

# Northern Catholic News

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SUMMER 2013

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## *Bishop to build 'northern gateway' to God's kingdom*

By: Alistair Burns  
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B.C. Catholic

PRINCE GEORGE – While the Northern Gateway pipeline may be on everyone's mind in the Prince George area these days, newly ordained Bishop Stephen Jensen reminded parishioners in the diocese the most important northern gateway was the one in each of their hearts.

"The Northern Gateway (pipeline) may or may not be all that is promised. But God's plans for development never fail: they have energy and power in those who are docile and listen to the Holy Spirit and act in him," the new bishop told

his flock in his first address in Sacred Heart Cathedral, April 2.

He tied the Northern Gateway project to the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, since Church documents spoke of "another gateway: the door of faith," an image used by Pope Emeritus Benedict for the "gift of God and the mission we share in the Church."

In the presence of bishops from all over western Canada and over 600 laity, Msgr. Stephen Jensen was ordained Bishop of Prince George. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, was the principal consecrator at the episcopal ordination Mass.

Co-consecrators Bishops David Monroe of Kamloops and Brian Dunn of Antigonish, NS, joined him in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"By faith, we are meant to build a gateway to the kingdom of God; that new world fulfills the true needs and desires of every human heart," Bishop Jensen

said in remarks at the end of his ordination Mass.

"Bishop Stephen's analogy to the Northern Gateway was meaningful, something that we all can understand," pointed out Bishop Ken Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster.

"I am uniting my prayers with those of the faithful of Prince George for God's blessings on Bishop Stephen. I look forward to working with him."

Three hours earlier, excited murmuring filled the Cathedral as the procession, which included 17 bishops, filed up the main aisle. The 35-member choir in the choir loft was singing an appropriate opening hymn, "The Summons."

The crowd included an eclectic congregation: Roman and Ukrainian bishops sat side by side; priests, female and male religious, First Nations elders, clergy from other Christian denominations and people from the Archdiocese of Vancouver and throughout the Diocese of Prince George packed into the pews.

Father Richard Beaudette, OMI, the diocesan administrator until, automatically, that very moment, read Pope Benedict XVI's January letter appointing Msgr. Jensen to the position of bishop.

**Continued on Page 2**



Newly ordained Bishop Stephen Jensen blesses the faithful at the April 2nd celebration. PHOTO BY: Alistair Burns

## Pouring out of Spirit



The fullness of the sacrament of holy orders is conferred by the imposition of hands. Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, is pictured with Bishop Jensen. PHOTO BY: Frank Jamin

Archbishop Miller's sense of humor shone before Bishop Jensen put on his mitre. The archbishop had earlier lent him his zucchetto when Bishop Jensen, having taken his off in the heat, could not find it. After giving his good friend a congratulatory hug, the archbishop reclaimed his own zucchetto from the bishop's head with a sweeping gesture and replaced it on his own head.

Another memorable moment occurred when Bishop Jensen warmly embraced Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, OMI, three times. Cheers and applause rang throughout the cathedral.

After Mass, three altar servers spoke to The BC Catholic. Catharine van Roode was impressed that Bishop Jensen had used local examples, such as the Northern Gateway, in his address.

Her sister, Elizabeth van Roode, thought the new prelate seemed "excited and very nice."

"He's my height!" she exclaimed with a chuckle.

Victoria Rezendes, a University of Northern British

Columbia student, "liked the laying on of hands (by the bishops.) It's very simple, very poignant."

Bishop David Monroe of Kamloops, a co-consecrator, praised his fellow prelate for his straightforward approach and for being a "very focused as a priest."

Some First Nations elders also attended the Mass. Wilf Adam, chief of the Lake Babine band, said he was looking forward to greeting Bishop Jensen personally on April 19 when he is scheduled to visit and bless a renovated church originally built in 1903.

"This is a big deal for the native community: my mother-in-law travelled over 450 kilometres to be here," he stated.

Bishop Jensen also paid tribute to the sacrifices of Oblate missionaries: Vancouver has had several bishops who were Oblates, he said, and in Prince George all the previous bishops were Oblates.

"We owe a tremendous debt to those intrepid missionaries who brought the Gospel to this part of the world," he said.

"Pour out now upon this chosen one that power which is from you, the governing Spirit, whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ; the Spirit whom he bestowed upon the holy apostles," Archbishop Miller said during the Prayer of Ordination.

During the archbishop's proclamation, the Book of the Gospels was opened and held over Bishop Jensen's head, signifying that the prelate's most important mission is to faithfully preach the Good News.

Archbishop Miller then anointed a kneeling Bishop Jensen with chrism and he was presented with the symbols of his new office: a ring, emblem of faithfulness, a mitre signifying a resolve to pursue holiness and a crozier, representing his role as shepherd.

Kathleen and Elizabeth Van Roode and Victoria Rezendes were among seven altar servers at the episcopal ordination of Bishop Jensen. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert



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## Coat of arms connects Vancouver and Prince George

By: Alistair Burns

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PRINCE GEORGE—The Diocese of Prince George now has a new bishop with a new coat of arms.

