

# Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXI, NO. 4

AUTUMN 2012

## *Gratitude permeates celebration for Bishop Gerry*

By: Doug Jeffrey, OMI and Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin  
PRINCE GEORGE - It is the custom of the Roman Catholic Church that Bishops submit to the Holy Father a letter of resignation on their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. On Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrated with Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, his 75th birthday and his impending retirement.

The celebration was fitting for someone who has willingly 'poured himself out for God and the people of God'. Our celebration began with the most profound act of thanksgiving that we as Christians can engage in, the Eucharist.

Approximately 750 people participated in this celebration at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Mass was followed by an opportunity for visiting, a wonderful meal and expressions of gratitude from the people the Bishop has lived with, worked alongside of

and served throughout his years as the Chief Shepherd of the Prince George Diocese.

Drummers from the Nak'azdli Band welcomed 500 people from throughout the Diocese of Prince George and beyond to the banquet at the Civic Centre.

Expressions of gratitude during the banquet brought into clear focus the gift that the Bishop has been: friend, servant, teacher and shepherd.

The celebration concluded with words from our Bishop.

They were most fitting for they were words of gratitude. Earlier in his homily, Bishop Gerry said that the goodness of God will not be outdone. In his closing words he gave voice to what God has done and he expressed his gratitude for what God has accomplished in our communities.

Archbishops Emeritus Adam Exner, OMI and Joseph MacNeil, both present at the ordination to

the episcopacy of Bishop Gerry on February 23, 1993, returned for the celebration.

Archbishops Michael Miller, CSB (Vancouver) and Sylvain Lavoie, OMI (Keewatin-Le Pas) were also present as were Bishops John Corriveau, OFM Cap (Nelson) and David Monroe (Kamloops) and Bishop Emeritus of Nelson, Eugene Cooney.

Several First Nations communities in the Diocese were well represented at the festivities including the Nak'azdli and Babine Nations.

People also traveled from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and other parts of BC to participate. Sister Margaret Quinn, RSM, who served in our Diocese for 50 years, came from Ireland for the celebration.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president of the Oblate College in San Antonio, Texas, brother Oblate and longtime friend of Bishop Gerry, was the guest speaker at the banquet.

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*Bishop Gerald Wiesner, Bishop Emeritus Eugene Cooney and Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie during the consecration at Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Photo By: Rebecca Gilbert*

## On behalf of all First Nations people



Drummers from the Nak'azdli Band welcome guests to the banquet in honor of Bishop Gerry on June 23rd. Photo by: Frank Jamin

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By: Wilf Adam  
BURNS LAKE - I am honored to speak on behalf of our First Nations peoples to talk about our beloved Bishop. The Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner has been among us for the past 19 years and how much he has touched all the First Nations people.

Bishop has always been a gentle and straight forward man and is respected by all. He has a great calmness about him and is easily approached to talk with. I really enjoy our talks on issues related to our people and he gives sound advice, the kind you always expect from a respected

elder.  
Bishop Wiesner was ordained on February 22, 1993 to the episcopacy and installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Prince George at Sacred Heart Cathedral. At that time, Susie Tress and our late church chief and elder, Dennis Alec represented the people of Burns Lake and, with elders from Fort St. James, Stoney Creek, Stellaquo and Moricetown, welcomed him.

As he celebrates his birthday, turning 75 years of age, I wish him a peaceful retirement as he follows his beloved team, the Edmonton Oilers. I am sure we have not seen or heard the last of this great man.

I certainly hope and pray that he continues to assist us in our diocese. Until we meet again, take care of yourself and all our prayers are with you. Awit'zeh!



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## Domano Renewal Centre Schedule September to December 2012



Event	Facilitators
<b>September</b>	
10, 17, 24 Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
17 Walking Retreat	Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI
14 to 16 Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
<b>October</b>	
1 to 5 Priests' Retreat	Bishop Lionel Gendron, PSS
9, 16 Tuesdays with Rolheiser	Dorothy Ryan, CSJ and Irene Baker, CSJ
10 Advisory Council Meeting	Advisory Council
12 to 14 Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
15,22,29 Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
18 Living God's Dream	Margaret Silf
19 to 21 Retreat for Women	Sandra Prather
23,30 Book Discussion: "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"	Claire Petrucci
25 Bridges to Contemplative Living	Ven. Peter Zimmer and Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
26 to 28 Retreat for Men	Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI
<b>November</b>	
1, 8, 22, 29 Bridges to Contemplative Living	Ven. Peter Zimmer and Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
2 to 4 Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
5 Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
6, 13, 20, 27 Book Discussion "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life"	Claire Petrucci
14 to 18 RTS Aboriginal	RTS Team
21 Retreat Day for Artists	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
<b>December</b>	
1 Good Grief For the Holidays	Dorothy Ryan, CSJ
3 Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
4 Advent Prayer Service	TBA
6 "Ethics and the Daily Life of Discipleship: An Ethicist Looks at Christian Ethics"	Fr. Mark Miller, C.Ss.R.
7 to 9 Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
8 Taize Prayer	Frank Jamin & Lorenzo Sia
11 Morning of Stillness in Advent	Elizabeth Poilièvre, FCJ
12 Annual Christmas Coffee Open House	

