

Northern Catholic News

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WINTER 2011

Fresh and fabulous library at Sacred Heart School

By: Nuala Power
PRINCE GEORGE - If you have not been to see the new Library at Sacred Heart School, you are in for a wonderful surprise.

With its dark, dated carpet and brown shelving, the north-facing old library, which served students and staff well for many years, was in dire need of a make-over. The space was unappealing and cold.

However, hidden beneath the layers of history was a beauty waiting to dazzle.

In 2009 the Parent Support Group formed a committee to organize the school's inaugural gala which took place in May 2010 at the Ramada Hotel. The goal of this dedicated group of people was to raise the funds that were needed to achieve the library's transformation.

Once the money had been raised, the committee began the design process. Luckily for the school, the creativity of the late Paul Zanette (Versa Design Group) was harnessed.

Mr. Zanette, a local architect, graduated from UBC in 1985 and worked on the design of the



Sam, a Grade 1 student at Sacred Heart School, enjoys the fireplace in the newly renovated Terry Wilson & Lillian Fowlie Library.

New shelving, flooring, furniture, teacher station and a fireplace (yes, a fireplace) were all installed during the summer holidays. The lower branches of two trees were removed to allow more natural light into the space.

All was ready in time for the new school year in September 2010!

And the big test: what did the students think of the transformation? "I love the diamonds in the fireplace", was one reaction while others were very excited by the new color scheme and the decorated windows.

It was decided to name the library after two people who had a wonderful influence on Sacred Heart School and who recently went to their heavenly reward: Terry Wilson, a former principal, and Lillian Fowlie, who taught in the school for over thirty years.

We hope that the Terry Wilson & Lillian Fowlie Library will continue to be a place of learning and literature for the students at Sacred Heart School.

UNBC campus. Sadly, Mr. Zanette never saw the fruit of his labors at Sacred Heart School as he lost his battle with cancer in June 2010.

His sister-in-law Jennifer took on the task and completed the project. They generously donated their services to Sacred Heart School.

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Sod turning in Fort St. John



Resurrection Parish in Fort St. John held a sod turning ceremony for their new parish centre on October 24, 2010. On hand to bless the site was, at left, Father Richard Beaudette, Vicar General of the Diocese of Prince George, and Father Udoka Nwosu, Pastor of Resurrection Parish. The projected date to begin pouring the foundations is April 2011.

*Merry
Christmas*

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Financial Statement: Year Ended June 30, 2010

There is good news regarding the 2009-2010 fiscal year: we finished the year with a small surplus (\$23,608) in our diocesan operations!

This is due in part to the Diocesan Annual Appeal which has made a significant difference to the state of our finances.

With the \$400,000 that was generously donated by parishioners in this diocese, \$175,000 was directed to ministries carried out by diocesan personnel and \$35,000 was used for ministries normally subsidized by the diocese each year. Clearly without an Appeal, this year instead of a surplus there would be a deficit.

The remaining \$190,000 was used to support other important ministries around the diocese. (See page 4 for disbursement details)

There are many costs that come directly out of our diocesan resources that may not be significant in themselves but they do add up and can cause higher numbers in the expense column of a financial report.

An example of one of these costs is what is spent for travel.

Vocation ministry travel, diocesan centre staff traveling to assist in parishes, the bishop's vehicle and travel, as well as vehicles for priests not connected to a particular parish ministry are

all provided from our budget.

There are travel costs when an international priest agrees to minister in our diocese. We pay for his travel here and again when he returns to his country at the end of his commitment to us. As well, the diocese pays for him to visit his home country every three years.

We also cover travel costs for our seminarians.

Without the Appeal income we would be much more limited in what ministries are funded.

Another benefit of the Appeal is our reduced dependence on funding from Catholic Missions in Canada.

Investment income

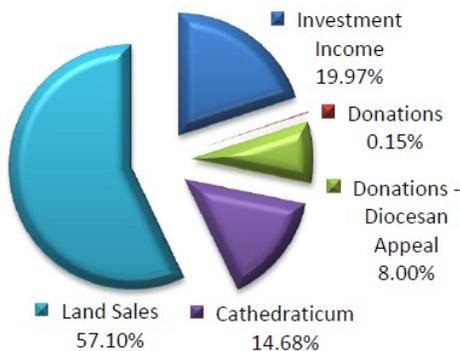
Our investment income comes from various streams. We have two major land leases - the College Heights Residential Park and the Chevron station on Domano Boulevard - that provided nearly \$350,000 in income in the past year. We also have income from gravel pits, one at the end of Domano Boulevard and one recently opened along Tyner Boulevard.

We continue to develop and market parcels from our land holdings. In the 2009/10 fiscal year we recorded a land sale and, after development costs and taxes on land holdings were paid, the proceeds were used to increase our investment portfolio. As a result we show a surplus of over \$400,000 in the Capital segment of the financial report.

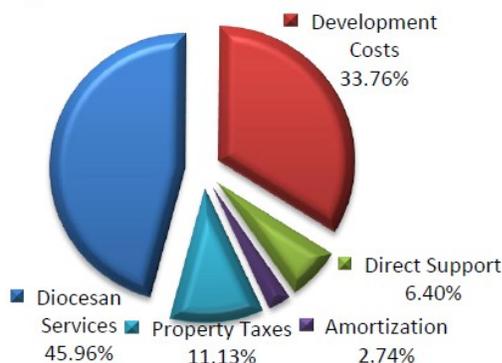
A policy determined by the Diocesan Finance Council and the Council of Priests directs proceeds from land sales to be added to our investment portfolio in order to help provide for the present and future financial needs of the diocese.

