



Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXIV, NO. 4

FALL 2015

DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

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Appeal raises over \$3 million in seven years

By: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin and Lynn Monteith

"It is clear that it has been a remarkable exercise and a huge achievement for all those involved."

These words in the Summer 2009 edition of the Northern Catholic News were written by Diocesan Appeal Committee member Chris Wingham as the first year of the Appeal drew to a close.

And the words ring true as the 8th Annual Diocesan Appeal is launched in September 2015.

Over the past seven years over \$3 million has been raised. This represents donations from \$2 to \$5,000 given each year by individual parishioners across the Diocese. Because of the generosity of so many, much has been accomplished and ministries that would otherwise not be possible are able to continue.

Of the \$3 million, over \$500,000 has been used to support our smaller parishes and missions. Many of these communities are so small that without outside assistance they could not maintain a viable ministry.

Our eight Catholic schools have received \$430,000 to assist with operational expenses and to help purchase the new catechetical program now being used in our schools and parishes.

Youth Ministry is also supported by Appeal funds. Over the past seven years, \$478,000 has helped support the Annual Diocesan Youth Conference, training sessions for youth ministers in parishes and operational costs for Camp Morice and Camp Emile.

The category designated Seminarians and Priests' Ongoing Education has received \$278,000. It supports three areas of ministry:

- Vocation Awareness initiatives to help youth and young adults discern if God is calling them to the priesthood or religious life
- Seminarians undertaking education and faith formation for diocesan priesthood
- Ongoing education and renewal programs for diocesan priests (see page 3)

Over \$1 million has supported faith formation initiatives. These include providing materials and faith enriching workshops and conferences. It also has supported initiatives such as Returning to Spirit, ProLife and First Nations' Retreats.

Of the \$3 million raised by the Annual Diocesan Appeal, \$415,000 has been returned to parishes that exceeded their Appeal goal. These parishes in turn have used the funds for special projects and to enhance ministry in their community.

Parishioners will receive a letter from the Appeal in September with instructions on how to donate: Cash, cheques, post-dated cheques, electronic funds transfer from your bank account or through the Donate Now button on the Diocesan website (www.pgdiocese.bc.ca).

The support of the People of God in this Diocese is not taken for granted. In the words of Chris Winham at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 Appeal year: "Huge thanks go out to all of those generous parishioners who stepped up to the plate to share their treasure with their faith community in an effort to help build up the Body of Christ."

The Appeal team comprised of Father Rectorino Tolentino, Lynn Monteith and Martha Primus along with Appeal teams in each parish work hard to make each Appeal year possible. But without the contribution of each person, none of this would be possible.

Annual Diocesan Appeal
2015-16

BUILDING TOGETHER
in faith



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“Happy Gang” celebrates retiring priests



Fathers Tom Shymko and Roger Lavoie, seated, are surrounded by parishioners helping them celebrate their retirement.

By: Diane Fuller

PRINCE GEORGE – Many years ago some of the parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish decided that it would be a good idea to go for coffee after daily Mass.

Over the years this group became bigger and bigger and much to the delight of everyone, quite often, the parish priest or visiting priest shared our morning interlude. We chat and laugh and remember the “old days” (most are retired), discuss world and local issues and sometimes we even break out into song.

The regular patrons who occupy nearby tables have come to know us by name and are often included on

special birthdays when we bring our own cake or cinnamon buns. We have been told that the staff look forward to seeing us in the morning as it is the “highlight of my day at work!”

We have been called names like “The A&W Mafia” and “The Happy Gang.”

While pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Father Tom Shymko was a regular participant in our morning exploits. We looked forward to teasing him and drinking in his wisdom as we tend to do with all the clergy who dare to meet with us.

Over the years Father Roger Lavoie, pastor of Christ Our Savior Parish, sometimes joined us as well. Our current pastor, Father Chris Lynch, often sits in the middle of as many as 20 or as few as 4 or 5 so he can converse with both ends of the table.

Since our little group has become quite a good community, sharing our joys and sorrows over the years and showing concern for each other, when we realized that Father Tom and Father Roger were

both retiring this year we decided it was a good chance to have a party.

We have some amazing cooks in our group and so a pot-luck seemed to be a great chance to celebrate these two good priests. Father Chris offered his garage as a venue (he is an amazing host!) and about 33 of us showed up with the most wonderful food to share.

