

# Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXI, NO. 2

Spring 2012

## Inside this issue:

Bishops'	3
Schedule	
Archives	5
Anniversaries	6
Sr. Mary Shea	7
DRC Schedule	10
Schools	11-16

## You are invited ...

Church Law requires that each bishop submit his resignation when he reaches his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. As it happens, Bishop Gerald Wiesner will turn 75 in June 2012 and so he will soon write his letter to the Holy Father.

As the usual response to this resignation is that "it is accepted now to be implemented when the successor is appointed", we do not know exactly when our bishop will officially leave the Diocese of Prince George.

We do, however, know we cannot let the occasion to honor Bishop Gerry's years of service here pass us by. On June 23, 2012 our Diocesan community will gather to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday in anticipation of his retirement.

Everyone is invited!

The celebration will begin with Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 4:30 p.m. This will be followed by a procession from the Cathedral to the Prince George Civic Centre for a banquet and program.

Tickets for the banquet are \$35 per person and may be purchased through the Diocesan

Centre or by contacting Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin at 250-964-4424 or [majamin@netbistro.com](mailto:majamin@netbistro.com).

Tickets will also be available for sale at the reception following the Chrism Mass on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Those who have reserved tickets can pay for and pick up their tickets at that time.

It may be some months after June before we have a new bishop and Bishop Gerry can begin his retirement. In a letter to the Diocese in February he outlined briefly some plans for after his replacement is appointed.

"It is my intent to retire in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. While Prince George has become home for me," the letter stated, "I do think it would be unfair to the new bishop for me to remain here as he takes office. Besides, there is an instruction from Rome which states that a retiring bishop who is a member of a Religious order should retire with his Community."

The Oblates have what Bishop Gerry describes as "a fine retirement home" in his home prov-

## Happy 75th Birthday Retirement Blessings



Celebration for  
Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, O.M.I.  
June 23, 2012

ince of Saskatchewan and it is there he will make his future home. After he is settled he will take a five-month sabbatical renewal program.

Bishop Gerry has often been heard to say that "it is better to wear out than to rust out". His plans to continue teaching, giving workshops and retreats and doing replacement ministry in parishes indicate that he is not ready to retire his car keys or his suitcase quite yet!



St. Anthony's School celebrating Catholic Schools Week with a "2 x Tuesday" Noah's Ark dressup day. PHOTO BY: Mel Sumner (For more stories from our schools see pages 11-16)

## Implementing the Revised Roman Missal

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By: Susana Borges  
KITIMAT - Here is the scene.  
It was the Saturday evening Mass. The lectors and Eucharistic ministers were prepared, the choir had practiced and was ready to lead the people to sing the new Mass responses.

Everything needed to help people respond appropriately as the changes indicated had been thought of: a *powerpoint* presentation was in place, the Celebrate in Song books were in the pews and the pew cards were ready. It looked like we were set to go.

Father blessed the Revised Roman Missal and the Advent wreath, the lector proclaimed the first reading followed by this wonderful period of silence.

The psalm was sung and then ... the power went out!

So, out come the Easter Vigil candles and Mass continued by candlelight. It was really very beautiful once you got over the shock of it.

I'm not sure what lesson needed to be learned:

- God really likes silence?
- God has a great sense of humor?
- The best laid plans of mice and men?

One thing that I do know: many of us will not forget the first Mass with the Revised Roman Missal.



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## Gratitude for God's faithful love

As we celebrate during the season of Lent, something that very strongly appears before our minds is the cross of Jesus.

In his Gospel, St. John very pointedly indicates the heart, the core of our Christian faith: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). The giving of God's Son is the giving unto death.

Jesus did say, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). God shows us this in handing over Jesus in death out of love for us.

As we try to understand the cross we need to realize that it is not first and foremost God plunging into the hopeless human situation and woe to the world. It is first and foremost the sign that historically, decisively, and in fact, God has decided to prefer us to



himself.

This is the real meaning of God loving the world so much God gave his only Son.

St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians explains well how we are to understand all of this in relation to ourselves. Paul says, "... the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who

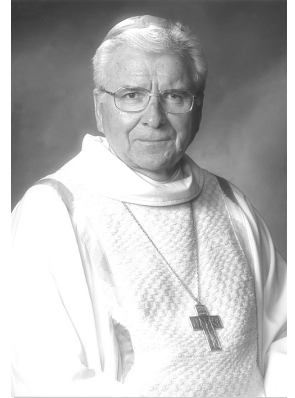
loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

So it is with each of us. Now in the flesh we, too, live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. In the cross God so loved us that he has decided to prefer us to himself.

As we ponder this reality and pray over it, it can only lead us to a great depth of gratitude and an equally deep desire to live our lives gratefully and more in accord with God's will for us.

Father we know your faithfulness: to keep your promise you have surrendered your very Son. Grant that those who follow him in faith may walk with him to the end of the road, that they may be raised with him in glory.