We know that eventually all the land will be sold and we wish to manage that resource well so that, even after it is sold, it will continue to fulfill its purpose which is to provide for the financial needs of the diocese. We can only do that with the assistance of the Appeal, which greatly assists the diocese in running balanced budgets.

Revenue



Expenses



Administration costs

Over the past several years we have sought to lower expenses by lowering the cost of occupying the Diocesan Centre. Offices have been consolidated, parts of the building closed down (except for occasional use) and the smaller, more efficient boilers from the decommissioned hostels now provide heating for all but the coldest periods of the year.

The result of these cost-saving initiatives includes \$13,000 reduction in utility costs, \$5,000 reduction in maintenance and about \$6,000 saving in personnel expenses. There are other areas that we did not spend the total amount budgeted and the result was savings of another \$10,000 this past year.

This represents a substantial cost reduction and we continue to seek ways to maintain or reduce the Diocesan Centre expenses.

Financial Statement: Year Ended June 30, 2010

Diocese of Prince George
Statement of Operations
 Year ended June 30, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
DIOCESAN OPERATIONS		
Revenue		
Cathedraticum	\$ 317,531	\$ 344,160
Assessments from parishes		
Donations	3,330	20,236
Catholic Missions in Canada, religious communities, charitable organizations, individuals and businesses		
Donations - Diocesan Annual Appeal	175,000	165,000
Faith formation and youth		
Investment Income	431,910	525,045
Lease of diocesan properties, investments, and the sale of resources		
Total Revenue	<u>927,771</u>	<u>1,054,441</u>
Expenses		
Direct Support	110,566	101,755
Subsidies to Renewal Centre and Domano Sisters and donations		
Diocesan Services	793,597	919,859
Offices of the Bishop, Vicar General, Chancellor, Pastoral Centre, Appeal, Archives and Administration and maintenance of diocesan properties		
Total Expenses	<u>904,163</u>	<u>1,021,614</u>
Total Diocesan Operations	<u>23,608</u>	<u>32,827</u>
SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS		
Sales	<u>1,235,005</u>	<u>18,506</u>
Expenses		
Property Taxes	192,224	185,537
Land Development Costs	582,887	24,080
Amortization	47,327	45,561
	<u>822,438</u>	<u>255,178</u>
Total Land Investments	<u>412,567</u>	<u>(236,672)</u>
Total Diocesan Operations and Land Investments	<u>\$ 436,175</u>	<u>\$ (203,845)</u>



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Diocese of Prince George
Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2010

	2010	2009
Assets		
Cash, Accounts Receivable and Other	\$ 330,962	\$ 276,009
Investments	5,721,088	5,509,363
Land, Buildings and Equipment	2,842,868	2,963,388
Total Assets	\$ 8,894,918	\$ 8,748,760
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,544,205	\$ 1,834,222
Net Assets		
Opening	6,914,538	7,118,383
Current (Deficit)	436,175	(203,845)
	7,350,713	6,914,538
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 8,894,918	\$ 8,748,760

Diocesan Annual Appeal

2009

Revenue		
Donations	\$	478,692
Less: Parish Rebates		78,692
Diocesan Goal	\$	400,000
Disbursements		
Home Missions		
Rose Prince Pilgrimage	\$	10,000
Our Lady of Snows, Fort St. James		7,000
St. Mary's, New Hazelton		10,000
St. Patrick's, McBride		11,000
St. Anthony's, Houston		6,000
St. Peter's, Mackenzie		3,000
St. Theresa's Mission		12,500
Our Lady of Peace, Chetwynd		7,000
Franciscan Brothers		3,500
Youth		
Camp Morice		25,000
Camp Emile		5,000
Diocesan Pastoral Centre		70,000
Faith Formation		
Returning To Spirit		8,000
Pro-Life		10,000
First Nations Retreat		2,000
Diocesan Pastoral Centre		105,000
Catholic Independent Schools		60,000
Vocations		
Seminarians		30,000
Formation - Priests		10,000
Administration		5,000
Total Disbursements	\$	400,000

Diocesan Annual Appeal Becoming Church - 2009-2010

As in our inaugural year, this past Appeal was quite successful. In light of the continued economic situation in our country we anticipated lower total revenues and that was borne out in the results. Even so, we exceeded our goal of \$400,000 and \$78,692 was returned to the parishes as rebates.

It is important to note that the whole \$400,000 was allocated as indicated in the case presented to the diocese. Every dollar contributed to the Appeal is used for the intended purpose. Administration costs, which this year totalled \$38,774, are not taken out of Appeal income but are rather accounted as part of the cost of running the diocesan office.

The \$70,000 allocated to Home Missions was used for subsidies to some smaller, rural parishes, the Rose Prince Pilgrimage and First Nations ministry in various communities.

Previously a portion of these costs were supported by Catholic Missions in Canada grants and the rest came from regular diocesan revenue. We are slowly reducing our dependence on external grants while easing the pressure on our diocesan budget.

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Diocesan Special Collections

A total of \$104,658 was collected in parishes for the needs stated below. This year most parishes and many individuals donated directly to Development and Peace for designated relief efforts. Once again, the generous people of this diocese provide much needed support for the upkeep of religious sites in the Holy Land, Development and Peace, Evangelization of Nations, the Pope's pastoral Works and Catholic Missions in Canada.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount Collected</u>	<u>Use of Funds</u>
Canadian Church	8,229	Needs of the Church in Canada
Development & Peace (Share Lent Collection)	36,808	Projects in developing countries and education in Canadian parishes
Development & Peace - Special	218	Designated relief efforts
Evangelization of the Nations	10,116	World-wide mission efforts
Holy Land	20,218	Maintenance of sites of the Holy Father
Pope's Pastoral Works	7,715	Charitable works of the Holy Father
Catholic Missions in Canada	10,464	Missionary efforts in Canada

Give recklessly, totally, for sake of all

Christmas is a time of gift-giving. The origin of this gesture stems from the very nature of Christmas. The Gospel of John reminds us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son".

