



**DIOCESE
OF
PRINCE
GEORGE**

*Inside this
issue:*

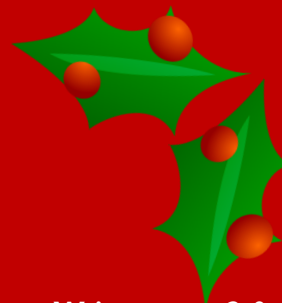
Mission Journey	pp. 4 & 10
FA Reunion	p. 9
Youth News	p. 13
Panther ROAR	p. 15



Northern Catholic News

VOLUME XXV NO. 1

Winter 2016



Diocese observes Jubilee of Mercy

December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

Pope Francis proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time for the witness of believers to grow stronger and more effective.

This Holy Year begins December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. To begin this Jubilee of Mercy, the Diocese will celebrate a Solemn Mass at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

On the third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, will be opened.

The Holy Father will announce at that time that at the cathedral of every local church, that is the mother church of the faithful in a particular area (or at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance in a Diocese), a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year.

In the Diocese of Prince George the Opening of the Door of Mercy will take place at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015.

Two other churches in the Diocese have also been designated as a Door of Mercy location and these will also become pilgrim sites during the Jubilee Year. The three churches with a Door of Mercy are:

- Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince George
- Annunciation Parish, Prince Rupert
- The Church of the Resurrection, Fort St. John

Those who enter through the Holy Door, the Door of Mercy, will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.





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10,000 flags - 100,000 lives lost

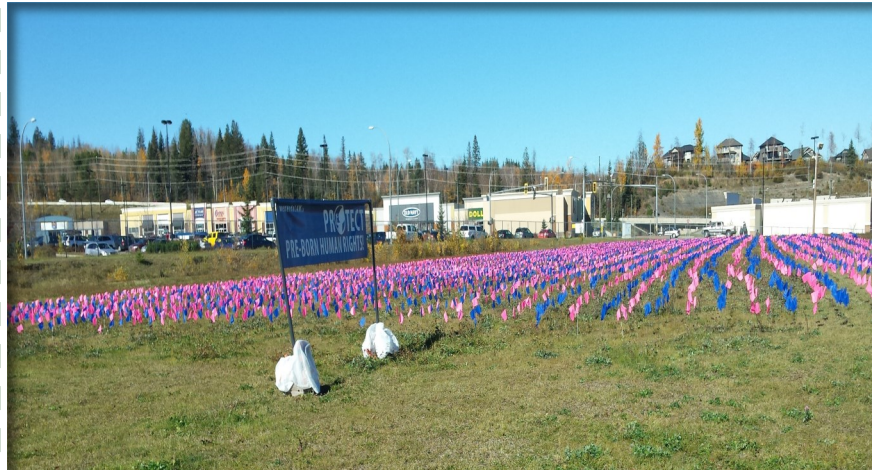


PHOTO CREDIT: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin

By: Laura Fowlie

PRINCE GEORGE - It was a sight that takes one's breath away. There, right before me, were 10,000 pink and blue flags shimmering in the bright sunshine and waving gently in the breeze.

Many people who caught sight of this commanding image approached to ask what it was all about.

They were told that each small flag represents 10 unborn babies who lose their lives to abortion every year in Canada, a total of 100,000 lost lives.

They also learned that there are no laws or restrictions concerning abortion in our country. A woman may procure an abortion at any time throughout her nine months of pregnancy for any reason, or for no reason except that of wanting an end to her pregnancy.

There are only two other countries in the world who, like Canada, have no restrictions: China and North Korea.

Upon hearing this information reactions were similar. They did not realize that there were so many abortions and that there were absolutely no limits at all. As they walked away, taking a last look at the flags, they could be heard passing on to others what they learned.

This 10,000-flag display is a scaled-down version of the larger 100,000-flag display on Parliament Hill, October 2, 2014, which sent a striking visual message.

Following the Parliament Hill event the 100,000 flags

were divided into ten groupings and sent to pro-life organizations representing each province. In BC, wenedaLAW.ca distributes the flags to communities that wish to participate in this event.

On October 3rd the Prince George

Pro Life Society took on the challenging task of setting up the display on the grounds of the Catholic Diocesan Centre. It took more than two-and-a-half hours for all the flags to be put in place.

