ministries, check out www.f2f.ca.”



Remembering the giants in Catholic education.

Submitted by: Rebecca Gilbert

PRINCE GEORGE: Since our time on earth is limited, there is something both satisfying and exhilarating about recognizing people who made tremendous differences during their lives. In Catholic Education, the long line of 'giants' is something to celebrate and remember. Among these giants is a northerner who had a great impact on Catholic education at home and across the country: Mr. Michael van Adrichem.

The school community and parishioners joined Mike's family in early November to celebrate the naming of the new Learning Assistance Room at Prince George's Sacred Heart School in memory of Mr. van Adrichem.

"Sacred Heart School dedicates its learning spaces to the 'giants' who have shaped the learning, educational



and spiritual community of our school," said Sacred Heart School Principal Rebecca Gilbert. "It is a pleasure this year to acknowledge and celebrate Mr. van Adrichem's contributions by displaying his photo and awards that speak to his achievements in BC and Canada on behalf of Catholic education."

Fr. Melvin Pinto led the prayers and blessed the images and room that will be a special place for students at Sacred Heart School.

Mr. van Adrichem passed away in 2014, a day before his 91st birthday. His career included Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Prince George, President of the Federation of Independent Schools Association of BC and President of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association. Both he and his wife Clasine were recognized by the Vatican for their many years of service to the Catholic community. All of their eight children attended Sacred Heart School.



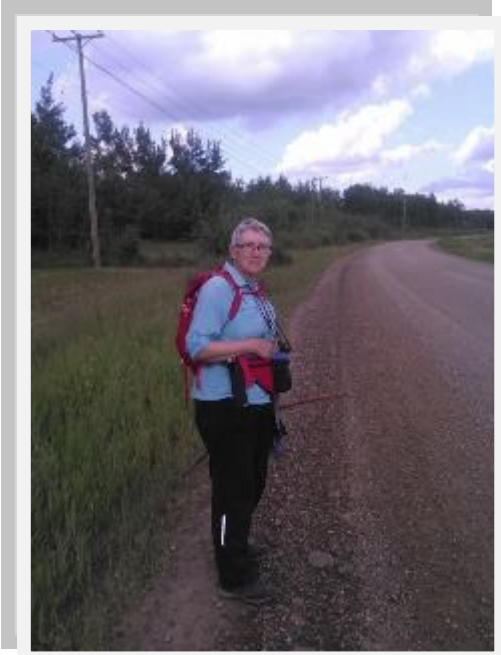
St. Mary's Parish Picnic New Hazelton

Father Miguel Rabino enjoys food and conversation at St. Mary's Parish picnic in New Hazelton, June 26, 2016.

PHOTO BY: William Nannings

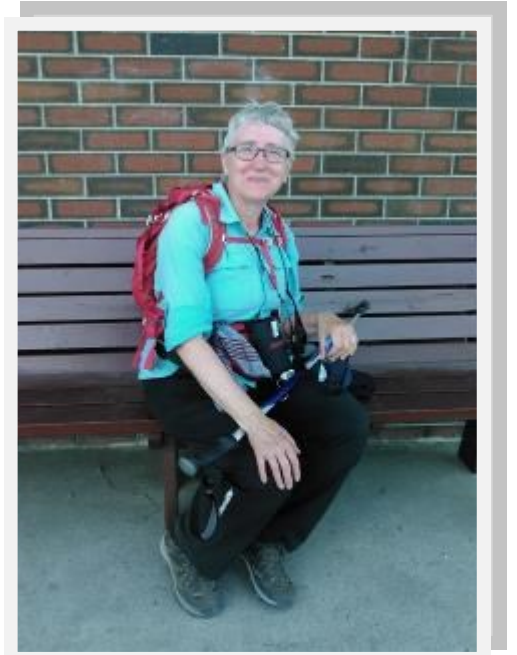


Peregrina del norte—Pilgrimage of the North



August and September of 2015. The experience inspired her to walk a local pilgrimage.

Luella Judge of Dawson Creek joined Janice on the “Northern Pilgrimage” and walked most of the way with her on the first day. Richard picked up Janice in the early evening beyond the Kiskatinaw River, about 36 km from home. On the second day he delivered her to the same place to carry on; she then walked 31 km to Taylor. On the third day she walked 19 km from Taylor to the church, concluding her pilgrimage at 2:30 PM.



By Richard Blaskovits

Church of the Resurrection, Fort St. John was one of the holy doors designated in the diocese for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Janice Blaskovits, a parishioner of Notre Dame Parish in Dawson Creek, accepted the invitation to be a pilgrim and walked from her home in Dawson Creek to the Holy Door in Fort St. John August 2-4.