At Christmas we celebrate the extreme generosity of God. God has given all God had to give. God did not have five sons. God had one son and gave that son to the world in order that we might have life.

In all of this we are invited to reflect on the nature of "the" gift and, as a result of this, to look at our own gift and its giving.

One of the greatest obstacles to the spiritual life is the temptation to make ourselves our own god. It is one thing to know my own gifts and to nurture them. But it is entirely something else to presume that I have all the gifts.

To develop our own gifts is part of the gift. We have been given natural talents in order to develop them for the sake of others. Each of us has been given something that is meant to make the world a better place for the rest of humanity.

We cook and sing and teach and write and clean and organize

and build; each of us has something that the rest of the world needs.

We are here to give our gifts to the world, to rejoice in God's gifts to me, but only for the sake of others. We are each only one more link in the chain that is meant to bring all of humanity, everything in creation, to wholeness.

What I am and have I must give away recklessly, totally, for the sake of the world. If I don't know my gifts, if I don't develop my gifts, I cannot possibly fulfill the purpose of creation in me.

At the same time it is very destructive to presume that because I have one gift I have all gifts and that no one else has anything worthwhile to offer.

To think that my gift surpasses all others, gives me rights others do not have, gives me permission to live above and beyond the rest of humanity, is awful arrogance. Such a way of thinking destroys all of our relationships, both human and divine.

Arrogance colors our awareness that we are really dependent on one another and leaves us to die incomplete. That kind

of arrogance reduces the creation of others to dust and makes it impossible for us even to see our own needs.

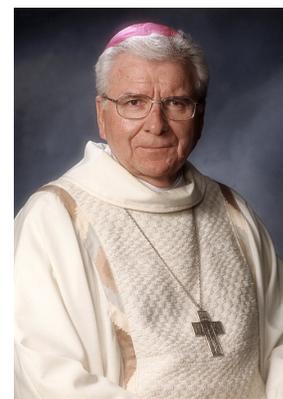
Without the ability to recognize others who are also gifted, we lose the ability to recognize the Creator who has made each one of us one more beam of Godly beauty which together reflects the radiance that fills the world.

It is our need for one another that teaches us our need for God. It is our deep down incompleteness that cries each day of our lives to be completed by those around us and by God.

The first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians reminds us, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'. On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable".

Christmas reminds us of "the" gift of God in our lives. May it also remind us of the necessity of developing our gifts, of sharing our gifts and of depending on the gifts of others.

May this time of giving and receiving be truly a time of God's



Bishop's Letter

Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, OMI



Bishops' Schedule

December

- 1-3 Office
- 1 Staff retreat
- 1 Domano Renewal Centre
- Advent Evening
- 2 Sacred Heart CWL
- 4 Winnipeg – RTS Board Meeting
- 6-10 Office
- 13-17 Office
- 20-23 Office

Christmas Break -
December 24, 2010 – January 2, 2011

January

- 3-7 St. Benedict, Oregon
- Mount Angel Retreat
- 9 Columbus Community Centre
- Bishop's Levee
- 10-14 Office
- 17-21 Office
- 18 Council of Priests
- 21 Finance Council
- 24-27 Office
- 28-29 Fraser Lake – Mid-West Region
Liturgy Workshop

February

- 1-4 Office
- 2 + 3 Domano Renewal Centre
- Men's Retreat evening
- 5 Domano Renewal Centre
- Married Couples Retreat Day
- 7-10 Office
- 9 + 10 Domano Renewal Centre
- Women's Retreat evening
- 11-12 Terrace
- West Region Liturgy Workshop
- 14-18 Office
- 20 St. George's Ukrainian Church
- Divine Liturgy
- 21-25 Prince George - Western
Conference of Catholic Bishops
- 28 Office

March

- 1-4 Office
- 5 Domano Renewal Centre – First
Nations Married Couples Retreat
- 7-10 Office
- 11-13 Smithers – Lay Formation
- 14-18 Office

- 18-20 Domano Renewal Centre
- Lay Formation
- 21-25 Office
- 29-31 Returning to Spirit Reconciliation

April

- 1-3 Ottawa – COLF workshop
- 4-8 Office
- 9 Fraser Lake
- Diocesan CWL Convention
- 11-15 Office
- 16 Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting
- 21-24 Easter Triduum
- 29 Surrey
- Knights of Columbus Convention
- 30-May 1 Diocesan Youth Conference