After supper Father Roger and Father Tom were given original retirement cards and a small gift. Father Roger told us how he is looking forward to his very part-time parish back east. Father Tom explained how he came to be in Burns Lake and the parishes he served since being ordained. Lots of teasing and fun ensued as we told Father Tom we hope he will be joining our little group regularly when he retires to Prince George.

What a wonderful way we have found to build a great and caring community in our parish!

BURSARY



The Sisters of St. Ann are offering a Bursary named in honour of their foundress, Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. This bursary offers assistance to women seeking education in theological and ministry studies that promote justice, peace, integrity of creation, healing, holistic living and a healthy life style.

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A special blessing for Kitimat grads

Graduates from Christ the King Parish in Kitimat received a special blessing at a Mass in June. Pictured here with Father Dominic Apataah are, from left to right: Steven Horianopolous, Lucas Fontes, Brianna Gasbar, Libby Towse, Nichlas Furtado and Leah Anthony.

PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt



Appeal supports priests' ongoing formation



In the chapel of The Duc in Altum Spiritual Centre, Magdala, Israel.

By: Very Rev. Rectorino Tolentino, Jr.

As I shared in two previous editions of the Northern Catholic News, part of my sabbatical last year was devoted to the study of Liturgy at The Liturgical Institute, Mundelein, Illinois and another part was in a priests renewal program in the Holy Land.

Relying on the limited personal finances of a diocesan priest would make a well-crafted sabbatical leave impossible. The programs I followed have renewed and strengthened me. Over all it was a great experience and it would not have been possible without the financial support of the Diocese.

I didn't know at the time, but a portion of the financial assistance came from

funds collected through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The promotional material for the Appeal designates "Seminarians and Priests' Ongoing Education" as one of the many areas of ministry in the Diocese that the Diocesan Appeal supports.

Through the positive response of parishioners we are able to provide for the needs of the apostolate. Each monetary gift, whether it is big or small, helps the local Church accomplish its mission.

Indeed, the Annual Diocesan Appeal benefits both the people we serve and the people who serve, priests and religious included! Through your constant support of the Appeal you enable the Church to keep fulfilling the mission entrusted to our care.

As the new Vicar General of the Diocese and as one who oversees the Annual Diocesan Appeal, I invite all parishioners across the Diocese of Prince George to see how your own particular parish community benefits from the Appeal.

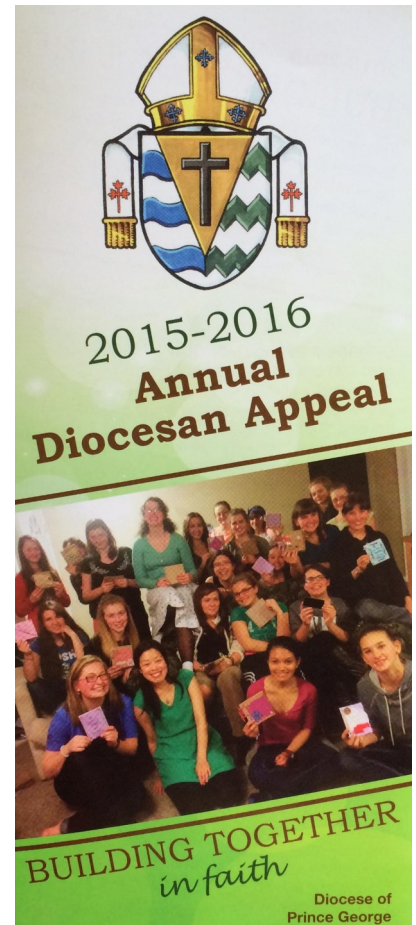
Some are able to give more than what they are asked to contribute. That is what makes us one Church; we are concerned not only of our own parish needs but also of the needs of the whole, our local Church, the Diocese of Prince George.

We join St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Prayer for Generosity:

Lord, teach me to be generous.

*Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.
Amen.*

As a priest of the Diocese and as one who has been a direct beneficiary of this Appeal, I acknowledge the generosity and untiring support of every parishioner. Thank you for supporting us in our needs. Thank you for doing your part in achieving our goal. I pray that in return you will see and experience God's abundant blessings. Together let us participate responsibly in the 8th Annual Diocesan Appeal - Building Together in Faith.



