



DIOCESE
OF
PRINCE GEORGE

Northern Catholic News

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AUTUMN 2014

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Appeal dollars translate beautifully

By: Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI
LEJAC - Over the years the Annual Diocesan Appeal has helped to support the Rose Prince Pilgrimage.

Allocations are made each year to help cover the cost of the pilgrimage, supplementing local support. However, the pilgrimage requires suitable buildings for it to continue.

In the recent past the Appeal provided funding to build a new cook house, which was sorely needed if the organizers were going to keep feeding the many people who gathered to pray and celebrate over the weekend.

The small, temporary and very inadequate structures that were pressed into service proved no longer functional. But with local donations of materials and labor,

along with the Appeal allocations, a cook house was built and life became much simpler for all.

Another essential structure at the site was the wooden teepee that served as a storage space as well as part of the chapel. The old structure was wearing out and tents were needed to be rented each year to provide shelter for the sanctuary and the singers and elders.

A request was made to the Annual Diocesan Appeal and a commitment was made to provide allocations over the next several years to build a new structure. Again, with donated materials and labor and a lot of hard work by the contractor's crew, a beautiful new log

structure was ready for this year's pilgrimage.

The structure provides storage, a large sanctuary area and seating areas for elders and music ministers, all under one roof. Gone are the tents and the old teepee and the pilgrims enjoyed the use of the new facility.

Thank you to all who have supported the Annual Diocesan Appeal over the past years. The new structures at the Rose Prince Pilgrimage are a tangible reminder of your generous support and a testament to the community spirit of our Diocesan Church as we continue "Building Together in Faith".

More appeal news
See Pages 8-9, 20



The new Rose Prince Pilgrimage Sanctuary Building. The log building was constructed by the community of St. Andrew's under the guidance of Ray Steiner. We are grateful to local businesses who donated materials which helped reduce construction costs. PHOTO BY: Therese Steiner.

Annual
Diocesan
Appeal
2014-2015

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Northern Catholic News

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What to do when the church is too small

By: Rev. Richard Beaudette,
OMI

MCBRIDE - On Saturday August 2, 2014, the congregation outgrew their small mission church!

St. Patrick's was the location of the marriage of Quinto Vizza and Marta Garcia.

It was important to both Quinto and Marta that their marriage take place at a Catholic Church and as Quinto had grown up in McBride and most of his family still live there, they decided to look at the possibility of celebrating their wedding in the Church where he had been baptized and celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

In discussion with Father Richard Beaudette, OMI, canonical pastor of St. Patrick's, it was decided to celebrate the wedding on the front steps of this tiny church.

An altar and ambo were placed just outside the church doors, which were opened making the sanctuary visible to all. The street was transformed with decorations and chairs set up to accommodate about 200 people; many more stood on the grass of the house opposite, which fortunately belongs to the groom's aunt.



Bride, Marta Garcia, along with her parents, prepare to walk down the aisle of St. Patrick's Church which was modified to accommodate the large crowd gathered for the wedding. PHOTO BY: Adriana Caputo

The Cariboo and Rocky Mountains made a beautiful backdrop for this celebration and the occasional breeze made the soaring temperatures bearable.

The Sunday Liturgy was celebrated the next day inside the church with the usual number assembled. But the day we outgrew our church will be long remembered!

ADDRESS CHANGE—DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

The Diocese of Prince George changed their mailing address on September 1st.

Mail volumes have decreased in recent years and so the cost-saving decision was made to end the mail bag service and start using the street address.

The change will incorporate all organizations and departments housed at the Pastoral Centre: including the Chancery, Catholic Independent Schools, and the Domano Renewal Centre.

The new mailing address and postal code is:

**6500 Southridge Avenue,
Prince George , BC, V2N 5P9**

Please update all correspondence to the Diocese and pass the message to local parish and school groups. Thank you!

Bishop Jensen praises religious order

By: Agnieszka Krawczynski

Reprinted with permission of the BC Catholic

NORTH VANCOUVER - Bishop Stephen Jensen celebrated his first liturgical event in Greater Vancouver since he took up his post as prelate of Prince George.

Joining the Carmelites on the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, the bishop announced the order will expand their reach to his diocese. "All the different religious orders have their own spiritual path and the Carmelites are one of the richest traditions," he said after Mass in St. Edmund's Church.

"I am looking forward to the Carmelites being established in Prince George."

Father Jerald D'Souza, OCD (Order of Carmelites Discalced), pastor of St. Edmund's Parish, was thrilled Bishop Jensen celebrated Mass in his church. "Bishop Jensen is a good and great friend of the Carmelites," he said. When the Carmelites arrived in Vancouver 11 years ago, then-Father Jensen helped it establish itself. "I was nervous and the Carmelites were nervous. He gave us the courage. We are indebted to him!" Father D'Souza exclaimed.