2011 Confirmation/First Eucharist Schedule

“Confirmation is so closely linked with the holy Eucharist that the faithful, after being signed by holy baptism and confirmation, are incorporated fully into the body of Christ by participation in the Eucharist”.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Friday	May 6	7 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, PG
Sunday	May 8	11 a.m.	St. Mary's, PG
Sunday	May 8	3 p.m.	Sacred Heart Cathedral
Saturday	May 14	7 p.m.	Burns Lake
Sunday	May 15	9 a.m.	Smithers
Sunday	May 15	4 p.m.	Houston
Monday	May 16	7 p.m.	Fraser Lake
Tuesday	May 17	7 p.m.	Vanderhoof
Wednesday	May 18	7 p.m.	Fort St. James
Friday	May 20	7 p.m.	New Hazelton
Saturday	May 21	10 a.m.	Prince Rupert
Sunday	May 22	11 a.m.	Terrace
Sunday	May 22	4 p.m.	Kitimat
Tuesday	May 24	6 p.m.	Christ Our Savior, PG
Friday	May 27	7 p.m.	Mackenzie
Saturday	May 28	10 a.m.	Chetwynd
Saturday	May 28	7:30 p.m.	Fort St. John
Sunday	May 29	10 a.m.	Dawson Creek
Sunday	May 29	4 p.m.	Tumbler Ridge
Monday	June 6	TBA	Tache
Tuesday	June 7	TBA	Takla



Oblate Fathers John Mulligan and Andy Takach moved to Prince George from Vanderhoof this past summer. They are pictured here enjoying with visit at the Dominican Sisters in October. Currently Father Andy is living in St. Mary's Parish and providing replacement ministry in the diocese. Father Mulligan moved in November to live in the Oblate residence in St. Albert, Alberta. PHOTO BY: Sister Beverly Bobola, OP

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The Diocese of Prince George welcomed the return of Sr. Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ, at right, when she moved to Smithers this past summer. She is pictured here with Sr. Mary Shea, FCJ. PHOTO BY: Susan Campbell



The face of Christ in the 21st century

By: Susan Campbell
 PRINCE GEORGE - "What a positive message about teens today! We talked about the conference all the way home."

That was one reaction from a participant in the Diocesan Assembly I happened to meet in a store after the conference.

Dr. Reginald Bibby was the keynote speaker at the Diocesan Assembly held here in September. He had many positive and challenging things to say to over 150 of us gathered from across the diocese; educators, pastors, religious, pastoral leaders, youth ministers and parishioners.

Dr. Reginald Bibby has been monitoring religious trends in Canada for over 30 years.

He started his presentations by exploring the religious landscape in Canada and dismantling some common stereotypes. Alberta, for example, is not the bible belt of Canada. Both Saskatchewan and the Atlantic Provinces have higher rates of religious practice.

If we had taken a poll of the participants at our Diocesan Assembly, we might have seen that confirmed in the number of people who came from those regions to this diocese.

BC has the highest percentage



Dr. Reginald Bibby

of Canadians who profess no religion (34 percent), almost twice the national average.

These are challenging times for the churches, there is no doubt. Yet there are signs of hope and renewal.

Catholics make up the largest single religious denomination in Canada. Although the number of Catholics who actively participate in parish life has declined, Dr.

Bibby pointed out that those who do not participate still consider themselves to be Catholic, and they are not inclined to switch to another denomination.

Further, many inactive Catholics would be open to greater participation in the Church if it met some of their basic needs. Examples included activities for children, families and the elderly.

When asked if it was unrealistic to expect the church simply to fulfill needs without calling members to greater discipleship, Bibby told the story of the family who started attending a church because it actively promoted itself as being "kid friendly."

Soon the parents were getting involved in some of the other activities and later hosted a bible study in their home. "You start with their needs. You don't stop there."

He was very positive on what young people today say about their values, hopes and aspirations.

Current survey results show a

marked improvement from previous generations on teen relationships with parents and enjoyment of school. Parents are working hard to communicate well with their teens and it shows.

As in previous generations teens find great enjoyment in friends and music. In contrast to other generations, however, they are more pluralistic – they have more choices to make about everything.

In the face of all those choices, young people require support in making good decisions in life. Family, school and parish all have a role to play in supporting young people.

Dr. Bibby's work has been of great service to us as Church and as Canadians. In 2006 he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Canada for his work. He provides an expertise and insight that corrects assumptions, challenges the status quo and gives signs of hope and renewal.

He is sympathetic to our situation as Church, yet he also challenges us to look again and perhaps see a little differently. As we reflected on our theme, "The Face of Christ in the 21st Century," it was inspiring to see the many ways Christ is made present in our time and place.

It was also a challenge for each of us to remember that we are the face of Christ that people encounter each day.

"We are the face of Christ that people encounter each day"



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Diocese prepares for revised liturgy



PHOTO: Bishop Gerald Wiesner, OMI, at right, and Susan Campbell, Director of the Pastoral Centre and Chair of the Diocesan Liturgy Committee, are pictured in Dawson Creek presenting a workshop on the revised Roman missal. This is one of four regional workshops being held to prepare liturgical ministers for the upcoming changes.

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin
DAWSON CREEK – Stage three of the four-stage process to prepare for the upcoming implementation of the revised Roman missal is well under way in the Diocese of

Prince George.

This stage brings together liturgical ministers in regional workshops to explore some basic foundations in liturgy, review the principles for the changes and to study the revised prayers.

The workshop in October for the Central Region was held at Christ Our Savior

Parish and saw over 60 people from seven parishes in attendance.

In the North Region, the workshop was held at Notre Dame Parish in November with approximately 50 people from Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Fort St. John and Fort Nelson participating.

Workshops for the Midwest and West Regions will be held in January and February respectively. These workshops follow the first two stages of preparation which saw first the priests and then pastoral life directors and pastoral associates work through the changes.

Currently the new translation, which was sent by Rome to, and was approved by, the English speaking Con-

ferences of Bishops, is being reworked in Rome. The revised missal will see changes in some of our prayers and responses as well as adjustments in how we celebrate liturgy.

It may be early 2012 before the revised liturgy is implemented.

When the regional workshops are finished, parishes will be encouraged to hold a number of parish-based workshops to ensure everyone is familiar with and ready to celebrate the revised liturgy when the time comes.

