DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

Inside this

issue:

Anniversaries

For the Light

of the World

Youth & Life

Rachel's

Vineyard

Schools

Youth

9-11

12

# Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXII, NO.2

Spring 2013

# Episcopal ordination: join in the celebration!

The Diocese of Prince George is looking forward to celebrating the ordination and installation of its new bishop, Most Rev. Stephen Jensen, on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Msgr. Jensen was vicar general of the Archdiocese of Vancouver before his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI on January 3, 2013.

The celebration will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince George. Because seating in the Cathedral is limited, a method has been devised to ensure as many people as possible from throughout the Diocese of Prince George are able to participate.

A ticket will be required for seating in the main body of the church. While there is no cost involved, tickets are necessary to ensure a good cross section of people from within and outside the diocese have a seat.

Tickets will also be required for seating in the lower hall where participation will be through live video streaming. Those who arrive at the Cathedral without a ticket are invited to participate by live video streaming in the school auditorium (no handicap access).

Personal invitations were sent at the beginning of February to priests, religious and principals in both the Diocese of Prince George and the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Archdiocesan and Diocesan office staff along with Catholic organizations and committees also received invitations as did personal friends and family of the Bishop-elect.



Tickets for seating in the main body of the Cathedral will be sent to those who respond to their personal invitation before March 4th.

Tickets for seating in the main body of the Cathedral and in the lower hall have been made available to every parish in the Diocese. It is up to each parish to devise a means of distributing those tickets among their parishioners. Individuals will not be able to pick up tickets at the Diocesan Centre.

A reception at the Civic Centre follows the celebration and everyone is welcome to come to greet the new bishop there.



Jaiden, a student in Erin Baker's Grade 4 class at St. Anthony's School in Kitimat, is pictured with the "Quietloo" created from discarded milk jugs. The project was part of Grade 4 study of Inuit culture and now provides a quiet place for individual reading and learning.

PHOTO BY: Chris Dugdale

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Each year St. Andrew's Parish in Fraser Lake, along with St. Patrick's and St. Peter's missions in Stellaquo and Nadleh, honors married couples celebrating major anniversaries. This year Anna Marie and Michael Pond marked their 30th anniversary while Gerda and Robert Wiederkehr and Mary and Leonard Ward celebrated 35th anniversaries. Brother Roy Joseph was also recognized for his 25 years as a Franciscan Brother. The three communities celebrated the Eucharist together which was followed by a delightful evening of food, introductions and entertainment.

Pictured above are Anna Marie and Michael Pond receiving a papal blessing from their pastor, Father Vincent James, OMI. PHOTO BY: Dini Foote



Diocesan Centre staff said farewell to receptionist Stacy Gaal at their annual Epiphany Party in January. Pictured here, at left, with accounting clerk, Catherine Cosh, Stacy served in a number of capacities during her three years of employment. Along with receptionist duties she assisted with the Diocesan Annual Appeal and with sacramental records, did the layout for the Northern Catholic News and looked after the Diocesan website. PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell

# This journey we call Lent

It is often said of experiences like a pilgrimage that the journey is just as important, if not more important, than the destination.

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday, we were invited to enter upon a journey. The journey in this case is through the penitential experience of Lent to the joy of Easter, the Lord's Resurrection.

All too often, though, we rush through Lent blindly, eagerly approaching Easter and the Resurrection without actually experiencing the journey of Lent.

We might add some penitential practices to our devotions, spend more time in prayer and perhaps contribute a bit more to the needs of the poor. But we are not really focused on Lent.

Lent is a call to focus on the present moment, on our present journey. We are invited to take time to have a serious reflection on the state of our spiritual lives and then to make some effort to grow in living out our faith more fully.

The three temptations of Jesus in the desert at the end of his 40 days of prayer and fasting are good reference points for us in our Lenten journey.

"Command this stone to become a loaf of bread":

To what extent do we give in to attitudes of selfishness and independence, isolating ourselves in our own world, oblivious to the needs of others? Are we self-indulgent, filling our inner needs with things rather than God? What journey are we called to in this area?

"If you will then worship me":

What and who do we worship? Is our worship focused on God and God alone, or do we pursue power, prestige, influence, money or position? Who comes first, God or me? Where do we need conversion, where are we called to go?