She and her husband Richard walked the Camino de Santiago in



The celebration at the church consisted of adoration, the sacrament of Reconciliation, the rosary and Mass, concelebrated by priests from Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Chetwynd. Parishioners from all three churches were present.

The hours of walking gave Janice time for contemplation, reflection and thanksgiving. Her extended family and friends are grateful for the prayers she offered as she made the pilgrimage.

St. Mary’s Parish, PG— New choir

Pictured with Father Gilbert Bertrand, OMI, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish, Prince George, are members of the choir made up of parishioners who have emigrated from various African countries. They provided the music ministry for Mass on July 17, 2016 and are committed to serving the community in this way each third Sunday of the month.



Immaculata: CatChat Vacation Bible School



BURNS LAKE: Immaculata Parish enjoyed a delightful week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) from August 15 to 19, 2016. Thirteen children and leaders enjoyed an amazing music ministry, created many artistic crafts and grew closer to Jesus in the interactive Faith Center. The children enjoyed a daily big parachute game, as well as many other “energy-filled” games. The leaders were refreshed in the Spirit, as we “rocked” our way

through the week, appreciating how children walk their faith in such a simple refreshing manner. Thank you Jesus!

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The Sisters of St. Ann are offering a Bursary named in honour of their foundress, Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. This bursary offers assistance to women seeking education in theological and ministry studies that promote justice, peace, integrity of creation, healing, holistic living and a healthy life style.

Priority will be given to a candidate from BC, the Yukon or the Northwest Territories. Preference will be given to one who is on limited income and who sees the educational opportunity as a means of employment training or personal growth.

For an application form, please contact:
administration@ssabc.ca or 250-592-3133

Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin retires after 25 years of service



Mary-Anne and Frank Jamin received matching mugs—as they begin a new chapter

August 5, 2016 Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin retired as Chancellor of the Diocese of Prince George. Mary-Anne was hired by Monsignor Lawrence Turgeon in 1991 and worked as his secretary until Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, was ordained Bishop in 1993. After 20 years as secretary and then executive assistant to the Bishop, Mary-Anne was appointed Vice Chancellor and then Chancellor of the Diocese by Bishop Jensen.



Sr. Irene Baker, and Sr. Dorothy Ryan presented Mary-Anne with a prayer shawl.

Mary-Anne wore many hats while at the Diocese, aside from her role as secretary, executive assistant, Vice-Chancellor, and Chancellor, Mary-Anne was instrumental in the initiation of the Lay Formation Program, where she was also taught Church History. She launched and edited the Northern Catholic News and her and her husband Frank were a part of many programs in the diocese.

A staff luncheon was held in honour Mary-Anne for her great contributions to the diocese.

What next? Travel plans, working on a number of personal projects and the ultimate joy to have more time with children and grandchildren.

Left to right: Carla Wolitski, Bishop Jensen, Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin, Fr. Rector Tolentino, and Lynn Monteith.

Carla, Lynn and Mary-Anne, are long-time employees.



Farewell and thank you to Sister Elizabeth Pollièvre, FCJ.



Mary-Anne Jamin thanks Sr. Elizabeth Pollièvre, FCJ for her service to the Diocese.

OPEN HOUSE FAREWELL TEA was held on June 2, 2016 to say farewell and thank you to Sister Elizabeth Pollièvre, FCJ.

Sister Elizabeth served in many capacities in the Diocese of Prince George. She was principal of St. Anthony's School in Kitimat and ministered at St. Joseph's Parish in Smithers. In the fall of 2012 she became the Program Director of the Domano Renewal Centre until called back by her community to Edmonton.



Sr. Elizabeth Pollièvre, FCJ listens as she is thanked for her service to the Diocese of Prince George.

2nd Annual IC Potluck –honours travelers

By Diane Fuller



PRINCE GEORGE: About thirty people arrived to indulge in some of the best cooking in the diocese on June 9, 2016. It was a gourmet's delight! Fr. Chris Lynch from Immaculate Conception Parish hosted his 2nd Annual Garage potluck supper. Last year's potluck was to honour Fr. Roger

Lavoie and Fr. Tom Shymko, who retired. This year honoured six ladies (regulars at A&W for coffee after daily Mass) who would become world travelers for a couple of weeks to see the sights of Ireland and the UK.