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The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



By: Rev. Melvin Pinto, OCD & Rev. Ronald Sequeira, OCD

There are many “Our Lady’s.”

When we have “Our Lady of somewhere,” we usually concentrate on how she is honored in a place: the Virgin who invites us to repentance and healing at Lourdes, the Virgin of the poor and marginalized at Guadalupe, etc.

When we speak of Our Lady of a particular religious order or congregation, we allude to the way she is honoured in that institute.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated on July 16th. It draws our attention to the way she is manifested to the Carmelite Order and the way Carmelites see her.

We know that the hermit brothers on Mount Carmel dedicated an oratory to St Mary early in the 13th century. In medieval times, that was equivalent to declaring that she is their patron who will look after them and they, in turn, will serve.

Later when the Carmelites came to Europe and joined the ranks of the mendicant friars, other images of Mary arose among them. They, of course, took the notion of Mother common to all Christians of the East and West. They also saw her as Sister and honored her as the Most Pure Virgin, that is, the Virgin of undivided heart.

Carmelites were also taken by the beauty of Mary and this resulted in the favorite invocation, “Mother and Beauty of Carmel.”

A significant Carmelite devotion to Our Lady is through the Brown Scapular. A scapular is part of a religious habit, a wide piece of cloth worn back and front over the shoulders (Latin *scapulae*, shoulder blades) and reaching to the knees or lower.

From the Middle Ages lay people sought some association with religious orders and a common way to do that was to invest them in part of the habit, frequently a reduced scapular. The Brown Scapular of the Carmelite Order has been very popular since the 15th century.

The scapular carries a deeper meaning. In a letter to the whole Carmelite Order, the Superiors General, J. Chalmers and C. Maccise wrote in 2001:

“Reflection on the Scapular symbolism implies that we think out and make our own the fact that Mary is our Patroness, who cares for us as Mother and Sister. Our Mother nurtures the divine life within us and teaches us the way to God. Our Sister walks with us in the journey of transformation, inviting us to make ours her own response: ‘Oh let it what you have said be done to me’ (Luke 1:38). But patronage is a two-way relationship. We receive Mary’s care; in turn we are called upon to imitate her and to honor her through fidelity to her Son.”

Wearing of the Brown Scapular is not a quasi-magical totem. It must be a sign of a relationship with Christ along with Mary, one of dependence and love. It will have its fullest meaning only when we are drawn into the contemplation of the divine mysteries.

The scapular should also remind us that we are to be clothed with Christ. We may go further and see Mary clothing us with her Son.

For many centuries the Brown Scapular has been seen as a sign of Mary’s care and help not only in life’s dangers, but also at the time of death and during any purification and healing in purgatory that a person might need.

Many popes have recommended the Brown Scapular and have worn it themselves (including Pope John Paul II). Pope Paul VI wrote in 1967: “Among the practices commended by the Second Vatican Council we would mention by name the Marian Rosary and the devout use of the Scapular of Carmel”.

A document on popular devotions by the Holy See (2002) strongly recommended the scapular:

“It is an external sign of the filial relationship established between the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, and the faithful who entrust themselves totally to her protection, who have recourse to her maternal intercession, who are mindful of the primacy of the spiritual life and the need for prayer.”



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Constitutional law justifies pro-life stance

By: Lorraine Lawrence

PRINCE GEORGE - Dr. Charles Lugosi, a constitutional law professor, bioethicist and litigation lawyer, held the attention of about 40 people at the Canadian Christian Reformed Church, July 14th.

His presentation addressed the public's need to better understand the Western legal system and some of its recent disturbing transformations.

Dr. Lugosi's educational message inspired and raised hope among pro-life supporters. He confirmed the solid legal and moral foundations of an anti-abortion stance, proving for his listeners that they are morally justified and legally correct.

This in itself is a major victory. People of faith can take assurance from the knowledge that whatever battles are lost in the courts and at the ballot box, the moral victory belongs to pro-lifers everywhere.

Dr. Lugosi earned his Bachelor of Law from the University of Western Ontario and Doctor of Juridical Science, Master of Bioethics and Master of Law from the University of Pennsylvania. He studied theology in Vancouver at Regent College, opened a law firm in Prince George and taught and practised law in the US.

Currently he practises law in Ontario.