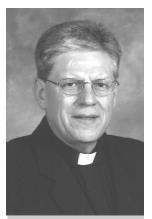
"Throw yourself down from here":

How often do we take God for granted, expecting that God will somehow rescue us from our foolish decisions, our lack of respect for ourselves and for others?

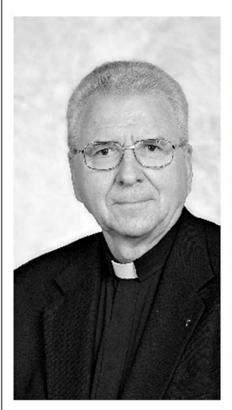
Do we expect God to perform miracles just because we take it for granted that God will correct all our mistakes? Do we have an elitist attitude, thinking that we have an inside track and are better than others?

During this Lent let us focus on the journey and live it each step of the way, remembering that at the end of this journey, we begin another as we celebrate the Resurrection.

And then we continue the journey of faith and new life which we celebrate at Easter.



Fr.
Richard
Beaudette
Diocesan
Administrator



Bishop Getald Wiesner, OMI, has been a great friend, teacher, servant and shepherd to many across Western Canada over the years. He is known and loved for his gifts as an educator, serving as a professor of theology at St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, Saskatchewan, and then at Newman Theological College in Edmonton until 1992, when he was appointed Bishop of Prince George, B.C. His commitment to adult faith formation has been continuous, whether through the establishment of a lay formation program in his diocese, or through the many workshops, study days and retreats he has given across Canada.

Thank you, Bishop Wiesner! May you enjoy a blessed, happy and well-deserved retirement.

#### BISHOP GERALD WIESNER ENDOWMENT FUND

was established to support priestly formation and theological education at St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College.

If you would like to thank Bishop Wiesner in a special way for his years of service and leadership, please consider making a donation to the fund that bears his name.

Kindly forward your contributions to:

Bishop Gerald Wiesner Endowment Fund 8421-101 Ave, Edmonton, AB T6A 0L1 or donate online at www.newman.edu/donate

Bishop Wiesner will be informed of all donations to this special fund.

THANK YOU, BISHOP WIESNER

# National Catholic Mission 2013 The Year of Faith

# Trust

with

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Fr. Anthony Gittins, C.S.Sp.

Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, C.S.Sp.

Monday, March 25, 2013 Tuesday, March 26, 2013



3:00 p.m. PDT repeated 7:00 p.m. PDT



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### Seriously, here I am; send me!

Every now and then I read scripture and pray and wonder if God listens, if God takes me seriously. No doubt God wonders the same thing.

On the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time we listened as Isaiah spoke of God's glory, of human sin, of grace and the need for someone to speak on behalf of God.

Isaiah experienced God's glory and this lead him to an awareness of his own sinfulness and that of his community. While this seems to discourage him, we are told an angel comes with a hot coal and touches his lips. The angel informs Isaiah that two things happened with the touch of the hot coal: his guilt is 'departed' and his sin is 'blotted out'.

This vision is a bit over the top for most of us.

We have no desire for hot coals and burnt lips. And yet this vision speaks of what happens when we take the time to make ourselves available to God. Repeatedly in scripture, encounters with God leave people with a deep awareness of their sinfulness, their unworthiness and their need for God's grace.

This attitude is a rare find in our present society and Church. It seems common place for us to violate our own deepest desires for integrity, to do harm to relationships within our family and

amongst our neighbors; to take for granted the gifts of creation and the God who fashioned us to be a living expression of God's beauty.

In a word, it seems that the Church, leadership and people alike, have no need to say, "O God. I have sinned."

Isaiah's encounter with God brings him face to face with his sinfulness and it leads him to an experience of helplessness, of need for God's intervention. His confession of sin brings forth the angel and results in the removal of his guilt and the blotting out of his sin.

This creates space in Isaiah for an act of generosity and for a whole hearted gift of self to God. In response to God's need, Isaiah proclaims, "Here am I; send me!" In Isaiah's encounter with God there is a movement from glory to awareness of sin, from forgiveness to generosity.

Spring has appeared in Vanderhoof, or so we hope. The snow banks are receding and patches of bare ground are appearing. As I sit here in front of my computer the birds are chirping in the trees outside the window. The promise of new life is hinted at as the warmth of the sun melts the winter snow outside the door.