Fr. Melvin Pinto, OCD stands on the steps of Sacred Heart Cathedral. His assignment as Rector of the Cathedral began August 1st. PHOTO BY: Jennifer Foster.

In the last decade, the order has expanded to serve six dioceses, according to regional superior Father Rudolf D'Souza, OCD.

"We go to places when bishops ask us to serve their dioceses, then we recruit local vocations," explained Father Rudolf. "We will be beginning to serve in Prince George in the beginning of August."

The Carmelites trace their history to a group of hermits living on Mount Carmel in the 12th century. The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrates the

appearance of the Blessed Virgin to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite, on July 16, 1251.

The brown article of clothing, ranging in size from a long garment that hangs over the shoulders and nearly reaches the floor to two small squares of fabric connected by two thin ribbons, is still worn by religious and secular Carmelites.

"We are clothed when we give the first promise," said Venita Kwan, one of several local Carmelites who meet at St. Edmund's once a month for faith formation.

She said secular Carmelites undergo two years of training before making first promises and receiving the scapular. Four years later, they can make definite promises.

"Our main focus is spirituality and to become holy so we can serve the Lord." Carmelite spirituality follows the footsteps of Carmelite theological giants like St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

"We are getting enriched by the charism of the Carmelites," Bishop Jensen said. "People are looking to be fed and if we can provide them with yet another sample of the Church's spiritual tradition, I think that's wonderful."

Father Rudolph added that the order will continue its expansion in BC by building a formation house in Mission.

New diocesan shield



The Diocese of Prince George now has its own Coat of Arms. It will be used on Diocese of Prince George communications to uniquely identify the Diocese.

A distinct diocesan coat of arms (or shield) will provide continuity to the administrative departments despite changes in leadership.

The Pope and bishops have a personal coat of arms, which is used to identify communications from their particular office. Each shield is unique. The symbols featured on it relate to many influences in his life: these may include references to people, communities, places and events that have had an impact on his spiritual leadership. This is the reason why the coat of arms changes with each new Bishop.

The Canadian Heraldic Authority was commissioned to create the Diocese of Prince George shield. Bruce Patterson, the Chief Herald, designed it to incorporate the

historical, spiritual, and geographic elements of the region.

The large cross is the main element of the shield. It represents the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious order that first ministered to this region. It is contained within a golden wedge which symbolizes the light of the Gospel.

The background of the shield represents the area covered by the diocese. The three blue waves alludes to the coast of the Pacific Ocean and the three green chevron shapes to the mountainous and forested area of northern British Columbia.

The mitre at the top of the shield symbolizes the jurisdiction of the bishop. It differs from the coat of arms used by bishops which has a green galero (ecclesiastical hat) sitting upon a gold processional cross. The white mitre was created by the Heraldic Authority especially for Canadian Catholic dioceses.

Many hands make light work

By: Trina Bysouth

BURNS LAKE – Each year in May a spring cleaning is organized for Immaculata Parish.

This year the turnout was incredible and with so many parishioners lending a hand, not only the inside was cleaned but the outside as well. Because there were so many more helpers than in previous years, the job was also done a whole lot earlier.

It was great to see new faces helping this year. Every room in the church was cleaned out, dusted, vacuumed and walls washed.

To finish the day, Father Tom Shymko provided a barbeque for the volunteers. Immaculata Parish is very thankful for everyone who shared their time and talents on this day in May.



Parishioners of Immaculata Parish pose with their pastor, Father Tom Shymko, after a day of cleaning at the parish.

Thank you!



Christ the King Parish is very grateful for the ministry of Father Dominic Apaatah. Originally from Ghana, Father Dominic came to the Diocese of Prince George in May to provide replacement ministry in Kitimat while the parish awaits the arrival of a permanent pastor in September. "Father, we sure enjoyed your sermons and all you have done for us here in Kitimat. God Bless you and we hope you stay in touch with us." PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt



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Turbulent times produce saints

By: Susan Wardlaw

The storming of the Bastille Prison in 1789 started the French Revolution.

The next 10 years of revolution overturned the social order in France in a way similar to what the chain of revolutions in the Middle East is doing in our time.

The surrounding countries feared that the French spark would set off just such a chain reaction in Europe. The Church, in the public view had become allied with the aristocracy and so suffered in the wave of anticlericalism which accompanied the Revolution.

This era of social turmoil, similar to our own produced at least three saints whose influence we feel today in Prince George.

One seven-year-old boy, Eugene de Mazenod, fled with his family to Venice, then to Naples, then to Sicily, a refugee, suffering the dislocation, lack of funds, uncertainty that present refugees know.

