DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

Northern Catholic

News

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SUMMER 2014

Diocesan Youth Conference 2014: Catching Fire

Insíde thís íssue:

DYC	T
Two Popes	2
First Nations	2
Smithers Jubilee	4-5
For the Life of the World	6
Summit	8
Pure Witness Team	10
Schools	П
Rose Prince	12

By: Eunice Hii

PRINCE GEORGE - The 19th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) welcomed approximately 120 young people and well over 30 volunteers and chaperones, April 25-27, 2014.

Keynote speaker, Ken Yasinski, addressed the theme of the weekend, Catching Fire, through his discussion of topics such as "What is the purpose of my life" and "Freedom through forgiveness".

It was truly touching and inspiring to see the many young people commit themselves to Christ and we continue to pray for our young people whose lives were changed through the weekend.

Those who participated agreed the weekend was a tremendous success! Thank you to countless people who made this weekend possible. Keynote speaker, Ken Yasinski, ignited young people's hearts with his dynamic

talks.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY: Andrew Johnson





A group photo of volunteers, participants, and leaders at DYC 2014 with not one, but two popes!



Bishop Jensen welcomed the young people to DYC with a blessing.



Eunice Hii and & Fr. Jack Michalchuk emceed the weekend festivities.

Celebrating true heroes

By: Tracy Connelly

BURNS LAKE – Parishioners at Immaculata Parish joined with Catholics around the world celebrating the canonization of Saints John XXIII and John Paul II, April 27, 2014.

During the celebration, Father Tom Shymko, pastor of Immaculata Parish, pointed to the heroic virtues of the two men. He reminded parishioners that all are called to be saints and encouraged each to respond to the call of Jesus in everyday life. Two larger than life posters of the saints allowed those at the celebration an opportunity to reflect and reminisce about the contributions both St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II made to the Church and to the world.

Many had their pictures taken with the two pictures to commemorate this historical moment in the life of the Church. A delicious homemade cake added to the festivities. In canonizing these two popes the Church gives children growing up in today's culture true heroes to look up to and to inspire them to live selfless lives in Christ. In the words of St. John Paul II, "Let us be generous in building a civilization of love".

Children at Immaculata Parish who looked forward to this occasion will now remember this day as an important moment in their lives as Catholics.



Children from Immaculata Parish have their pictures taken with posters of the canonized saints. PHOTO BY: Tracy Connelly

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A saint in our midst

By: Irene Baker, CSJ

PRINCE GEORGE – "Chosen to be holy: Rose Prince—A model of faithful living". This was the topic of the First Nations Retreat held at the Domano Renewal Centre, April 25-27.

Nineteen people participated in these special days facilitated by Sr. Priscilla Solomon, CSJ, an Ojibway woman and a Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie.

Through prayer, silent reflection, times of input and sharing, these retreat days explored how Rose Prince lived among us and how her example taught us how to live.

Adding to the richness of the weekend was the participants' sharing the vivid memories about Rose Prince that they had heard from their parents and grandparents. We believe she is a Saint in our midst.

Rose Prince attended the Lejac Indian Residential School. When her mother and two younger sisters died during an influenza outbreak, Rose opted not to return home for the summers but to stay at the school instead.

After graduation she continued to live at the school, completing chores such as mending, cleaning, embroidering and sewing.

At some point Rose Prince contracted tuberculosis and by the age of 34 she was confined to bed. On August 19, 1949 she was admitted to hospital and died the same day.

Decades later when the graveyard where she was buried was being relocated, her coffin broke open and her body was found to be incorrupt. She is presently buried in the graveyard on the Lejac grounds and an annual pilgrimage to the site draws hundreds of people from near and far.

See the back page of the Northern Catholic News for the 2014 Rose Prince Pilgrimage schedule of events.



RIGHT: During the annual First Nations Retreat participants from Morristown paid tribute to their sister and friend, Beatrice Morris. Recently killed in a car accident, Beatrice was one of many from the small community who made the trip to the Domano Renewal Centre every year to attend the Retreat. PHOTO BY: Irene Baker, CSJ



LEFT: Between sessions many of the participants displayed their artistic skills and interminable patience in producing beautiful rosaries and crosses made from beads and hide. PHOTO BY: Irene Baker, CSJ

Traditional colors and rich meaning



The Table Top Button Blanket is rich in symbolic meaning. Its creator, Susie Tress, is pictured displaying her creation at the Annual First Nations Retreat held at the Domano Renewal Centre.