Concluding the supper, interesting presentations were made to the globetrotters about necessities they may not have realized were essential for their journey. Sister Michaela Marquis was charged with the safety hat to emphasize her important position. The nurses, Chris Paulsen and Deb Matwyuk, were given travel bags, green surgical hats etc.). Jennie Bachmann, with her jester's hat. Linda Boudreau, with her spoken manners, were given a travel eye mask for sleeping, with appropriate



script across the outside. All were given travel eye masks with poetic instructions about being cautious when crossing the streets in Britain (the cars travel on the opposite side of the road), and warned not to get so involved with helping people in distress that they miss the tour bus) and to pray.

The excursionists were given a diary and given a pen on a lanyard to remind them of this important task. After being blessed by Fr. Chris and the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish, the ladies set out on a memorable excursion. Upon their return, over coffee after Mass at A&W, with a couple of thousand photos they shared many wonderful stories.

Each was encouraged to keep a diary and given a pen on a lanyard to remind them of this important task. After being blessed by Fr. Chris and the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish, the ladies set out on a memorable excursion. Upon their return, over coffee after Mass at A&W, with a couple of thousand photos they shared many wonderful stories.

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Catholic Women's League member honoured

By: Dodie Bond, Communications Chairperson



Left to right. Fr. Melvin Pinto OCD, Agnes Leslie 75 year CWL Member and Bishop Stephen Jensen

from Sacred Heart, as well as Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Melvin Pinto OCD and Bishop Stephen Jensen.

Congratulation Agnes, you are our shining star!

PRINCE GEORGE: Agnes Leslie was born Oct. 21, 1920 and joined the Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) in 1941 at St Mary's Church in Regina, SK. She is presently a member of the CWL council at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Agnes held many positions in the CWL throughout the years, both in Prince George and Saskatchewan. In her early years, she was very active in helping new immigrants. Another of her roles was that of historian. To this day, Agnes recounts stories of days gone by, reminding us of our history. She sang in the choir and performed in many plays. She has helped provide many meals at Sunday lunches and at the St. Vincent de Paul. She is also a long-standing member of the Franciscan Third Order.

Agnes was presented with her 75 year pin by Barbara W., a CWL member who is also a Franciscan. Celebrating the occasion with her were many CWL friends



St. Joe's graduates come "home" for a visit

By: Rosemary A. Mckenzie

SMITHERS: Graduates and former students of St. Joseph's School in Smithers arrived on Friday, June 24, 2016 to meet the school's present students. Clad in blue gowns and expressing their joy as they paraded through the halls and classrooms, the graduates "high-fived" the younger students, gave them advice and joked with them. They were treated to hotdogs, drinks and ice cream -- just like the annual "Fun Day" they had from kindergarten to grade 7! Then came the important question: "Can we play in the gym?" They did, and had a game of basketball against the students from grade six and seven, who held their own against the many six-footers. Finally, the all-time favourite free-choice challenge, dodgeball! The grads were gracious competitors and the game was fierce and fun for everyone.



Grads left to right: Mitch Turko, Jenna Rauch, Jake Harder, Madeline Kelson, Shea McKenzie, Philip Gust, Ian Tersago, Dylan Oliarny, Ethan McLellan, Jacob Cachia, Rhys Wilson, Amber Whalen, Owen Sikkes. Front sitting: Norma Kahlil, Darcy Delaney

Kitimat Vacation Bible School

By: Susan Borges

KITIMAT - The words, “Howdy Part’ner” kicked off 11th Vacation Bible School at Christ the King Parish.

Ranging in ages from four to eleven, almost 50 children attended. This year children were transported to the Wild, Wild West at the Son Rise Dude Ranch. We used this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to infuse our stories, songs and catechesis.

Twenty-two young leaders were involved, many of them past participants of the VBS program. At the end of each year, with the “retiring” grade twelve leaders, the question “who will continue to carry the torch?” surfaces. Gratefully, after eleven years, the torch continues to be passed on.

Perhaps the greatest affirmation of the ministry took place several years ago at the concluding celebration. As the final action songs were sung and closing ritual was taking place, I noticed a father of one of the children with tears of joy streaming down his face as he saw his son being cared for and loved by those in leadership.

Kitimat Knights of Columbus BBQ



Submitted by: Max Patzelt

KITIMAT: The 1st of July 2016 the Knights of Columbus thank the Filipino parishioners for allowing them to be a part of the food booth at River Lodge at the July 1st celebration. It was a very wet day and the turnout was not quite as predicted, but it appeared that everyone who had the barbecued chicken with trimmings were satisfied and happy. Thank you for the support!

K of C Council 5148



Cooking up some “pulutan”

Christ the King Parish picnic



Photos by: Bert Dacosta

Graduating students are celebrated



KITMAT: June 13, 2016 a special Mass was offered for the graduating high school students of the parish and the Knights of Columbus. A special meal was prepared for them, their families and friends.