In 1816 he founded the missionary order, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

A 10-year-old girl, Madeleine Sophie Barat, was educated by her Jesuit brother while he was in hiding from the anticlerical authorities.

She grew up to found, in 1800, the Society of the Sacred Heart, an order of nuns whose educational purpose had the effect on the daughters of the "nouveau riche" of influencing the spirituality of the next generation.

In 1853 it was obvious that the Revolution had failed to solve the predicament of the poor, though its wave of antireligious sentiment had not yet abated.

A young university student, Frederic Ozanam, championed the Church's position in debates and, gathering round him a group

of other students and young professionals, started caring for the poor. They became the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Three young people, all from affluent, stable backgrounds, grew up in turbulent times and responded to the call of social justice:

Eugene de Mazenod, 1782-1861
 Madeleine Sophie Barat, 1779-1865
 Frederic Ozanam, 1813-1853.

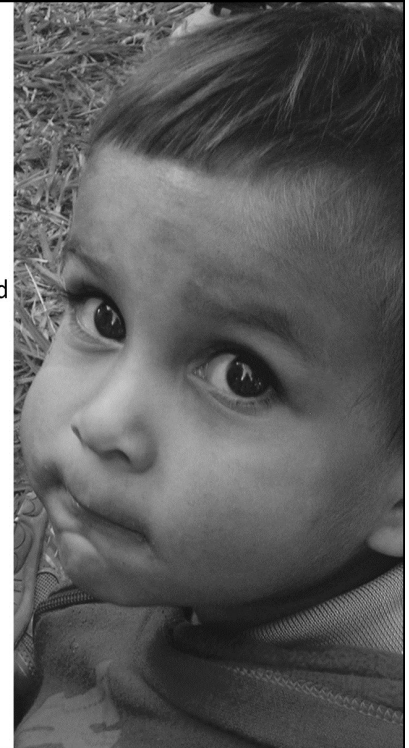
Prince George benefits today from the influence of the Oblates and the Societies of The Sacred Heart and St Vincent de Paul.

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Keynote speaker, Sr. Eva Solomon, CSJ, is pictured with others participating in the Annual BC and Yukon CWL Convention. PHOTO BY: Bil Gowans

By: Evelyn Rigby

KAMLOOPS - Prince George CWL Diocesan President Laura Esposito reported the accomplishments of Prince George League members at the annual BC and Yukon Catholic Women's League Convention held in Kamloops, June 5-7.

Over 200 women gathered for the event along with Bishop Stephen Jensen, Kamloops Bishop David Monroe, Monsignor Jerry Desmond and several other priests and religious sisters.

As well as accompanying Whitehorse composer Carol Vanderbyl in the premiere of her song celebrating the gifts of the League, Laura participated in reading from the roll of deceased members during Friday's Mass.

She also led the Prince George delegation in a lively invitation to next year's provincial convention.

The keynote speaker for the convention was Sister Eva Solomon, CSJ. She explained how relationships can be

strengthened between the CWL and First Nations. Her presentation included an interpretation of Gelineau Fisher's painting of Anishinaabe Jesus "Come Dance with Me".

Sister Eva also brought a first class relic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, which was revered after the closing liturgical celebration.

In a thought-provoking interactive session, Barbara Dowding, National President-elect, encouraged members to follow the exhortation of Pope Francis by striving for 'eternal newness' and developing a heart of mercy and compassion.

Students from two Kamloops Catholic schools gave valuable input into a session on bullying. A powerful recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries incorporated four members' experiences of heartbreak and pain, reminding attendees that their sufferings become a participation in the saving work of Jesus.

The proceeds of a generous cash collection held at the convention will be shared between Catholic Missions in Canada and the New Life Mission Angel Dental Fund which enables the needy to access basic dental care.

After the election, the 2014-2016 provincial executive was installed in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Three resolutions were passed, two of which will be forwarded for consideration at this August's National Convention. The first resolution seeks to redress the lack of consistent regulations across Canada for assisted human reproductive technologies. The second requests a ban on the addition of monosodium glutamate to processed foods. If

passed, a CWL delegation from National will present the resolutions at their annual fall meeting with the Federal government.

The third resolution, intended for the BC Government, asks for fully subsidized basic dental care for low income citizens.

A letter was sent to the Benchers of the Law Society of BC applauding their April decision to approve Trinity Western University's application for a law faculty.

At the closing banquet, Christi Dionne of Barrier was presented with the \$500 Molly Boucher Bursary. The bursary was established to provide financial assistance to a member wishing to further her education. Nicholas Hunter M. Tarver of Star of the Sea Parish in White Rock was the winner of the \$500 Life Member Art & Culture Award.