Red and black symbolize the traditional colors of the Carrier people. Feathers, buttons and ribbon represent peace, unity and gentleness. The feminine pink colored heart represents love and the strength of the muscle which has seen much turmoil. Hands of friendship (white and brown) provide wisdom and growth as we join hands with one heart. The crosses symbolize the death of Jesus and his love for us. PHOTO BY: Irene Baker, CSJ



The 100th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's Parish in Smithers.

Photos submitted by parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish, Smithers.



4th Degree Knights of Columbus from Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat provided an honor guard at the Mass. Here they are pictured with Father Rectorino Tolentino, pastor of St. Joseph's

Bishop Stephen Jensen greets parishioners following the Mass of Thanksgiving.





Mayor Taylor Bachrach brought greetings on behalf of the town of Smithers, congratulating St. Joseph's Parish on their 100th anniversary.



Christine Tessier, dressed in a Girl Guide uniform circa 1914, served as MC for the banquet and social.

International artist and Juno Award winner Alex Cuba was one of the entertainers at the banquet.



Young people celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist process down the aisle at St. Joseph's Parish.



One of the 13 young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph's Parish, Smithers.







Bishop Stephen Jensen and Father Rectorino Tolentino pose with those who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at St. Joseph's Parish, May 25th.

Gratitude for God's faithful blessings

SMITHERS – Approximately 200 people gathered to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Parish in Smithers, May 24, 2014.

The Solemn Eucharist, banquet and social followed a year of celebrations in gratitude for God's faithful blessings over the past 100 years. Among the priests concelebrating with Bishop Stephen Jensen and current pastor Father Rectorino Tolentino were Fathers Vincent James, OMI, Tom Shymko, Richard Beaudette, OMI, Johmer Faderanga and Mike Rabino.

Sister Elizabeth Poilievre, FCJ, and Brother Roy Joseph represented the many Religious women and men who have served in the Diocese of Prince George.

In his homily, Bishop Jensen noted that the parish centennial "is an occasion to thank God for those disciples who opened a way for us and built the Church here – not just a building, but the community where the life of the risen Lord is shared.

"This anniversary is also a moment to ask how we are doing in continuing in that mission, looking to Jesus and following Him."

Pointing out that although the collect for the day's Mass wasn't specially chosen for the occasion, the Bishop said it could have been composed for the anniversary: "Grant...that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do."

Bishop Jensen recounted some of the history of the parish, explaining that long before there was a town of Smithers or St. Joseph's Parish, the Oblate missionaries were already in the area. The most well-known, Father Adrien-Gabriel Morice, arrived in the village of Kyah Wiget (now known as Moricetown) in 1892.

"There he taught the Faith to the native people and translated prayers into their Carrier language. Twelve years after his arrival, St. Joseph's gave the non-native people a home alongside the flourishing communities planted by the missionaries.

"In the century that followed, countless individuals contributed to the growth of the kingdom of God here. More Oblate priests and brothers followed the first missionaries. In the person of Father Richard Beaudette I salute all the intrepid missionaries who served here,"

A plaque recognizing the years of dedicated ministry provided by the Oblates at St. Joseph's and its missions was presented to Father Richard Beaudette, current Superior of the Oblates of BC and the Yukon.

Bishop Jensen also paid tribute to the Sisters of St. Anne who opened a hospital in the community in the 1950s and the Sisters of the Holy Cross who served in the Catholic school.

"And besides those priests and religious," he continued, "a host of lay men and women lived their faith in this parish. Most of them aren't famous, known only to God and a small number of people, but they are part of that great cloud of witnesses who teach us by example and intercede for us now. "The Church and the parish are much more than those who happen to be here at the moment. The parishioners we remember are still part of the family of faith."

Pastors from a number of local denominations joined the Catholic community in celebrating the anniversary.

Mayor Taylor Bachrach brought greetings on behalf of the town of Smithers. Also extending greetings to the gathering were Mabel Forsyth of the Guitemdem Clan, Rosemarie MacKenzie, principal of St. Joseph's School and Pat Benson, first Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson.

In his remarks, Father Rector expressed gratitude for the effort and sacrifices made by people throughout the parish's history which has assured the current "sacred place to gather and celebrate our identity as Catholics".

He also challenged parishioners to "continue giving witness with the same ardent passion and commitment."