Bishop Stephen Jensen clearly wanted his coat of arms to unite his time serving the Church in Vancouver with his appointment to the northern diocese.

An angled line pointing upwards through the centre divides the shield. In the upper section is a white star and on either side a white provincial dogwood flower, all on a blue background.

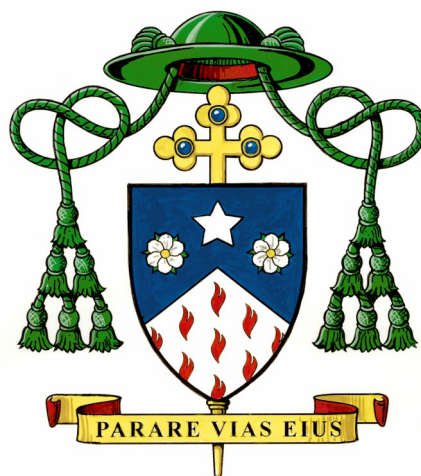
“The angled division alludes to a mountain, to his birthplace in North Vancouver and his ministry (across) BC; the blue alludes to the Pacific Ocean,” explained Bruce Patterson, Deputy Chief Herald of Canada.

The dogwood flower is also found in the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, where Bishop Jensen had served for over 30 years.

“The star is a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It may also represent the North Star and his new responsibilities,” stated Patterson.

The lower section uses a pattern of red flames on a white background, representing “education and knowledge.” Flickering bonfires also point to Bishop Jensen’s apostolic ministry, bringing to mind the Holy Spirit’s descent on the apostles at Pentecost.

The bishop holds a doctorate in education leadership from the Jesuit University in San Francisco. His extensive service on behalf of education for the Archdiocese of Vancouver included stints as vice-president of the Catholic school board and vicar of education.



“He always had schools as his first priority,” recalled Bobbi Duncan, office manager of the office of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese. “Catholic education, in schools or parishes, is really a continuation of Jesus’s ministry, so we can know and respond to God’s goodness to us,” then-Monsignor Jensen said in an earlier interview.

Education aside, what about the bishop’s motto? “Parare vias eius,” or “To prepare His ways.”

This comes from the song of Zechariah and refers to John the Baptist’s prophetic role as “one who would go before the Lord to make things ready for his arrival,” explained Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, in his homily during the episcopal ordination April 2.

“This is what Bishop Jensen will be doing for you: leading you to the risen Christ, the Son of the living God,” the archbishop continued. “He’s a wonderful man and Prince George is lucky to have him,” Duncan concluded.



Bishop Jensen receives the congratulations of the congregation. At left is the principal consecrator, Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, Archbishop of Vancouver. PHOTO BY: Alistair Burns



Seminarians from Christ the King Seminary in Mission, BC pose with Bishop Jensen at the reception following his episcopal ordination: Mark Raine (Prince George), Ken Anderson (Fraser Lake) and Frank Sharma. PHOTO BY: John Ko



At his episcopal ordination three representatives welcomed Bishop Jensen to the Diocese: Father Terry Brock for priests, Sr. Irene Baker, CSJ, for religious and Simone Kwast for laity. Here he responds with a smile to a comment made by Sr. Irene. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert.



Sacred Heart Cathedral lower hall and the Civic Centre were decorated with posters welcoming Bishop Jensen made by Catholic schools throughout the Diocese. Students at Veritas School in Terrace contributed this poster. PHOTO BY: Alistair Burns

Representing the laity in the Diocese of Prince George, Simone Kwast welcomes Bishop Jensen. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert



The Diocesan Consultors witness the Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith made by Monsignor Jensen in the afternoon prior to his episcopal ordination. PHOTO BY: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin



Poster made by students at Annunciation School in Prince Rupert. PHOTO BY: Chris Murphy



The Knights of Columbus form an honor guard for the procession. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert

Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI, reads the *bull*, a document from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI appointing Monsignor Jensen as Bishop of Prince George. PHOTO BY: Frank Jamin



## Family expresses pride

By: Agnieszka Krawczynski  
Reprinted with permission from B.C. Catholic

VANCOUVER - Bishop Jensen's proud family reflected on his childhood as they celebrated his recent ordination in Prince George. His uncle and aunt Bob and Joan Proctor, his sister Rose Ehlinger, and his cousin Kathy Simpson were present.

"He was the kind of kid you would like to have," reminisced Joan Proctor. She said he was "quiet" and "thoughtful," even as a child. She added that his parents were very supportive and went on picnics and other typical family outings with him and his four siblings.

"With a family behind you, you can do anything," she explained, excited to see her nephew taking on the new role.

Bob Proctor, her husband, thought Bishop Jensen's deceased parents, Mark and Kathleen, had set a great example during his childhood in North Vancouver and had endowed the future Catholic

leader of Prince George with his wry sense of humor.

If they were here, they'd be so proud," Bob said.

Young Jensen was a behaved and studious pupil. "He did well in school. He was well-liked," Joan recalled.