Dr. Lugosi explained the difference between the rule of law and rule by law. Rule of law, he said, recognizes that humans were created by the Supreme God with responsibilities to our Creator and to other human beings.

Biblical laws, he said, were established based upon the Ten Commandments. God's laws have a moral component.

In legal jurisprudence, Dr. Lugosi continued, human laws that are consistent with God's law and morality are known as natural law. Natural law is in turn the foundation of the rule of law, which demands that God's law is superior and positive law is inferior since man-made law is vulnerable to the desires of governments to abandon morality and impose authority based upon rule by law.

He pointed to the Nuremburg Trials following World War II as an example: German lawyers and law professors were found guilty of crimes against humanity even though they obeyed the laws legally passed by the German government.

The Canadian Constitution has its roots in natural law, he said. The Preamble to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms recites both the rule of law and the supremacy of God as dual guiding principles in the interpretation of Canada's Constitution.

Dr. Lugosi claimed that judicial decisions that ignore the supremacy of God or impose rule by law in substance while using the language of rule of law are not true to Canada's Christian and legal heritage that is embodied in the Preamble.

Abortion is a civil rights issue that transcends politics, Dr. Lugosi said. It is irrelevant that the Supreme Court does not legally recognize an unborn child as a person. Even if an unborn child does not acquire legal personhood until being born alive, that unborn child is still a human being as a matter of scientific and biological fact and deserves legal protection from assault resulting in serious injury and death.

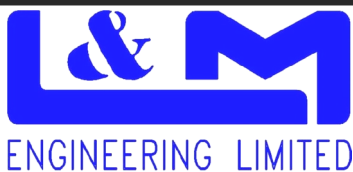
Dr. Lugosi noted that the current government refused to listen to pro-life members of Parliament calling for an amendment to the Criminal Code that would protect the unborn.

The amended law now permits only the legal defence of "persons" and not human beings. Since "personhood" is a fluid legal concept and bestowed legal status, it is not the same thing as a legally protected and permanent biological status like "human being."

Thanks to both inaction and action by the Conservative party in power, Dr. Lugosi said, the legality of abortion is secure for the foreseeable future.



Dr. Charles I. Lugosi



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Prince George hosts CWL provincial convention

By: Laura Esposito

PRINCE GEORGE - The 68th Annual Convention of the BC & Yukon Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was held at the Coast Inn of the North in Prince George, June 11-13, 2015.

The Prince George Diocesan Council welcomed 178 members and guests to the Opening Mass celebrated by Most Revered Stephen Jensen, Bishop of Prince George, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Also in attendance was Most Revered David Monroe, Bishop of Kamloops.

Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, was among a number of guest speakers at the convention. She captivated the audience with her charisma and knowledge.

The dignity of the human person is fundamental to our Catholic beliefs founded in the Scripture, Dr. McQueen emphasized. A human life is defined as life from conception to natural death and therefore the dying process should be supported.

"We are to help with the dying, not help to die," she said.

There is medication available to help the suffering and it is important to ensure that an advance directive and enduring power of attorney clearly states the wishes of an individual.

Dr. McQueen's book, *Bioethics Matters*, explains Catholic teaching on today's stem cell research, reproductive technologies and euthanasia. She supports the BC & Yukon CWL Resolution regarding invoking the notwithstanding clause, especially since examples from other countries prove that no law is strong enough to end abuses.

Each League member was encouraged to write letters on this issue to their MP and other members of government

Also on the convention agenda were National CWL President, Barbara Dowding and Sister Irene Baker, CSI. They spoke on the national theme, One Heart, One Voice,

One Mission linking it to the provincial theme, Joyfully Serving the Lord.

They encouraged spending time in prayer and with scripture using daily Mass readings. A suggested starting point for reflections included asking questions such as, "What is the text saying to me?" or "What in my life is in need of change?" They encouraged members read Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel".

Barb Dowding challenged members to continue to emphasize the spiritual component of the League and make CWL meetings more exciting and relevant to younger members.



Father Edwin Killing, CWL Provincial Spiritual Advisor, and members of the Provincial executive at Sacred Heart Cathedral during the 68th Annual CWL Provincial Convention in June.

Sergio Petrucci, representing Development and Peace, and Doreen Gowans, Past Provincial CWL President and CWL National Chairperson of Community Life, spoke about the work of Development and Peace.