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[www.domanorenewalcentre.org](http://www.domanorenewalcentre.org)

### *Farewell Sr. Donna*

Friends and coworkers bid Sr. Donna Dolan, RSCJ, farewell at the Prince George Airport on June 28, 2012. After 18 years at the Domano Renewal Centre, Sister Donna leaves the Diocese to live in Halifax, NS. She is pictured here (centre) with Bishop Gerald Wiesner, Patty Garden, Rebecca Gilbert, Janice Haddock and Susan Campbell.





By: Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, OMI  
 Around this time of year many of us are returning to a heavier work load and a multitude of activities after the rather lighter schedule of the summer.

It so happens that this is also true for all of us as we look at our Catholic faith. The Holy Father has called a Synod of Bishops on the subject, The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Catholic Faith. This will take place in Rome, October 7-28, 2012.

In addition to this, Pope Benedict has declared a Year of Faith beginning October 11, 2012, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Vatican II and concluding November 23, 2013, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King.

### **New Evangelization**

Evangelization is the making known the message of Jesus to all people. The “new” evangelization is not because the subject of evangelization is new – that remains Jesus and his message – but because it calls for a new enthusiasm, a new language and a new method.

Making Jesus and his message known in a new way is intended for two main audiences: those who have never heard of Jesus and his message and those who are Christian in name only.

The latter are people who come from Christian backgrounds, are familiar with Christianity, believe they know and understand Christianity but who no longer practice that faith in a meaningful way.

The new evangelization tries to take the Gospel to persons who are already Christian but are no longer practicing as Christians. The need for this is clear in an American statistic: the largest religious group in the United States is Catholics; the second largest religious group in the United States is non-practicing Catholics.

The question is how do we make the Gospel fresh for those for whom it has become stale? How do we help people look at the familiar

until it looks unfamiliar again? How do we try to Christianize someone who is already Christian?

There are no simple answers. We already have been trying to do this for generations. Look at our immediate relationships.

Anxious parents have been trying to do this with their children. Anxious pastors have been trying to do this with their parishioners. Anxious bishops have been trying to do this with their dioceses. Anxious spiritual writers have been trying to do this with their readership.

An anxious Church has been trying to do this with the world.

The Synod of Bishops together with the Holy Father will try to address these issues.

### **All called to mission**

From the very outset there is one thing we must all consider: each of us as baptized and confirmed persons has the privilege and responsibility of making Jesus and his message known. The Synod invites us to ponder this privilege and responsibility.

There are various ways in which we can exercise this privilege and responsibility. The first is by personal witness. Blessed John Paul II said, “People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers ... the witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission.”

The second is by verbal testimony. The spoken word has a lasting impression. The practice of Christian worship is a third way of proclaiming the Gospel. This faithful practice is known to have had an impact on many.

The living of good community life is a fourth model of evangelization. People need to belong. They come to our communities for a variety of reasons and if they feel welcome they will stay.

Another model of evangelization is works of charity. From its earliest days Christianity was seen by outsiders as having two parts. The first was found in the good news message of hope and optimism for a life with God beyond the temporal one

on earth; the second was seen in the daily demonstrations of good works and charity for those in need.

Looking at these models we see how we are all called to mission. Some have the ability in one form of mission, others in another form. We all have ability.

### **Renewed conversion**

Hand in hand with the Synod is the Year of Faith. This Year of Faith is to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others.

This year is to contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the rediscovery of faith which will help make members of the Church credible and joy-filled witnesses to the risen Lord in the world today, capable of leading the many people who seek it to the door of faith.

### **Two great events**

The beginning of the Year of Faith coincides with the anniversaries of two great events that have marked the life of the Church in our days: the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council called by Blessed Pope John XXIII and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pope John Paul II.

The purpose of Vatican II was to transmit doctrine - pure and whole, without change or misrepresentation - so that it would be faithfully respected, elaborated and presented in a way that corresponds with the needs of our time. The Council, gathered together in the Holy Spirit, eagerly desired to proclaim the Gospel to every creature and so bring the light of Christ to all people, a light brightly visible on the countenance of the Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in accord with the Council, is both an authentic fruit of Vatican II and a tool to help with its reception.

The Catechism was proposed as a

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

compendium (collection) of all Catholic doctrine and a sure point of reference for local catechisms. The Catechism truly expresses what could be called "the symphony of the faith".

It includes the new and the old because the faith is always the same yet the source of ever new light. To respond to this twofold demand, the Catechism repeats the old traditional order and at the same time the contents are often expressed in a new way in order to respond to the questions of our age. This Catechism is a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion and a sure norm for teaching faith.