Rose Ehlinger described the young student as "calm, cool and collected."

"He used words from the dictionary we had never heard of. We called him 'the Professor,'" she chuckled.

Kathy Simpson lived near his family in North Vancouver.

"He's pretty low-key," she said. She admitted that though they did not spend much time together as children, she was glad to have Father Jensen in the family as the priest-celebrant when she married her husband in 1980.

*With files from Alistair Burns.*



*Bishop Stephen Jensen enjoys a quiet moment with his sister Rose Ehlinger during the reception following his ordination and installation. Also pictured are his uncle and aunt, Bob and Joan Proctor along with brother-in-law, Richard Ehlinger. PHOTO BY: John Ko*

## Weeks of diocesan preparation leads to joy

By: Barbara Dowding  
Reprinted with permission from B.C. Catholic

VANCOUVER - There were huge piles of snow outside, but inside the atmosphere was anything but wintery. The doors were thrown open, sunlight and fresh air streamed in, and the warmth of hospitality and welcome was everywhere as Stephen Jensen was ordained Bishop of Prince George April 2.

I heard the choir rehearsing. I heard a trumpet. The rehearsal was vibrant, the trumpet triumphant, a TV crew was setting up and altar servers were getting nervous. I could feel the excitement and anticipation as the Catholic community in Prince George prepared to welcome their new bishop.

For nearly three months they planned every detail and now it was time. I could see how hard everyone was working to make it perfect. There was a spirit of cooperation: nothing was too much trouble and every request was attended to by the ordination committee, volunteers, clergy and staff.

When it was time and the church was full to overflowing, a hush descended. The choir sang to welcome the bishop-elect and make him feel at home. And welcomed he was!

In his homily, Archbishop Miller spoke of his hopes for the new bishop and of his role leading his people to friendship with God.

Bishop Jensen is poised to do just that. His own friendship with God is what keeps him grounded and humble.

Throughout the Mass it was clear to me I was witnessing the Holy Spirit among us. The solidarity and support of the other bishops was poignant and genuine as they placed their hands on the head of the new bishop.

I thought how they must have felt, remembering their own episcopal ordinations. I felt the empathy and sympathy, but most of all the unconditional support and fraternity.

I was moved to tears by the thunderous applause, three different times, for Bishop Emeritus Wiesner, unmistakably loved and appreciated for all his years as bishop. But even more astounding was to see and

hear the people welcoming their newest bishop.

These are good people, faithful and hardworking. They are getting a good man, whose heart is true to the Gospel, who lives what he teaches and who shows the Lord's mercy. Like our new Holy Father, who quietly took the world by surprise, Bishop Jensen will surprise and delight the people of Prince George.

I witnessed that this new flock is ready and willing to walk together with their new bishop. They love their Church, their diocese and their faith.

The remarks of those who brought greetings after the installation Mass must have been reassuring and comforting, but at the same time exciting and challenging to Bishop Jensen.

The grace of ordination will sustain him as he undertakes to prepare the way of the Lord with his people. The Church in Prince George is alive and well and maybe it is the promised land after all!

*Barbara Dowding is the vice-chancellor of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.*

## Discovering the Diocese



### Bishop's Letter

Most Rev.  
Stephen Jensen

Over the last six weeks, I've had the opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the diocese to visit parishes for the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Through those travels I've seen that the diocese spans remarkably different geographies and climates, from the coastal rainforest of the Prince Rupert area to the Peace River country plains of Dawson Creek.

Leaders in government and industry promote this part of the province as a "Northern Gateway" for trade with the world.

What is of greater significance, my travels have introduced me to priests, consecrated men and women and parishioners –

many from distant places – who are working hard in the Church's mission to open a "Door of Faith" for families, parishes and schools.

I have seen firsthand their dedication and enthusiasm to build the kingdom of God in their lives and their communities and reach out to those who don't yet share the hope that is in us.

Pope Francis reminded us of this gift and this mission in a Confirmation homily he gave last month:

"The new things of God are not like the novelties of this world, all of which are temporary ... The new things God gives to our lives are lasting, not only in the future, when we will be with him but today as well ... the Holy Spirit

is truly transforming us, and through us he also wants to transform the world in which we live. Let us open the doors to the Spirit, let ourselves be guided by him."

This work is the lifelong project of growing in personal holiness, to be conformed in our attitudes and judgements and priorities and in our words and deeds to the standards of Jesus in order to be his witnesses.

As we celebrate his gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church on Pentecost Sunday, we pray that we become more docile to the Spirit's presence and promptings in our everyday lives. In that way, we will invite others to the Door of Faith that leads to life with God.



