

“The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (Jn 10:11)

July 3, 2017

By Denise Walley



Monday, July 3 was a truly blessed day for the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface as two young men from parishes within the Archdiocese, Joshua Andrew Gundrum and Vincent Paul Champagne Lusty, consecrated their lives to God to bring His love and sanctification to people through their Ordination to the Sacred Presbyterate. Three bishops, Archbishop Albert LeGatt, Bishop Noël Delaquis and Bishop Albert Thevenot, approximately 80 priests and deacons from several dioceses in western Canada, family and friends of the candidates, and many of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface celebrated God’s goodness in a very joy-filled atmosphere!

For many, this ceremony filled with powerful and sacred moments, was a new and very moving experience. This celebration was a glimpse into the sacred priesthood, exemplified in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, “who came not to be served but to serve, and to seek out and rescue those who are lost”. These young men have devoted most of the past decade to preparation and formation for this special time of consecration. To hear the call of God, and to respond with the generosity of these young men, is exemplary. Their joy and humility radiates the love of Christ.



Some particularly moving moments included the prostration of the soon-to-be priests in humility as a sign of complete surrender to total dependence on God and the prayers of the people. We could feel the presence of the Lord during the solemn imposition of Archbishop LeGatt’s hands on Joshua and Vincent in profound sacredness invoking the Holy Spirit as has been done since the time of the Apostles.

All priests present, in a show of the unity and brotherhood among the priesthood, laid hands on each of the newly ordained priests. The investiture of stole and chasuble by priests involved in the formation of Father Josh and Father Vincent during their time of internship pointed to spiritual fathers caring for their sons.





A poignant moment occurred with the presentation of the chalice to Father Joshua and Father Vincent. It was pointed out to us by Archbishop LeGatt that the chalice given to Father Vincent has been passed on by Father Robert Baxter who wished his chalice to be passed on to the next generation!

Many of us have witnessed the anointing with Sacred Chrism at Baptism and Confirmation. To witness the anointing of the hands of the two newly ordained priests by their Archbishop with the Sacred Chrism was very profound, marking the setting apart of these young men for a special mission, that of "sanctifying the Christian people and offering sacrifice to God".



The celebration continued with fellowship in the ruins of the Cathedral. What a beautiful time of sharing what we just experienced with our brothers and sisters in Christ! All were invited to greet Father Josh and Father Vincent and receive a blessing.

The ordination of a priest is a solemn and joyful occasion that offers the faithful a great opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of the nature of the priesthood. The symbolic actions of the Rite of Ordination draw us deeper into the heart of Jesus and the mystery of the Cross. This celebration was a wonderful opportunity to experience the wider Church, the Universal Church. It was a privilege to attend this solemn and celebratory occasion for our Church that gives us hope for the future! Congratulations to Father Josh Gundrum and Father Vincent Lusty as they look forward to serving the people of God. We pray that they truly understand what they do, imitate what they celebrate and conform their priestly lives to the mystery of the Lord's cross.