Those who took part gained a new appreciation for the magnitude of the number 10,000 and, even more overwhelming, 10 times that number.

As I stood mesmerized by the beauty of the flags, I felt sadness that so much promise had been lost and continues to be lost. But I also realized that I was in a sacred place where those lost lives were ultimately being recognized and honored.

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Keys to encountering Jesus



Christ Our Savior Youth Choir led by Bob Raine provided music for one of the seminars.

PRINCE GEORGE – A three-evening seminar offered at Christ Our Savior Parish in November drew parishioners from the four city parishes and averaged approximately 120 people per session.

Entitled “How Then Shall We Live?” the seminar is an initiative of the

Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC). It focused on three keys to encountering Jesus. These include: welcoming, reconciliation and an ever-deepening prayer life.

Presenters included Father Basil Burns, John Connelly and Father Jack Michalchuk, Co-Directors of the OEC and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, Eunice Hii.

Parishioners from across the city of Prince George who benefited from the seminar also had the opportunity to share hospitality together following each session. It was a good experience of fellowship among the four parishes.



John Connelly gives a presentation at the city-wide seminar.

Picture and statue blessed



Parishioners and guests join Bishop Jensen and Fathers Basil Burns and Rector Tolentino around the grotto of Our Lady of Fatima in front of St. Peter’s Church in Mackenzie.
PHOTO BY: Katherine Hamblin

By: Katherine Hamblin

MACKENZIE – Bishop Stephen Jensen and Fathers Rectorino Tolentino and Basil Burns traveled to join Father Ron Sequeria at St. Peter’s Parish, October 4, 2015, for the dedication of a Divine Mercy picture and Our Lady of Fatima grotto.

The Divine Mercy picture was presented at Mass where Bishop Jensen spoke about the devotion and blessed the picture which was donated by Aline Hunt in memory of her late husband. It will be hung in the church.

A new Marian hymn by James Kilbane was introduced to the parish: “As I Kneel Before You”.

Following Mass the congregation moved into the warm and sunny outdoors and surrounded the grotto. There a white statue of Our Lady of Fatima is backed in blue and surrounded with polished stones and flowers.

Below the grotto are the words, “Our Lady of Fatima Pray for Us”.

Father Ron thanked the Bishop and visiting priests for being present and all those who provided financial support for the grotto and picture.

About 25 people from other denominations in Mackenzie were present for the occasion and enjoyed fellowship at the potluck lunch following the celebration. Featured at the luncheon were a roasted suckling pig and a large cake beautifully decorated with a rosary and statue of Our Lady of Fatima as well as a picture of the Divine Mercy.

A Long Journey Home

By: Rev. Johmer Faderanga

Traveling is part of responding to the mission entrusted to me when I embraced the call to serve our First Nations brothers and sisters in Fort Ware, Lake Babine, Takla Landing and Tsay Key.

It reminds me that, when we are sent out on a missionary journey, our Lord says, bring only a walking stick and sandals, bring only what is necessary for the mission. That is exactly what I experience every time I embark on my journey to these wonderful communities.

A missionary mandate entails walking through the narrative of the appeal of Pope Francis. He inspires us to search, to go to the margins of society, to bring the joy of the gospel and tell of the mercy and love of God for the First Nations people.

Travel to these far flung, remote communities is, at best, exciting and at the same time, challenging. The roads are primarily logging roads with only radio communication. It takes from eight to nine hours to get from Prince George to Fort Ware, roughly seven hours to go to Babine and about the same amount of time to get to Takla Landing.

No matter how far or how rugged the long and winding roads are, for me, embracing this missionary journey is not tiresome as long as it leads me home. I consider each

community as my home because each is so welcoming.

The people have warm and joyful hearts and they try their



very best to respond, to give their time, to be a community of faithful whenever the Sunday celebration of Mass is available to them.

Fort Ware

Fort Ware is primarily a young community with lots of children and young adults. There is an elder generation there as well. The Catholic Church shares the church building with an evangelical community with a pastor who comes from Mackenzie. It is a unique and enlightening experience for me, living the spirit of ecumenism, of mutual respect for another denomination.

The attendance at Sunday Mass is low with 10 people at best; 11 or 12 people exceed expectations. Most who participate are elders

who come with their grandchildren. However, the lingering importance of the sacrament of baptism has a strong hold and being Catholic and having their children baptised is paramount.