Perhaps it is time for me to make a little more space for God. Perhaps it is time for me to look long enough to recognize the wonder of God. Perhaps when I do, I too will experience my sinfulness and the grace of God's healing touch.

Will God touch me and wipe away my guilt and my sin? Could my hesitation and reluctance become generous availability? Could my silence be turned into a song of rejoicing and gladness?

As our Lenten season unfolds I will spend more time with God's word. I am confident I will see again the glory of God and appreciate my sinfulness. Perhaps as I take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation I too will experience the grace of forgiveness and God's call for help.

Perhaps I will become a herald of the Good News and sing with my whole being, "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." (Dan Schutte)

I long for God to listen to me, to take me seriously. I know I am a sinner. I know that I have experienced forgiveness. Lord, if you are listening and you are in need, "Here I am; send me!"



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the World
Rev. Douglas
Jeffrey, OMI

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lames Borkowski

Lorraine L. Lawrence

PHOTO BY:

## Youth and life issues

By: Lorraine Lawrence

PRINCE GEORGE - Should parents tell their little children that they are beautiful? Would it cause children to be vain?

Guest speaker James Borkowski raised these questions during his presentation at the annual Prince George ProLife Society fundraiser held February 9, 2013.

The executive director of Signal Hill, a Langley, BC based educational society providing in-depth research and leadership in life issues, women's health and human rights, revealed many surprising statistics regarding difficulties experienced by young people today.

His experience - over 20 years in advertising - gives him a unique understanding of the goals of advertising which, he said, is to make money by manipulating captive viewers, especially children.

He explained how young people are made to feel insecure unless they buy certain products designed to make them appear sexy; the ads imply that it is the only way to gain acceptance. Advertisers know, Mr. Borkowski said, that by undermining the confidence of young people they can be easily made to spend up to \$1,200 more than they would otherwise.

A number of attitudes and behaviors result from the messages young people receive through media, he said. Three quarters of girls consider themselves ugly while boys are encouraged to objectify girls. Prepubescent girls can even feel pressured to wear bras.

Young people send or receive a minimum of 150 text messages per day, communication that eliminates personal contact while revealing a great deal of personal information. He pointed out that it is estimated that the average boy sees seven porn clips per day and isolates himself from positive role models in exchange for at least 2.5 hours of gaming per day.

Mr. Borkowski pointed to some effects of this behavior for teens and even preteens: unwanted pregnancies, disease, heartbreak and mental health ailments such as anorexia and depression.

Mr. Borkowski drew a correlation between overexposure to negative media and the increase in suicides which have tripled among young people since 1970. He also pointed out that in 2010 12,000 abortions took place in BC while only 47 adoptions were arranged. Worldwide (including Canada) 200 million girls have been sex-selectively aborted.

The audience was shown a picture of a fetus in the womb - revealing how each of us begins - alongside an unclothed and beautiful newborn

baby. Mr. Borkowski explained that so few young people have had any experience related to babies, many never having held one, that they do not know their beauty.

Influenced by negative media, many youth view the unborn as something ugly, even threatening and to be avoided. Abortion is easily accepted with this perception.

Signal Hill works to expose the negative consequences of a mediadriven society and educate young people about the facts of human life:

- A heart starts to beat 21 days after conception
- Brainwaves can be detected at 45 days
- The sex of a fetus is determined at conception as is the genetic code
- Most abortions take place around 70 days

Mr. Borkowski believes that if women knew these facts they would be less apt to consider an abortion.

To counter-act the pressure media places on young people, Mr. Borkowski encourages parents to show romance and affection in their homes so that the children are secure in love and acceptance.

Parents need to help children discern correct use of electronic media, he said. Girls need to know from the earliest age that they are beautiful and valued; boys need to be taught to grow up to be courageous, caring men.





VOLUME XXII, NO.2 Page 7

# Rachel's Vineyard: Who will answer this call?

By: Eileen LeFebvre

PRINCE GEORGE - Abortion can leave men and women in a state of shock and depression.

Often woman choose abortion because they fear they cannot be a good mother and they do not want their child to suffer like they did. Sometimes not choosing abortion can mean death for the mother and the pressure is high.

Sometimes they may be forced by others.