#### **Opportunities to deepen knowledge**

So here we are now about to enter the Year of Faith with all its challenges. This year offers special opportunities for all believers to deepen our knowledge of the primary documents of Vatican II and our study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

I suggest that in our parishes we undertake a special study of a

Council document. A good place to begin would be the document on the Liturgy. This would be a major help to all of us in living and celebrating our faith.

If parish-wide sessions are difficult, I suggest such a study for the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and Parish Liturgy Committee.

The Year of Faith highly encourages associations and organizations in the community to work at renewal. I suggest that groups like the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League, Youth Groups and groups of priests and religious undertake a study of some of the documents as part of their regular program.

The promotion of parish missions would be a very laudable practice.

All of us are called to renew the gift of faith within us. This could be done by more religious reading such as Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Should you choose to read the Catechism I suggest you begin with Part Four, Christian Prayer. This may well be the greatest help at the start.

The Year of Faith can be an opportunity to pay greater at-

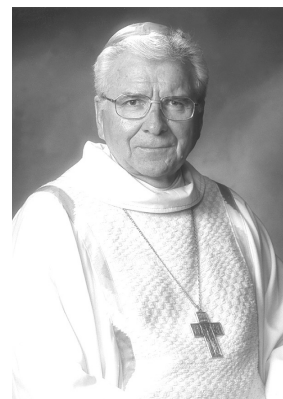
tention to Catholic schools. Schools are a perfect place to offer students a living witness to the Lord and to nurture their faith. This can be done by making use of good catechetical tools.

The Year of Faith also provides a good opportunity to intensify the celebration of faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, the mystery of faith and source of the new evangelization, the faith of the Church is proclaimed, celebrated and strengthened.

We are all invited to participate in the Eucharist actively, fruitfully and with awareness in order to be authentic witnesses to the Lord. Vatican II teaches, "Christian believers should not be at the Eucharist as strangers or silent spectators".

In the words of our Holy Father, "To enter the door of faith is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism, through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life" (Apostolic Letter, The Door of Faith).

May this Year of Faith enhance our lifetime journey for eternity.



## *Bishop's Letter*

*Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, OMI*

## *Bishop's Schedule*

### **September**

- 1-2 New Westminster – visit of Ukrainian Patriarch
- 3 Edmonton – Episcopal ordination
- 5-7 Office
- 9 Sacred Heart Cathedral – school mass
- 11-13 Office
- 14-15 Edmonton - RCIA Workshop
- 16 Victoria – Most Rev. DeRoo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 18 Council of Priests
- 19 Priests' Gathering
- 19 CIS Board meeting and AGM
- 20-21 Diocesan Assembly
- 22-28 St. Adele, Quebec – Canadian Bishops' Plenary
- 29-30 Toronto – Catholic Missions in Canada

### **October**

- 1-5 Domano Renewal Centre – Priests' Retreat
- 9-12 Office
- \*\*11 Sacred Heart Cathedral – Inauguration Mass for Year of Faith
- 13 Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting
- 15-19 Mission – Oblate Retreat
- 23-24 Office
- 25 Vancouver – Archbishop's Dinner
- 30-31 Office

**\*\* October 11 - Each parish in the diocese celebrates Mass to mark the beginning of the Year of Faith**

### **November**

- 1-2 Office
- 5-8 Office
- 9 Vancouver – BC/Yukon Bishops' meeting  
CISBC meeting
- 13-16 Office
- 17-18 Vancouver – Catholic Missions in Canada
- 20-23 Office
- 27-30 Office

### **December**

- 4-6 Office
- 7-9 Winnipeg – RTS Board meeting
- 11-14 Office
- 18-21 Office

## Kateri Tekakwitha to be canonized October 21<sup>st</sup>

OTTAWA - "It is with great joy that the Bishops of Canada welcome the announcement that our Holy Father will canonize Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, elevating her to sainthood this coming October," CCCB President, Archbishop Richard Smith, said in a letter last February.

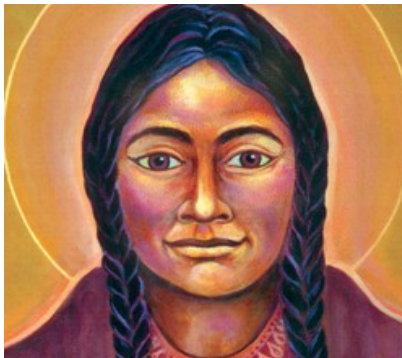
"This event will be a great honor to all of North America, but also in a particular way to its Aboriginal Peoples of whom Kateri will be the first to receive this dignity."

Blessed Kateri, known as "the Lily of the Mohawks", was born in 1656 in what is now New York State. When she was four years of age her parents died from smallpox and the disease left her visually impaired and physically disfigured.

Raised by an uncle, Kateri was attracted to Christianity through the preaching of the Jesuits. Her refusal to marry and determination to live as a servant of God resulted in ridicule and persecution. Despite this she lived a life of remarkable Christian virtue.