When I am in Fort Ware I have time to visit the sick and elderly and often give them the sacrament of anointing. I am also able to listen to their stories and share tea and laughter with them.

Funerals in this community are not only for family but are rather a community gathering for which I have developed a deep respect and admiration.

Tsay Keh

The church influence in this community is entirely evangelical protestant. Again we share the church building with the evangelical pastor and the growing evangelical influence is hard to ignore. There is no Catholic identity in the structure and design of the church and when I celebrate Mass I have to rearrange the sanctuary to make it suitable.

Given the circumstances, former pastors celebrated Mass in a house with the few remaining Catholic faithful. It is difficult to gather people and before the Mass it is necessary to go from house to house to let people know.

There were only five people at the first Mass I celebrated there. This does not cause me to lose

(Continued on page 10)

Creativity shines at Domano Renewal Centre

By: Irene Baker, CSJ

PRINCE GEORGE – The first ever Fall Tea and Craft Sale took place at the Domano Renewal Centre on Sunday, September 27th.

With two such gifted and creative women as Marica Cartwright (caterer for the Centre) and Vy Corbin, we knew we would have plenty of amazing things to feature!

The buildings were transformed into a Thanksgiving Building, a Halloween Building and a Christmas Building with crafts available for sale based on the theme of each building. The Bethany House dining room became a tea house and main gathering place.

Creativity shone again on another September day when the wonderful aroma of freshly baked cookies wafted from the Centre all day long. Caterer Marica Cartwright and her helper, Vy Corbin produced dozens and dozens of cookies, all destined for the September 20th Terry Fox Run.



Christmas crafts are displayed at the “Christmas Building” during the Domano Renewal Centre Fall Tea and Craft Sale.

Their efforts earned \$2,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. One anonymous donor paid \$5 a cookie for a total of \$500 worth, and delivered the cookies to the pediatric unit at the UHNBC.

Those lucky enough to sample Marica’s baking on more frequent occasions know

just what a treat these cookies are. They are often available during programs at the Centre, just another incentive to participate.

Thank you Marica and Vy for your generosity towards such a worthy cause.



Marica Cartwright and Vy Corbin pose with the cookies they baked as a fund raiser for the Terry Fox Foundation.


PHOTO BY: Irene Baker, CSJ

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Ten lessons from St. Teresa of Avila



By: Rev. Ron Sequeira, OCD

This article will focus on the Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church, St. Teresa of Avila, by highlighting 10 contributions she made as a model of holiness.

Jesus said in the Sermon of the Mount: "Be holy as your heavenly Father is holy."

Being holy is not conditional, wishful thinking nor is it something to which only a select group is called. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta challenges us with these words: "Holiness is not the privilege of the few, but the duty of all."

St. Teresa of Avila points us to Jesus and that holiness.

1. Prayer. One of the key hallmarks of the spiritual heights of St. Teresa is the importance of prayer. Even though she struggled for many years she teaches us this basic but indispensable spiritual truth: perseverance in prayer. In her words: "We must have a determined determination to never give up prayer." Prayer is to the soul what air is to the lungs. Healthy lungs need constant and pure air; healthy souls must be constantly breathing through prayer, the oxygen of the soul.
2. Definition of Prayer. St. Teresa gives one of the classical definitions of prayer: "Prayer is nothing more than spending a long time alone with the one I know loves me." Jesus called the Apostles friends; so are you called to be a friend with Jesus.

3. Love for Jesus. St. Teresa said that she found many graces by meditating upon the humanity of Jesus. Spending time with Jesus is a sure path to growth in prayer. In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola insists we beg for this grace.
4. Love for Jesus in his sufferings. It seems a common denominator of many saints, the call to contemplate the love of Jesus through his passion: Padre Pio, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Faustina. St. Teresa had a mystical experience of "Ecce Homo"; she saw Jesus with his crowned head and this moved her to a greater love for Jesus.
5. Holy Spirit, the Divine teacher in prayer. Once when struggling with prayer the saint talked to a Jesuit priest for advice on overcoming her struggle. He insisted she pray to the Holy Spirit and this changed her life. St. Teresa's prayer life improved markedly. St. Paul reiterates the same point: "In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groaning."
6. Spiritual Direction. To attain constant growth in the spiritual life and avoid spiritual blindness we must have some form of spiritual direction. St. Teresa had several spiritual directors: St. John of the Cross (Carmelite), St. Francis Borgia (Jesuit), St. Peter of Alcantara (Franciscan) and Jerome Gracian, a well-known Dominican theologian. True, all of us cannot have three canonized saints and a brilliant Dominican theologian to guide us, but we must seek spiritual direction. St. John of the Cross put it bluntly: "He who has himself as guide has an idiot as a disciple."
7. Conversion and reform. This concept was a major highlight in the life of St. Teresa. With St. John of the Cross, she was the primary instrument that God chose to reform the Carmelite Order. Keenly aware that to convert others we must start with ourselves, she worked on this throughout her whole life. Jesus' first words in preaching were: "Be converted because the Kingdom of