In the meantime plans are in place to gather parish music ministers together to learn new music that has been written to incorporate the changed prayers and responses.

**Diocesan
Youth
Conference
2011**

You are not going to want to miss this year's annual conference! We have a lot of surprises up our sleeves that we cannot wait to share.

See you there ☺

Mark your calendars!!

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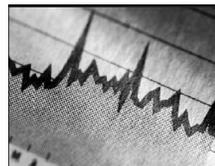
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When taking tea is a political act

By: Jo-Anne Allison

A little over a year ago I visited Palestine in the occupied West Bank of Israel.

I went there because I wanted to learn about the Palestinian people and I wanted to hear their stories. As readers of this column know, I am keen on peoples' stories!

One of the trip's most memorable events occurred when we visited the Israeli military occupied city of Hebron. Here we learned that Palestinians cannot move freely into, or indeed, even within the city.

All non-Jews must pass through military checkpoints, which are scattered about the city and some parts of the city are completely forbidden to Palestinians.

Hebron's old marketplace, once a vibrant center of Palestinian life and culture, is deserted and silent. Over 500 shops have been welded shut by the Israeli military since the occupation began at the end of the 6-Day War in 1967. Everyday more and more of Palestinian Hebron dies.

It was here in the almost empty streets that we met Abu Samir, a Palestinian elder.

Abu Samir explained that it was not always like this. He told us of a Hebron that was a center of culture, religion, commerce and

education for Palestinians and Jews alike. He laments that now it is a city the world has forgotten.



Abu Samir in Hebron's old market. PHOTO BY: Jo-Anne Allison

He tells us about his neighborhood, Tel Rumeida. It is an ancient place set up on a hill, not too far from the old market area. It used to be a desirable multicultural place to live with beautiful gardens adorning large family compounds.

Now however, no other Palestinians live there, only Abu Samir and his family. There are lots of reasons for this, but the most striking to me is the

fact that to go anywhere Abu Samir and his family must go through two military checkpoints.

When Abu Samir asks us to his home for tea he acknowledges that our presence in his house will constitute a "political action".

He is not allowed to have visitors – no visitors at all – because of his home's proximity to an Israeli settlement.

We are amazed, no visitors at all? Would we get through the military checkpoints? Did we even want to try?

It was a daunting walk. Palestinians may only walk on one side

of the street; Jews on the other. We are not sure where we fit so we follow Abu Samir, identifying with him rather than the insult and rock throwing Israeli Settlers.

As I scurry to catch up to Abu Samir I am amazed at his courage. This elderly Palestinian man leads the way knowing that any rocks thrown by the Settlers will hit him first, also knowing that repercussions to this "action" will fall on his and his family's shoulders.

We arrive safely and have tea with Abu Samir, his wife and family.

When it comes time to leave, we hurry down the hill and flee through the first and then the second check point. I am ashamed to admit I never looked back.

I have never known such fear.

The occupation continues.

Internationals are no longer allowed through the checkpoints to Tel Rumeida.

There is no news of Abu Samir or his family.

Who will tell the story of how Hebron used to be?



From the
Archivist's
Notebook

By: Jo-Anne Allison

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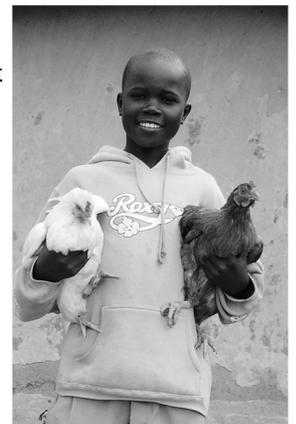
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Access to clean water a concern of Holy See

By: Sergio Petrucci
PRINCE GEORGE – Rather than people signing a card to send to the Prime Minister, this year in its Fall Campaign, Development and Peace is inviting people to sign a personal commitment to drink tap water and not bottled water.

This was one of the many things discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Development and Peace, hosted again this year by Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Members came from throughout the diocese, from Fort St. John to Smithers and many

information regarding our Fall Campaign.

The gathering discussed what a personal commitment to drink tap water rather than bottled water had to do with injustices being perpetuated in the Global South. Why this particular action?

Many countries in the Global South rely on bottled drinking water. Their governments, which are strapped for funds, do not construct reliable water delivery systems but rather depend on bottled water which many of their people cannot afford. With bottled water being sold every-

from access to water, along with the dangers inherent in its commercialization in favor of the privileged, should elicit a feeling of indignation from the followers of Jesus.”

Another concern on the mind of participants which was discussed at the meeting is the desire to recruit new active members and become a more visible ministry in the diocese. The challenge is to draw parishioners to a social justice way of life and invite them to participate in parish and diocesan work.

Procedures for fundraising for emergencies were also discussed. As there appears to be several calls for urgent action each year a standard procedure needs to be developed. This procedure could then be followed every time Development and Peace sends notification.

At the business meeting elections results found Linda Olaksew as secretary, Joan Craig as treasurer, Joe Haddock as vice-chair and Sergio Petrucci as chair.

At the end of the meeting five members received plaques of recognition for their commitment, dedication and hard work: Joe Haddock, Sister Eileen Paulter, SSND, Linda Olaksew, Gerhild Neugebauer and Barb Kirby.

The Diocese of Prince George Development and Peace hosted a Youth and Young Adult Forum on Social Justice in the diocese on October 30th.



places in between, bringing their enthusiasm and concern for justice.

Even as some feel burdened and often alone in their parish work they persevere and bring the injustices that occur in the Global South face to face with their parishioners.