Eventually she was able to move to a Christian Mohawk village in what is now Kahnawake within

the current diocese of Saint-Jean Longueuil, Quebec. She was baptized at Easter in 1676 but four



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha as depicted in a painting by Sister Dorothy Grills, CSJ

short years later she contracted tuberculosis and died on April 17, 1680 at the age of 24.

Legend maintains that at death her scars disappeared and she became very beautiful.

In an address to the First Nations of North America in 1980 Pope John Paul said that, in a particular way, Kateri provides us "an example of fidelity . . . a model of purity and love".

Pope Benedict recently reminded the faithful that all saints, "through their different paths of

life, show us the various ways to holiness, united by a single common denominator: to follow Christ and to conform ourselves to him who is the ultimate goal of our human existence".

As a member of the Communion of Saints, Kateri will hold a special place within the universal Church, being one of the "great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb".

We therefore humbly ask: "Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us!" Help us imitate your life of devotion to our Lord, summed up in your dying words: "Jesus, I love you!"

A 16-minute video reflecting on the life of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha in honor of her feast day on April 17(Canada) & July 14 (USA) can be found through the CCCB website, [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca) or directly at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JryFRlxKWq0&feature=youtu.be>.

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## Evangelization: our grace and vocation

Recently I was asked if I would write a column for the Northern Catholic News.

I agreed to examine my life in light of the Scriptures and offer a few thoughts with the hope of encouraging and nourishing the faith of my brothers and sisters. It is with this in mind that I chose the column title. What I offer is intended for the life of God's people.

Today it is not uncommon to hear people talk about Catholics who no longer go to Church.

We see people show up at Christmas and Easter or when they want a sacrament or service from the Church. We wonder where they are when the community gathers for faith celebrations.

We each have our own theory about baptised Catholics and their commitment or lack thereof. Perhaps if we reframed our conversation we might receive some helpful information.

- What makes us so reluctant to gather with one another and celebrate our faith?
- How is it that we are more focused on getting something for ourselves than on giving something of ourselves?
- What helps/hinders our commitment to each other, to Christ and to our God?
- What impact do my actions have on our Church?

In a resource entitled, *ON GOOD SOIL: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults* published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and

the National Office of Religious Education, the authors explore evangelization, catechesis, our tentative connections to each other and the challenges that result from lukewarm commitments.

We are reminded that the Church exists to evangelize. It is Jesus who invites us to share the Good News with people of every nation.

In *Evangelization in the Modern World*, Pope Paul VI wrote that evangelization means, "The carrying forth of the Good News to every sector of the human race so that by its strength it may enter into...hearts and renew the human race..."

He suggests that, "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize."

What a wonderful task. As disciples of Jesus we exist to renew the whole of creation.

Throughout our history, social and cultural pressures encouraged us to make commitments, nourished our commitments and helped us sustain them in adversity. Some of these commitments led us to life and some did not.

Today the socio-cultural pressures encouraging us to make faith based commitments are diminished. We are often taught to indulge ourselves, our needs and our wants rather than serve God in and through the poor.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

Today that question is put to us

in the midst of global financial concerns and climate change, in the midst of broken relationships, violations of human rights and personal tragedies. But if we are true to our baptism just answering this question is not enough; we must ask each other, "Who is Christ for you?"

In Scripture Peter responded, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." We are told Peter says this because of grace.

Today we often find ourselves in places where there is the opportunity and need to answer this question. But many of us remain silent and in our silence we miss opportunities to generate, nourish and sustain life.

Are we without grace? Are we not in touch with God's work within us?

This year we have several opportunities to reflect on the invitation of Jesus to proclaim the Good News to all nations. The Year of Faith provides opportunity to talk about our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church.

As a diocese we will study what evangelization means to us and because the Synod of Bishops will reflect on evangelization we will hear what our brothers and sisters around the world think about evangelization.

Faith tells us that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. Can I speak of my relationship with Jesus Christ and the difference he is making in my life? Christ is alive in my heart renewing the world. How might I cooperate with Christ at work in the world?



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## Fifth Diocesan Annual Appeal



By: Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI  
Kick-off Weekend for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Becoming Church, is September 15/16.

Once again all members of the Diocesan Church are invited to participate in the mission of the Church by sharing some of their treasure. While the focus for the Appeal is donations of money, we are also encouraged and invited to share our time and talents in promoting the mission of the Church.

As Bishop Wiesner reminds us so often we are never finished learning about our faith, growing in that faith and in our relationship with God and being living witnesses of God's presence in our world.

We truly are on a journey of Becoming Church each day of our lives. We are the Church,

but we continually grow in our awareness of what that means and then live it out.

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal is an opportunity for each of us to be more personally involved in the life and mission of our Diocesan Church, to grow in our awareness of ourselves as Church and to strengthen the bonds of our communion with one another.