All oral reports given at the convention can be found at www.bcyukoncwl.com.



Prince George Diocesan President Laura Esposito accompanies Carol Vanderbyl, Whitehorse Diocesan President, as she sings Carol's Song, a tribute to the gifts of the League. PHOTO BY: Bil Gowans

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Joy and praise with each brush stroke

By: Vivian Nelson

NEW HAZELTON - Several parishioners joined together the first Saturday in July to give St Mary's Catholic Church in New Hazelton a new coat of paint. It was agreed that the building could use some TLC after 15 years.

Rod Spooner spear-headed the preparation; he organized supplies and painting areas and took 10 days to scrape off the old flaking paint.

All but one of the volunteers had white or grey hair! Some brave souls climbed scaffold to paint, others straddled ladders or hung over the roof to get the trim. One person got the tedious task of painting window trim behind metal bars.

Sometimes there was more paint on the helpers and flower beds than

on the walls of the church!

St Mary's Catholic Women's League covered the cost of the paint and supplies and food while Mary Spooner made lunch to feed the hungry crew.

On Sunday morning, Father Johmer Faderanga, pastor of St. Mary's, told the parish of his impression of the church painting as he drove to the Rose Prince pilgrimage early that Saturday.

He said he was touched when he realized some volunteers had arrived at 5 a.m. "It was a community coming together, with each stroke of the paint brush bringing joy and praise for the glory of God's house," he said.



The painting crew pose in front of their church: standing, left to right, Jerry Pare, Gerry Nelson, Rod Spooner, Gabriel Lazzarotto, David Schwab, Orlando Wiebe, Rhea Joseph, Vivian Nelson, Ray Lavallee and Robert Tait; kneeling in front, Mary Spooner, Stusha Messier, Brenda and Barbara Schwab.

Knights support Canada Day

Grand Knight Frank Mauro and Filipino Club president, Edwin Empinado worked together to provide a BBQ for July 1st celebrations in Kitimat.

Pictured here are volunteers barbecuing prior to the sale.
PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt



CORRECTION:

We apologize for the confusion caused by misinformation published in the Summer 2014 edition of the Northern Catholic News regarding the Knights of Columbus. District Deputy Frank Visentin accepted an award on behalf of District #16 for their 2013 contribution of over \$14,000 to the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. In 2014 they raised an additional \$25,250 for the Foundation and of that amount \$20,300 was contributed by Prince Rupert Council #5282.

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**Annual
Diocesan
Appeal**
2014-2015

**BUILDING
TOGETHER**
in faith

BUILDING TOGETHER IN FAITH

By: Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI

The Diocesan Annual Appeal BUILDING TOGETHER IN FAITH will kick off on the September 13/14 weekend. Once again members of parishes in the Diocese of Prince George are invited to participate in the mission of the local church in a very concrete way.

We are reminded in many different ways throughout Scripture, the teaching of the Church and local programs that through our baptism we are all called to be disciples of Jesus, witnesses to the Gospel and participants in the ministry of evangelization.

One way we can participate is through sharing some of our resources to assist various individuals and groups who are charged with that ministry on behalf of all of us.

In the brochure you will receive in the mail are details about the needs that will be met through the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

As in past years, the Appeal goal is \$400,000. These funds will support some of our ongoing needs as in past years, but there are also new areas to which we are responding.

One need that has arisen is catechetics.

In the past, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops developed and published catechetical resources for use in our schools and parishes. They no longer provide these so schools and parishes have to find new resources, an expensive undertaking. The Appeal therefore has allocated \$10,000 to help fund acquisition of these new resources.

The Diocesan Pastoral Centre has been reorganized and now includes an Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. We look forward to new

initiatives and responses to the call to evangelize and once again the Appeal will fund ministry, programs and workshops presented throughout the diocese by this office.

Exciting things have been taking place under the direction of the Youth/Young Adult Ministries Office, which will again receive funding from the Appeal as will programs sponsored by Camp Morice and Camp Emile.

One of the original goals when the Appeal was first launched was to reduce our dependence on funding from Catholic Missions in Canada which supports some of our smaller rural parishes and missions.

We have been able to reduce our grant applications from Catholic Missions in Canada from \$103,700 last year to \$75,200 this year. That is a

tremendous accomplishment and we hope to continue to move toward complete financial self-sufficiency. We can only do that with the help of each member of the diocese who contributes to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Happily we can report that the Appeal will support two seminarians this academic year. If our Diocesan Church is going to continue to thrive, we need to provide vocations from within the Diocese; the cost of training seminarians is the responsibility of the Diocese. We are grateful for the vocations we have and grateful for your support for their training.