We conclude with the advice of the psalmist: "Do not forget the works of the Lord".



### Bishop's Letter

Most Rev. Gerald Wiesner, OMI

## Bishops' Schedule

### March

Feb 28- Mar 2 Victoria – Western Canadian Conference of Bishops  
4 Domano Renewal Centre RCIA Retreat  
6-9 Office  
10 St. Mary's, PG – Knights of Columbus 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
13-15 Office  
16-18 Smithers – Lay Formation  
20 Office  
21-25 Ottawa – COLF seminar and board meeting  
26 Chrism Mass  
27 Day for Priests  
28-30 Office  
28 Council of Priests meeting  
30-April 1 Domano Renewal Centre – Lay Formation

### April

3-5 Office  
5-8 Sacred Heart Cathedral: Easter Triduum  
10-13 Office  
14 Dawson Creek – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
15 Fort St. John – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
15 Chetwynd – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
17-19 Office

20 Prince Rupert – CWL Diocesan Convention  
24-26 Office  
27 Richmond – Knights of Columbus State Convention  
28 St. Mary's, PG – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
29 Immaculate Conception, PG – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
30 CIS meetings

### May

1-3 Office  
3 Domano Renewal Centre – Evening on Mary  
4-6 Kenora – Retreat for School Personnel  
8 Burns Lake – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
9 Houston – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
10 Smithers – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
11 Terrace – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
12 Prince Rupert – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
13 Kitimat – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
14 New Hazelton – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
15 Fraser Lake – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
16 Fort St. James – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
17 Vanderhoof – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
18 Office  
19 Christ Our Savior, PG – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
20 Sacred Heart Cathedral – Confirmation/First Eucharist

22-25 Office  
25-27 Domano Renewal Centre – Lay Formation  
29 Office  
30-1 Returning to Spirit Reconciliation

### June

1-3 Smithers – Lay Formation Graduation weekend  
4 Tache – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
6-8 Office  
10 McBride – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Patrick's Parish  
12 Mackenzie – Confirmation/First Eucharist  
13-14 Office  
15-17 Ottawa – COLF Board meeting  
19-22 Office  
**23 Retirement Celebration**  
26-29 Office

### July

3-5 Office  
6-8 Lejac Pilgrimage  
9-20 Vancouver – St. Mark's College  
25-31 Family holiday

**Diocesan Office Summer Closure:  
July 16 – August 10 inclusive  
Reopens August 13**

### *Retirement/Birthday gifts for Bishop*

A number of individuals and organizations have asked what they can give to show their appreciation for Bishop Gerry in light of his upcoming Birthday and anticipated retirement. The Diocese will be giving him a gift and if people also wish to give, the following are some ideas:

1. The prayers and support of the people of this Diocese have always meant a great deal to Bishop Gerry. Cards, letters and prayer cards expressing this will be a cherished gift.
2. Soon after his retirement becomes effective, Bishop Gerry plans to participate in a sabbatical renewal program; a monetary gift to him for this would certainly be appreciated.
3. If people want to make a donation in Bishop Gerry's name, he has identified two particular needs. Donations to these two funds are eligible for income tax receipts:
  - i. The Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (MAMI) supports Oblate ministry nationally and internationally including their missions in Peru and Kenya. A donation to MAMI in Bishop Gerry's name would be appreciated (601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9).
  - ii. The Buno Fund of the Diocese of Prince George pays for the formation of seminarians and the ongoing education of diocesan priests. A donation here in Bishop Gerry's name affirms his commitment to formation, renewal and education of priests (Box 7000, Prince George, BC V2N 3Z2).

For any other gifts that some may be considering, please note that Bishop Gerry is downsizing in a big way. When he leaves the diocese he will move from a five-bedroom home (and classroom sized office at the Diocesan Centre!) to a two-room suite.

## *Established in 1993 and still going strong*

By: Mary-Ann Bates, RSCJ  
"Greetings!

"As I am new to these parts and to many of you I would like to have the opportunity of meeting with you and all the Religious in the Diocese. Religious are a very important, essential component of the People of God".

Bishop Wiesner sent this greeting to each religious Sister and Brother one week prior to his consecration and installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Prince George. Clearly, collaboration with other leaders in the diocese was a priority for him from the very beginning.

Our first meeting was held in the conference room at St. Mary's, Prince George on April 7, 1993. Approximately 30 religious Sisters and Brothers gathered, representing 12 different religious congregations.

We took time to introduce ourselves and to share our hopes and aspirations for collaborative ministry in our diocese.

At this very first gathering Bishop Wiesner suggested forming a Religious Council which he viewed as a valued and important leadership group within the Diocesan Church.

That initial meeting was indeed cause for hope and

deep joy for all who had gathered. It served as the inspiration and basis for the establishment of the Religious Council in our Diocese.

We set about determining our goals and objectives and the Constitution of the Religious Council was finalized in January 1994. We elected our first executive with representation from the North, West and Central regions.

