

DIOCESE
OF
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Day of fun, faith and friendship

By: Marilou de Vera

PRINCE RUPERT – It was a day full of fun, faith and friendship for women gathered at Annunciation Parish, September 27th.

Sister Jude VanBaalen, OP, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor of the Catholic Women's League, traveled from Prince George to lead a retreat based on the theme, "Knowing Our Faith, Loving Our Faith and Living Our Faith".

The group of 33 women included members of the CWL, other parishioners and women

from neighboring communities. CWL Diocesan President-elect Carmen Foucher, who accompanied Sister Jude on the beautiful drive to Prince Rupert, also participated.

Father Mike Rabino, pastor of Annunciation Parish, began the day with Mass and sent the women off with an inspiring homily which reminded them that they are CUTE: challenged, understood, transformed and energized.

Sister Jude graciously led the women through a time of prayer,

wisdom and sharing. An "incredible speaker with an amazing sense of humor", she helped participants understand that faith and reason do not contradict each other.

Questions prepared for the day gave discussion points for sharing with one another. "Faith grows when it is shared", Sister Jude affirmed.

Certainly the day was too short but those gathered expressed gratitude to God for the time together. "There was a longing in our hearts for more"

Fraser Lake CWL hosts bazaar and tea



St. Andrew's Catholic Women's League held its annual Christmas Bazaar and Tea on November 9th. The event is supported by both the parish and community of Fraser Lake. Many look forward to being able to choose from a wide assortment of baked goods, preserves, produce and crafts donated by CWL members. Pictured here is the traditional gingerbread house made by the Allen family and raffled off by St. Andrew's Youth Group to raise funds for the Holy Childhood Association. PHOTO BY: Therese Stafford



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Get into the race for life!

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin
PRINCE GEORGE – The fifth annual Fall Banquet in support of the Prince George Crisis Pregnancy Centre drew a record crowd, October 2, 2014.

Five years ago 80 people attended the inaugural banquet, Board Chair Dorothy Mynen pointed out in her message. This year approximately 225 were on hand to celebrate the work of the Centre and to support its effort to ensure women experiencing a crisis pregnancy receive the help they need.

The theme of the evening, “Get Into the Race for Life”, was chosen in light of the Winter Games hosted by the City of Prince George in 2015. Decorations included sports jerseys and equipment lining the stage at the front of the room and table centre pieces resembling trophies.

In describing the various needs in her annual report, Executive Director Alison Townrow expressed her confidence in God that what was needed will become available. This includes a suitable and affordable location for the Centre before the current lease expires in six months.

She also described the work of the Centre and gave examples of those who were able to make a choice for life after receiving a caring and non-judgemental response from the Centre’s trained staff and volunteers.

Keynote speaker Lola French, one of the founding members of the Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services, has been involved in pregnancy care ministry since 1988. She served as Executive Director in Red Deer for 14 years and has trained boards and staff involved in this work across North America for 13 years.

In her address she described her experiences of God’s grace working in both the people involved in pregnancy care ministry and those they serve.

The purpose of the Crisis Pregnancy Centre is to provide meaningful options to abortion for women with an unplanned pregnancy. They recognize that the difficulties involved in an unplanned pregnancy are usually multi-layered and complex, effecting not just the woman but the child and all those in relationship with them.

Among the services provided by the Centre are pregnancy tests, peer counselling, post

abortion recovery and support, a 24-hour hotline, baby and maternity clothes, abstinence education, referrals to community resources, educational materials and, most importantly, caring emotional support.

In its informational material the Centre emphasizes that a woman with an unexpected pregnancy does not need “accusations, lectures or simplistic advice to make a quick decision and ‘get on with life’.” What she needs is compassionate and practical help.”

The statement goes on to say that women have “a right to be informed without a political agenda ... without being pressured or persuaded ... a right to know what options are and what help is available.”

“The Centre views abortion as a simplistic solution to an unplanned pregnancy and its staff and volunteers are committed to providing accurate information and caring emotional support to all women they serve, even if she chooses to have an abortion.