Please prayerfully consider the invitation to participate in the Annual Diocesan Appeal. By doing so, we respond to the call of 'BUILDING TOGETHER IN FAITH'. Your generosity truly does make a difference.

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

Reminder letters go to those who request them

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2013-2014 Diocesan Annual Appeal - Thank you!

As of: August 31, 2014

Parish	Households	Appeal Goal	Total Pledged	Total % of Goal	# of Pledges	Average Pledge	Pledges Received
Annunciation, Prince Rupert	269	27,541	16,330	59.3%	77	214	16,330
Christ Our Saviour, Prince George	176	19,480	22,144	113.7%	70	317	21,344
Christ the King, Kitimat	571	48,432	37,045	76.5%	139	275	37,005
Resurrection, Fort St. John	312	37,139	38,300	103.1%	97	379	37,920
Holy Cross, Tumbler Ridge	26	3,773	3,053	80.9%	9	339	3,053
Immaculata, Burns Lake	83	13,651	10,110	74.1%	28	358	10,110
Immaculate Conception, Prince George	199	28,693	27,675	96.5%	92	299	27,135
Notre Dame, Dawson Creek	244	27,203	24,529	90.2%	112	218	24,170
Our Lady of Peace, Chetwynd	53	11,954	6,875	57.5%	17	345	6,875
Our Lady of Snows, Fort St. James	88	7,580	2,990	39.4%	17	184	1,925
Sacred Heart, Prince George	594	47,009	42,356	90.1%	222	205	39,746
Sacred Heart, Terrace	479	53,374	55,165	103.4%	193	285	55,065
St. Andrew's, Fraser Lake	67	11,691	14,375	123.0%	53	261	14,375
St. Anthony's, Houston	47	4,691	4,265	90.9%	21	209	4,265
St. Joseph's, Vanderhoof	89	12,099	14,870	122.9%	37	413	14,650
St. Joseph's, Smithers	151	24,934	17,465	70.0%	63	283	17,465
St. Mary's, Prince George	609	44,258	50,495	114.1%	174	293	50,495
St. Mary's, New Hazelton	31	4,839	4,920	101.7%	17	292	4,900
St. Patrick's, McBride	59	3,924	5,575	142.1%	28	199	5,575
St. Peter's, Mackenzie	47	7,735	7,730	99.9%	28	277	7,730
Unaffiliated Donors			9,367		6	1,193	9,367
Totals	4,194	400,000	415,634	103.9%	1,500	277	409,500

Diocesan Goal:	\$400,000	Parish Rebates	17,520
		Achieved:	391,980

The Diocesan Appeal helped fund improvements to the Rose Prince Pilgrimage site. Father Garry LaBoucane, OMI is pictured here concelebrating in the newly constructed chapel.



The Diocesan Appeal supports Youth and Young Adult Ministries including the Diocesan Youth Conference held each year. Camp Morice and Camp Emile also receive funding from the Appeal.



For the Life of the World

*Rev. Douglas
Jeffrey, OMI*

Sacred Scripture prayed for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary continues to inform me, nudging me to stop awhile and savor their meaning.

- “Mary set out and went with haste...and greeted Elizabeth”
- “Blessed are you among women”
- “as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy”
- “he has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things.”

These phrases invite me to take a closer look at Mary as a disciple of Jesus Christ. What might I learn from her?

Here in my new home - St. Mary's Residence on the Oblate Hill in Battleford, Saskatchewan - there are numerous images honoring our Blessed Mother. This is fitting since our religious community, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is under the patronage of Mary.

The images vary from traditional to abstract. Several seem to suggest a young, quiet, submissive woman while others suggest a woman of strength.

Scripture portrays Mary as a strong, thoughtful, faithful woman, ever attentive to the voice of God prompting her at various life moments.

From the visit of the angel to her visit with Elizabeth, from the trip to Bethlehem to the birth of Jesus, from the presentation of the Christ child in the Temple to the finding of Jesus speaking with the elders in the Temple, from the wedding at Cana to the foot of the Cross,

from Christ's death to his resurrection, Mary is revealed as a disciple.

Her listening is not passive; her listening shapes her activity.

In the Magnificat, Mary's great hymn of praise recorded in Luke's Gospel, we see a woman attuned to the hopes and dreams of her people, the people of Israel. God strides into human history intent on making a difference and Mary rejoices in such a God.

A shy, submissive woman preferred by the rich and powerful men of her day would not normally accompany such a God. Mary does!

Mary took a different path than some women within her culture. She walked with God, accepting to be the mother of Jesus despite the circumstances.

Just how does a young woman convince her parents, family and friends that she has been visited by an angel and is pregnant with the Son of God?