As a Council, our goals are clear:

1. To make known to one another and to encourage the use of our own collective resources.
2. To provide a means for spiritual sharing and growth.
3. To be part of the visioning process for the mission of our diocese and the parishes where we minister.
4. To be a source of support to the bishop and his ministry in the diocese.

We meet as a Council twice annually, in the fall and in the spring. Our meetings provide the opportunity for networking and socializing with one another. They are a time for spiritual reflection, input on various topics and a chance to share news of our respective ministries across the diocese.

In 1995 we began researching the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family. After several attempts finally in August 2001 we were able to sponsor a mother from Colombia with her three children.

The three children have now grown into beautiful and capable young people. Our friendship with this family has grown and deepened over the years.

Membership has varied in number from year to year as individual religious and/or religious communities leave the diocese and others arrive. At present we are 24 members representing 11 religious congregations.

New members enter effortlessly into our life as a Council. Looking back it is difficult to imagine a time when we did not exist as a Religious Council. A few of us remain who attended that initial gathering in April 1993.

How grateful we are for Bishop Wiesner's inspiration to establish a Religious Council in our diocese. How grateful we are for his faithful and steadfast support, encouragement and friendship all along the way.

Well done good and faithful servant!

P.S. Bishop Wiesner's "hockey allegiance" still needs a great deal of work!

### *Rite of Election*

Bishop Gerald Wiesner poses with the newly Elect and Candidates following the Rite of Election at Sacred Heart Cathedral on February 26, 2012.

PHOTO BY: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin



## A pocket full of stones

At a morning liturgy during the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) meeting in September 2011, Father Wayne Jenkins, SCJ said: “Archives are the living stones where the stories of those who have gone before us are preserved.”

It is archivists, he said, who “... make the brick and mortar of our buildings come alive with the testimony of what is contained inside.”

This theme of living stones and storytelling was prevalent at the Rosemary Heights Retreat Center where the CAG meeting was held.

Rosemary Heights has an interesting tradition whereby small baskets of stones, each imprinted with a word or thought, are found on the grounds and in the buildings. Conference attendees are encouraged to pick a stone and to meditate on what the inscribed word might mean to their lives.

As I pondered Father Wayne’s words, I considered the stones that I carry as I discharge my duties as Archivist for the Diocese of Prince George. Are the stones I carry in my pocket symbolic of burdens or joys?

In the keynote address, Dr. Jacqueline Gresko spoke about the contribution Oblate Fathers made to the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Interestingly, these early pioneers also tell the story of the early years of the Diocese of Prince George, since our priests reported to the Bishop of Vancouver until 1916.

In addition, the Oblates are part of a bigger more inclusive story of memory and remembrance. They are only one of many congregations of priests and religious who left Europe to come to North America to serve in the missions.

As Archivist for the Diocese I have always assumed that one of my biggest tasks and one of my weightiest stones is the duty to honor the faith demonstrated by these courageous missionaries.

Gary Mitchell, Provincial Archivist for BC, confirmed this when he challenged us to be stewards of the stories in our archives. He pointed out that by providing context and meaning to the archival records in our care we make our collections come alive.

Further, he reminded us that archival materials have nothing to do with the past and everything to do with the future because archival records are more – so much more – than words on a page. He eloquently described how archives are the fabric that gives meaning to our lives and the lives of those who follow us.

Faith, duty, context and meaning are significant concepts – stones that weigh heavily in my pocket. If I am conscientious, then the need to tell an accurate and truthful story becomes paramount.

How am I to accomplish this?

I need not have worried because Shelley Myhres and Kathleen Trayner from the Sisters of St. Ann National Historic Site and Carey Pallister, Assistant Archivist for the Sisters of St. Ann,

gave an energetic and spirited talk about building effective and interesting displays.

Our creative juices were further stirred by a hands-on exercise which gave participants the opportunity to construct exhibits highlighting various topics. Shelley, Kathryn and Carey showed us how to use everyday things to construct windows onto our past.

Ingenuity: another stone for my collection!

Archival records are living stones. The stories they tell can be bothersome, inconvenient and vexing. They can also be inspiring and faith giving. Stories from the past give us insight into ourselves and can stimulate inventiveness, initiative and joy.

CAG 2011 gave me a pocket full of stones to work with: dedication, loyalty, devotion, camaraderie, ingenuity and joy, just to name a few. Lucky me!



### From the Archivist’s Notebook

By: Jo-Anne Allison

## Knights donate to school



Mel Hoffart of the Dawson Creek Knights of Columbus presents Kathy Mould, Chairperson of Notre Dame School Council with a cheque for over \$6,000. The donation will help with the replacement of the gym floor at the school and was raised by Knights from throughout BC.