“To this end, the Centre facilitates a post abortion counselling service designed to assist women without judgment or condemnation.”

Because the Crisis Pregnancy Centre does not generate its income from the women it serves, it avoids a conflict of interest. This, however, means the cost of running the Centre is dependent on the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches and organizations in the community.



Dorothy Mynen, President (left) and Alison Townrow, Executive Director (right) pose with keynote speaker Lola French at the annual Prince George Crisis Pregnancy Centre Banquet. PHOTO BY: Steph Tamara Photography

Something beautiful for God

By: Shari Anderson

FRASER LAKE - "Together let us do something beautiful for God". These words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta were an inspiration for parishioners of St. Andrew's Parish and missions as they celebrated the sanctity of life and family, September 28th.

In response to the Holy Father's urging that the whole Church pray that day for the Extraordinary Synod on the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization, intentions were offered at Mass for the synod as well as for the protection of all human life.

Following Mass, parishioners were invited to purchase home-grown

produce and delicious baking. Over \$600 was raised for the Diocesan Pro-Life Fund.

That afternoon under sunny autumn skies, many gathered along the highway for the annual Life Chain. A joyful spirit was evident among participants as passers-by viewed signs proclaiming the sacredness of all human life.



Father Vincent James, OMI, (centre) participated with parishioners of St. Andrew's Parish and missions during the annual Life Chain demonstration. PHOTO BY: Shari Anderson

CWL host Winter Wonderland Tea and Bazaar

By: Pat Forster

FORT ST. JOHN - FORT ST. JOHN - The Catholic Women's League of Resurrection Parish held their annual Winter Wonderland Tea & Bazaar on November 1st.

This bazaar is always the first of the season in Fort St. John. As well as the 11 rented tables of homemade crafts, the CWL had their own bake and craft tables, Lucky 7 and silent auction.

The tea is very popular and our ladies prepared a lovely lunch including desert squares they donated.

It is always great to have the help of our youth group girls who served the tea alongside the CWL members.

We were able to present our pastor, Father Venerando Sabacan, with a cheque for \$1,500 to go towards the parish's Immaculata Centre, which is really a blessing to our church community.



ABOVE: Catholic Women's League members Iris Byra and Betty Lamothe are pictured at the Winter Wonderland Tea & Bazaar baking table.

PHOTO BY: Lorna Nyffeler



BELOW: Resurrection Parish Catholic Women's League president, Pat Forster, presents a cheque in the amount of \$1,500 to Father Venerando Sabacan to support the Immaculata Centre.

PHOTO BY: Lorna Nyffeler



10th Anniversary of mission Haiti

By: Yvonne Becotte

DAWSON CREEK—On October 24, 2014 Notre Dame Parish celebrated the 10th anniversary of our mission in Jeremie, Haiti.

The celebration began with a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Father Chris Lynch (Immaculate Conception Parish in Prince George) and Father Jean Antoine (Notre-Dame de la Nativité in the Diocese of Jeremie, Haiti). A dinner and a presentation on our projects in Haiti followed.

In 2004, with the assistance of Deacon Eugene Perabo, program director for Christian Child Care International (CCCI) and at the invitation of Sister Monica from the Good Shepherd Sisters of Jeremie, then pastor of Notre Dame Parish, Father Chris Lynch, along with Mark Stanistreet and David Lowe, made their first mission trip to Haiti.

At that time we were introduced to Father Jean Antoine, a diocesan priest with a vision of starting a ministry to help homeless street children of Jeremie.

During their visit the group visited various school project sites developed by CCCI. At one of these sites, the small village of Carrefour Sanon six kilometres west of Jeremie, the group came across a situation calling for action.

The school children had to eat their meals outdoors as there was no facility for them to eat indoors. The group learned that only cold plates were provided as there were no cooking facilities. A cafeteria was needed but no funding was available from the Haitian government; the cost of the building would be about \$25,000.

Upon their return, Father Chris, Mark and David made a presentation to Parish Council suggesting that Notre Dame Parish fund the cafeteria building. Parish Council approved the fund raising project: Building Blocks for Haiti.