"As a community of the faithful we are supposed to be the presence of Jesus Christ in this community," he said. "Be visible and present; be agents of healing and reconciliation; be people of service and sacrifice; be an advocate and promoter of life; be instruments of compassion and justice."

The vitality of the parish was evident again the day following the Anniversary celebrations when 13 young people completed the sacraments of initiation through Confirmation and First Eucharist.





Page 6 Heaven's gates are open wide



For the Lífe of the World ^{Rev. Douglas} Jeffrey, OMI Growing up on our family farm we listened to CKKR 1330 AM: Country Radio from Rosetown, Saskatchewan. Every day we had a steady diet of country music, agricultural news, weather reports and sports news.

Today I still listen to country music with its many blessings and limitations.

As we celebrate the Easter season I am reminded of a wonderful country song entitled "He's Alive" performed by Dolly Parton. The song attempts to tell the story of the disciples after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

At one point she sings, "He's alive, yes he's alive. Yes, he's alive and I'm forgiven, heaven's gates are open wide."

As the season of Easter continues to unfold and as summer activities increase it is easy for us to 'forget' the Easter miracle.

Christ came into the world not to dictate a moral agenda or to accuse us, shame us or exclude us. Jesus came that we might have abundant life. His death and resurrection give us a new way of seeing sin and death.

Sin and death no longer have the last word. Resurrection, new life and eternal life are words and phrases that reshape how we respond to our own shortcomings and those of others.

How we talk about sin and death, our Christian life, our duties and responsibilities as Roman Catholic Christians is one thing; what people hear is often another.

There are numerous Catholics who no longer come to our Church celebrations because they have made a life choice. There are others, however, who have encountered Catholics, leaders and neighbours alike, as obstacles to seeing and experiencing forgiveness and the 'openness' of heaven's gates.

The Easter story reminds us that we are indeed forgiven and heaven's gates are open wide. How does this message change our lives?

Christ offers us new life. In the story of the passion, death and resurrection recounted in each of the four gospels the theme of forgiveness is brought forward at various times and in various ways.

Perhaps some of the most compelling images of forgiveness are seen in the words of Jesus to the thief on the cross, the acceptance and blessing of the disciples who fled when Jesus was arrested, the acceptance and understanding given to Peter and Thomas who struggle with fear and doubt.

These stories need to be told and retold as we go on holidays, as we spend time at the lake, at ball diamonds, hockey arenas and soccer fields, around campfires, during hikes and while sightseeing.

These stories need to settle deep within us.

Unless we continually feed ourselves with the images of God's forgiveness and Christ's graciousness, the rules and regulations that are necessary for the well-being of any organization will shape our attitudes and our values.

It is much easier to pick up a rule book and relay a judgment than to sit and listen to a person's story and respond with compassion and generosity.

The more fearful we are and the busier we become, the more we rely on rules and regulations to respond to people. Lines are drawn, walls are built, some are in and some are out: not really the message of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

When the Risen Christ encounters people he greets them, "Do not be afraid! Peace be with you!"

Sacred Scripture suggests that the early Christian community was determined to share the good news that sin and death have been defeated by the power of the resurrection. As present as sin and death are in our lives, we also ought to make present the reality of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

As you enjoy a break from your usual routines to celebrate the joys of summer, make sure you remember to tell the resurrection story! Christ is risen indeed! I am forgiven and the gates of heaven are open wide!

As has been announced, I have been reassigned by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to an Oblate community in Battleford, Saskatchewan. There I will make myself available to the local community as a spiritual director, animator of retreats, workshops and faith formation sessions. I will also be available from time to time for Sunday replacement ministry.

I hope to live a more contemplative life than I am presently able to as a pastor. I will continue to write for the Northern Catholic News and my blog

will be available online.

I give thanks for my time in the Diocese of Prince George. I am grateful for the land, the forests, the waters and the wild life I have encountered and I am especially grateful for the people I have had the privilege to serve.

My call to a contemplative life has been deepened because of my presence here and my heart is filled with gratitude for the gifts God has provided.

Fr. Doug

On the move...

Bishop Stephen Jensen announced the following appointments effective August 1, 2014:

Pastors

Rev. Rene Antonio-St. Joseph's Church, Vanderhoof Rev. Babji Merugu, SAC-Christ the King Church, Kitimat

- Rev. Pier Pandolfo-St. Joseph's Church, Smithers/St. Anthony's, Houston
- Rev. Melwin Pinto, OCD-Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince George

Rev. Rectorino Tolentino will take a sabbatical year.