Prince George Councils  
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### Knights of Columbus

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in Prince George

Come and Join us — New Members Welcome

## Parish celebrates milestone anniversaries

Father Vincent James, OMI, celebrates his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination along with couples from St. Andrew's Parish who are marking significant anniversaries of marriage. PHOTO BY: Therese Stafford



By: Lilly Schulz  
FRASER LAKE – A tradition begun 17 years ago continues at St. Andrew's Parish. Each year the parish has a special celebration to recognize couples who have reached milestone anniversaries. The celebration is held around November 30<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St. Andrew.

"It is important for us to celebrate the anniversaries," Father Vincent James, OMI, pastor of St. Andrew's said. "It is more important than the wedding itself."

"When someone can say they are celebrating 30, 40 or 50 years, they have truly lived

out their vows through the good and bad, through sickness and health. The couples we celebrate today are a wonderful example to our young people."

The day of the celebration, November 26<sup>th</sup>, marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Josie and Pat Hurley. Also celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2011 were Karl and Heddy Schulz.

Other couples honoured at the event were Yvonne and Tom Thalheimer (40 years), Dini and Jim Foote (45 years), Marlene and Fernando Silva (30 years).

The parish also recognized Father Vincent James' 30 years

as a priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate; he was ordained on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1981.

Father Vincent said he realized what a precious gift God has granted to him and he thanks God everyday for calling him to be a priest.

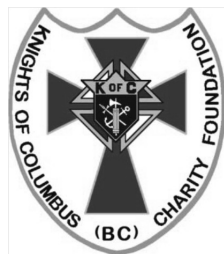
Following

mass a wonderful potluck dinner featuring a variety of delicious dishes was shared and enjoyed. John and Therese Stafford then introduced each of the couples and family or friends were invited to share a little bit of history about each couple.

All the couples have been an integral part of our parish over the years and repeatedly, appreciation for their witness and service was expressed. Each couple was presented with a small gift.

The rest of the evening was filled with dancing and socializing.

### Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary



Thirty bursaries valued at \$500 each will be awarded to eligible students. Roman Catholic students who have not previously received a bursary from the Knights of Columbus Charity Foundation, are under the age of 25 and reside in the province of BC may apply. Applicants must be enrolling in the second or subsequent year at any legally recognized institute of higher learning, beyond the secondary school level in British Columbia, Canada.

To receive a bursary application form contact:

Arcie José Lim  
State Bursary Chairman  
3539 Gladstone Street  
Vancouver, BC V2N 4Y7

Completed applications, along with a short personal resume and Baptism certificate must be returned by June 30, 2012. No one other than the student may request an application. Applicants who demonstrate a financial need may receive primary consideration. Successful candidates will be notified by August 15, 2012.

*“Good companions, dedicated co-workers and faithful witnesses”*

By: Rev. Rectorino Tolentino Jr. SMITHERS - Sr. Mary Shea, fcj, will soon say farewell to the parish community of St. Joseph and begin a new phase of her journey at Sacred Heart Convent in Calgary.

Sister Mary has lived in Smithers for more than 10 years. St. Joseph’s Parish will celebrate her presence and ministry at a gathering following the Sunday Eucharist on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sister Patricia Binchy, the former Provincial Leader of Sister Mary’s religious community, the Faithful Companions of Jesus, explained that while Sister Mary is sorry to leave Smithers, she is ready for the move to Calgary.

In a letter to Father Rectorino Tolentino, pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish, Sister Binchy wrote: “Mary has been valiant in continuing in Smithers after Sister Terry Smith’s move to Bolivia and she knows that the time has come to move before any health problems complicate her life there!

“She has loved being present and ministering in the area and she had made friends in Smithers and through offering hospitality to anybody who needs a bed there. I know she will be missed by many and she is sorry to leave.”

In light of Sister Elizabeth Poilievre’s move to Prince George last fall to take on ministry as Program Director of the Domano Renewal Centre, Sister Mary’s departure marks the closure of the FCJ community in Smithers.

In her letter Sister Binchy went on to express her gratitude to the parish and diocese.

“I wish to express my appreciation to you, all parishioners of Smithers, and all who have accompanied our Sisters while living in Smithers over these past 10 years. Our Sisters who have lived in the Diocese of Prince George have enjoyed living and ministering in that area.”

St. Joseph’s Parish really appreciates the presence and ministry of Sister Mary and all the Sisters of the Faithful Companion of Jesus who served our community for many years. We recognize that not all parishes in the Diocese have religious orders living in their communities; we have been blessed and they will surely be missed.

They have all been good companions, dedicated co-workers and faithful witnesses to the Gospel! Thank you, Sister Mary Shea, for your companionship, collaboration and witness.

God bless you in your journey.



Sister Mary Shea, fcj poses with Fathers Rectorino Tolentino (Smithers), Johmer Faderanga (New Hazelton) and Venerando Sabacan (Chetwynd) at the celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in January.