God is at hand." May we constantly strive for a deeper conversion of heart through the intercession of St. Teresa of Avila.

8. Spiritual writing. Without doubt, one of St. Teresa's major contributions is her writings. A basic theme is the importance of striving to grow deeper in prayer until one arrives at mystical union with Jesus. Anyone who takes prayer seriously should spend time reading St. Teresa's writings: "Her life", "The Way of Perfection", "The Interior Castle", "Foundations". In addition to these, she also wrote many inspiring letters.
9. The Cross as the bridge to heaven. Jesus said: "Anyone who wants to be my follower must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Another common denominator in the lives of saints is the reality of the cross. St. Louis de Montfort would bless his friends by saying: "May God bless you and give you many small crosses." St. Teresa lived with a constant friend, the cross of Jesus. Her health was always very fragile and in carrying out the reform of the Carmelite order she suffered constant attacks. Instead of becoming discouraged and losing heart, she joyfully trusted in the Lord all the more.
10. Our Lady and St. Joseph. As is common in the lives of the many saints, St. Teresa of Avila loved the Blessed Virgin Mary. The title of her specific Marian devotion was Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She also cultivated a tender and filial love to St. Joseph. She attributed her recovery from a sickness that almost ended her life to his powerful intercession. Every new convent she established she gave the name of San Jose, St. Joseph.

May the great woman Doctor of the Church, the Doctor of prayer, St. Teresa of Avila be a constant inspiration for us in our own spiritual pilgrimage. May she encourage everyone to pray more and with greater depth, arrive at a deeper conversion of heart and love Jesus, the very center and well-spring of our life.

Fatima statue visits Diocese

Submitted by Notre Dame Parish

DAWSON CREEK – The month of May, the month of Our Blessed Mother, was enhanced at Notre Dame Parish by the visit of the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 7th the parish welcomed the statue and its custodian from the World Apostolate of Fatima, Patrick Sabat.

With the permission of Most Rev. Stephen Jensen, Mr. Sabat was invited to tour the statue in the Diocese of Prince George during the month of May. His visit to Dawson Creek took place during the first week of his tour of northern parishes.

The evening began with parishioners gathering for the recitation of the



The International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is pictured here at Notre Dame Parish in Dawson Creek.

rosary, followed by the celebration of Mass with Father Louis Kwena, pastor of Notre Dame Parish.

Mr. Sabat gave an enlightening presentation on the purpose of this visit which, he said, is to bring the presence of Mary and the Fatima message to people, to offer information for further study and to provide assistance in promoting ongoing activity. He also explained the Peace Plan from Heaven.

Following Mass people spent quiet time in prayer before the statue of Mary; those who wished placed petitions in a box beside the statue.

At the reception that followed, Mr. Sabat made himself available for further explanation of the visit and the International Pilgrim Statue.

Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial bursary Program Underway

The annual British Columbia and Yukon Bursary program is known as the Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program. The 2016 program is now receiving applications. Once again we are privileged to offer thirty bursaries of \$500.00 each to Catholic students across the Province of British Columbia. These bursaries are made available on a one-time only basis to young practicing Catholic students who are in their second or subsequent year of post secondary education at a recognized institute of higher learning within the Province. Applications are accepted from January 1, 2016 until June 30, 2016 with the bursaries being awarded in the fall. The Terms of Reference can be found on our web site at:

http://kofcbc.org/files/2013/08/Bursary_2015-16.pdf

Requests for application should be addressed to:

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 Attn: Koom Ming Lau, Bursaries Chairman
 2456 E. 20th Ave
 Vancouver, BC V2M 2T6



We would like to once again congratulate the many recipients over the past years and look forward to the opportunity to assist many more young people in the advancement of their education.