Parishioner response to the appeal was outstanding and \$45,000 was raised. The following



A display of jewelry and embroidered items made by students of St. Jean Bosco School.

year the project was completed and the cafeteria officially opened for use in September 2005.

A surplus of \$20,000 enabled the parish to finance two more, much needed projects: building a classroom at a trade school located in the town of Latibolliere at a cost \$8,000 and building a small convent for nuns who provide care to the aged and homeless in a village called Mafranc.

A fourth capital project, a three-classroom schoolhouse, was undertaken at the cost of \$25,000. Even before the school was finished, the children could not wait and moved in.

In addition to these capital projects, Notre Dame Parish donated \$1,000 to an orphanage in Jeremie, purchased school supplies for school children in Carrefour Sanon and donated \$3,000 for Sister Monica's food program in Jeremie.

The parish also donated clothing, Tylenol and school supplies.

In October 2008 the parish was invited to participate in a sponsorship program for students in St. Jean Bosco School,

founded by Father Jean for street children in Jeremie.

In July 2009 the pictures and dossiers were posted and by the end of one weekend Mass all 60 children had sponsors. At a cost of \$25 a month, shoes, uniforms, school materials, medical and, most importantly, one meal per day are provided for the sponsored child.

As of September 2014, parishioners of Notre Dame Parish sponsor 145 children in Haiti.

The children have moved to a new school building funded by a benefactor and on land donated by Father Jean's family. There are many children who want to attend this school, but Father Jean continues to register only children who are underprivileged.

Many of these children have parents who have died from Aids or are from homeless single parent families; some live in extended families but are denied an education due to socioeconomic conditions.

They are the poorest of the poor and the meal they receive at school is, for many, the only meal they have that day.

Father Jean brought some items of embroidery and jewelry made by children at the school for the anniversary celebration. He wanted to show that, besides an education, the children are taught skills that will allow them to make a living in the future. We are very proud of this grass roots project which enables sponsors to visit Jeremie, Haiti, see our school and students and see their sponsorship money in action.



Students and staff of St. Jean Bosco School in Haiti.

Legion of Mary activated in northern community

By: Ronald Paracuelles

FORT ST. JOHN – An organizational meeting of the Legion of Mary was held at the Church of the Resurrection on the afternoon of October 25th.

This new praesidium, as each basic unit of the Legion is called, is named after the title given to Mary in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin: “Morning Star”. They have taken as their “battle cry”: “I am all yours, my Queen and my Mother, and all that I have is yours”.

Under the direction of Father Vener Sabacan, pastor of Resurrection Parish, the group gathers every Saturday afternoon to pray for God’s grace through the intercession of Mary. One step at a time, members embrace a Marian spirituality and respond to the Church’s call for a new evangelization.

Their mission can be briefly summed up as 1) embracing our baptismal promises, 2) bringing Christ into the world where we are, and, 3) sharing and supporting each other’s faith journey.

The Legion of Mary is an international association of the faithful founded in 1921 by an Irish layman, Frank Duff. His idea was to help Roman Catholic lay people fulfill their baptismal promises and enable them to live their dedication to the

Church in an organized structure supported by prayer.

The Legion draws its inspiration from St. Louis Marie de Montfort’s “True Devotion to Mary”. Active members serve God under the banner of Mary by practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



Members of the newly established Morning Star Praesidium of the Legion of Mary.



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Michael van Adrichem: September 29, 1923 – September 28, 2014



The Mass of Christian Burial for a pioneer in Catholic education in British Columbia took place at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince George on Saturday, October 4th.

Mike van Adrichem was fondly remembered as a loving husband to Clasina, his wife of 62 years, father of eight, grandfather of 17 and great grandfather of two. He was born in the Netherlands, immigrated to Canada in 1951 and moved to Prince George in 1962.

It was in Prince George that Mike's passion for Catholic education became evident and this ultimately led to him becoming president of the Federation of Independent Schools Association of BC (FISA) and president of the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association.

As a result of his work in FISA, independent schools became recognized and partially funded by the Government of BC.