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## Appreciation Dinner



Parishioners of Sacred Heart Cathedral are pictured here with Father Pier Pandolfo, at right, at a dinner in February to thank them for their service at the Gateway Seniors Complex. Those honored have generously dedicated one Sunday per month to offer a communion service for the seniors. These volunteers also bring communion to residents in their rooms when they are unable to make it to the service. PHOTO BY: Pat Roderick

## Book Study

A group of parishioners at Sacred Heart Cathedral gather to study the Matthew Kelly book, *Rediscovering Catholicism*. PHOTO BY: Joe Pereira



### *Sisters of St. Ann Blessed Marie Anne Blondin Bursary*

**Eligibility:** Women seeking formation in theological and ministry studies that promote justice, peace, integrity of creation, healing, holistic living and a healthy life style.

**Priority:** Candidates from BC and /or connected in some way with the Sisters of St. Ann

**Preference:** Those on a limited income who see formation as a means of employment training or personal growth

Application forms available from: Bursary Committee  
The Sisters of St. Ann  
1550 Begbie Street  
Victoria, BC V8R 1K8

Phone: 250-592-3133

Fax: 250-592-0234

E-mail: [administration@ssabc.ca](mailto:administration@ssabc.ca)



## In gratitude

As a columnist I've always harbored a certain paranoia about being overly-personal or exhibitionistic in my writing or in thinking that my own emotional ups and downs are of interest to others. I've tried to respect that fear. Occasionally, however, circumstance dictates that I do write something more personal. This is such an occasion.

I want to express my gratitude for all the prayers and support that I have received during these past seven months while undergoing treatments for cancer.

That desert-journey has finally ended, and with a good result. A month ago, I finished my last chemotherapy treatment and two weeks ago, after a battery of medical tests, was pronounced "cancer-free".

To God, family, friends, colleagues and to the many of you who have supported me in prayer: Thank you!

John Updike, in a poem entitled, *Fever*, once wrote about what illness might teach us:

"I have brought back a good message from the land of 102 degrees:

God exists. I had seriously doubted it before; but the bedposts spoke of it with utmost confidence, the threads in my blanket took it for granted, the tree outside the window dismissed all complaints, and I have not slept so justly for years.

It is hard, now, to convey how emblematically appearances sat upon the membranes of my consciousness; but it is truth long known, that some secrets are hidden from health."

Indeed some secrets are hidden from health! What secrets did I learn from my loss of health?

The initial diagnosis of cancer

caught me by surprise and for a time left me mostly numb and frightened.

But after having surgery and having the projected treatment (six months of chemotherapy) and the projected long-term prognosis (good chance for a cure) explained to me, I prayerfully laid out a number of conversion-steps that I hoped this illness and its bitter treatment would conscriptively impose on me.

I resolved to make this time of treatment a grace in my life: I would slow down my life, not just during treatment but forever afterwards. I would learn to be more patient. I would be rigorously faithful to a daily practice of contemplative prayer.

I would no longer take life, love, friendship and health for granted but would finally, after years of failed resolutions, begin to live more inside of the wonder of God and life and not have my energy so absorbed by the demands of work and agenda.

What happened?

Old habits die hard even under the pressure of illness. After six months of treatments, on my better days I sense some modest improvement. Some of my resolutions have borne fruit, but I'm still a long ways from the ideals that I had set for myself. My old habits have been quick to reassert their grip on my life.

But life is what happens to you while you are planning your life, so too conversion. Having cancer taught me some lessons other than the ones I'd planned.

Most important among these was this: Like everyone else in this world, I've always wanted joy in my life - friendship, love, celebration.

But, and this has been the big handicap in finding these, I have always (however unconsciously) felt that the joy and celebration I so longed for could only come my way when I was finally free

from all anxiety, emotional tension, pressure, overwork, illness, frustration and stress of all kinds.

We nurse this strange fantasy that it is only after all our bills are paid, our health is perfect, all tension within our families and friendships are resolved and we are in a peaceful, leisured space that we can finally fully enter life and enjoy it.

In the meantime we put our lives on hold as we perpetually gear up, get ready and wait for that perfect moment to arrive where we can finally rejoice within life.

While undergoing cancer treatments I learned something. When I first started the treatments I began marking a calendar - day one, day two, day three - consciously putting my life on hold, putting myself into a posture of waiting, marking away the days until, in my fantasy, the treatments ended and I could live life again.

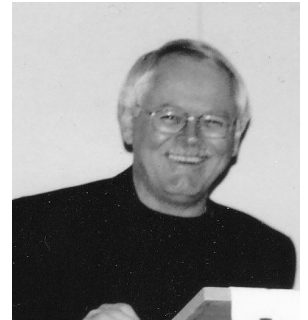
But, strangely as the days unfolded, to my own surprise I found that I was living through one of the richer and happier periods in my life. Inside of the tiredness, nausea and neuropathy, I was finding a rich enjoyment in friendships, colleagues, work and (on days when I could actually taste them) food and drink.

The six months within which I was undergoing cancer treatment turned out to be, to my own surprise, six happy and deeply meaningful months.

As John Shea puts it: Life includes suffering.