The Appeal supports the mission of the Diocese through faith formation programs, healing programs, especially Returning to Spirit, Catholic schools, support for ministers in some of our smaller communities, youth ministry, education of seminarians, ongoing formation for priests, support for pro-life and subsidies for some of our smaller parish communities.

Without the support you render through the Annual Appeal we simply could not continue to provide the services and ministry that are presently offered.

While our diocesan finances are fairly healthy, without the income from the Appeal we would be using up our investment fund. Presently, our ministry is funded by our investment income, Cathedralium (tax paid by parishes), the Appeal income and other donations.

Your generous support of the Appeal is essential for the ministry of our Diocesan Church to continue.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity; we have met our goal each year and that is an incredible testament to your commitment to Becoming Church.

### Appeal offers new payment method

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is now registered with CanadaHelps, an online fundraising solution for charities which offers parishioners in the Diocese of Prince George a new method for pledging their support.

While people can still donate by cheque or automatic bank debit, with its enhanced security and privacy features, CanadaHelps allows donations to be made through the diocesan website at any time.

How to make a donation using CanadaHelps:

- Go to [www.pgdiocese.bc.ca](http://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca) and click the DonateNow button. Search for the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corp of Prince Rupert, enter your donation details, add it to your "Giving Basket" and then pay for the gift
- Choose from many options, including:
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  - monthly gifts
  - in honor of/memory of gifts
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- Free ecards are available for donations designated in honor or in memory of someone
- The 3.9% transaction fee is paid by the Appeal Office, not deducted from the pledge amount
- Tax receipts are issued automatically by CanadaHelps

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## Rose Prince Pilgrimage: a pilgrim's perspective



Bishop Lee Anthony Piche, guest speaker at the Rose Prince Pilgrimage in July, is pictured here during the closing Mass.

By: Kimberly Webb  
LEJAC - High flying buttresses, marble tombs of ancient saints and weary feet are often images conjured up by the word pilgrimage.

But at the pilgrimage in honor of Rose Prince in July there were no airports to wait in, no hotels to book. There was simply a six-hour drive from Terrace to Lejac and a wide open, groomed lawn with large tents and chairs set up for the faithful.

This year the guest speaker was Bishop Lee Anthony Piche of Minneapolis who spoke from a wooden dais in front of the breathtaking backdrop of lake and mountains.

Many priests and lay people of the Diocese were present for the weekend, lending a community feel to the pilgrimage. People also came from northern Saskatchewan, Alberta and Vancouver. When asked what drew them to Lejac many told me that they simply felt drawn or a friend invited them to share in the experience.

One felt immediately welcome as you were directed by volunteers to a site on the grounds to park and camp. All the meals were provided by local families. Refreshments were readily available and the profits of the few concessions went towards the pilgrimage expenses.

Not only was there a new cook-house being used but again large

tents were set up over tables and chairs for the comfort of those attending. All that was asked of participants was to give a donation at sometime during the weekend.

The pilgrimage was imbued with the gentle spirit of Rose Prince herself, one of prayer, quiet diligence and healing.

Bishop Piche talked about prayer and endurance in suffering but also on the necessity of faith in order to see the hand of God operating in one's life. He said that we don't believe because we see, we see because we believe.

His delivery was easy and full of humorous but poignant anecdotes. In explaining his style he admitted that while praying to Rose Prince, she inspired him to keep things simple in order to strengthen the faith of his listeners.

Reinforcing the theme of simple faith we prayed and encountered Christ together in many ways.

- At the Stations of the Cross where the prayers were in the Carrier language
- Many received the sacrament of Reconciliation with one of the two bishops or four priests who were available
- At Mass where we received the Eucharist
- There was also an opportunity for individual intercessory prayer
- As well there was time for heart-

felt petitions during the living rosary.

We honored Rose Prince with a candlelight procession to her grave. A spirit of constant prayer was upheld with both Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held in a small teepee and opportunity to place written intentions in a box not far from the altar.

While we heard stories about various physical healings attributed to the intercession of Rose Prince, the focus of the weekend was on the internal, the reality of human suffering and the wounds we all bear.

But, it was made clear that we do not have to stay in our lamentable state. We can be brought through Christ to wholeness and peace.

At the closing Mass our own Bishop Gerald Wiesner spoke, over the rumble of a passing train, of his earnest desire that the pilgrimage continue and flourish.

Throughout the weekend it was clear that for those hosting the pilgrimage it was a labor of love. While there was a plaintive plea for more volunteers there was also express gratitude for those who had given generously of themselves.

There was also an acknowledgment of the funds received from the Diocesan Annual Appeal which made the weekend of prayer, healing and pilgrimage possible.

The roses people carried home as a parting gift were a symbol of their encounter with the healing and love that Rose Prince herself discovered at Lejac.