At his funeral he was eulogized by daughter, Anne Marie Daudlin and long-time friend and a past director of FISA, Fred Herfst. Each spoke about Mike's life of faith, his commitment to family, friends and Church and his contributions to the community.

Appropriately, a choir made up of students from the three Catholic schools in Prince George led the music. Father Chris Lynch presided at Mass; the following is from his homily.

The gospel we have just listened to speaks of the sower, Jesus, who planted seeds which fell on different ground. The seed which fell on the good soil brought forth grains, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

As we celebrate this Mass of Christian burial, we are celebrating a life that was "good soil", that produced a hundredfold.

Even though we come here today full of emotions – loss of a husband, father,

opa, friend – I believe Mike would want us to celebrate, or as the first reading from Sirach says, to "sing the praises of our ancestors in their generations". Because Mike indeed was a godly man and his name will "live on generation after generation".

The "seed" and the "good soil" speak of the gift of faith that Mike was blessed with. This faith was nourished at the table of the Lord in this Cathedral where Mike worshiped with his wife and family every Sunday until recently.

Mike, the saintly man that he was, celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation on a regular basis, right up to the week before he died.

For you see, Mike lived according to a great vision that was always beyond his reach but for which he was always striving. He knew he was blessed and rejoiced in that; he trusted absolutely in God. In fact, just a few weeks before he died he told me he had no fear of death.

What a great grace and blessing!

Mike's sacramental marriage to his wife Clasine was rooted in "good soil" and they brought forth eight children. For 62 years they grew together, where according to Scripture, the two became one; and as a couple they were absolutely one.

But, sadly, when two become one in "good soil", and one is taken, there is a gaping hole; part of your own life is gone and you mourn that loss. But those who never loved will never mourn; their hearts will never be broken.

Clasine, to you and your family, know that love is stronger than death. Death does not bring an end to love. If anything, it intensifies it. It makes our love much clearer, more vivid. Love abides forever.

In 1978, Pope John Paul II awarded Mike the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For Church and Pope) medal for his work in Catholic education. He worked at the local level as the first superintendent of Catholic Schools in this diocese, and also at provincial and national levels.

Many times Mike talked to me about driving the roads of this diocese, up and

down to Fort St. John in the north and to Prince Rupert in the west and all points in between.

Many of the missionary Oblate priests I'm sure were glad of Mike's company and wisdom. Can't you see them all gathered now with Bishop O' Grady welcoming Mike into the heavenly banquet; sure lots for them to talk about!

Of course for Mike to do all this with eight children, he had to have the support of his wife. Clasine was awarded the Benemerenti papal medal, because as we well know, that one is also two, a partnership working together with a busy family.

Mike died the day before his 91st birthday. In the early Church the day you died was considered your birthday, when you were really born again to look on the face of the Father.

We are celebrating Mike's birthday today. We are celebrating this gift of new life and a God who reaches out with arms outstretched to welcome him home.

So Mike, as we celebrate today this Mass, this Eucharist, which means thanksgiving, we thank you as we thank our God who worked through you. We thank you for the "good soil" you have been; for the hundredfold that has been brought forth through you; for witnessing to us what this parable means; for fighting the good fight, for finishing the race, for keeping the faith.

We are affirming our belief that, while all life on this earth is terminal and while death is a fact of life, death is not the end for Mike or, indeed, for any of us. There is life after death: life that never ends.

After a long apprenticeship of love and service, Mike is at last looking into the face of Christ, making his own those words of Simeon, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation..."

Happy Birthday Mike!

Celebration of parish matriarch's life

By: Therese Steiner

FRASER LAKE - Maria Mendes, a wonderful parishioner of St. Andrew's Parish, received news on October 1st that she had terminal cancer.

A lady of great faith and devotion, she decided she wanted a celebration of life before she died. The purpose of the celebration was to thank God for her life and to say good bye to her family, friends, neighbours and community.

On November 10th many gathered with Maria and Father Vince James, OMI, to celebrate Mass at St. Andrew's Parish. Though weakened from her illness, Maria was jubilant at this special gathering with those she loves.