Contemplate the mystery of mercy

By: Rev. Jack Michalchuk



PRINCE GEORGE - The topic of this year's Diocesan Formation Days was a response to the call of Pope Francis for an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, beginning December 8, 2015.

The days focused on the question: "How can we encounter the mercy of Jesus more deeply and share it in our homes, schools and parishes?"

At each of the four locations where the Formation Days took place – Burns Lake, Terrace, Dawson Creek and Prince George - Rev. Basil Burns taught about mercy and the practical ways it can transform our lives.

The format was a variation of past Diocesan Study Days. Normally in late September or early

October priests, pastoral workers, principals and teacher travel to Prince George. This year the Bishop along with the Vicar General, a team from the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator and the Superintendent of Catholic Independent Schools traveled to the four deaneries.

Over the course of the four presentations more than 400 were in attendance. As a result of

the overwhelmingly positive response, this new regional format will be used every second year, alternating with the Assembly in which everyone gathers in the city of Prince George.

These days helped prepare us for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In Pope Francis' words, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of

joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

"Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life.

"Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."



Attention: Former Frontier Apostles

The Frontier Apostolate was established in the Diocese of Prince George in 1956 by Bishop John Fergus O’Grady, OMI. A group of former Frontier Apostolate volunteers are planning a reunion to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the program.



Some early planning details for the August 2016 reunion are:

DATE: August 19-21, 2016

LOCATION: Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Prince George

EVENTS: **Friday Evening**—Welcome Gathering

Saturday Afternoon & Evening—Mass, Dinner & Entertainment: International Night.

Sunday —Closing Mass

Limited accommodation is available at the Domano Renewal Centre

CONTACT PERSONS: Terry Murphy - Sacred Heart Parish, Prince George

Mary Jane Wirges - Las Vegas, USA

To receive more details as they arise in the new year, please send your email address to

PGFAreunion@gmail.com.

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A Long Journey Home – continued

(Continued from page 4)

heart but rather awakens a sense of urgency to restore the foothold of Catholic identity that was once in Tsay Keh. This is a long-term plan for the people, a prayer and enduring hope.

Takla Landing

Takla is a vibrant community of young people with a number of elders as well. I feel a warm response from them. There is a slight but steady increase in attendance at Mass; about 12-15 elders, mothers, children and a few men participate.

I try my best to be present whenever there are community gatherings such as feasts. Visiting the sick and elderly is an important part of my ministry here as well.

Fort Babine

These are exciting times for the community of faithful in Fort Babine. They have a big, new church building which is an



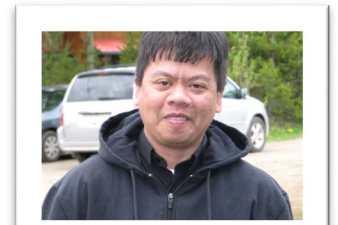
imposing structure at the very heart of the community. It is a constant reminder of their Catholic heritage that is embraced by the people of Fort Babine.

The celebration of Sunday Mass, as expected, includes 8 to 10 people at best. Most of them are elderly.

Conclusion

A short-term plan for each community includes catechesis for children and Bible study for adults. I will encourage visitation of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday. These are but a few avenues to enrich the faithful and respond to their spiritual needs.

It is a privilege to serve these four unique communities and both a great honor and responsibility. Going to the margins of society to proclaim God's grace and mercy is the mission of our time.



After serving St. Mary's Parish in New Hazelton for four years, in August Father Johmer Faderanga began ministry at St. Therese's Mission, serving Fort Ware, Lake Babine, Takla Landing and Tsay Key.



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Parish prays in remembrance

A new tradition at St. Mary's Parish was introduced by Father Andrew Takach, OMI while he was in New Hazelton to provide replacement ministry while Father Miguel Rabino was away. Inspired by Father Andy, Gabriel Lazzarotto and Rod Spooner set up the Remembrance Day symbolism pictured here. Additional prayers were prayed at Mass for lives lost and for those injured fighting for peace.

PHOTO BY: Suzie Spooner



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Youth News

By: Eunice Hii

PRINCE GEORGE – In response to a request from youth ministry workers across the Diocese, this past fall the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry provided an opportunity for youth ministry training to come to them.