She walked with God, willing to trust that in the birth of her Son, God was indeed at work among the poor and the vulnerable of the world.

Mary walked with God, willing to accept the cold eye of doubt from faith-filled elders and religious leaders who could not accept that her Son was the promised Messiah for whom they longed.

Mary walked with God into the midst of suffering which was often seen as a sign of sinfulness rather than righteousness. After all, God blesses and rewards those who are faithful, does he not? Those who are sinners are destined to suffer, are they not?

Mary walked with God to the Passover meal and listened to the condemnation of the crowd.

Mary walked with God to Calvary, stood and watched as

her Son surrendered his life to that same God on the Cross.

During the Church year there are several Marian feasts and each celebrates a different aspect of our Blessed Mother. In each celebration Mary's listening and reflection leads her to action.

Her action is not informed by rules and regulations; her action is informed by her relationship with God and the needs of the people.

Her visit to Elizabeth, her care for the Christ child, her concern at Cana, her presence at the Cross and with the disciples in the Upper Room all suggest a woman engaged in life, acting even when it drew her into conflict with the culture and authorities of the day.

As members of the Church, careful listening to each other leads us to respect. Like Mary the fruit of our listening informs our actions.

Ever attentive to the fact that all of us, in our limitations and in our possibilities, are made in the image and likeness of God; our actions include visiting those who are 'other', lifting up the lowly, giving birth to the Christ within us, bearing in our bodies the suffering of our brothers and sisters and celebrating the wonder that comes with the truth of the resurrection.

When we listen as Mary listened, no longer can we look down on one another and use gender, wealth, age or race as an excuse to exclude one another from belonging to our work, our play or our prayer.

Indeed, Mary invites us to see ourselves as people destined for glory. Hand in hand, men and women, poor and rich, old and young, from diverse cultures, we pray with Mary, "...my soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior..."

RHB SCHMITZ de GRACE

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Parish pays tribute and says farewell to pastor

By: Lorraine Thibeault

VANDERHOOF – St. Joseph's Parish and Holy Trinity Mission said farewell to a much-loved pastor in July.

It is difficult to capture everything, but as Father Doug Jeffrey, OMI, leaves for his new assignment in Battleford, Saskatchewan, we thank him for his four years of ministry here and recall some of the many things he did for and with us.

Father Doug encouraged us to be full, active, conscious participants in the Eucharistic Liturgy and in the life of the parish. For some this was a challenge; to reflect deeply and to be as active as he wished us to be.

With his presentations on Vatican II, Father Doug enlightened us on the recent changes to the Roman Missal. While we questioned some of these changes, we looked into what had been before, what was asked of us now and why it was being asked.

By looking at the past we discovered some reasons for the changes that we could accept and some reasons that didn't make sense.

Father Doug challenged the Pastoral Council to rethink its focus. Under his leadership it began to focus more on pastoral issues and less on financial and property issues.

Reflecting on the book, *On Good Soil*, Pastoral Council members thought deeply about the pastoral life of St. Joseph Parish and Holy Trinity Mission.

They found ways to change thought to action. Among other actions, we tried to include Holy Trinity Mission in parish activities, reached out to non-practicing Catholics in an effort to re-member our parish and heal past hurts and attempted to enhance the social life of the parish.

The Safe Parish Community Policy was implemented during this time and Father Doug made sure we did everything possible to ensure safety for vulnerable members of our parish.

He challenged the Finance Council to deal with the many issues confronting a parish with a deficit budget and aging buildings.



Father Doug Jeffrey, OMI, and parishioner, Jacob Silberberger.

Council members sorted out requests for use of the building when most wanted to pay little or nothing for its use. A Building Fund was implemented to ensure funds were in place when major renovations and repairs were needed. A number of renovations and improvements were undertaken at this time.

Father Doug introduced different ideas that led to a book club and discussion on the Apostolic Exhortation, *Joy of the Gospel*. We stepped deeper into the world of ecumenism with our joint suppers and prayer services with the Anglican, Lutheran and United churches.

Masses celebrated for nine days at an extremely early hour of the morning - a suggestion of the Filipino community - were well attended.

Father Doug provided training for ministry positions such as altar server, lector and Eucharistic ministers. He visited households to anoint the sick, share a meal or pass the time with the lonely.

An initiative of Father Doug and parishioner Chris Wingham was the parish website. Father Doug kept the website up to date and posted regular blogs. He contributed articles regularly to the *Northern Catholic News*.

His homilies were wonderful as he related the words of Scripture to our everyday living.

During Father Doug's time with us, parishioners moved away and new parishioners arrived, including many Filipino families. We welcomed new parishioners to St. Joseph Parish through the sacraments of initiation and grieved the passing of parishioners and friends. Throughout, Father held us close.