Secretaries and bookkeepers from parishes and Catholic schools from throughout the Diocese, along with those who work in the Diocesan Centre, meet at the Domano Renewal Centre every two years for a retreat and workshop. Pictured here are those who attended the May 1-2, 2013 gathering. PHOTO BY: Lynn Monteith

## Farewell

*After eight years of service to the Domano Renewal Centre and various other organizations, Sr. Jean Marie is saying farewell to Prince George.*

*We invite you to come and wish her well as she leaves us for new opportunities.*

**Sunday, June 16, 2013  
Drop in between 2:00 – 5:00pm  
DOMANO RENEWAL CENTRE  
Bethany House Dining Room**

# Lives full of God

Since arriving in the Prince George Diocese I have noticed that the Domano Renewal Centre with its natural and spacious grounds, its welcoming staff and its thoughtfully decorated sacred spaces provides an ideal setting for silence and reflection.

The Center has become a special place for me to ponder my relationship with God and with the whole of creation. It is in this time of pondering that I notice with greater clarity the work of God creating, sustaining, nurturing and redeeming life.

Spring and Easter are all about new life.

If we take time to look out our window, go for a walk, visit a park, we will see abundant signs of life. Greening grass, buds on trees, the smell of freshly turned soil, the presence of birds and newly born animals, the return of pesky mosquitos and determination of dandelions; all testify to the insistent presence of life.

Indications of new life in nature are pretty obvious, but what about the new life that is created by the power of the Risen Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit? Where do we see the new life that flows from the paschal mystery?

Do we have eyes to see the new life that is emerging in our children, parents, partners, co-workers and friends? Can our hearts recognize the new life that is being offered to us when we are forgiven and loved? Can our ears hear invitations and promis-

es of fidelity or are we stuck in sorrow, pain and death?

Marcus Borg in his book entitled, *The God We Never Knew*, talks about how our image of God influences our capacity to see the world. Using the empirical research of others he shows that our relationship with God has a huge impact on the vitality of our faith communities.

He writes, "Importantly, they also report that some mainline congregations have been growing and that what they all have in common is this: they take God seriously. Congregations that are full of God are full of people. The converse also seems to be true: churches that are uncertain about God will soon find their pews empty of people."

He suggests that how we see and understand God influences the way we live and the way we die. The God we know or do not know is the God we talk about or fail to talk about.

If we are not talking about God in our words and in our actions then we cannot feed each other and we certainly cannot feed those who hunger and thirst for God. If we are not feeding others we are no longer witnesses of the Living God.

As spring unfolds we recognize the new life present in our physical world. How do we learn to see and recognize the new life created by the Risen Lord and the Holy Spirit?

The same God who nudges tulips out of the ground before the snow has melted nudges us

to forgive the one who has yet to ask for forgiveness. The God who draws robins and hummingbirds from warmer southern climates encourages us to hold in our hearts the pain and sorrow of those who have been wounded by prejudice, discrimination and racism.

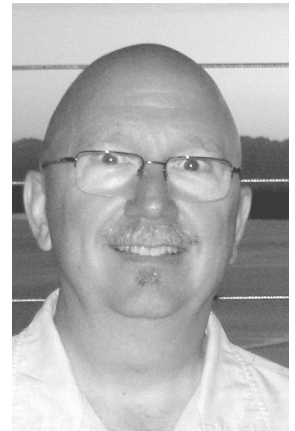
The God who lengthens our daylight hours encourages us to make more space for those who have once again taken us for granted or dismissed our ideas as unimportant. The God who paints our green lawns with dabs of dandelion yellow insists that we return again and again to the faith community where the Body and Blood of Jesus is made available to all people of faith.

The God who is praised for a beautiful sunset is the same God who is praised when words of gratitude tumble forth from our mouths to bless the generosity of strangers and friends alike.

When we recognize that we need our God, the Spirit of God is at work. When we act upon our need for wholeness the new life found in the power of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension is surely being made visible.

The next time you step outdoors take a moment to notice the handiwork of God. It is the same God who authors new life in us and new life around us. Tell someone what you see and invite them to do the same!

May our very lives continue to be filled with the splendor of God!



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## Every mother has a right to respect

By: Amabile Dal Monte

**DAWSON CREEK** – Every mother has a right to respect for her dignity, religious, moral, social and cultural values, Dr. R. L. Walley said at the 57th Annual Convention of the Prince George Diocesan Catholic Women's League.

She also has the right to be free from every form of unjust discrimination or coercion during pregnancy, childbirth and afterwards, he said.

Dr. Walley is the founder and director of MaterCare International which provides a comprehensive model for rural obstetrical care especially in developing countries where it advocates for health services closer to village communities.

The model provides new initiatives of service, training, research and advocacy and a way for communities, especially women, to become more closely involved in the delivery of maternity care.

In his presentation at the convention, hosted by the CWL of Notre Dame Parish in Dawson Creek on April 12-14, Dr. Walley noted the right of every mother to safe, clean, adequately equipped facilities in which to deliver her child. He emphasized the right of every mother to retain her fertility and not to be subjected to coercion to be medically or surgically sterilized.

The theme of the CWL convention this year is "Come and See".

At the opening Eucharist with Bishop Stephen Jensen and Father Michael Anyasoro concelebrating, the Bishop spoke about the New Evangelization. He encouraged his listeners to know their faith, renew their faith and make a commitment to evangelization.