They reminded participants of the program to donate one percent of funds raised by CWL councils to D&P. Doreen told of one council's successful D&P fundraiser where they asked members to contribute one dollar for every pair of shoes they owned.

Maureen Fadum, President of Domestic Abuse Services, Our Lady of Good Counsel Society, spoke about the society's work with women in the Lower

Mainland and BC interior. Donna Flood, Executive Director of the Prince George Hospice Society, shared her work with the society and about the need for palliative care to help people die "gracefully, not fearfully."

Nieces of Rose Prince and Father Vincent James, OMI, pastor of St. Andrew's Parish in Fraser Lake, extended an invitation to the Annual Rose Prince Pilgrimage to be held at Lejac, July 3-5.

Father Vince spoke about when he first came to Fraser Lake in 1994 and the early days of the pilgrimage when 30 people would attend the weekend. Now more than 1,000 people come from throughout western Canada to participate in the pilgrimage. For more information, find the link to the Rose Prince Pilgrimage on the Diocese of Prince George website, www.pgdiocese.bc.ca. Five resolutions were presented and approved. These will be forwarded to the national council for consideration at the 2015 National CWL Convention to be held in Vancouver August 16-19.


The closing Eucharistic celebration, held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, included reaffirmation of officers and chairpersons. At the banquet that followed, greetings were extended by the Mayor of Prince George, Lyn Hall and a presentation was made by National President, Barbara Dowding.

The CWL Molly Boucher Bursary was presented to the winner, Marianna Gagliano, by Provincial Education and Health Chairperson, Agnes Geiger.

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International Eucharistic Congress Conference and Tour




The 51st International Eucharistic Congress will be held January 24-31, 2016. It will take place in Cebu City, Philippines.

Fr. Rector Tolentino is organizing a group of parishioners in the diocese who are interested in attending the Eucharistic Congress. The trip to the Philippines will include Eucharistic Congress and a tour of few islands in the region. For those interested, please contact Fr. Rector at 1-250-964-4424 or e-mail vicargeneral@pgdiocese.bc.ca. For more information about the 51st International Eucharistic Congress please visit the official website of the congress: <http://iec2016.ph/>

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Diocesan Formation Days

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“Diocesan Formation Days”

Bishop Jensen invites you to attend the upcoming “Diocesan Formation Days”. It aims to be an experience of prayer and interactive learning and planning to help every Catholic respond to the vocation to be a disciple and witness and explore more deeply the plan of God for us all.

“Diocesan Formation Days” is a new face for the Diocesan Study Days that we have had in the previous years. It is a collaborative initiative of the Office of the Bishop, Catholic Independent Schools, and the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Our keynote speaker will be Fr Basil Burns, PhD., a gifted presenter who has come to the Diocese to assist in the areas of theological formation and faith development. Fr Basil will explore the meaning of the upcoming **Jubilee Year of Mercy** proclaimed by Pope Francis.

“At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”

For more information see poster page 12.

Dates:


- Dawson Creek September 27 & 28
- Burns Lake September 30
- Terrace October 1 & 2
- Prince George October 22 & 23

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Long-standing tradition continues at Camp Morice

By: Sr. Maurine Barzantni, OP

FORT ST. JAMES - There is a long tradition of celebrating the Feast of the Assumption at Camp Morice's Mission Point.

Larry Kearns describes past experiences of the setting as follows:

"The lapping of the water on the shore gave a very natural and somewhat muted sound as one surveyed the shrine, reaching, even in a small way, to the heavens. A particularly dominant presence was a bald eagle which customarily would perch to the side of the shrine and remind us, as he spread his beautiful wings, of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The whole setting was conducive to prayer, meditation and the celebration each year of the Feast of the Assumption. This would bring hundreds of people."

In keeping with this tradition, the people of Our Lady of the Snows Parish continue to celebrate this feast of Our Lady at Mission Point.

Again this year, the statue of Mary, usually found at the camp entrance, was cleaned, adorned with flowers and

installed on a wagon in preparation for the solemn procession to the point.

Those working at the camp joined parishioners and the Brothers from Fraser Lake in praying the rosary as the group moved to the outdoor altar.

It was a contemplative walk through the woods. Father Frank Salmon, OMI celebrated Mass at the point to the accompaniment of the bird voices, gentle waves and rustling leaves. The eagle was not present but the sun gifted us with its setting splendor.

