

MULTICULTURAL DAY CELEBRATION IN ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT BONIFACE,

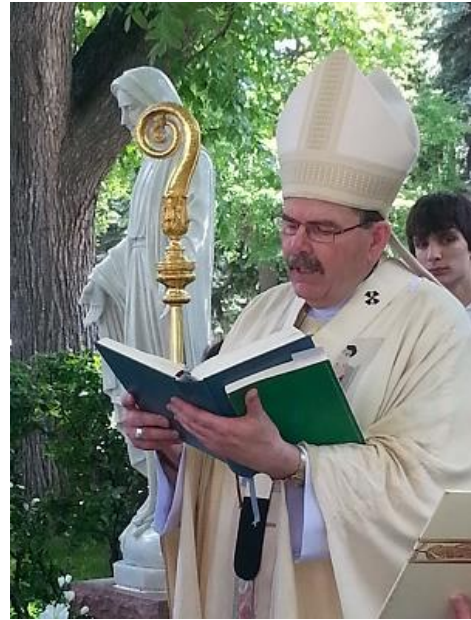
JULY 1ST 2017

On July 1st 1867, the province of Canada was joined with two other British colonies of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia through the process of confederation, turning Canada a self-governing entity. Since then, July 1 every year, is celebrated as Canada Day by the citizens, immigrants, refugees, and visitors in Canada. It is a joyful day for everyone in Canada.

These past three years, the Archdiocese of St Boniface in the Province of Manitoba decided to take on a new dimension of celebrating the day, giving birth to what is called "Multicultural day celebration". This is through the initiative and instrumentality of the Archbishop of the archdiocese, Mgr. Albert LeGatt and Sr. Anne Adoukpe, FMM.

My experience these past three years is that many people in the archdiocese look forward to this joyful occasion at the archdiocesan cathedral. What makes it more unique is that every culture is given equal right of participation during the celebration which usually begins with the celebration of the holy Eucharist. People or communities from different cultures are given equal opportunity to express themselves by speaking, praying, singing, and dancing in their original home country language and culture during the celebration. There is also the joy of sharing food prepared by different country cultures. The faces of everyone in the cathedral on this day are always a joyful one.

This year's 2017 celebration was a unique one because at the end of the first part of the celebration, which is the holy mass, the archbishop said a powerful prayer consecrating our country, Canada, to our blessed mother Mary. This was followed by a solemn procession of all the faithful to the statue of our Lady in front of the archbishop's house. This statue, the archbishop explained, was donated by some catholic faithful



in the archdiocese showing their gratitude to our mother Mary for what she has been to them. Here, the Archbishop blessed the statue, again said a prayer consecrating the whole of Canada to our mother Mary, after which the consecration prayer was prayed in French and English by all the faithful present using the prayer card that has been prepared by the archdiocese. It is worth noting that no one in Canada is left out in this consecration as all the flags of the different provinces of Canada as well as the flag of Canada is represented and placed in front of the statue of our Lady.

Another uniqueness of this year's celebration is that the second part of the celebration (the entertainment part) ended with the release of pigeons, signifying peace, love and oneness among the different cultural groups in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, the province of Manitoba and Canada as a whole.

Thank you once again the organizers and volunteers of this beautiful day celebration especially Sr. Anne, FMM. We appreciate your initiative, talents, wisdom, energy and the efforts you put into making the day a happy one for others. To God is all the Glory, who is the beginning and finisher of everything.

Sr. Jacinta Nwachukwu, HHCJ