The transformation of peoples' lives is the goal.

Evangelization, he said, begins in our family with people close to us and spreads out to help build a society with a Christian vision of marriage and family life.

"Be a witness to the truth written by God on our hearts."

Sister Jude Van Baalen, Diocesan CWL Spiritual Advisor, guided prayer during the convention

and made a very inspiring presentation on the life of St. Therese Lisieux and the Year of Faith.

In her presentation, *Opening the Package*, Provincial President-Elect Pat Depiesse talked about CWL structures, reporting and communiques and put on a "how to and how not to run a meeting" skit.

At the election of the new executive, Laura Esposito of Annunciation Parish in Prince Rupert was elected Diocesan President. Carmen Foucher of St. Mary's Parish in Prince George was named president-elect.

The other positions are as follows: Lorraine Thibeault: past president, Sr. Jude Van Baalen: Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Susan Steiner: secretary, Sylvia Fowler: treasurer, Gemma Gillis: spiritual development, Amabile Dal Monte: Christian Family Life, Kathy Labonte: resolutions, Helen Gordon: education and health, Cecilia Midnight: community life, Georgina Hoffarth: legislation, and Carol Handfield: communications.

The Christian youth group, the Almighty Lights players, provided the entertainment at the banquet performing black light mime skits, sign language and singing Christian based songs.

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## Historic church reopens



The Lake Babine Nation gathered in Fort Babine to celebrate the reopening of the recently renovated John the Baptist Church, first built in 1872. Bishop Stephen Jensen traveled to the community on April 19th to bless the building and people. He is pictured here concelebrating at the Eucharist with Fathers Nestor Silva, OMI (St. Theresa's Mission which includes Fort Babine), Vincent James, OMI (Fraser Lake), Rectorino Tolentino (Smithers) and Albanus Ogowuihe (Burns Lake).  
Photo by: Barbara Adam-Williams

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Come and Join us — New Members Welcome



Chloe Krahn receives the sacrament of confirmation. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert

## Welcome Bishop Jensen

By: Rebecca Gilbert

PRINCE GEORGE - Sacred Heart Cathedral and School welcomed Bishop Jensen to the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist on April 21st.

Candidates and sponsors processed into Sacred Heart Cathedral excited about the ceremony ahead. In his homily, Bishop Jensen spoke about the importance of following Jesus.

Nothing mattered in history, he said, other than that Jesus was born, died and rose for us.

Following the celebration families gathered and had photographs taken with Bishop Jensen. It was a wonderful celebration with the new Shepherd of our Diocese.

## Sacred Heart students have green thumbs

By: Nuala Power

PRINCE GEORGE - "Dig" is what you hear when participating in a garden group at Sacred Heart School.

Students develop skills and knowledge both inside and outside the classroom as they learn about seeds and weeds, organic fruit and vegetables, garden journals, annual and perennial herbs and so much more.

Sacred Heart School garden is adorned with bird-feeders, raised garden beds, students' creative artwork and, of course, plants to savour and enjoy.



A sunny day in the school garden. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert

## Support for St Anthony School



Grand Knight Frank Mauro presented a cheque in the amount of \$2,160 to Katja Groves, Principal of St Anthony School. The grant comes from the financial support of the Province of British Columbia. The funds are to be used for sports, travel and further education within the school. Pictured here, left to right, are Madison Sommerfeld, Kelson Demelo, Principal Katja Groves, Frank Mauro of Council 5148, Olivia Feldhoff and Noah Groves. PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

## Students display terrific talent

After five months of rehearsals, the entire student body of Sacred Heart School participated in a production of "The Little Mermaid" on May 23rd. The young actors and actresses displayed their terrific talents with many sterling performances. Pictured here is Niall Caffrey in the role of the highly emotional French Chef Philippe who is called upon to create appetizers and "a wedding cake for thousands". PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert



# Diocesan Youth Conference 2013: The Real Deal

By: Joe Glaab

PRINCE GEORGE - Girls and guys are different in the way they communicate and think, keynote speaker Brad Henning of Life Resources said at the 18th Diocesan Youth Conference in Prince George, April 12-14.

In his presentation on the difference between girls and guys, Brad noted that some in our society say men and women are the same, but reality shows us otherwise. For example, he said, adult men use 12,000 words per day while women use an average of 24,000.

While these characteristics cannot be applied to everyone, he demonstrated that men are generally impersonal and goal oriented while women are personal and detail oriented.

He also said that men are more inclined to think according to the immediate circumstance while women are more aware of broader implications.

Using humor and stories to support his points, Brad's words resonated well with his listeners which included youth and youth leaders from across Northern BC. He addressed the theme of the conference, the Real Deal with presentations focused especially on the real deal of dating relationships and the importance of respecting others.