All present entered into the prayerful spirit. Children were active participants in the offertory procession and as servers. The traditional Carrier hymn "Dho Mari" closed the celebration.

One member of the parish offered the small pilgrimage as a thanksgiving prayer for her ability to walk after a long period of painful inactivity. Others spoke of their own graced moments as they shared refreshments.



The setting sun peaks through the trees as Father Frank Salmon, OMI, celebrates the Eucharist on the Feast of the Assumption at Camp Morice.

PHOTO CREDIT: Sr. Maurine Barzantni, OP



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New altar adheres to Liturgical directives

By: Detta Smith

MCBRIDE - Generous donations from two benefactors and the craftsmanship of Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI, resulted in a new altar for St. Patrick's Parish.

According to the General Instruction of the *Roman Missal*:

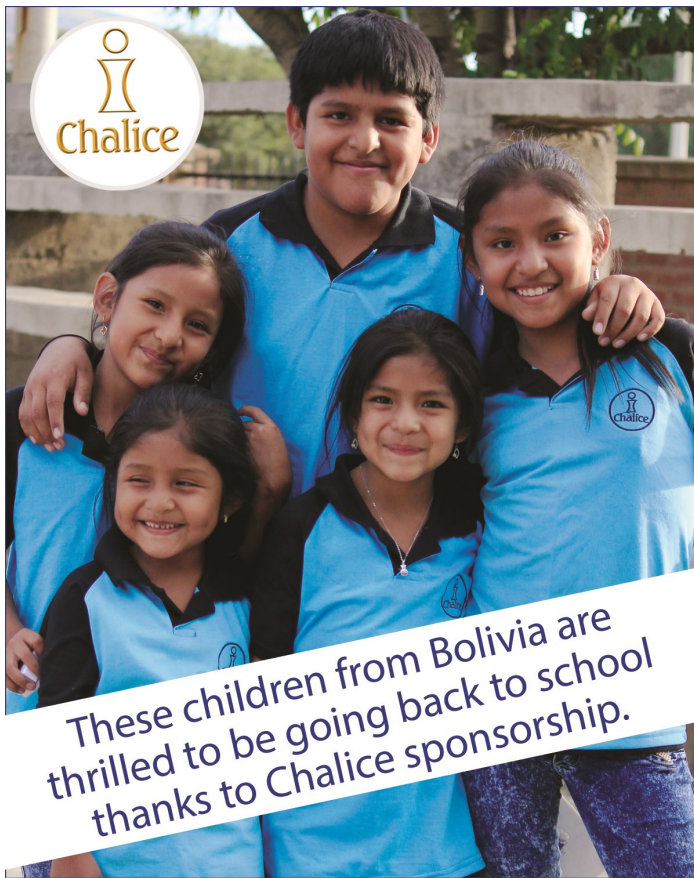
"It is desirable that in every church there is a fixed altar. The altar should be built separate from the wall, in such a way that it is possible to walk around it easily... the altar should occupy a place where it is truly the centre towards which the attention of the whole congregation of the faithful naturally turns."

The previous altar that graced the worship space at St. Patrick's was six feet long and two feet wide and was never intended to be free-standing. It was built to stand against the sanctuary wall in the days when the priest stood with his back to the assembly.

On Sunday, August 2 the altar stone was transferred to the new altar and the faith community gathered to celebrate Mass for the last time with Father Richard and for the first time at the altar he crafted.



Father Richard Beaudette, OMI, is pictured next to the altar he built for St. Patrick's Parish in McBride. PHOTO BY: Detta Smith



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Tears and laughter at memorial Mass

By: Ginnie Blair

BURNS LAKE - A special memorial Mass in honor of Joe Hutchinson was held at the Catholic Bay cabins on Tchesinkut Lake, Sunday, May 31st.

Joe was a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish who died of cancer earlier this year. Father Tom Shymko, then pastor of the parish, was joined by Father Dominic Apaatah, our new parish priest.

Two dozen parishioners, including Joe's wife Evelyn, participated on this beautiful sunny day. Kind words were said about Joe by Sophie Lobermayer, a few tears were shed but much laughter was heard also from remembered times with Joe and Evelyn.

Throughout Mass the lake was calm and shimmering – much like Joe's personality.