*Bishop Gerald Wiesner celebrates the Rite of Candidacy with seminarian Alvin Matias at the closing Mass of the Rose Prince Pilgrimage in July.*





*Who gets letters...*

*The first letter goes to every household on the parish list*

*The second letter goes to every household that has not yet pledged*

*Reminder letters go to those who request them*

*Did you know...*

*you can make several pledges/donations over the year*

## *Appeal supports Camp Morice*

By: Rev. Pier Pandolfo  
The sun setting in the west over Stuart Lake, casting the dock in a fiery shadow, has become an iconic image of Camp Morice at Fort St. James and the bright promise of hope to which visiting the Camp gives birth.

Once again, the quiet at the May Vocation's Retreat, the shouts and tears of gratitude at the year-end gatherings of the Catholic School's graduating Grade 7 classes and the boundless energy unleashed during the Camp's summer programs were all possible because of what God has blessed our Diocese with at the Camp Morice location.

But all good icons call us to probe deeper than what is quickly seen on the surface.

The setting sun reminds us to look at the past with gratitude.

To the list of selfless caretakers - Kearns, Quaedvlieg, Deutschs - we can now add Clayton and Laurie Gross who have successfully (and sacrificially) navigated their first year.

To the numerous people who have given courageously

and generously through the Camp Morice Society Boards, the current members can say with conviction, "We are standing on the shoulders of giants."

To the Diocese whose invaluable support has helped to upgrade the sewage and water systems and to facilitate our summer employment opportunities, and to the Knights of Columbus who built the Camp Chapel and who offer bursaries to families needing assistance to send their children to Camp, we are grateful.

The fiery shadowed dock



reminds us to live the present with enthusiasm: the quiet, the shouts and tears and the boundless energy, all held together with a divine tension, give rise to a great enthusiasm.

And the vast waters of Stuart Lake remind us to live the future with confidence. The Camp Morice Society has wonderful dreams:

1. To develop the grounds and facilities so that parishioners can spend quality vacation time
2. To expand summer programs to address the need for faith filled experiences that children enjoy and want to return
3. To organize a summer work program designed to develop leaders from among our youth

We can live the future with confidence in our Diocese because of the Diocesan Annual Appeal and the support from throughout our Diocese.

Not all are gifted with resources to work with the youth. But by supporting the Diocesan Annual Appeal which in turn supports the

work at Camp Morice, we all are part of building Church.

On behalf of the Camp Morice Society and the many registrants of our programs, thank you for your generosity.

## *Unaffiliated donors*

At regular intervals the Diocesan Annual Appeal publishes a report that lists all the parishes with their goals for the year and percentage raised.

The last item listed, "Unaffiliated Donors", has raised some questions. Who

are these donors and why are their donations not applied to a parish?

For the most part these are people who are not affiliated with a particular parish but who still want to support the mission of the diocese. Among them are a number

of non-Catholics. Also included here are donations made by people living outside the diocese.

The 2011/12 Appeal saw nearly \$7,000 from unaffiliated donors. We are deeply grateful for this added support.

## City schools celebrate with Bishop Wiesner



Bishop Gerald Wiesner receives the gratitude of staff, students and parents during a Mass for the three Catholic schools in the City of Prince George held at Sacred Heart Cathedral in June. Photo By: Christine Murphy

By: Nuala Powers

PRINCE GEORGE - "I will follow the Good Shepherd" was the song chosen for the opening and closing of the 2012 Mass with Bishop Gerald Wiesner which has become a highlight of the final term in the three Prince George Catholic schools.

Students, staff and families from St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart schools gathered together on June 7<sup>th</sup> to mark the retirement and 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bishop Wiesner whose motto is "The Lord

is my Shepherd".

This annual mass traditionally takes place at Fort George Park. Unfortunately heavy rainfall earlier in the week made the beautiful venue impossible to use this year. Instead the mainly youthful congregation gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving.

The celebration began with student representatives from each school giving thanks for specific gifts that Bishop Wiesner has shared with their school.

Bishop Wiesner chose a simple writing tool familiar to all students, the pencil, as the theme for his homily. He spoke about how everything we do leaves a mark. We can always correct mistakes. What is important is what is inside of us.

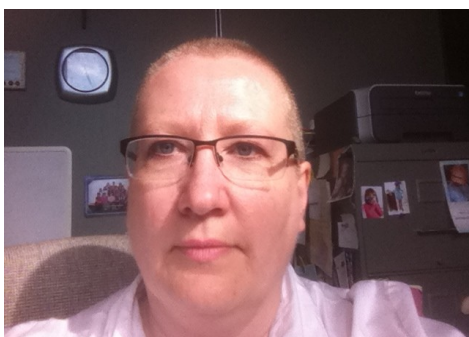
In life, he said, we will undergo painful sharpening which will strengthen us. To be at our best we must allow ourselves to be held and guided by the hand that holds us.

The young people were affirmed in their uniqueness and God-given talents which Bishop Wiesner urged them to use to make the world a better place.

Before the final blessing each school presented Bishop Wiesner with a giant "Thank You" card which contained messages from the students and staff. Bishop Wiesner then presented the teachers from each school with bundles of pencils which were distributed to their students as a reminder of the message of his homily.