John Gabor, animator for the B.C./Yukon Region, took us through several hours of valuable

where, water comes to be viewed by society as a commodity, not a right.

The text written by the Holy See regarding Kyoto is very clear: “Access to clean and sufficient water supply is a human right. Water is a common good of humankind.”

The statement goes on to say, “The knowledge of environmental degradation and exclusion



Pictured at the Annual General Meeting of Development and Peace are, from left, Marj Coupe, Dorothy Mynan, Sergio Petrucci, Joe Haddock, Gerhild Neugebauer, Sr. Eileen Paulter, Linda Olaksew, Jana Leslie and Ed Rouble

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Pope John Paul II: “Ecological crisis is a moral issue”

By: Sergio Petrucci

CALGARY – The highlight of the annual meeting of Social Justice Coordinators from the dioceses in Western Canada, held November 6-8, was a presentation that looked at the Alberta Tar Sands from a holistic point of view.

While the destruction of the environment this project will cause is well documented, Dr. Andrew Nikiporuk spoke about the other effects.

He pointed first to the breakdown of family life. With over 340,000 people from Eastern Canada leaving their families to work in Fort McMurray, the stress on family life has been great. Many families have not survived the separation.

Dr. Nikiporuk also questioned the economic value of the Tar Sands.

He noted that Alberta has put by \$14 billion as a “rainy day” fund, but Norway put by \$400 billion to prepare for the day when the oil boom would be over. Al-

berta has no replacement plans following the depletion of oil resources, he said.

While originally meant to make up any shortfall in sources of cheap oil, the Tar Sands will now replace the depleted oil. Production is expanding at a rapid rate without consideration for the environment and people.

Dr. Nikiporuk’s presentation fit well with the theme of the gathering which focused on creation, and as a consequence, the environment.

The first presentation looked at theology and the environment. It was noted that when God created the earth he “saw that it was good”. The earth can provide for everyone’s need but not everyone’s greed.

Pope John Paul wrote that “the ecological crisis is a moral issue” and Pope Benedict says that “experience shows that disregard for the environment always harms human coexistence and vice

versa”.

Just as humans are part of God’s creation so too is the earth and to treat it with disrespect is a human sin.

Following the presentations participants discussed a number of issues of concern in their respective dioceses. The goal is for them to share with people in their dioceses a heightened awareness of the environmental damage to our earth and its consequences on future generations.

Another pressing issue that was discussed was poverty in Canada. The Canadian Bishops recently sent an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for the federal government to develop a national anti-poverty strategy. More than three million Canadians, most of them children, are living in poverty.

The bishops invite all Canadians to call on the federal government to emulate the efforts of many provincial governments and develop an anti-poverty strategy.

CWL members enjoy evening together

By: Johanna Habjan

SMITHERS – St. Joseph’s Catholic Women’s League hosted a Spring Tea and Dessert evening following Mass on May 11th. Women from other denominations in our community were invited to join our members for the event.

Guest speakers Jeannette Malkow and Barrie Blix gave a talk on a new community project, Health Information Kiosk.

Also during the evening CWL pins were presented to four new members and two long-time members. Tina Bruintjes joined the CWL 50 years ago and Gemma Gillis has been a member for 40 years. New members Cecilia Bathglia, Mary Boyes, Monica Sargent and Myrna Arnett were welcomed.

Storytelling and laughter were an enjoyable part of the evening’s activities and two lucky women took home spring potted



At left, long-time members Tina Bruintjes (50 years) and Gemma Gillis (40 years) received honours while new members Cecilia Bathglia, Mary Boyes and Johanna Habjan, pictured at right, along with Monica Sargent and Myrna Arnett (missing from photo) were welcomed.

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Local hero shortlisted for national award



Dr. Chris Opio

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin
PRINCE GEORGE - Dr. Christopher Opio, co-founder of the Northern Uganda Development Foundation (NUDF) and a professor at the University of Northern BC, has been nominated and now shortlisted for CBC's Canada's Champions of Change.

Dr. Opio was among 2,000 people initially nominated for the Canada-wide contest and was among the 50 people shortlisted in September.

On November 15th he received word that he was among the top 10 finalists selected by an independent panel of community and volunteer leaders. The finalists were announced that evening on CBC TV News.

These five national and five international finalists each receive \$10,000 for their charities. Their names were put forward to the Canadian public for voting and the national and international finalist who receives the most votes will be named Canada's Champions of Change. Each will be awarded an additional \$15,000 for their organizations.

All top 10 finalists will be honoured at a gala night in Toronto on January 16, 2011.

Dr. Opio, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Prince George, co-founded NUDF in 2007 with former Frontier Apostle and current UNBC employee,

Tony Donovan. The organization is based in Prince George and Kamdini Parish in Uganda and is comprised of a board of directors and more than 100 general members.

The purpose of NUDF is to improve the standard of living of the people in Northern Uganda by promoting locally sustainable, clean and safe drinking water, improving farming practices to enhance food security and supporting income-generating projects.

These projects are set up in the part of the world where Dr. Opio was born and raised. One of 10 siblings raised on a farm, Dr. Opio said his family had to walk several miles to get water which was contaminated by a parasite carried by snails that lived in the water.

His brother, like 1.4 million people in the developing world, died from water borne illness. Medicine is available to prevent these deaths but most people cannot afford it.

The deaths are completely preventable by access to clean drinking water.

NUDF works with local people to drill wells deep



Mary's Well - Donated by Immaculate Conception School

enough to avoid parasites. The water is tested right after drilling to ensure it is clean and will not create other health problems for the people.