Father Tom Shymko and Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners celebrate Mass at Tchesinkut Lake.

PHOTO BY: Ginnie Blair

Farewell Father Richard

PRINCE GEORGE - After many years of service in the Diocese – 14 of those years as Vicar General – Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI, left Prince George on August 20, 2015 to begin his next ministry appointment in Ottawa.

People in the Diocese had an opportunity to thank Father Richard at a farewell gathering held at the Pastoral Centre on the 29th of June .

Following Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Stephen Jensen, Father Richard and 12 other priests from the Diocese, a number of tributes were made.

Susan Campbell, Director of Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane, Alberta, thanked Father Richard for his ministry in the Diocese.

Having worked with him while she was Director of the Pastoral Centre in Prince George, Susan spoke about the quality and compassion of Father Richard's ministry in the Diocese.

He has, she said, the heart of a shepherd.

"When I heard Pope Francis say that pastors should have the smell of the sheep on them, I thought he was talking about Father Richard," she said. "He always holds the community in his heart and is connected with their lives as a pastor."

Susan noted that faith is something lived through our head, hands, feet and heart.



Bishop Stephen Jensen concelebrates with priests at the farewell Mass in honor of Father Richard Beaudette, OMI

"Richard showed all of these in his ministry."

She pointed to his excellence as both a teacher and a preacher which was evident when he taught at Lay Formation and in his homilies which were well prepared and delivered.

Father Richard traveled regularly throughout the Diocese, especially to the small communities that did not have a permanent pastor such as Fort Ware and McBride.

He knew how to work with his hands – cooking, woodworking, sewing, planting/harvesting and decorating – and he did these



Father Richard chats with Carla Wolitski and Shirley Gratton at his farewell celebration

mostly for the good of the community. "He is a person of extraordinary talents," she said.

Sr. Mary-Ann Bates, RSCJ, part of the team at the Diocesan Centre from 1991 until her retirement in 2013, also paid tribute to Father Richard at the gathering. The following is part of what she said that evening.

"What an honour it is for me to have been asked to express a few words of gratitude and farewell to Father Richard Beaudette, Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

"I first met Richard in 1988 when he was the Pastor at St. Joseph's Parish in Smithers and I was a pastoral assistant at Christ the King Parish in Kitimat. We were both in "our prime" in 1988!!

"Since then Richard and I served on numerous Diocesan committees and sub-committees.

Working as closely as we have, it is easy for me to highlight Richard's multiple talents and virtues.

"Richard is a competent and steadfast pastor and administrator, while at the same time encouraging the lay faithful to share in this ministry of leadership and decision-making. He is dependable, true to his word and can be counted on for expedient and thorough follow-through.

"Richard is an excellent and trustworthy team player – in a leading or supporting role, at times even as a "bouche-trou" – one who fills in the gaps, who does what needs to be done – setting up tables, running dishes through the dishwasher, transporting collected compost to its garden destination.

"He has an inexhaustible capacity to juggle numerous demanding commitments well: commitments to family, friends, parish, diocese

and to his Oblate brothers. He does this with "alacrity, simplicity, joy and love".

"Richard's family roots give him a love for the land. It wasn't unusual to meet Richard at the Diocesan Centre on his day off in his work clothes and gum boots, having just come back from his beloved vegetable garden with his truck laden with the fruits of his labours – to be shared with his colleagues and with those at the St. Vincent DePaul drop in centre.

"Richard is an Old Farmer to be sure!

"We have all seen Richard in these roles and witnessed these talents and virtues so graciously shared over the years. I'm convinced, however, that what has drawn each one of us to share in this celebration this evening, what we carry and treasure in the depths of our hearts are less public, more nuanced and personal experiences of Richard's sensitive and compassionate caring.

"Fidelity to deep personal prayer, openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to make the preferences of the heart of Jesus your own – lived out simply and day by day: these are the qualities, the attitudes we have witnessed in you, have experienced in relationship to you Richard and for which we are most grateful.

- your special concern for individuals on the margins- in our parishes, our workplaces, our gathering spaces – making them feel included, accepted, worthwhile, valued.
- your faithful accompaniment of individuals and families in crisis: in times of illness, death, bereavement, unemployment, divorce, spiritual and psychological difficulties; and in times of deep joy: weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, birthdays.