No matter what the reason, abortion leaves a wound that needs to be healed. I was honored to witness miraculous healing in both men and women at the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat I attended in October.

It took almost a year of pondering the possibility to take the first step towards starting a Rachel's Vineyard site in Prince George. I often felt I lacked the skills or my own family situation was not stable enough to reach out to others. But still the call was there on my heart and did not go away.

It was because of one small act of encouragement that I received the grace to say "yes" to God's call. I called that very day and there was an opening for me to participate in a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. I felt supported by the contact and prayers with others on the same journey.

What I experienced at the retreat goes beyond what I can express in words. I experienced miracles, God's merciful healing hand at work! It has been two months and my heart still overflows with hope.

I witnessed women wrapped so tight in chains, so held in bondage, be completely freed! Secretly suffering year after year until it almost kills them to be restored to health.

Although I had not had an abortion myself I had much in common with many participants. I come from a broken home in my childhood. I have endured sexual abuse and a broken marriage. Many of these wounds came to the surface during the retreat and often went surprisingly deeper than the abortions suffered.

We all went to the retreat hoping for healing in a particular area of our lives. To our surprise God wanted even deeper healing that goes beyond the wound of abortion, the wounds that may have lead to a choice for abortion.

I honestly thought I would have to wait until I got to heaven to receive such an experience of God's powerful yet so gentle healing presence and love. I've witnessed the dead come alive and the birth of my own self.

Rachel's Vineyard is a place of miracles! It's a place of confidentiality. It's a place of love. It's a place where you are safe to express your anger, hurt, jealousy or any emotion you have. It is a place where you are not judged and not abandoned when the retreat is over.

Rachel's Vineyard weekends for healing after abortion are offered at locations across the US and Canada, with additional sites around the world. A 15-week support group model is also offered.



The program is an opportunity to examine the abortion experience, identify the affects of the loss in the past and present, and receive help with acknowledging unresolved feelings resulting from abortion.

Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post abortion trauma.

Married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry have come to Rachel's Vineyard in search of peace and inner healing. The weekend is a lot of work but yields a fruitful harvest for all who are willing to labor there.

I thank God from the depths of my heart for this ministry. I received deep healing along with some life-long friends. And most of all God granted me a hope in times of hopelessness that I know will never leave me.

I am so excited for what God has in store for all who take the courage to say "yes" to the call for healing and restoration.

A Rachel's Vineyard site is made up of approximately 20 members. The responsibilities of those members prior to, during and after a retreat include: prayer, cooking, cleaning, coordinating, leading and much more. It will take many to answer God's call for a new site to be established in Prince George.

It is with great desire and trust that I wait on God. I pray many will say "yes" to God's call to support this ministry.

### **RHN Schmitz de Grace**

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# Returning to Spirit

Diocesan Pastoral Centre
Director Susan Campbell became
a certified seminar leader for
Returning to Spirit at a ceremony
on December 13, 2012, as part of
the RTS training session held in
South Beach, Manitoba. She is
pictured (second from left) with
three other trainers who received
certification: Lorraine Vandall, left,
certified seminar leader, and Olive
Halpin and Jacque Lafrance, at
right, certified trainers.

PHOTO BY: Richard Samson





# Open Wide the Door of Faith

KITIMAT – Grade 4 students at St. Anthony's School visibly demonstrated the theme of Catholic Schools' Week, Open Wide the Door of Faith, during the Sunday Eucharist at Christ the King Parish and again during their school assembly on Monday.

Standing next to a "door" decorated with the week's theme and students' handprints, each student responded to the sound of knocking with a statement of their faith, for example:

"Jesus saves me"

"God protects me"

"Trust in God"

"I believe in God"



Grade 4 teacher Erin Baker is pictured with her class following a school assembly during Catholic Schools' Week at St. Anthony's in Kitimat. PHOTO BY: Chris Dugdale

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# BC Catholic Schools' Week at Sacred Heart School

By: Nuala Power

PRINCE GEORGE – Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner presided at the Sunday Eucharist at Sacred Heart Cathedral to mark the beginning of BC Catholic Schools' Week for Sacred Heart School, January 20, 2013.

Students, staff and school families provided the ministries and to illustrate the theme, "Open Wide the Door of Faith", five open door banners featuring self-portraits created by the students adorned the sanctuary wall.