As the celebration closed the students were in great voice and truly grateful for our own good shepherd.

## Bald is beautiful in Dawson Creek



In September 2009, Notre Dame School principal, Terri Haynal announced that if the school raised enough money to buy four smartboards, she would shave her head. By September 2010 the \$10,000 needed for the purchase had been raised. After growing her hair long enough to donate for wigs for cancer patients, Ms.

Haynal made good on her promise and, at the June 8<sup>th</sup> talent show, allowed donors the opportunity to lop off a lock or wield the razor. Way to go Ms. Haynal and congratulations Notre Dame School!



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By: Jeanne Wilson  
WHITEHORSE – Betty Ann Brown Davidson, National CWL President Elect, encouraged participants in the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual British Columbia and Yukon Provincial Convention of the Catholic Women's League to spend 30 minutes each day with Jesus.

"Breathe in and invite Jesus in," she said. "Breathe out and he sends us out to be his vehicle, his tool, his amazing grace. We are God's organization."

Over 100 people participated in the convention held June 14-16 in Whitehorse. It featured several presentations on a variety of issues.

Nancy Hadden of Rachael's Vineyard spoke about her experience of having an abortion, the pain she suffered and how workshops presented by Rachael's Vineyard helped her find healing.

As part of the Rachael's Vineyard team she is now able to help others, men and women who have experienced abortion, to forgive themselves and find forgiveness from God.

Author Sr. Edith Elder of Whitehorse gave a brief presentation on her book, *Embracing the Spirit Within: Inspirational Stories and Reflections*. She emphasized that God's divine light is in all of us and love is the most powerful force we have.

The life of Therese of Lisieux was presented over the two days as a spiritual thread that joined us together. A dramatization of the lives of St. Therese and Sr. Madeleine was presented as if they were there among us.

Through this presentation participants were encouraged to reflect on what holiness means and how we can be holy. We were invited to walk St. Therese's "Little Way" by offering everything that happens, however mi-



The new CWL provincial executive pose at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Whitehorse at the end of their convention in June.

nor or momentous, whether a source of laughter or of tears, to God through love.

Charlotte Hrenchuk, representing the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, spoke about women and poverty in the Yukon and reminded participants that all women are at risk for homelessness.

Dawn Kobewka spoke about Maryhouse and their outreach to the homeless and needy in Whitehorse.

Bishop Gary Gordon praised the CWL for its work and reminded participants that this work does make a difference. There are deep challenges in the Church, the bishop of Whitehorse said, but people want to be in community. Our role is to keep the light on, plant the seeds and not worry about the results.

Bishop John Corriveau of the Diocese of Nelson gave a

presentation on his spiritual journey. Raised in a Catholic family, at 15 he said he realized he wanted to be a priest; he was accepted by the Capuchin order of St. Francis.

He held many positions in the Capuchins and travelled throughout the world visiting its members. From his experience he said he realizes that the gospel comes alive in community; he encouraged CWL members to preach the gospel at all times, using words if necessary.

Reports from the six dioceses and from each standing committee were given. Elections were held and a new executive was chosen. Doreen Gowans is the new BC and Yukon Provincial President.

Two resolutions were passed at the convention: Protection and Care of Sexually Exploited Children and Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services. These resolutions will be carried forward to the National Convention in August in Edmonton.

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## CHABC speakers provide helpful information



Susan House from the Catholic Health Association of BC discusses end-of-life issues at a workshop held at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Photo By: Ernie Merz

By: Marie Flouriot  
**PRINCE GEORGE** - As part of its Community of Care initiative Sacred Heart Cathedral hosted two workshops on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Guest speakers were Susan House and Kit Mykyte from the Catholic Health Association of BC (CHABC).

Executive Director Susan House gave a presentation entitled "Advance Care Planning". This somewhat mystifying expression translates as "how to make your wishes known with regard to end of life care and treatment in the event that you are not longer able to communicate them yourself".

This is not an easy topic and it

brings to mind situations where pain, suffering, loss and solitude are all too real.

It is no wonder that one of the 60 participants started his evaluation comments by stating, "I dreaded this workshop". However, he continued, "I enjoyed it all!" This is to the credit of Susan House.

In her two-hour presentation Susan gave a Catholic perspective on the topic as she reviewed legislation on advanced care planning recently enacted by British Columbia and presented the Province's efforts at making its citizens aware of their rights in this matter (through a manual entitled *My Voice*, available online or at health care service points).

Issues such as organ donation, artificial nutrition and hydration, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and medical futility were discussed in the lively presentation supported by good visual tools. Each participant received a copy of the CHABC booklet, *Advance Care Planning: A Catholic, Faith-Based perspective*, which provides further information on the subject.

A smaller group met later in the day to hear about parish nursing in a presentation given by CHABC Past President, Kit Mykyte.