An infrastructure is put in place using local people and resources so that the well is maintained.

To date NUDF has drilled 29 wells which provide clean drinking water for approximately 49,000 people. A survey carried out in the region indicates that illnesses have decreased by 85 percent since the wells came into operation.

For more information about NUDF or Dr Opio, visit www.nudf.org or contact Tony Donovan, NUDF vice-chair and cofounder at 250-960-5176, or 250-962-8254. To vote for Dr. Opio as a Champion Change go to www.cbc.ca/change; voting ends on January 10, 2011 and each person can vote 10 times.



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Experiencing the Peru of the Oblates

By: Dorothy Reimer

PRINCE GEORGE - This past July, 13 Western Canadians, including four parishioners from St. Mary's Parish in Prince George, along with Father Mario Azrak of Kenya, participated in a tour of six Oblate Missions in Peru.

In retrospect, my thoughts: dirt, sweat, litter, struggle, faith, love, hope, majestic, marvelous, mountainous, beautiful, intelligent, pragmatic ... Peru.

Nine million of the 27 million people in Peru live in Lima. Traffic is congested and there is continual honking of mostly taxis and buses. People in Peru are industrious and Lima is no exception.

We visited two Oblate missions located in the poorer areas: the Oscar Romero Retreat Centre in Carabayllo and the Comas parish of Senorita de la Paz with its adjacent Jesus Obrero technical school facility and the center for the Oblates in Peru.

We also visited the Casa Formacion in a middle class neighborhood where we met some of the Oblate seminarians.

We would consider the quality of life in Comas and Carabayllo as poor. The sun rarely penetrates the dirty, thick air. Dogs and people go through the garbage on the medians along the main thoroughfare at night. However, most dwellings have electricity, water and sewer. People eventually sweep up and haul the garbage away.

Father Joe Devlin said that 46 years ago none of it was there. Perhaps in 40 years it will have beautiful gardens and the people there will have meaningful work.

Our first foray out of Lima, guided by Father Moe Schroeder, was a bus trip over the Andes to Aucayacu in the selva (tropical river valley) and Orcotuna in the sierra (high elevation mountain valley).

We visited two chapels supported by San Savior Parish at Aucayacu. In the 1990s this region was terrorized by the Shining Path and there is still a trade in cocaine here.

Peruvian Oblate seminarians, Brothers Lalo Aguirre and Jose Zumaeta are involved with the people raising buffalo and operating a local radio station. We shared in a wonderful meal in the shade of a huge sprawling tree in the buffalo pasture - the buffalo were enclosed in a paddock for this occasion!

That evening we attended Mass; a full church with a youth choir, six altar servers and a grass-skirt-clad youth offertory procession which was a very moving surprise.

As we traveled south we came to the pastoral Spanish colonial sierra village of Orcotuna. It is in an area considered the granary of Lima. The parish seemed to be cash shy and yet the Peruvian Oblates, the council and youth of San Francisco de Asis Parish fed and entertained us royally with authentic Andean food, music and dance.



Traditionally dressed youth present gifts during the offertory at a mass celebrated at San Savior Parish in Aucayacu, Peru.

PHOTO BY: Dorothy Reimer

They informed us that a Canadian phosphate mining company (Stonegate Agricom) through a Peruvian medical company (Mantoro Peru Sac) is purchasing mineral rights from village land holders for as little as eight sheets of corrugated metal and five Eucalyptus poles.

This raises concerns that stripping the land will destroy the much used and needed aquifers.

The Oblates have a garden where new to the area varieties are being grown. They also operate a radio station, unlicensed due to repression of information in Peru.

Ste. Clothilde on the Napo River in northern Peru was the fifth mission on our tour. To reach it we flew to Iquitos, banana-boated down the Amazon, taxied overland to Hazan on the Napo River, boarded a charter boat and traveled six hours upriver.

We stopped briefly along the way at a health center/chapel, Tacsha Curarray, where we were fed and entertained by local school children and their catechists. Our visit was cut short as our boat became an ambulance to transport a very ill child with his mother to hospital. Father Schroeder baptized the child en route and he later died at Ste. Clothilde.

In Ste. Clothilde there are grade schools, a residential high school, a wonderful spring-fed, large, cement swimming pool, guttered cement main streets, a hospital and a sewage system.

The simple parish is served by Peruvian Oblates Fathers Edgar Nolazco and Roberto Carrasco who also provide pastoral care along the Napo River almost to Ecuador. There singers, musicians and actors performed an ecological skit with a positive end bringing oil company workers, loggers and the people to unity.

Fathers Moe Schroeder, OMI and Jack McCarthy, a Norbertine priest, are medical doctors who have run Ste. Clothilde's Hospital Center for many years. In their 70s and 60s respectively, they are actively searching for administrators to take over.

They expressed concern about mines killing fish in the upper Napo, oil and logging companies removing timber and the life of the people dying.