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Ronald Sequiera, OCD-Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince George

St. Peter's, Mackenzie will continue to be served by Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI District Superior of the BC/Yukon Oblates announced that Rev. Doug Jeffrey, OMI has been given an obedience to the Saskatchewan District, beginning in August.

Who are the Carmelites and Pallottines?

The new priests coming to the Diocese this summer bring with them the charisms of the saints who founded their communities.

The "Discalced (Barefoot) Carmelites" (OCD) trace their roots and their name to Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land. In the thirteenth century hermits living there in a simple life of poverty, prayer and penance were gathered into a community by St. Albert, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Within fifty years of receiving their rule from him, they were forced to leave Mt. Carmel and settled in Europe. Over the centuries, the primitive rule was mitigated several times, until the Carmelites bore less and less resemblance to the first hermits of Mt. Carmel.

In the sixteenth century, St. Teresa of Avila, working with St. Peter of Alcantara and St. John of the Cross, led a reform of Carmelite life which constituted a return to the primitive rule. This spiritual revival has given the world great saints like St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein).

The Pallottines are known officially as the "Society of the Catholic Apostolate" (SAC). They were founded by St. Vincent Pallotti, a Roman priest who lived in the nineteenth century. His prophetic vision of apostolic activity shared by clergy and laity came to its fruition in the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. Saint Vincent directed his attention towards the urgent necessity of reviving faith and kindling charity among Catholics in order to bring the good news of salvation to all peoples, anticipating the Church's contemporary call to a New Evangelization.

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Whatsoever you do....a díocesan summít

PRINCE GEORGE – Bishop Stephen Jensen invited local organizations working for the cause of life and human development to participate in a Diocesan Summit on April 26th.

The title of the event, "Whatsoever you do ..." is a reference to Our Lord's words in Matthew 25 about the need to recognize Christ in each person we meet, especially the poor and disadvantaged; they are our brothers and sisters.

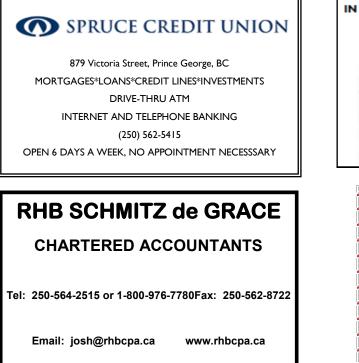
"Work for the cause of life and human development is a concrete expression of the Church's mission to bring the new life of the kingdom of God to all people," Bishop Jensen stated. "While the works are manifold, the mission is one." Approximately fifteen organizations representing many of the groups ministering in our Diocese responded to this call. After being welcomed by Bishop Jensen, Summit participants were invited to join youth gathered for DYC at a motivational talk by John Connelly, Co-Director of the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

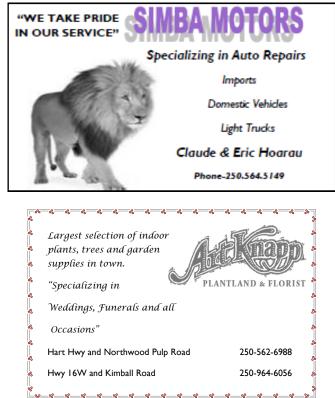
The groups then had a chance to network and share with one another about their particular ministries.

Following the Summit, Dick Mynen, National Council Member for Development and Peace, thanked the organizing committee for the opportunity provided by the Summit. "As a Diocese we become stronger by being better connected," he said.



John Connelly, Co-Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, speaks to youth and adults at a joint session for DYC and Diocesan Summit participants. PHOTO BY: Andrew Johnson





Congratulations 2nd and 3rd Degree Knights

By: Dan Ford

SMITHERS – The Knights of Columbus Father Callaly Council #7973 held a 2nd and 3rd Degree exemplification, June I, 2014.

Congratulations Tony Salabe, Mac Mac, Dennis Gonia, Juan Alvarado, Alexandre Bussmann, George Comeau, Rohitha Fernando, Ciril Habjan and Joey Talon.

The local Knights expressed gratitude to their guests who traveled to Smithers to lead the ceremony: Edward Shawchuk, State Deputy; Michael Yeo, Past State Deputy; Frank Visentin, District Deputy for District #16 and Mark Pan, Grand Knight, Council #9846 Port Moody.