Three days later Bishop Emeritus Wiesner visited the school to bless the new Shalom Room. This special room is dedicated to the memory of Brother Gerard Despathy who served the parish and school faithfully as a Presentation Brother from 1988-97 and died on February 27, 2010, following a brief illness.

The Shalom Room is in daily use at Sacred Heart School for small groups and individual activities.

BC Catholic Schools' Week at Sacred Heart School included a Random Acts of Kindness Day on Monday, January 28. Students and staff received a red heart on which was printed the name of another student or staff member. During the day they completed acts of kindness for their "heart" person. At the end of the day, all was revealed and the hearts were displayed in the Assembly Area.

On Tuesday, a very cold day, Sacred Heart School Winter Olympic Games pitted host country Brazil against strong contenders from all parts of the globe.

Following the procession of nations, Catholic Independent Schools Superintendent, Chris Dugdale, completed a lap of honor as the torch-bearer. As the music soared and cheers reached a crescendo, the crowd was rewarded with an encore lap from our distinguished guest.

The Olympic Oath was then administered by Principal Rebecca Gilbert, and the games were on!

Medals were awarded by Father Pier Pandolfo at a special medal ceremony later in the day. Sincere thanks to Mr. Durau who designed the events and to our wonderful Parent Support Group who provided hot lunch.



Teachers at Sacred Heart School in Prince George look on as Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner blesses the newly constructed Shalom Room. PHOTO BY: Christine Murphy

On Wednesday, Share Day, students and staff were invited to share a non-perishable food item in exchange for a non-uniform day. Many took up this offer. The food collection was given to the St. Vincent de Paul Drop-In-Centre for distribution.

The much anticipated annual Ski Trip took place on Thursday. Students in Grades 4-7 were thrilled to take to the slopes with skis and boards. A great day was enjoyed by all.

In the meantime, Grades I-3 took part in outdoor snow games together while the Kindergarten enjoyed a day of art and creativity.

During Friday's Professional Development Day staff reviewed their first aid skills and re-certified for the next three years. The following evening after Mass they gathered in the Library to celebrate the 50th birthday of our pastor, Father Pier Pandolfo.

BC Catholic Schools' Week certainly opened wide the door of faith at Sacred Heart School!

AHIGAY!

Despite the exceptionally cold weather, students at Sacred Heart School took part enthusiastically in their School Winter Olympics. PHOTO BY: Christine Murphy

VOLUME XXII, NO.2 Page II

# Community celebrates a job well done

DAWSON CREEK - An appreciation dinner celebrated a very successful renovation project at Notre Dame School.

Parish and School gathered to enjoy a traditional Sri Lankan meal prepared and served by the Molina and Lawrence families along with staff from the Inn on the Creek restaurant.

The project was the completion of gym renovations which included newly painted walls and a brand new floor. Individuals, companies and community organizations contributed the \$75,000 needed to complete the project.

"It is impressive how many people came together around this shared goal," Superintendent of Catholic Independent Schools, Chris Dugdale, said after participating in the celebration.



Terri Haynal, Principal of Notre Dame School in Dawson Creek poses with Chris Dugdale, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, with one of four donor trees acknowledging those who contributed towards the cost of their newly completed gym renovations.



### Notre Dame School

Cathy Clement's Grade I class at Notre Dame School in Dawson Creek are pictured at the local food

The students donated the items they collected and then entertained the facility's staff and guests by singing two songs. PHOTO BY: Chris Dugdale

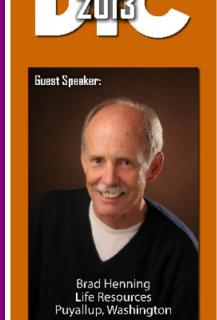


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### Topic:

### "What's Going On with the Kids?"

Intended for parents, youth leaders, and those who work with youth.

Brad will talk about adolescent relationships and how parents and other adults can better understand and work with this significant development stage. He uses stories and humour to convey his message. There will be opportunity for dialogue and questions.

When: Saturday, April 13, 2013, 8:10 pm Where: Old Library, Diocesan Centre

6500 South Ridge Avenue, Prince George

Cost: Free

Questions? Teresa Phillippe at 250-964-4424