When you are spending all your energies to only rejoice in that part of life that does not include suffering, you will not enter into life because you will be dominated by fear and exclusion and not faith.

Cancer taught me this lesson and, for that and your prayers, I am most grateful.



## In Exile

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

*...we put our  
lives on hold as  
we perpetually  
gear up, get  
ready and wait  
for that perfect  
moment to  
arrive where  
we can finally  
rejoice ...*

**Domano Renewal Centre  
March to June 2012**



*Domano  
Renewal  
Centre*

Please phone or email for all registrations or to arrange for Spiritual Direction, and / or Private / Directed Retreats.

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Fax (250)964 4741

reception  
@domanorenewalcentre.org

Please see our website the latest updated information

www.domanorenewalcentre.org

<b>March</b>		
1	Bridges to Contemplative Living	Ven. Peter Zimmer and Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ
2	How to Pray	Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI
4	RCIA Alumni	Bishop Wiesner, OMI
5	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ
6, 13, 27	Book Discussion: "Falling Upward – A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life"	Claire Petrucci
8 to 12	A Retreat for Busy People: Creating Sabbath Space in Our Lives	Dorothy Ryan CSJ and Irene Baker, CSJ
13, 27	RTS Seminar Series	Susan Campbell, MTh.
19 to 23	RTS Aboriginal	RTS Team
28	The Prodigal Son: A Family's Journey	Dorothy Ryan, CSJ
30 to April 1	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
<b>April</b>		
2	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ
3, 17	RTS Seminar Series	Susan Campbell, MTh
5	Holy Thursday	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
11	Retreat Day for Artists	Donna Dolan, RSCJ
14 -15	Engaged Encounter	
23 to 27	RTS Non Aboriginal	RTS Team
27 to 19	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
<b>May</b>		
1, 22	RTS Seminar Series	Susan Campbell, MTh.
3	Devotion to Mary	Bishop Wiesner, OMI
7	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ
8	Advisory Council Meeting	Advisory Council
24	Walking Retreat	Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI
25 to 27	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh
28 to June 1	RTS Reconciliation	RTS Team
<b>June</b>		
4	Christian Meditation	Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ
5	RTS Seminar Series	Susan Campbell, MTh
15 to 17	Lay Formation	Susan Campbell, MTh

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## Students entertain seniors



Following Mass on November 18, 2011, the Grade 6 class of Notre Dame School provided entertainment at a luncheon for seniors. On the third Friday of each month parishioners in Dawson Creek have opportunity to join with their senior members at a Mass and luncheon. Each month a different class from Notre Dame School provides the entertainment. PHOTO BY: Yvonne Becotte

Father Michael Anyasoro joined the Grade 6 students on November 18, 2011 as they entertained seniors at lunch. The November gathering was an opportunity to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Mary Belak. PHOTO BY: Yvonne Becotte



## Sacred Heart Choir

Sacred Heart School Choir, led by Mr. Durau and Ms. Neilly with Ms. Page on piano, provided entertainment for residents of Gateway Seniors Complex in December. The choir consists of 50 students and they were joined by Santa, aka Father Pier Pandolfo, when they visited the seniors. PHOTO BY: Pat Roderick



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## Top 10 reasons staff love students



Students at Immaculate Conception School prepare for an assembly during Catholic Schools Week. PHOTO BY: Donncha O'Callaghan

By: Donncha O'Callaghan  
**PRINCE GEORGE** - Students, staff and families of Immaculate Conception School really celebrated this year during Catholic Schools Week.

The week began with a parish school Mass. Father Tom Symko visited each classroom on the first day of the school week to bless students.

Each morning students participated in a Bible trivia contest.

A survey of school staff revealed several reasons why they loved the students at Immaculate Conception School. This was developed into a Top 10 list and two reasons were announced each morning during Catholic Schools Week.

1. Their overall caring attitude towards others. They are kind to each other and look out for each other. They make this world and our days as teachers a brighter place.
2. All those smiles in the morning when the bell rings - they wear their smiles every day.
3. Their enthusiasm for school and for learning.
4. Their faith; they teach us

- about faith as much as we teach them.
5. They make us laugh and make the school a fun place to be.
6. They celebrate others' successes.
7. They are such a good looking crew.
8. I get paid to work with these incredible kids - crazy!
9. They listen better than our own children.
10. They are willing to share with people that they don't even know.

At a special student assembly, each class presented their class 'iphone' which contained their new class applications that included things like iCare, iLove, iShow Compassion. It was a great connection with the provincial theme of iLearn, iBelieve, iPray.

Additional activities throughout the week included a different class attending parish mass each day, fun trips like skiing and bowling and a wonderful concluding assembly where the Grade 1 class presented our virtue of the month which is respect.



## *Schools appreciate wise, compassionate and gentle shepherd*



Bishop Gerald Wiesner visits with Kindergarten students at Immaculate Conception School during Catholic Schools Week in February.  
PHOTO BY: Donncha O'Callaghan.