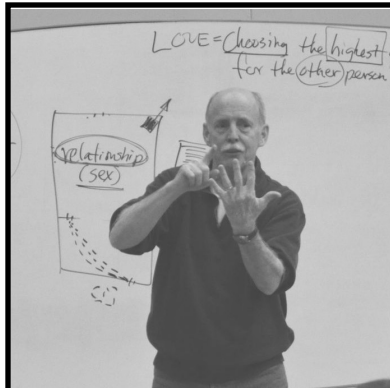
Another presentation focussed on love which, Brad noted, is depicted in our culture in different ways. Love, according to Mr. Henning, is "choosing the highest good for another". Developing a good and significant relationship between people requires time; it takes time to know another person.

Christ is the highest example of love, he said. In Christ we have the invitation to relationship that is life to the full and which can lead us to the relationships we so desire.

Sex in itself is not love although it can be an expression of love. Outside of marriage, he said, sex is killing relationships.

Brad encouraged youth to look for four main character traits in a future spouse:

1. Honesty: is the person honest, especially about who they are?
2. Can the person admit when she/he is wrong?
3. Can the person forgive?
4. Can the person change and grow from life experiences?



DYC 2013 keynote speaker Brad Henning makes a point about the real deal of dating and relationships. PHOTO BY: Marek Budac

While directed towards finding a future spouse, these points are also valuable in all relationships: am I honest, can I admit to doing wrong and am I forgiving and willing to grow and change?

Brad also addressed the issue of pornography. Noting that because from 6,000 to 22,000 pictures are taken for each one published and every picture is photo shopped, no woman looks like the image presented, not even the woman whose picture was taken.

Brad emphasized that there is no real relationship, no real deal in pornography.

There was one gender-separated session during the weekend which allowed for discussion and questions that would not occur in a mixed session. In the guy's session Brad talked about how to ask a girl on a date and how to interact with girls. It was practical and showed how one can be creative and resourceful.

Once again humor was very much part of the stories Brad shared.

At the closing Mass, Bishop Stephen Jensen picked up on the Real Deal theme in his homily. "Have I got a deal for you" generally means someone wants to take something from us, he said. The real deal is different.

The real deal is with Christ Jesus who wants to give us life to the full, the Bishop said. The only thing he wants to take away from us is our sins or hurts. The love Jesus bestows on us leads to life with God. In turn, the "real deal" blessings we receive are to be shared with others, with the community.

In essence the real deal is to follow the way of Christ.



Joe Haddock of St. Mary's Parish dishes it out at a DYC lunch. PHOTO BY: Lili Parra

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The Saturday night dance is always a highlight each year at DYC. Participants this year demonstrate their "style".  
PHOTO BY:  
Lili Parra

## Teenagers are capable of loving

By: Steven Horianopoulos  
KITIMAT - DYC 2013 started off with a bang. From start to finish it was filled with fun, joy, laughter, faith building ... and food. Our keynote speaker was Brad Henning, who was enthusiastic, funny and interesting.

The subject he focused on was relationships, specifically romantic relationships. His way of teaching was very entertaining and I enjoyed the humor he

put into his talks. He taught us not only about the differences between boys and girls, but how we can treat each other with respect.

He also stressed the importance of abstinence and explained it in a way that related to the youth there.

Perhaps his most important teaching was the true meaning of love. I felt as if an adult truly thought that teenagers are capable of loving others. Mr. Henning explained love as "Choosing the highest good for the other person," which is a philosophy that I think is understandable for everyone.

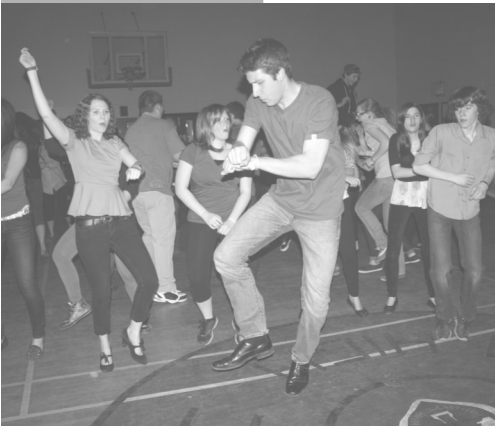
Besides the keynote speaker, DYC included many other activities. We were split into small

groups where we could talk more openly to each other about our faith and how it relates to what Mr. Henning was saying.

There was a dance on Saturday night. The atmosphere was always bright and energetic and the style of dance was much more respectful and fun than what you would see at other dances.

We capped off the weekend with a Mass led by the Bishop with all the ministries done by the youth themselves.

DYC was an amazing experience which I encourage all youth of our diocese to attend. And don't forget to bring a friend!



## A good time and shared belief

By: Abbie McCormick  
PRINCE GEORGE - An amazing time was spent at the DYC 2013 this year.

While the conferences over the past three years, including the conference last year in Terrace, have been absolutely fantastic, this year was really appropriate for my life. It was all about relationships.

Before the conference I would often stress about staying pure and what I would do if I ever got into a bad situation. But thanks to the speaker, I learnt exactly what to do!

Brad Henning taught so many important things, including either being in a relationship or not, which I would have never even thought of.

At the beginning of the conference all I was expecting was to meet new people, grow in my faith, see people I've met in previous years and to have an awesome weekend where I can be myself without anyone judging me.