Hayley Bantle, Jamie Marcial, Chloe McCarron and Keannon Alcosoba were presented with Knights of Columbus Scholarship bursary awards by Grand Knight Frank Mauro. All the graduates were given a special rosary presented by CWL. The Arleigh Slanina Scholarship award was also presented.

Students receive scholarships from K of C

Submitted by: Max Patzelt

KITMAT: During Scholarship presentations at Mount Elizabeth Theatre on the June 9, 2016, thirty-eight students received scholarships for their achievements. Of those thirty-eight, Christ the King Council 5148 presented four cheques of \$1000.00 each. Presenting the awards were Grand Knight Frank Mauro and Grand Knight elect Joey Herrin. God Bless the students and the best of luck in their further studies.



Left to right: Grand Knight Frank Mauro, Kennon, son of Brother Raymond Alcosoba, Chloe McCarron, Jaime, daughter of Brother James Marcial, Hayley, daughter of Brother Tim Bantle, Incoming Grant Knights Joey Herrin

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The 69th Annual BC & YK Provincial CWL Convention

By: Laura Esposito, BC & Yukon Provincial Communications Chairperson

The 69th Annual BC & Yukon Provincial Catholic Women's League (CWL) Convention was held in Coquitlam, BC from June 15-19, 2016 with a wide variety of presentations: spiritual programs, workshops and panel discussions, personal faith stories and more. All attendees were nourished and educated further in what the CWL does, while at the same time, challenging its members to be the voice of those who are not heard. In the 350 who attended were several bishops, spiritual advisors, National Executive Committee members, provincial and diocesan and parish council members.

Our Lady of Assumption Church in Port Coquitlam hosted the Opening Mass, with Bishop Stephen Jensen was the main celebrant and homilist. Bishop David Munroe, Rev. Edwin Kulling (Provincial Spiritual Advisor) and Rev. Ron Thompson, Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption concelebrated. The Vancouver CWL Choir "League of Angels" led the congregation with beautiful hymns.

The Resolution Dialogue reviewed: BC & Yukon 2016.01 Physicians' and Institutions' Right of Conscience and BC and Yukon 2016.02 Legislate, and Finance Access to Quality Hospice/Palliative Care as a Core Service for all Canadians. Both were adopted during the convention and will be presented at the National Convention in August.

A variety of presentations was given on Friday, June 17, 2016.

- ◆ Monsignor Pedro Lopez-Gallo and Theresa St. Arnaud gave a presentation entitled "*Annulments Today – Merciful and Just*". They reviewed codes of Canon Law and outlined how the annulment process has been streamlined.
- ◆ National President Barbara Dowding challenged us to make our voices are heard in prayer and in parliament, be creative and build what is necessary and ensure that our councils integrate with our parishes.
- ◆ Rev. John Horgan spoke on the Devotion to the Divine Mercy and led the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy.

Neysa Finnie, Director of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation, spoke of its objectives, progress, and development. She also acknowledged funding for

foundation from the Sisters of Service, matched by the CWL.

The conclusion of the day was the Mass for the deceased members of the CWL with Bishop David Munroe as main celebrant.

Saturday included the following topics:

- ◆ A panel discussion entitled Euthanasia – What Now? by Michele Smillie
- ◆ Office of Life and Family introduced the Hon. Mark Warawa, MP, Dr. Will Johnston, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Natalie Sonnen, Director of Life Canada.
- ◆ Bill C-14 "Medical Aid in Dying". Attendees were urged to stand up and be heard by signing petitions, writing personal letters to MPs, MLAs, and to local papers and by participating in the postcard campaign to advocate the urgent need for palliative care/hospice care funding.

Archbishop J. Michael Miller spoke on the history of the Jubilees and the Holy Year of Mercy, encouraging all to make a personal pilgrimage and to pass through a "Holy Door" this year. .

The business session of the convention ended with an election of officers:

- ◆ President Evelyn Rigby
- ◆ Past-President Pat Deppiesse
- ◆ President-Elect and Organization Gisela Montague
- ◆ 1st Vice-President and Resolutions Sharon Geiger
- ◆ 2nd Vice President and Spiritual Development Agnes Geiger
- ◆ Secretary Kathy Weswick
- ◆ Treasurer Suzanne Eng;

