



*An homage to a Legacy of Care,
Courage and Compassion*

by Germaine Cross

There were over 250 people at the St. Boniface Cathedral who came to celebrate the *Feast for Consecrated Life* on Friday, February 2, 2018. Those gathered came to give thanks and pray with the numerous religious men and women who have helped make our church, and our society, what it is today.

The Archdiocese of St. Boniface commemorated this Feast to remember and honour the religious priests, brothers and sisters who have and are serving our diocese over the past 200 years.



Holy Mass began with the aboriginal Woman's Honour Song, a fitting way to acknowledge that it was our aboriginal brothers and sisters who inhabited this land,



before the missionaries arrived. They, along with the volunteer Diocesan Choir, the choir from St. Philip Minh parish, and the Sisters of the Handmaid of the Child Jesus led us in music and song throughout Mass.

Our praise and celebration flowed easily and comfortably with Sr. Jeannine Vermette, SNJM coordinating the evening.

The homily was a particularly moving time during which we were shown the magnitude of the presence that our religious congregations have been to us. Each of the serving religious congregations selected one person to speak on their behalf. The appointed person spoke the name of their congregation and its particular



Renewal of Vows - 1
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Gracious God, thank you for the gift of life and the call to serve you in religious life.
Thank you for the Congregation to which I belong, and the Sisters/Brothers with whom I live your call.

charism.

Simultaneously, there was a PowerPoint that listed each town or city served by the congregation.

Everyone in attendance had the privilege of hearing the names of these places like a litany of prayer – what a profound moment this was! As each

community was named, its picture was highlighted on a map of Manitoba on the PowerPoint presentation. There were sixteen religious congregations present which helped this part of the celebration become a deep time to reflect and once again to give thanks for each religious' sacrificial, generous service and dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.



The Congregation of the Sisters of the Handmaid of the Child Jesus brought up the gifts at the time of Offertory. They did so, using their traditional wooden musical instruments, singing in their native language, dancing and processing in a traditional dance. Once again, this was a time for each of us to reflect on the call of Jesus in our own lives, and what it is that we can offer to Him in return.



Following Mass, a delightful reception was held in the newly renovated St. Boniface Cathedral basement. During the reception, one could view the poster boards of the [Legacy Project](#) by the [Catholic Health Association of Manitoba](#) (CHAM) This display was a fascinating, informative and a very moving testimony to the invaluable contribution of the religious men and women of our diocese.