This was exactly what happened, plus a whole lot more!

I learnt all the steps of a relationship including how to turn down a guy - nicely of course. I found it quite surprising when told that, in today's society where not being a virgin is the



Youth graduating Grade 12 this year receive a candle and special attention from Bishop Stephen Jensen at the closing Mass at DYC 2013. PHOTO BY: Lili Parra

"cool thing", your marriage partner would almost expect you to be a virgin.

The reason I went to DYC is the reason I always go, to have a good time with a bunch of other teenagers with the same beliefs because having friends who believe in the same thing you do is actually quite amazing.

I am blessed to have close friends who are Catholic, but not everyone is as blessed. And that is the reason why everyone who goes to the youth conference needs to bring a friend: Catholic or not. God is always welcoming new people.

I would absolutely hate to see DYC disappear because I would hate to see all the younger kids miss out on this awesome experience.

DYC truly has made me stronger in my faith, smarter and just an all-round better person.

## Youth ready to inspire others

By Leigh and Lauren Ollenberger

**FORT ST JOHN** - It was with joyous anticipation and a bit of anxiety that we loaded up the bus to go from Resurrection Parish in Fort St. John to the Diocesan Youth Conference in Prince George.

Father Udoka prayed over us and gave us a blessing before we started the trek. The long bus ride was broken up with great games like Mafia and Catch Phrase and we also had lots of time to chat with each other.

Once at the Diocesan Center we signed in and received our super cool tees (which were a gigantic hit). Next everyone gathered to listen to the band, Horses and Bayonets, which lead into the presentation of our Real Deal banners.

Motivational speaker Brad Henning spoke to us about the differences between boys and girls and, after a quick chat with our small groups we headed off with our amazing host families.

Saturday was filled with interesting and useful information about relationships. We started off the day in prayer led by our Fort St. John youth group. We had small group chats and a presentation concluding Friday's talk with Brad Henning.



We hadn't realized that the three differences (guys are impersonal/girls are very personal, guys say what they think/girls say what they feel, and guys value freedom/girls value security) could make such an impact on relationships.

In the gender-separated session, the girls had an hour and a half to ask Brad anything they had ever wanted to ask a guy and the guys had an hour to talk about creative date

ideas and the 15 steps to ask a girl out (or so we heard).

While one group was talking to Brad the other group celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then vice versa. Reconciliation was a very humbling and fulfilling experience.

Shortly after our next small group talk we went back to our host families' houses for delicious suppers and got ready for the dance. We had a great time dancing with an epic DJ, Ryan.

On Sunday we had our last keynote talk with Brad about Six Essential Things for Great Dating Relationships. We broke into small groups to discuss dating in depth. Then we got creative and made posters and flags to process into Mass with.

We were excited to have our new Bishop, Stephen Jensen, celebrate Mass with us. At the close of the weekend we signed one another's t-shirts and then headed home to inspire our various communities.



A skit during small group discussions clarifies the theme of DYC 2013: *The Real Deal*. PHOTO BY: Marek Budac



Friends reconnect each year at the Diocesan Youth Conference. PHOTO BY: Lili Parra



Youth celebrate the DYC 2013 theme, *The Real Deal*, as they process in to the concluding Mass. PHOTO BY: Lili Parra



Small group discussions allow youth to explore further the points raised by the keynote speaker. PHOTO BY: Marek Budac

## Prince George Speech Arts and Drama Festival

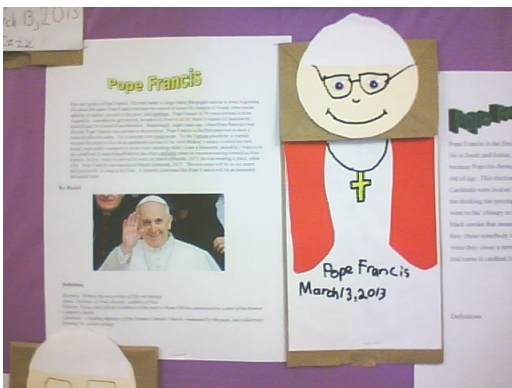


The school section of the 31st Annual Prince George Speech Arts and Drama Festival was hosted this year at Sacred Heart School. Students in the Grade 2/3 class, under the direction of Jenna Johnston, were awarded the Choric Drama trophy for their hilarious performance of "Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge" by Roald Dahl. Pictured here are three students from the Kindergarten class preparing to take the stage for their presentation in the Choric Drama category. PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert


## Students celebrate Pope Francis I




Students at Veritas School in Terrace ring the parish bell to celebrate the election of our new pope. PHOTO BY: Kimberly Webb



St. Joseph's students in Smithers were very excited when Pope Francis I was elected on March 13th. The paper bag puppet of the pope pictured here was one creative way they celebrated the great event. PHOTO BY: Rosemary McKenzie

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## Food Bank receives donation