Clay Imoo, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Vancouver joined Eunice Hii, his counterpart in this Diocese, on a 5-days trip across our Diocese. Together they provided youth ministry training workshops in Terrace, Prince George and Dawson Creek.



Parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish in Terrace gathered for an evening to discuss how to foster effective youth ministry in their parish

Young adults stand victorious atop Mount Pope



Participants were reminded that building a vibrant youth ministry in a parish demands the support of the whole community. As the old adage says, “It takes a whole village to raise a child.”

Clay was also able to instill in youth workers key tips on how to build and sustain leaders in youth ministry.

Earlier in the season Fall 2015 kicked off with a weekend retreat for young adults at Camp Morice.

During the retreat, guest speaker Eric Chow, Western Director for Catholic Christian Outreach focused his talks on themes of encountering God as Father. Twenty-five young adults rose to the challenge of climbing Mount Pope and basked in the beauty of God’s creation at the top of the mountain.

Plans for World Youth Day 2016 are well underway. In October, Prince George pilgrims gathered for the first time to start preparations for this journey.

Fifteen brave pilgrims from across the Diocese will travel to Krakow, Poland next summer with Bishop Stephen Jensen. They join some 400 others from the Archdiocese of Vancouver for WYD 2016, July 19–August 3.



Two prospective WYD 2016 pilgrims, Sarah Irving & Boyd Marchand, sold poinsettias after Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish to raise funds for the event.

Parish celebrates feast day

By: Susan Borges

KITIMAT - When you have two good organizing and planning meetings with a chalkboard full of ideas and inspiration plus eager volunteer leaders, you will celebrate your feast day well.

And so it came to be:

- The liturgies were vibrant with engaging and joyful music
- We welcomed the Book of the Gospels for the first time
- St. Anthony’s School students and teachers prepared a reflection to engage our senses and hearts for the proclamation of the Gospel that was to come
- Prayers of the faithful were prayed in some of the various languages of the community - French, Filipino, Portuguese, Hindi, Italian and English - a testament to the diversity of the Body of Christ



Knights of Columbus, pictured here with Father Babji Merugu, sac, provided an honor guard for the Mass celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, patron of the parish in Kitimat. Knights from Terrace and Prince Rupert joined the local council for the celebration.

PHOTO BY: Max Patzelt

In true Christ the King Parish fashion, a wonderful homemade lunch was prepared. Over 250 people

gathered in the church hall to enjoy the festivities. After lunch, parishioners were treated to the Filipino community dancers, plus one dancing priest, the Ukulele ladies and homemade desserts that parishioners were invited to bring.

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe closed with candlelight Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

Our feast day was a time to offer thanksgiving and praise to our Lord for the many blessings received today for the many ways God continues to form Christ the King Parish into “a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace”.

Fall fayre and car boot sale

By: Susana Borges

KITIMAT – The best part of the first ever community fall fayre hosted by Christ the King Parish on September 19, 2015, is that it raised \$5,456 for Development and Peace-Syrian Refugees.

The organizers were a bit worried about the weather as it had rained buckets the previous days. But by the time the doors were opened, the clouds had cleared away making room for a sunny afternoon.

“Fayre” comes from the British word for “fair” and that wasn’t the only touch from England. The parish also welcomed “car boot” vendors, a first for the Kitimat community.

The term refers to vendors selling, for a small fee, direct from the trunk of their car. Car boot sales are held all through the summer in England, in fields, parking lots, all central venues where folks meet to set up their “stuff”, have a picnic, meet a few friends, raise money and generally enjoy the ambiance.

Along with the car boot vendors, there was a car wash hosted by St. Anthony’s School Senior Academy, a white elephant table, BBQ, Kid’s Corner featuring “Flopsy the Bunny Gameshow”, face painting, bake sale, bottle collection, a raffle and buskers.

There was something for people of all ages.

The community fall fayre while hosted by the parish, was truly a Kitimat community event with community participation and spirit.

School roars with panther pride



One of the Sacred Heart Panthers who ran in the cross country meet hosted by the Immaculate Conception

From the words generated by the families, each class voted on what they thought expressed Panther Pride and presented that to the student body.

A ROAR Leadership Team was formed comprised of selected students from each classroom together with the parish priest, Father Melvin Pinto, principal Rebecca Gilbert and teacher Jenna Johnston.