Father Doug supported our Development & Peace efforts and was a wonderful spiritual advisor for the Catholic Women's League and chaplain for the Knights of Columbus. He joined in Youth Group sessions inspiring them with his questions and reflections and helping with their Halloween and Valentine's dinners and Christmas skits.

He hosted celebrations for the Feasts of St. Francis and of St. Eugene de Mazenod and thanked the leaders in our parish community by hosting an annual wine and cheese gathering for them.

Father Doug had a special place in his heart for the elders of our parish, welcoming them for a cup of tea and a chat and celebrating the milestones of their lives.

He planted a garden in the shape of a cross and grew tomatoes and lettuce and other vegetables. Unlike St. Francis who loved animals, he did not appreciate the resident deer who ate the harvest and rested in the shade of the rectory deck.

Father Doug cheered on parishioners as they participated in theatre and sports. He even joined our friendly Sunday evening volleyball competitions in the gym and took in a few golf games with parishioners.

Sadly, he cheered for the wrong sports teams, unable to shift his loyalty from the Saskatchewan Roughriders to the BC Lions or from the Montreal Canadians to the Vancouver Canucks. However, we have to admit that if Father Doug had been cheering for our BC teams, we would not have had so much fun.

We appreciated Father Doug as skilled, compassionate, enthusiastic and committed to our welfare and we say thank you so very much.

Domano Renewal Centre Schedule

September to December 2014



SEPTEMBER	EVENT	FACILITATOR
9,18,23,30	Introduction to the Old Testament	Jude Van Baalen OP
12,19,26	Noon Hour Eat and Retreat	Irene Baker CSJ
14	Movies With Meaning: Saving Sarah Cain	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
15, 29	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
19-21	Lay Formation	Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
24	"Discharging Your Loyal Soldier"	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
25	Walking Retreat- Fort George Canyon	Fr. Richard Beaudette OMI
OCTOBER		
6-10	Priests' Retreat	Archbishop Richard Gagnon
7, 14	Introduction to the Old Testament	Jude Van Baalen OP
17-19	Lay Formation	Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
23, 30	"Joy of the Gospel" Study	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
20, 27	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
21, 28	Book Discussion	Claire Petrucci
24-26	Women's Retreat	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
NOVEMBER		
1	"Many Faces of Fear"	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
4, 10, 18, 25	Book Discussion	Claire Petrucci
5	Artists' Retreat	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
6, 13, 20	"Joy of the Gospel" Study	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
8	Helping the Anxious Child	Fr. John Garden and Annie Kearns
9	Movies With Meaning: The Great Debaters	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
10, 24	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
12	Living As Missionary Disciples	Fr. Jack Michalchuk and John Connelly
17-21	Returning to Spirit - Aboriginal	RTS Team
14-16	Lay Formation	Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
21-23	Men's Retreat	Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie OMI
26	"Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Advent"	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
DECEMBER		
2,9	"Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Advent"	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker CSJ
3	Advent Prayer Evening	Bishop Stephen Jensen
4	Advent Morning of Stillness	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
5-7	Lay Formation	Office of Evangelization & Catechesis
6	Taize Prayer	Frank Jamin
8, 15	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre FCJ
10	Christmas Coffee Party	DRC Staff

PLEASE REGISTER BY CALLING, EMAILING OR REGISTERING THROUGH OUR WEBSITE

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Diocese celebrates 20 years of Lay Formation

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin

PRINCE GEORGE—Alumni gathered June 13-15, 2014 to celebrate 20 years of Lay Formation in the Diocese of Prince George.

Friday evening Bishop Stephen Jensen gave the gathering his blessing and welcomed Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, who returned to the Diocese as keynote speaker. The retired bishop established the program in 1994 soon after he was ordained and installed

as bishop and he taught several times during each two-year term.

Of the more than 300 people who participated in 17 Lay Formation programs at one of four locations – Domano Renewal Centre in Prince George, Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace, Banner Mountain Lodge in Smithers and Camp Emile on Moberly Lake near Chetwynd – 80 registered for the Alumni Reunion along with 10 of the facilitators who taught during the past 20 years.

The reunion followed the basic format of a Lay Formation weekend with teaching sessions, spiritual development and prayer time and the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist.

Stories were told, formally at the Friday evening session and informally around meals, refreshment breaks and socials that also gave participants opportunity to connect and reconnect around their shared experience.