By: Laura Fowlie

**PRINCE GEORGE** - We hear so much about our Bishop's involvement in adult faith education. But not everyone knows about his first-hand involvement in the faith development of children in our diocese.

Despite the huge distances involved in travelling across the diocese and his incredibly busy schedule, Bishop Wiesner makes it a priority to be present to support, teach, encourage and witness the faith within our Catholic Elementary schools.

Each February, staff and students in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Prince George celebrate Catholic Schools Week through prayer, faith education, art activities, sports and the Eucharist.

And in Prince George, celebrating right along with them is our Bishop. Students in the city's three Catholic schools received a welcome visit from the Bishop who led them in lively discussions on this year's theme of "iLearn, iBelieve, iPray."

Bishop Wiesner also interacts with Catholic school students in many ways throughout the school year.

During Advent and Lent he comes into the classrooms to dialogue with

students about the importance of these seasons and about the deeper meaning of the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter. He invites them to share their thoughts, their ideas and their experiences.

He respects and encourages their input and gently guides them in their faith. They soon recognize that they are in the presence of someone who has a very deep and profound faith in God.

Grade 2 students preparing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion enjoy a visit from the Bishop. He is there to get to know them and to allow them the opportunity to get to know him.

He explains what will happen when they receive these sacraments and answers their questions in order to ease their concerns. He is comfortable speaking with them and appreciates where they are in their faith journey.

At Mass as the children are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, Bishop Wiesner takes a few minutes to talk with each individual child. He never rushes through this special time, knowing the significance of this

personal, one-on-one connection.

And he does this again and again, from one end of our diocese to the other, bringing these sacraments of initiation to young people within our Catholic schools and parishes.

In the spring World Catholic Education Day is recognised with many masses, prayer services and related activities within our schools. These are occasions for all to give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education.

Each year the three schools in the city of Prince George gather at Fort George Park for a mass of thanksgiving. Bishop Wiesner presides and a beautiful, joy-filled celebration of Catholic education unites all. Parents, staff members, students, priests and Bishop together give thanks as a community with a common bond and a common goal.

The Bishop can also be found enjoying the Christmas concerts at each of the three Catholic schools in Prince George. He has even been seen ice skating with students from Sacred Heart School.

When invited to individual classrooms, Bishop Wiesner enjoys teaching about a particular element of faith, joining in various celebrations and listening to the many stories students have to share.

Children are not the only ones involved in Catholic education who benefit from Bishop Wiesner's teaching. The Diocesan Assembly, held every two years, brings together teachers from all the Catholic schools. Faith education is enhanced as teachers better understand their own faith in order to share that faith with the students entrusted in their care.

For all those whose lives are touched through our Catholic schools, Bishop Wiesner has been and continues to be a rich source of faith teaching and of spiritual guidance. For both the young and the not so young, Bishop Wiesner is a wise, compassionate and gentle shepherd who walks with us on our journey of faith.

## Olympic Flame rises again at Sacred Heart



Students at Sacred Heart School in Prince George enjoy "Winter Olympics" during Catholic Schools Week.  
PHOTO BY: Christine Murphy

By: Nuala Power  
**PRINCE GEORGE** - As the fanfare sounded Ms. Ruddy appeared with the Olympic torch.

Wearing her familiar Vancouver Winter Olympics suit she completed a lap of honor around the assembled athletes before placing the Olympic flame in position. Following the Olympic oath, Sr. Baker declared the games open.

What a day it was! Beautiful sunny skies warmed the spirits of all present.

Excitement was in the air as Sacred Heart School celebrated BC Catholic Schools Week with its very own Winter Olympics on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Ten multi-age teams competed in a variety of (adapted) winter sports including bobsled, figure skating, biathlon, hockey and ultimate frisbee.

The teams represented such diverse nations as Brazil, Spain, Germany and the host nation, Canada. Each athlete created a country flag to wear for the duration of the games which began with a parade of nations behind national flags.

Each team also selected an anthem ranging from the "Star Wars" to "Chariots of Fire" themes. These were relayed over the public ad-

dress and added greatly to the atmosphere of friendly competition.

Following an afternoon of strenuous activity (pulling that sled certainly achieved one's daily physical activity goal) the games culminated in a medal ceremony. Gold, silver and bronze medals were presented by Father Pier Pandolfo.

Team Brazil was thrilled to accept the gold for overall winner.

Sincere thanks to Mr. Durau who designed the event. We are most grateful to our P.S.G. members who organized the stations and provided a delicious hot lunch prior to the competition.

The students were so enthralled that a similar Summer Olympic Games will take place in June. Now it is "faster, higher, stronger" until the Olympic flame is rekindled once again at Sacred Heart School.