Sacred Heart School Panthers show their strength as the Grade 7 students pose before their Terry Fox walk on

By: Rebecca Gilbert

PRINCE GEORGE - Sacred Heart School Panthers make history as they ROAR their way forward. "I say panther, you say pride: Panther Pride!"

Grade 4/5 teacher, Jenna Johnston is leading the school community into new territories, envisioning the spirit of the school through the acronym, ROAR.

Students were invited to find words to go with the acronym which would best represent Sacred Heart School Panther Pride. Surveys went home and families worked together on the project.

After three weeks of deliberation, the Team selected an acronym that will live long and represent the spirit of

Sacred Heart School for generations to come.

Students, staff and members of the community shared a momentous occasion as the 10 foot by 4 foot banner was unveiled at a school pep rally.

Students celebrated the four words that symbolize the vibrant, life giving, learning community that encapsulates their school energy:

- Respect
- Optimism
- Acceptance
- Rejoice.

The ROAR initiative is a culmination of the Diocesan Learning and Innovation grant and Ms. Johnston's Master thesis project.



Celebrating Sacred Heart School panther spirit: Respect, Optimism, Acceptance, Rejoice.

Primary Panthers rise to environmental challenge

By: Nuala Power

PRINCE GEORGE - Each October the REAPS organization challenges Prince George classrooms to reduce waste by recycling, reducing, composting or reusing items that might otherwise go to the landfill. This challenge is part of Waste Reduction Week in BC. At Sacred Heart School, three classrooms accepted the challenge this year.

Primary students in Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 all worked very hard to reduce their garbage bin contents during the week of October 19-23, 2015. Each day the garbage bins were emptied and the contents sorted and recorded and the total waste was weighed.

The Kindergarten students were thrilled to be awarded the prize. For reducing their garbage to a grand total of 52 grams for the week their class received \$200.

Our littlest students decided to share their prize with the other Panther participants who also worked very hard to do their bit for the environment. All three grades celebrated by attending the Vanderhoof Children's Theatre production of "Peter Pan Jr." at the Prince George Playhouse in early December.

St. Francis would be proud!

Many hands make for a fun day



Very Rev. Rector Tolentino donned "civies" to take up the ironing station on the curtain hemming assembly line.

By: Lynn Monteith

PRINCE GEORGE – The need for new curtains at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre became an opportunity for staff to get together for a concrete experience of community and team work.

On hand that sunny November day was Father Rectorino Tolentino, Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin, Carla Wolitski, Martha Primus, Catherine Cosh, Teresa Phillippe (with very helpful grandchild Austin), Armand Sadiwa and Lynn Monteith.

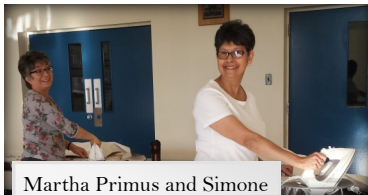
Retired staff member Simone Kwast, along with staff husbands Allan Primus and Glen Monteith, were also



Carla Wolitski (holding one of the curtains) and Lynn Monteith (at a sewing machine) sewed all the hems on the new curtains.

part of the work crew.

Badly deteriorating curtains at the Pastoral Centre precipitated the change in window dressing. Earlier there was an attempt to clean them but the test curtains simply fell apart.



Martha Primus and Simone Kwast ironed the curtain hems in place in preparation for sewing.

In a cost saving measure, rather than purchasing professional services, curtains were bought locally. Unfortunately before the old curtains could be removed and the new ones hung, they needed to be shortened to fit the windows. An assembly line was set up with different people measuring and marking, cutting, ironing and sewing. Another crew removed the old curtains and rods, installed new rods and hung the freshly ironed curtains.

The day chosen for the work bee was Remembrance Day so at 11 o'clock all work stopped for a minute of silence.

While everyone worked hard, we also shared stories, laughter and lunch.

At the end of the day much had been accomplished. There are still curtains left to hang and some clean up to finish. The metal curtain hooks and rods were recycled as were the curtains themselves.

PHOTOS BY: Mary-Anne Lewis Jamin



May the joy of this Christmas season bring peace to you and your families.

Prayerful blessings from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre Staff

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

John 3:16



Merry Christmas To You and Your Family

From The BC & Yukon Agency and State Board



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