Top: Participants in the Alumni weekend pose for a group photo with Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI. Middle left: Eucharistic celebrations on the weekend were supported by a strong music ministry, ably directed by Bob Bagnall, far left. Middle right: Arline Davis of Cranbrook, BC, Sr. Donna Dolan, RSCJ, of Nova Scotia and Sr. Margaret Miller, RSCJ, of California, were among many who returned to the Diocese for the Alumni weekend. Left: Sr. Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ welcomes participants. Left: Group sharing is an essential component of Lay Formation.



Youth discern vocation

By: Eunice Hii

FORT ST. JAMES – A Vocations Retreat held at Camp Morice mid-June attracted 22 participants, the largest number since the Diocese began providing vocation discernment weekends.

Organized by Diocesan Vocation Director, Father Terry Brock, along with Gorette Pires and Kim Webb, the weekend was considered by all to be an enjoyable and spiritually nourishing experience.

Bishop Stephen Jensen and Sr. Maria Paz of Jesus were on hand throughout the weekend to offer their encouragement and advice.

“The retreat helped me gain a greater understanding of the meaning of discernment and the various paths of life God may chose for us,” Sara Fuller said of her experience on the weekend. “By the end of the retreat I was left

with cherished memories, new friends and a strengthened relationship with God.”

Jeremy Cote of Fort St. John said “The vocations retreat impacted me in a powerful and personal way in hearing God speaking to me in the quietness of the retreat environment, but also learning to recognize his voice in the daily decisions that lead to 'discernment'.”

“Knowing that living my life daily for Jesus and choosing him in the many little opportunities that he gives me filled me with renewed patience and courage when it comes to discernment.”

A Vocations Retreat is tentatively planned for May 2015. If you would like to be added to the Vocations contact list for future events, please email youth@pgdiocese.bc.ca



Participants pose for a picture with Father Terry Brock, Bishop Stephen Jensen and Diocesan Youth Coordinator Eunice Hii during the Vocations Retreat held in June at Camp Morice on the shores of Stuart Lake.

Young adults travel from near and far



Some of the young adults who pitched their tents in Bragg Creek to participate in the One Rock Festival.

By: Eunice Hii

BRAGG CREEK - This year a small group of young adults from Prince George journeyed to the One Rock Festival in Bragg Creek, Alberta for a weekend of worship, talks, sacraments and camping.

They joined hundreds of other Catholics from across the country including a group from the Northwest Territories that rode a bus for three days to participate at the event.

The weekend included talks by well-known Catholic speaker, Jason Evert, who spoke about God's plans for our sexuality and the joys of our Catholic faith.



PG Diocese Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry- Find out what's happening with Youth and Young Adults in the Diocese at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/PG-Diocese-Office-of-Youth-and-Young-Adult-Ministry/207513949415481>

Those Were the Days @ PGC- A page for former Frontier Apostolates and students to stay in touch at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/67874055621>

<https://www.facebook.com/FormerFrontierApostolates>

Grade 7 artwork transforms church foyer

By: Rosemary McKenzie

SMITHERS – The foyer of St. Joseph’s Parish was transformed June 18th, complete with dozens of live trees, a large waterfall fountain and a huge mountain providing a backdrop for the art work produced by the Grade 7 class of St. Joseph’s School.

The annual Art Show is the culminating exhibition of a year-long art program instructed by Shanualea Vliegenthart, a special education aide at the school, with assistance from the Grade 7 teacher, Cara Diehl.

This program is an extremely hands-on, intensive and extensive development of students' artistic skills and personal artist viewpoints. It has been part of the school year for Grade 7 students for the past six years.

Each year the program has a theme base and this year it was animals of the wild. Art work is completed throughout the year and “hidden” until June. That is when Father Rector Tolentino graciously allows the foyer of St. Joseph’s Parish to be transformed into a venue for the show.

The show is hosted by the students who wear formal black and white attire, serve drinks, appetizers and desserts as well as act as security and guides. One year the art show included a fashion show from recycled material and the outfits presented were stunning.



A Thanksgiving display, created by Rod and Mary Spooner for St. Mary’s Parish in New Hazelton, brings the season alive. PHOTO BY: Vivien Nelson

Rod and Mary Spooner, long-time residents of St. Mary’s Parish in New Hazelton, continue to provide the altar with an array of creativity through the various seasons. They are pictured here with a display celebrating the lushness of summer. PHOTO BY: Vivien Nelson



Annual Diocesan Appeal

2014-2015

BUILDING TOGETHER *in faith*

APPEAL GOAL

\$400,000.00



ALLOCATIONS FOR THIS APPEAL:

OFFICE OF CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION \$104,000

OUTREACH/HEALING/RECONCILIATION \$48,000

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES \$70,000

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS \$66,000

SEMINARIANS AND PRIESTS' ONGOING EDUCATION \$29,000

HOME MISSIONS \$83,000



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