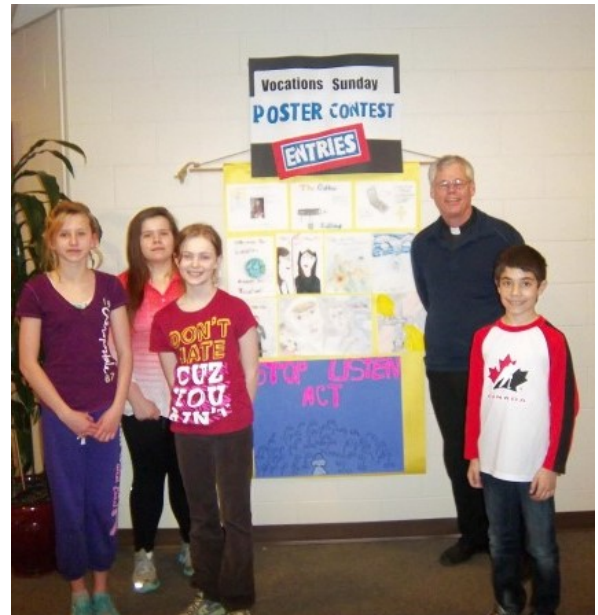
On April 23rd, Knights of Columbus Christ the King Council 5148 Grand Knight Frank Mauro, made a presentation to the Kitimat Food Bank in City Centre. A cheque in the amount of \$2,000 was presented to the president of the Food Bank, Marjorie Phelps (left) and vice president, Bill Willis (right). The funds come from the British Columbia government Fund as grants to Council 5148. PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

## Knights honor parishioner

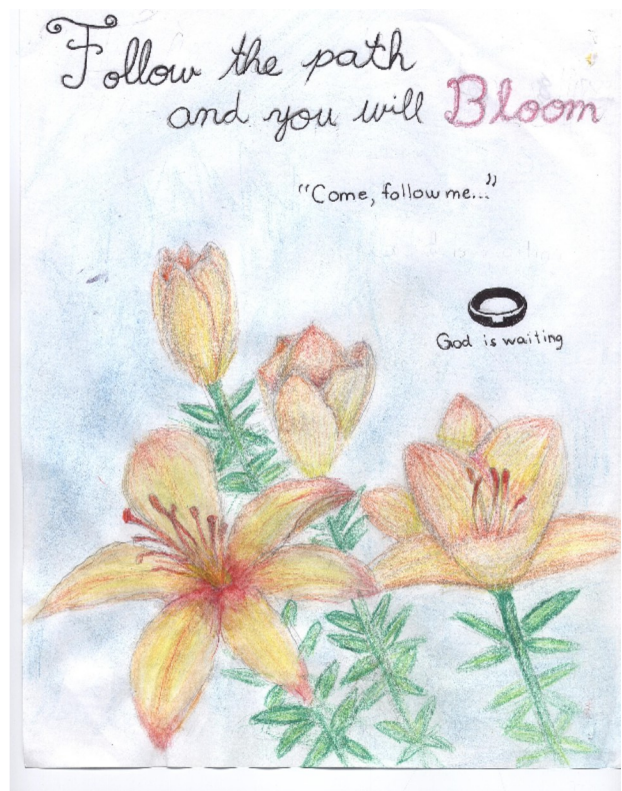


After Mass on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Christ the King Knights of Columbus Council 5148 in Kitimat presented long-time parishioner, Ilda Miranda, with a certificate of appreciation and roses for all her hard work and dedication to the Parish. The presentation was made by Grand Knight Frank Mauro and Council Chaplain Father Kenneth Uwaoma. PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

## Vocations Poster Contest



ABOVE: Winners of the 2013 Vocation Poster Contest pose with Diocesan Vocation Director, Father Terry Brock. The prizes were awarded as follows: 1st prize Eden Viveiros, 2nd prize Kallie Edwards, 3rd prize Claudia McKay. The prize for most original poster was shared by Emmanuel Pedro and Josiah Lefevre (not pictured). BELOW: The winning poster of the 2013 Vocation Poster Contest created by Eden Viveiros.



# Annual Rose Prince Pilgrimage

July 5, 6, 7 2013

Tse Daz Bunk'ut



## Guest Speaker

**Sr. Kateri Michell S.S.A.**

### **Friday**

Opening Prayer 7:00 pm  
Welcome Address 7:15 pm  
Mass 7:30 pm  
Sr. Kateri Michell S.S.A.

### **Saturday**

Breakfast 8:00 am  
Morning Prayers 10:00 am  
Sr. Kateri Michell 10:30 am  
Stations of the Cross 11:00 am  
Lunch 12:00 pm noon  
Confession 1:30 pm  
Healing Mass 3:00 pm  
Sr. Kateri Michell will share  
Supper 6:00 pm  
Living Rosary 8:00 pm  
Candlelight Procession 9:00 pm

### **Sunday**

Morning Prayers 10:00 am  
Mass Bishop Stephen Jensen 10:30 am  
Closing Remarks 11:30 am  
Lunch 1:00 pm

### **Volunteers or Information contact:**

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