We traveled by bus to Chinchá, devastated in 2007 by an earthquake. Here Brother Blaize McQuarrie and the people are building simple homes

at a reduced cost. Working with him and his team is David Hewson, a Canadian university student. We visited the quarry and a recently built

(Continued on page 15)



Ste. Clothilde Church



Domano Renewal Centre Schedule January - June, 2011



**Schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please call to confirm.*

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January		
3	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
3-7	Returning to Spirit Non-Aboriginal	RTS Team
10, 24	RTS Seminar	RTS Team
11 & 18	2 Evenings on Grief	Sr. Donna Dolan, RSCJ
18, 25	Book Discussion: Wisdom Stories	Claire Petrucci
21-23	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
29	Drawing Class	Jean Brandel
February		
1, 8, 15, 22	Book Discussion: Wisdom Stories	Claire Petrucci
1	Advisory Council Meeting	Advisory Council
2, 3	Retreat for Men	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
5	Retreat for Married Couples	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
7, 21, 28	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
7	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
8	Critique Workshop	Gisele Bauche
9	Painting Flowers in Watercolour	Gisele Bauche
9, 10	Retreat for Women	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
14-18	Returning to Spirit – Aboriginal	RTS Team
18-20	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
21-25	Western Bishop's Conference	
March		
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Contemplative Living - Series	Ven. Peter Zimmer
4-6	Engaged Encounter Weekend	Martha Primus
5	Retreat for Married Couples – First Nations	Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI
7	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
14	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
18-20	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
19-20	Quantum Touch Basic – Video	Jean Marie Lehtinen, OP
24-31	Returning to Spirit – Reconciliation	RTS Team
April		
4	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
4, 18	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
8-10	First Nations Retreat	Archbishop Sylvian Lavioe, OMI
12-14	A Three Day Artist Retreat	Gisele Bauche
15-17	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
28	Retreat for Seniors	Fr. Doug Jeffery, OMI
May		
2	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
6	Council of Religious Meeting	Council of Religious
7	Topic to be announced	Ron Rolheiser, OMI
9	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
10	Advisory Council Meeting	Advisory Council
13-15	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
16	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
28	Walking Retreat	Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI
28-29	Quantum Touch Basic – Live	Jean Marie Lehtinen, OP
June		
6	RTS Seminar Series	RTS Team
10-12	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
13	Christian Meditation	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
25-26	Quantum Touch Basic – Video	Jean Marie Lehtinen, OP

Parish shares Christmas with children in Peru

By: Linda Pettipas

TERRACE – It is the month of June and a little Peruvian child rushes up to Father David Johnson and throws his arms around him.

Father David says, “Por qué? Why?” The little child beams and says, “Because you gave us the Christmas gifts and the hot chocolate!”

Father David smiles broadly. Christmas was celebrated six months ago yet the happy memories linger on.

This December will mark the fifth year that Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace will raise funds for the “Peru Kids” of Father David’s parish of Santiago Apostol, in Pamparomas, Peru and its outlying mission territory.

Father David, originally from Salmon Arm, BC, has strong ties to Terrace and its local Catholic church. Over 25 years ago he met our pastor Father Terry Brock when they both attended Christ the King Seminary in Mission, BC and they remain close friends.

Father David has also spent some of his vacation time in Terrace, celebrated Mass at Sacred Heart and met many parishioners.

In 2006 Father David was preparing to sell his vehicle to purchase basic items for parishion-

ers such as blankets and shoes. When Sacred Heart Parish heard of this dilemma a small fund raising group was formed with a goal of raising \$750.



Father David Johnson gives out presents to children in Peru thanks to the generosity of Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace.

Parishioners were so generous that the total collected was four times that amount. Not only was Father David able to keep his much-needed truck but the children of his parish received Christmas gifts.

In the first two years of the fundraising drive, to illustrate how many children were being helped a large cardboard cutout

of a Christmas tree hung in the church foyer. For each five dollars donated cardboard ornaments featuring photos of the mission children were hung on the tree. For a \$20 donation star shaped decorations were hung on the wall.

By the end of Advent the tree and the wall were full.

More recently a large foil banner depicting a gift box decorated the foyer. Parishioners who donated to the drive were able to fill out a gift tag and attach it to the banner. Some of the cards were from anonymous donors, some were in memory of deceased loved ones and some simply read “to Father David and the mission children.”

For every five dollars donated a child receives basic school supplies, a small toy, sweet bread and hot chocolate. Items are purchased in Peru which stimulates the local economy, the gifts and food are culturally appropriate and the Canadian dollar stretches much farther in the Global South.

One hundred percent of funds raised go directly to the mission; nothing is spent on administration or shipping, brokerage and customs fees.

The response to the fundraising has been so positive that

Sacred Heart’s pastoral assistant Gorette Pires remarked, “We don’t really have to promote it much anymore. Once we let parishioners know we are collecting money for Father David’s mission, people just give! It makes a big difference because he has come to be with us for a few summers. People know who he is, trust him and are willing to give because of it.”

Over the past four years donations have grown. Last year the total was just over \$5,000 which provided gifts not only for the children but their grandparents as well. The elders were treated to a festive lunch and were sent home with packages of food supplies and some small toys they could give to their grandchildren.

“A total of 42 villages attended and more than 4,000 children participated in the celebrations,” Father David wrote.

“In each village we handed out Christmas cards, sang Christmas songs, talked with the children about the real meaning of Christmas and handed out bags of candies, toys, hot chocolate and sweat bread, and there were games and prizes. It was a blessing for me to be able to see the deep joy in the faces of the families.”

Experiencing Peru, continued from page 13

adobe brick home with bamboo pole roof and cement foundation.

We received wonderful hospitality at Our Lady of Fatima parish where the bells rang out “Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to the Risen Lord” early in the morning. Father Devlin had been the parish priest and established small faith sharing communities there. Before 7 a.m. on Sunday morning the large modern church was full and vibrant.

We took a side trip to Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machupicchu where, with the help of local guides, we experienced Inca culture.

The Oblates in Peru need our prayers and support as younger Peruvian Oblates take over and older Canadian Oblates retire.



A group of Western Canadian pilgrims visit the Oblate missions in Peru. PHOTO BY: Dorothy Reimer



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