An experienced nurse, Kit eventually felt called to parish nursing. Part of her training included a year long placement with a Baptist

Congregation in Edmonton. Her account of her work and experiences within that community provided a clear vision of the different aspects of the ministry of parish nurse. It also perfectly illustrated the reality of a community of care.

Both workshops were very well received. They created a new awareness and raised new questions. We now have to find ways to answer them: a new task for Sacred Heart's Community of Care initiative.

As follow-up to these workshops and within the framework of the Community of Care initiative, Sacred-Heart Cathedral is planning three short presentations on preparing an advance care directive, communion to the sick and planning a funeral.

These presentations, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 27, will be practical and aim at giving participants tools to complete relevant forms, carry out the Eucharistic ministry or prepare a meaningful service.



Parish nursing was the topic of a presentation by CHABC past president, Kit Mykyte at Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Photo By: Ernie Merz

## Knights lend a helping hand to St. Felix mission



Mike Panchuk of Terrace and Gabriel Lazzarotto of New Hazelton are pictured hard at work in front of St. Felix in Stewart. Part of a Knights of Columbus work bee comprised of men from Hyder, Stewart, Terrace and New Hazelton, they joined Father Johmer Faderanga (pastor of St. Mary's in New Hazelton with responsibility for the mission at Stewart) to address maintenance concerns at the historic church, July 9-10.

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## *A celebration in honor*



Twenty-three priests and eight bishops concelebrate. Photo by: Frank Jamin



The choir, made up of music ministers from various parishes, enlivened the celebration. Photo by: Rebecca Gilbert



Arlene Zobl, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Parish in Prince George and member of the Diocesan Finance Council, proclaims the second reading. Photo by: Frank Jamin



Jim and Terry Wiesner, brother and sister-in-law of our bishop, participate in the celebration. Photo by: Rebecca Gilbert



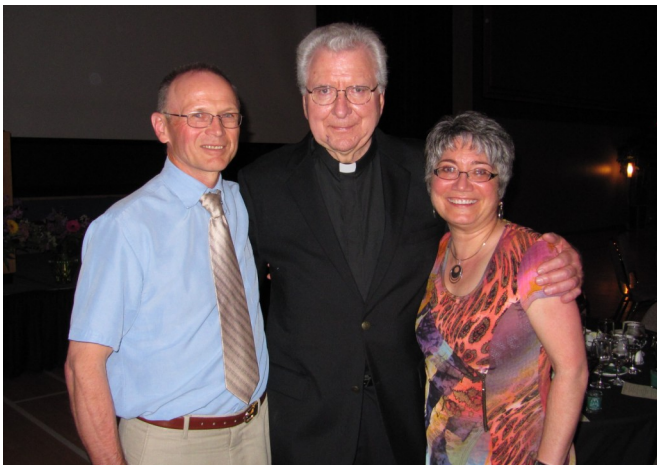
Acolyte John Hodgson of Sacred Heart Cathedral prepares incense during the celebration. Photo by: Rebecca Gilbert



*of Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI*



Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, spoke at the banquet. Photo by: Frank Jamin



Allan and Martha Primus of St. Peter's Parish, Mackenzie were among many who greeted Bishop Gerry after the celebration. Photo by: Susan Campbell



Knights of Columbus provide an honor guard for Bishop Gerry. Photo by: Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI



A quilt displaying the traditional button blanket motif is presented to Bishop Gerry by Lynn Monteith (Diocesan Finance Office) and Susie Tress (Babine Nation). Photo by: Frank Jamin





# BECOMING CHURCH

# 2012

Appeal Goal  
**\$400,000**



**Faith Formation**  
\$167,000



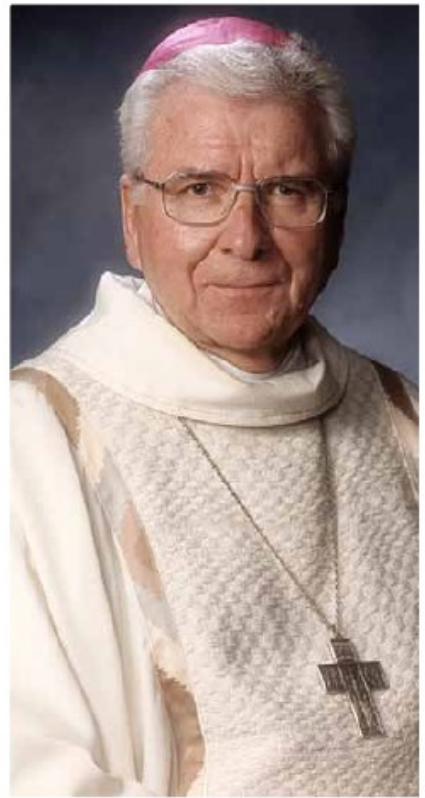
**Vocations, Seminarians,  
On-Going Formation**  
\$55,000

**Schools**  
\$60,000



**Home  
Missions**  
\$68,000

**Youth**  
\$50,000



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