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

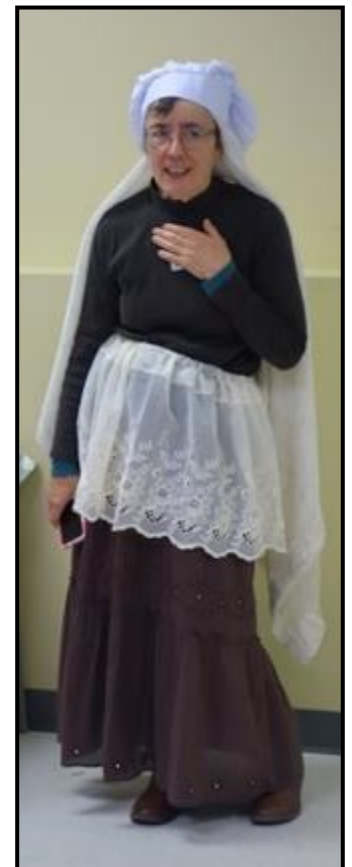
- ◆ Laura Esposito, Communications
- ◆ Linda McClinton, Education and Health
- ◆ Susan Steiner, Christian Family Life
- ◆ Sharon Ciebin, Community Life
- ◆ Blanca Stead, Legislation

The installation of the new executive took place during the Closing Mass held at All Saint's Parish, Coquitlam, with Bishop Gary Gordon as main celebrant and homilist. The Convention was a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and to work with dedicated members who give service to God and Canada.

Christ Our Saviour Parish Celebrates All Saints' Day

Submitted by: Eveline Bergeron

PRINCE GEORGE: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 children of the Catechism Program at Christ Our Saviour, along with their families, enjoyed a special evening celebrating the saints. Much was learned through songs and a lesson on the saints and Hallow'een (Holy Eve) by Bishop Jensen. Families introduced their saints, and the "Steps to Heaven" game. As the children strived toward heaven, even with setbacks, they reached their goal and received their crown and reward (a treat bag)! Thank you to generous volunteers and clergy who made this celebration a special day for our young people!



Kids for Jesus—Notre Dame Parish

DAWSON CREEK: The children from 'Kids for Jesus' were given a tour of the church and sacristy, and visited the tabernacle "where Jesus lives", as explained by one of the young children.

Some had a chance to be the cross bearer, read at the lectern, play the organ and ring the bells.

Notre Dame's young parishioners, and by God's Grace, future sacristans!



The children from 'Kids for Jesus' presented Yvonne with a Thank you card, made with chocolate bars.

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City VBS

Submitted by: Claudia Betz

PRINCE GEORGE: During the week of August 29, to September 2, 2016 the 6th Annual CatChat Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. The VBS is a summer day-camp for children ages 4-11. Our theme this year was “The Mass Comes Alive”. 54 children participated from all four parishes in the city.

The Camp helps children better understand and grow in their Catholic Faith. It also enriches the faith experience of the many dedicated youth and adult volunteers. The week included various activities with games, faith development, crafts, music and snacks. VBS concluded with a celebration of the Mass with Fr. Basil Burns and a family barbeque. The VBS organizers thank the local parishes for their support and offer special thanks for the generous donations from St. Mary’s and Sacred Heart Cathedral Catholic Women’s League councils, as well as the Sacred Heart Cathedral Knights of Columbus council.



Practicing generosity



Closing Mass with Fr. Basil

World Youth Day—PG Diocese Pilgrims' Quotes



◆ WYD is a pilgrimage I will never forget. At the Mercy Centre, I experienced God's presence in a special way during Bishop Robert Barron's talk in Adoration with other youth from around the world.

◆ Learning to trust more completely in God our loving Father has been one of the fruits of my pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. There were moments, such as the time our group ended up in two separate



sections on the night of the final vigil, when all one could do was trust that God would bring something beautiful out of the circumstances we found ourselves in - and He always did!

◆ The most profound thing that I experienced at World Youth Day was being surrounded by the communion of Saints, living and dead, through the churches, relics, hearts of fellow pilgrims and the people of Poland. It

gave me renewed hope to see how the Holy Spirit is moving the hearts of the young Church to reject cheap thrills and turn to the adventure of mercy!

◆ World Youth Day was inspiring to be able to gather with believers from around the globe, unified in their pilgrimage to know Jesus and be changed. The theme of mercy, in the year of mercy, was a challenging call to continue to surrender our selfish ambitions in favour of loving people and living sacrificially."

◆ It was great to be able to practice our faith with over a million of our peers.





Blaine Anhel



Jose Cavalu

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

John 3:16



Don Inverarity



Joseph Kong



Marcel Casavant



Joseph Faubert



Mark Pan



Jim Vuckets



Shawn Fetter



Michael Garisto



Johnny Yang



Arnold Zwiens

Merry Christmas

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May the peace,
joy, and love of
Christ
be in our minds,
on our lips, and
in our hearts..