In appreciation for their inspiration and dedication to the Knights of Columbus, Council #7973 presented Frank Visentin and his wife, Susan, with scroll-saw artwork by artist Dave Hemenway.

Provincial recognition



Prince George Councils 5246, 8046, 8318, 8927 **Knights of Columbus** Serving Church and Community in Prince George Come and Join us — New Members Welcome

Several local Knights of Columbus were recognized at the 103rd BC and Yukon State AGM and Convention held in Richmond, BC from April 25-27th. Frank Visentin, District Deputy for District 16 (Councils 5148 Kitimat, 5149 Terrace, 5282 Prince Rupert & 7973 Smithers) accepted an award on behalf of the District in recognition for their \$20,300 contribution to the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation. It was the highest donation by a district in the province! Council 5246 Prince George also left the Convention with several awards -for Highest Per Capita number of books sold in the State Charity Lottery, Best Bulletin of the Year, and the Grand Knight of the Year Award for Grand Knight Mike Labonte. Congratulations to the Knights in all these councils as it recognizes the hard work all your members completed for parish, community and council throughout the year. PHOTOS BY: Edgar C. Ursua.



Frank Visentin (centre), District Deputy #16 with Edward Shawchuk, State Deputy and Ken E. Stockwell, Supreme Director.



Pictured left to right: Edward Shawchuk, State Deputy, Mike Labonte, Grand Knight #5246, Paul Laliberte, District Deputy #29 and Ken E. Stockwell, Supreme Director.

Diocese welcomes Pure Witness Team

By: Eunice Hii

PRINCE GEORGE - The Pure Witness Team of Saskatoon provided an evening retreat for the hundreds of young people in Prince George for the Terry Wilson Memorial Soccer Tournament, May 30, 2014. The retreat, which took place the evening prior to the tournament was a collaboration of the Diocesan Youth Office and Catholic Independent Schools.

Young people responded with great enthusiasm to the message this dynamic retreat team had to share.



The daily prayer of a Pure Witness Team member. PHOTO BY: Eunice Hii



The whole Pure Witness Team (from left to right: Ryan, Rebekah, Colin, Jenny, and Joey) explain what A.L.I.V.E. stands for: Always Living in View of Eternity. PHOTO BY: Eunice Hii



Ryan & Colin from the Pure Witness Team act out the life story of Blessed Miguel Pro. PHOTO BY: Eunice Hii





By: Terri Haynal

DAWSON CREEK – An exciting time was had by all when Mrs. Hickey's Grade 2 class from Notre Dame School visited seniors at Rotary Manor, April 17.

With the help of the seniors, students decorated Easter eggs. The students also sang a short song and did a bunny hop! Everyone had a great time. Both students and seniors are looking forward to another visit in the future.







The Prince George Portuguese community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima with a procession to Sacred Heart Cathedral on May 17th. Marisol is pictured here dressed for the occasion. Sacred Heart School held their own celebration later in the month on May 26th. PHOTO BY: Susan Castelli



Students at Sacred Heart School rehearse for the annual Speech Arts Festival in Prince George. PHOTO BY: Chris Murphy

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation took place at Sacred Heart Cathedral on May 4. PHOTO BY: Chris Murphy



Annual Rose Prince Pilgrimage



July 4, 5 & 6, 2014 Tse Yaz Bunk'ut



<u>Guest Speaker</u> Fr. Garry LaBoucane, OMI

Friday, July 4	
Opening Prayer	7:00 pm
Welcome Address	7:15 pn
Mass	7:30 pm
Fr. Garry LaBoucane, OMI	

Saturday, July	5
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Breakfast	8:00 am	
Morning Prayers	10:00 am	
Fr. Garry LaBoucane	10:30 am	
Stations of the Cross	11:00 am	
Lunch12:00 noon		
Confession	1:00 pm	
Healing Mass	3:00 pm	
Supper 6:00 pm		
Living Rosary	8:00 pm	
Candlelight Procession	9:00 pm	
Sunday, July 6		
Morning Prayers	10:00 am	
Mass	10:30 am	
Bishop Stephen Jensen		
Closing Remarks	11:30 am	
Lunch 1:00 pm		

Volunteers or Information contact: Rev. Vincent James, OMI Box 580 Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0 Tel: 1-250-699-6593 Fax: 1-250-699-6522

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