Mary-Ann Bates, RSCJ, pays tribute to Father Richard Beaudette

(Continued on page 11)

Farewell Father Richard

(Continued from page 10)

- your capacity to bring people together for fellowship and celebration: parish potluck suppers, suppers for seniors and barbecues for UNBC students on Labour Day weekends – their first time away from home!
- using your gardening gifts to grow plants and encouraging others to use these same gifts for countless annual plant sales with proceeds going to St. Vincent de Paul....and the list goes on and on and on!

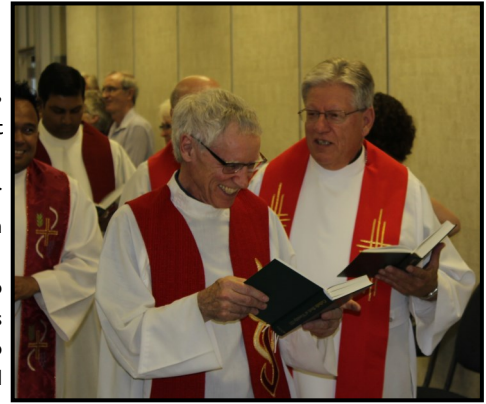


Susan Campbell, Joy Cotter,
Lisa Weber and Teresa Phillippe

“We gather this evening to say thank you and to celebrate the gift you are to each one of us Richard and to our diocesan family. We gather to tell you that we love you and that we shall miss you. We gather to bid you farewell.

“Journey gently Richard Beaudette, Oblate of Mary Immaculate, dear brother and precious friend.”

Bishop Stephen Jensen concluded the tributes by affirming Father Richard and thanking him for his years of ministry in the Diocese.



Fathers Robert Smith and Richard Beaudette share a laugh during the recessional hymn

McBride farewell—End of an era



Father Richard Beaudette, OMI, tries out his farewell gift from St. Patrick's Parish: a chair made from pine beetle infested wood.

PHOTO BY: Detta Smith

no Catholic Church building in McBride, Mass was initially celebrated in the homes of local Catholic residents.

Later a private home on 2nd Avenue became the gathering place for the growing Catholic community. The present church was built and dedicated on March 17, 1937.

For 101 years the Catholic faith community of St. Patrick's has been nurtured and formed, encouraged and challenged by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Births, marriages and deaths have been marked. Sacraments have been celebrated. God's love and compassion have been shared.

And thanks to these dedicated priests, the Catholic faith has put down solid and firm roots in this small Robson Valley community.

Rev. Richard Beaudette OMI continued this ministry by travelling the 211 kilometres

from Prince George to McBride twice a month for the past 12 years.

Often he drove through weather conditions that were most unfavourable and which would have caused most people to change their plans. Father Richard was determined that the faith community at St. Patrick's would not be denied the opportunity to celebrate Mass as long as he was the canonical pastor!

Even if the congregation that gathered was only 10 or 12 faithful parishioners, Father Richard vowed to celebrate with us. The missionary spirit of those early Oblate priests is alive and well!

As Father Richard celebrated Mass at St. Patrick's on August 2, 2015, it not only marked the last time he would do so, it also marked the end of the history and the connection that the parish has had with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

In recognition of those men who shared the charism of their founder Father Eugene deMazenod, OMI, a plaque listing their names has been placed in the Church.

The parishioners look forward to getting to know Rev. John Garden, who will continue offering a sacramental presence to the faith community of St. Patrick's.

By: Detta Smith

MCBRIDE - In 1914 the first passenger train headed from Edmonton to the BC coastal town of Prince Rupert. And, according to St. Patrick's Parish archives, Mass has been celebrated in McBride since this time.

In the first years a travelling missionary, Rev. Patrick Beaudry OMI, came from St. Joachim's Parish in Edmonton. As there was

THE FACE OF MERCY

Diocesan Formation Days 2015



*"Just as God is merciful,
so we are called to be
merciful to each other."
-Pope Francis*

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www.pgdiocese.bc.ca

NORTHERN DEANERY

Notre Dame Parish
Dawson Creek
September 27 & 28

MIDWEST DEANERY

Immaculata Parish
Burns Lake
September 30

WESTERN DEANERY

Sacred Heart Parish
Terrace
October 1 & 2

CENTRAL DEANERY

Diocesan Pastoral Centre
Prince George
October 22 & 23