## Keeping up enrollment

Karyl and Jenna Gilbertson are doing their part to keep enrollment up at Notre Dame School in Dawson Creek. Ms. Gilbertson, Grade 4 teacher at the school, gave birth to Jack Dane on February 1, 2012.  
PHOTO BY: Vivian Friesen



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## Students visit salmon hatchery

By: Hopper Kendregan (Grade 2)  
PRINCE RUPERT - The Grades 1 and 2 classes went to the Oldfield Creek Hatchery to collect salmon eggs and a fertilizer called milt.

First we came to a special house a classmate named Joel's dad help build. It had smolts and adult salmon.

To begin with there were two volunteers named Steve and Megan. Steve caught a female salmon from one of the tanks. They squeezed her over a plastic bag. Some orangey-red colored eggs fell into the bag. Suddenly a whole stream of eggs fell into the bag!

Next Steve caught a male salmon with lots of milt and squeezed him over another plastic bag. Once again milt came hurtling out. After that we took a little walk around the creek to see if we could spot a few salmon spawning.

By then it was pouring rain and we still had to walk all the way back to school!

But we did manage to take a couple of short cuts. First we hurried

through the arena and past the middle school. The rest of the way we walked.

When we finally got back to the school we were all soaked!

When we were all inside Mrs. Armstrong-Bewick led us all to a big aquarium. Then she opened up a cooler with the plastic bags in it. Then she poured the eggs into a plastic bowl.

She passed it around. Once everyone had seen them she fertilized the milt and put them in cold creek water in the aquarium.



Hopper Kendregan poses in front of the bulletin board created by Grade 1 students at Annunciation School following their trip to the Oldfield Creek Hatchery.  
PHOTO BY: Laura Lowther

## Children enjoy Bishop's visit



Grade 1 students at St. Mary's School pose with Bishop Gerald Wiesner while wearing the mitres they made in honor of his visit.

PHOTO BY: Brent Arsenault

By: Rebecca Gilbert

PRINCE GEORGE - Catholic Schools Week, February 5-9, was all "go" for students and staff at St. Mary's School

With liturgies each day, celebrations with food and activities, field trips and special guests, we explored the theme of "ilearn, ibelieve, ipray".

The hit for the Grade 1 class was a visit from our diocesan shepherd, Bishop Gerald Wiesner.

"He's awesome," one student exclaimed after the visit. "I loved his stories" said another.

Bishop Gerry brought in his shepherd's staff, his mitre, pectoral cross and of course, his Wayne Gretzky hockey stick to show the students.

Each Grade 1 student made their own mitre to celebrate the visit. Together they sang the song, "We will follow the good Shepherd" for Bishop Wiesner in gratitude for such a wonderful morning together.

As the Bishop made his way to the other classes his time spent with school staff and students made for a memorable visit.

A great day was had by all.

## Grade 8 class adds new dimension to school



Grade 8 students at Annunciation School in Prince Rupert show off the aprons they made in textiles class.

By: Laura Lowther

PRINCE RUPERT - Annunciation School welcomed its inaugural class of Grade 8 students in September 2011. Although it has only eight students the class represents a new direction for Catholic education in Prince Rupert.

The process began with the announcement that the Prince Rupert School District planned to open a Middle School for Grades 6, 7 and 8. Our school faced the very real possibility that the student population would decline as a result.

The question on everyone's mind: Should we expand to include Grade 8 programming? Parents were quick to give a positive response.

Thus began many months of meetings, surveys and playground discussions about the feasibility of such an expansion. Staff members contributed infinite ideas and energy into the creation of a Grade 8 program while parents, council, parishioners and community members provided support and resources.

Part of the expansion included a desire to separate the Grade 6, 7 and 8 students into a distinctive unit. A variation to the standard school uniform was introduced with classic white shirts and navy blue sweaters distinguishing these senior students from the primary and intermediate grades.

The school schedule was revised to provide a separate start time for Grades 6, 7 and 8 as well as their own morning recess. These students also have the privilege of entering the school and proceeding to class on their own.

They are role-models for the younger grades and are willing helpers in any projects or activities.

The Grade 8 Applied Skills program is a challenging yet enjoyable addition to the

school. The class launched into a textiles unit in the first week of classes, tie-dying prayer cloths for each grade to use. Lessons on ironing, sewing by hand and the use of sewing machines followed.

We are fortunate to have a parent assistant who gave the students many tips for threading needles, cutting patterns and stitching pockets! The students were proud of their completed final project: aprons for cooking class.

In February the Grade 8 students completed a unit in carpentry led by another dedicated parent volunteer. Weekly field trips to a carpentry workshop gave students experience with the tools of the trade.

With chisels, sandpaper and lots of elbow grease, they created wooden storage boxes.

The third term will find students taking units in Foods and Nutrition and Business Education.

Our Grade 8 students will bid farewell to our school in June as this chapter in their education comes to a close. We know that what they learned and experienced in our school will contribute to further success in high school and beyond.

We look forward to continued growth of the Grade 8 program, thankful for the opportunities and support we receive from both our school and parish community.

Woodworking is part of the curriculum for new Grade 8 class at Annunciation School.