Maria has always had a great love for Our Lady and so requested Marian hymns be

sung, the many beautiful songs of praise she herself had sung over the years.

After Mass, everyone gathered in the packed church hall for a luncheon, slide show and tributes to Maria.

Maria was referred to as our parish matriarch. She was always an inspiration to us all as she dealt with various struggles in her life. She continued to inspire and teach us as she graciously and peacefully awaited her time to go home to God.

We continued to pray for Maria and her loved ones as she journeyed through the last days of her earthly life. She died on November 22nd and after the Mass of Christian Burial and reception in Fraser Lake on November 25th, she was buried alongside her husband and son in the Prince George Municipal Cemetery.



In this 15-year-old family photo, Father Vincent James, OMI, poses with Maria Mendes and her late husband Jack on their 50th wedding anniversary.

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For the Life of the World

*Rev. Douglas
Jeffrey, OMI*

“I will feed them”

Recently my religious congregation, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, invited me to participate in the two-month De Mazenod Experience held in Aix-en-Provence in southern France.

Fifteen men are given the opportunity to live at our Foundation House with the purpose of renewing Oblate community. Together we study our congregational history and the development of our charism and spirituality.

An integral part of the program is a 21-day retreat modeled on the Ignatian Exercises which, this year, was held in Lourdes.

On our free days we were able to visit the Shrine, take part in the processions and recitation of the Rosary and countless other liturgies.

What caught my eye was the number of people from various cultures, languages and ages who came in search of an encounter with the living God. It was not uncommon to see several generations of a family participating in the liturgies, praying, sitting quietly or having lunch on the grass across the river from the Grotto.

The great thing about the Shrine is that it is accessible. Everyone is welcome. The rules are simple: be respectful of one another and be silent in places of prayer.

One of our presenters reminded us that God is accessible to all; this is the desire of God.

When we work with people we need to remember that our task is to help people access the creator and savior

of the world. Our presenter challenged us to make sure that we do not come between God and the people God created.

We were reminded of the text from Ezekiel where God says, “Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep.

“You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the stray, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd ...”

As if that is not enough to make us think, Ezekiel continues: “For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out ... I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

“I will bring them out ... and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

“I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

“I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I

will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the stray and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.”

As pastors, parish leaders, catechists, teachers, parents, family members it is good for us to consider the methods and messages we use to celebrate, share and grow our faith.

Do our methods assist people in their journey or are we obstacles for them? This is a chilling reflection for us as Church leaders today trying to make space for those who have wandered away from the changing Church which is at times rigid and flexible.

As we grow in faith we need room to explore, try new things, make mistakes, discover the presence of God in our world, question and explore our doubts. Leaving the tried and true path for a time is often an essential part of the journey.

While exploring what is not life giving we discover with greater clarity what is life giving.

In this sacred season of Advent we prepare for the two-fold coming of Christ. Let us be good shepherds accompanying our people wherever they go and giving them the chance to discover the God who is present to them and with them even in the valleys of death.

Is there someone in my life who needs support, who needs my help to access the God revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Knights welcome new pastor

By: D.M. Ford

SMITHERS – The Father Callaly Knights of Columbus Council #7973 held a “meet and greet” barbeque and social to welcome Father Pier Pandolfo, the new pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish, September 7th.

Local Knights and prospective Knights, along with their families, were invited to join what proved to be a fun occasion. District Deputy Germano Carrita of Terrace, Past District Deputy Frank Visentin of Prince Rupert and Knights Insurance Agent Arnold Zwiers of Prince George were also in attendance.

PHOTO: Father Pier Pandolfo cuts a cake during a celebration welcoming him to Smithers.



Knights remember deceased members



Kitimat Knights of Columbus Council 5148, along with Father Babji Merugu, SAC, pastor of Christ the King Parish, are pictured here following the annual Memorial Mass on November 25th.

PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

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In Exile

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Christmas and the genealogy of Jesus

If someone who had never heard the story of Jesus were to ask about his origins, we would, I suspect, begin with the story of his annunciation and birth and end with the story of his resurrection and ascension. While that does capture his life, that's not how the Gospels either begin or end his story.

The story of Jesus and the meaning of Christmas can only really be understood by looking at where Jesus came from, his family tree, and by looking at how his story has continued in history. Indeed, that's how the Gospels tell his story.

The Gospel of John begins his story by pointing out his eternal origins inside of God before his birth. For John, Jesus' family tree has just three members, the Trinity: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Mark's Gospel gives no family tree, begins his story with his public ministry and then has no ending to his story. For Mark, Jesus' story is still ongoing.

Matthew and Luke, however, include inside Jesus' story a long family tree, a genealogy that shows his origins. Too often we tend to ignore these genealogies with their long list of difficult-to-pronounce names, most of which mean little to us. But, as the renowned biblical scholar, Raymond Brown, emphasizes again and again, we

cannot really understand the story of Jesus without understanding why his family tree, this long list of names, is judged to be important.

What's to be learned from looking at Jesus' family tree, that curious list of ancient names?

Among other things, these genealogies trace out Jesus' origins in a way that tells us that his real story will not be grasped by anyone who wants to believe that Jesus' human origins were totally immaculate and pure, containing no sin or weakness.

Jesus wasn't born of all saintly ancestors. Rather, as the genealogies show, his family tree contains as many sinners as saints. Among his ancestors were liars, adulterers, murderers, power-grabbing men, scheming women, wicked kings, corrupt religious officials and sinners of every sort.

The same holds true for the religious institutions that figured in his birth. The religious history of Judaism out of which Jesus was born was also a mélange of grace and sin, of religious institutions serving both God and their own human interests.

And what's the moral in all this? The lesson is this: Both the persons and the institutions that gave birth to Jesus were a mixture of grace and sin, a mixture that mediated God's favor and also rationalized it for its own benefit. But, out of all of this, Jesus was born.

It can be a scandal to the piety within us to accept that not everything that gave birth to Christmas was immaculately conceived. The same holds true of what followed after Jesus' birth. His earthly ministry was also partially shaped and furthered by the self-interest of the religious authorities of his time, the resistance of secular powers of his time and the fear and infidelity of his own disciples.

And this has continued through the 2,000 years of history since. Jesus continues to have earthly incarnation throughout the centuries thanks not only to saintly individuals and virtuous churches. Jesus' family tree subsequent to his birth is also a long list of saints and sinners, of selfless martyrs and selfish schemers, of virtue and betrayal.

Recognizing and accepting this should not lead us to a cynicism where we begin to doubt the truth of Jesus or the legitimacy of the Church because of the lies, sin, infidelity and not-infrequent stupidity of those human persons and religious institutions who originally made up Jesus' family-tree and who have constituted his family since. Faith can accommodate the recognition of sin and infidelity. So can Christmas.

Christmas has a checkered origin and a checkered sequence: Jacob did steal his brother's birthright; Judah did sleep with his daughter-in-law; David did commit adultery and did commit murder to cover it up; the Church did set up the Inquisition and kill more of its own than were martyred in the early Church; the Church did give us popes who sold ecclesial favors and were sexually licentious; the churches, despite their catholicity and holiness, have perennially been narrow and elitist and never been fully free of self-interest; and the sexual abuse scandal did happen.

But the pure mystery of Jesus, of Christ and of the Church, somehow shine through in spite of all of this and, ironically, because of all of this. Like a hidden seed, God's grace works, even through people like us and churches like ours, revealing divinity despite most everything. And the God who wrote the original Christmas with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines. Some of those lines are our own lives.

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Parish prays in remembrance

BY: Marilou De Vera

PRINCE RUPERT – November was a month of remembering for Annunciation Parish.

After Mass on November 2nd, a simple ceremony remembering the 25 deceased Catholic Women’s League members from the parish was held. The CWL Book of Life was processed during Mass and some pictures of

deceased members shared by families were displayed with flowers.

On November 5th a celebration for the deceased Knights of Columbus was held. At the prayer service held following Mass a candle was lit for each deceased Knight as their names were read. The Knights continued the memorial celebration over coffee fellowship hosted by the CWL.

Beginning on November 2nd, All Souls Day, the parish gathered to pray the rosary at Fairview Cemetery each Sunday afternoon of the month.

Father Andrew Takach, OMI, in Prince Rupert to provide replacement ministry while Father Mike Rabino was on annual leave, prayed with those gathered. He also blessed the graves of the deceased members of the parish community.

It was a faith-filled celebration when we gathered around the grave of Most Rev. Emile Marie Buno, OMI, the first bishop of the Diocese.

We have been blessed with sunny but cold weather and are grateful that we were able to join in prayer for the souls of the faithful departed and commend them to the mercy of God.



*Parishioners of Annunciation Parish gathered to pray with Father Andrew Takach, OMI, at the grave of Bishop Emile Marie Buno, OMI.
PHOTO BY: Alberto De Vera*

Evangelization in the Hazeltons

By: Vivian Nelson

NEW HAZELTON – Gratitude was the theme of the Ladies Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast hosted by St. Mary’s Parish in November.

On the first Saturday of each month from September to June, women throughout the Hazeltons gather for breakfast, fellowship, inspiration and prayer. Each month a different church hosts the gathering. The women of St. Mary’s Parish play host once a year.

Members of St. Joseph’s Catholic Women’s League in Smithers traveled to New Hazelton to join the women for the event.

The monthly gathering originated with Captain Fay Cameron of the Salvation Army in Glenvowell during the early 1980s. Imrgard Parent of St. Mary’s Parish is a strong supporter and organized the November event.

This day was also Brother Roy’s birthday so we wished him God’s blessings with cake and song.

The evening provided time for women to catch up on the events of the past summer and enjoy an evening together. It was a great social and our hostess and host were superb!



Women from the Hazeltons and Smithers took time to pose for a picture at St. Mary’s Parish during one of their monthly ecumenical prayer breakfasts. PHOTO BY: Mary Ellen Kallio

Saints visit youth group

By: Therese Steiner

FRASER LAKE - Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Mary Magdalene, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha along with many other great saints like St. Thomas Moore, St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Juan Diego were recently seen arriving at St. Andrew's Parish.

They gathered as the St. Andrew's youth group to celebrate All Saints' Day, November 1st. The youth spent the afternoon learning about saints and recognizing them as great examples to imitate on each person's journey to holiness.

Brother Walter Lobo gave a presentation on the founder of his order, St. Francis of Assisi. The youth played games such as "saint bingo" and "feed my sheep" organized by St. Teresa of Avila (aka Shari Anderson).

Three of the young people put on an engaging skit about making choices to try to become a saint. The youth stayed together for a spaghetti dinner organized by St. Gianna Molla.

After supper, the young people prepared for the All Souls' Day Mass to be celebrated that evening. Among other things, they made a scroll remembering their loved ones who had died.

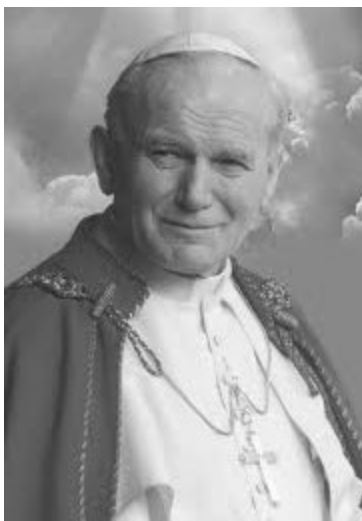
The grand finale of the day was the All Souls' Day Mass where the youth group lead the music, served, read and were involved in every way they could, especially in praying for the dead.

The scroll remained in the church throughout the month of November.

Kathleen Steiner dressed as her patron saint, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, for the St. Andrew's Parish youth group celebration on All Saints Day. PHOTO BY: Therese Steiner.



Catholic presence at UNBC



By: Eunice Hii

PRINCE GEORGE – Catholic students at the University of Northern British Columbia now have a club of their own.

The John Paul II Catholic Club is the initiative of several students at the university. Their desire for an ongoing Catholic presence on campus led to the first ever Catholic club at the university.

Supported by the Diocesan Youth Office, student leadership is undertaken by

Alyssa Dugdale, president, Melodie Van der Meer, vice president and Maryssa Grayer, treasurer.

The club has been instrumental in drawing students to weekly small-group faith studies; to date there are seven active groups meeting. It has also helped attract many to the upcoming Rise Up conference for youth in Calgary.

Plans for the new year include helping to put on a ski retreat for young adults.

Youth participate in fun and inspiring events



This year each Christ Our Saviour Parish youth night started and ended with prayer time in front of the Tabernacle. The parish is blessed to see youth use their talents to lead praise and worship and reflection.

At the end of November male and female youth group members went their separate ways. The men had an evening at the Pastoral Centre with Father Jack Michalchuk and the women, pictured here, had an evening of fellowship, faith and fun creating prayer journals to help them prepare for the season of Advent.



PHOTOS BY: Alyssa Dugdale

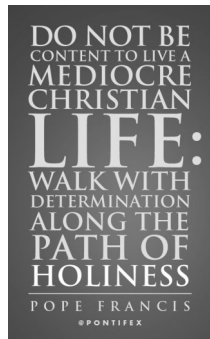


Youth from all four parishes in Prince George participated in the annual Shane Lake hike.

Students and faculty at UNBC now have an opportunity to celebrate Mass on campus every Wednesday, hosted by the John Paul II Catholic Club.



Diocesan Assembly 2014: Living the Joy of the Gospel



TOP: Diocese of Prince George Long Term Service Award recipients are recognized at the Assembly opening night. SECOND ROW: LEFT: Breaks offered participants a chance to network. RIGHT: Youth practice prior to the Praise and Worship evening. THIRD ROW RIGHT: Keynote speaker Deacon Ralph Poyo inspired participants with his dynamic and spirit-filled talks. Office of Evangelization Co-Directors John Connelly (shown LEFT) and Fr. Jack Michalchuk, together with CIS Superintendent Chris Dugdale and Bishop Jensen explained “The Path Ahead”. BOTTOM: LEFT: The new “Alive in Christ” catechetical resources were introduced by Our Sunday Visitor Consultants. BOTTOM RIGHT: Bishop Jensen and diocesan priests celebrate Mass at the conclusion of the Assembly.



Run like the wind!



The Immaculate Conception School Kodiaks, St. Mary's School Huskies and Sacred Heart School Panthers, along with teams from Westside Academy and Cedars Christian School, "ran like the wind" at a cross country track meet held at Immaculate Conception School at the end of September. Students, parents and school communities cheered and celebrated the end of the running season by coming together and showing their spirit.

PHOTO BY: Rebecca Gilbert

Annunciation Parish celebrates graduating students

By: Marilou De Vera

PRINCE RUPERT - Parishioners at Annunciation Parish thanked God for the blessing of their Grade 12 graduates at a Mass celebrated on Saturday, June 21st.

Annunciation School principal Laura Lowther welcomed the graduates and parishioners, along with their pastor, Father Mike Rabino. With extended hands they prayed a blessing for these youth.

A potluck dinner following Mass provided time for fellowship and picture taking. A video presentation of the graduates' years from Kindergarten to Grade 7 at Annunciation School warmed the hearts of everyone present.

It was a simple yet fitting and meaningful send-off for the youth of the parish.



Grade 12 students in Prince Rupert receive the blessing of their parish at Mass. PHOTO BY: Paulette Descaultels

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RISE UP:

Young Adults are invited to attend RISE UP! This dynamic conference put on by Catholic Christian Outreach from December 28, 2014—January 1, 2015 is by far one of the most inspiring young adult conferences of the year. Calgary will be hosting the conference and the Diocese has organized a bus to take participants to the event. A few seats are left but don't delay: contact Eunice at: ehii@pgdiocese.bc.ca to register. Head to www.cco.ca/riseup for more details.