

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 4 #4 – February 2014

## Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace



"In this, my first Message for the World Day of Peace, I wish to offer to everyone, individuals and peoples, my best wishes for a life filled with joy and hope. In the heart of every man and woman is the desire for a full life, including that irrepressible longing for fraternity which draws us to fellowship with others and enables us to see them not as enemies or rivals, but as brothers and sisters to be accepted and embraced." Message of His Holiness Francis for the celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

To read the rest of this message from the Holy Father, as well as any other of his messages or writings, visit <http://www.vatican.va> Click on the language of your choice, then click on 'Messages'.

## Rise Up

December 28 to January 1, during the Christmas holidays, I participated in the national *Rise Up* conference, in Ottawa. This conference, organized by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) (<http://cco.ca>), is held annually in cities across Canada. It was an incredible experience to see about 850 young people between 18 and 35 be so enthusiastic and engaged in their faith.

I really liked when we signed a banner, to be sent to Pope Francis, promising to talk to others about our faith, to be missionaries. Actually, most speakers are missionaries who travel across Canada and the world proclaiming the Good News.

My favourite session was *Emotional Virtue*, with Sr. Helena Burns, FSP. She told us that the stable where Jesus was born represents our heart because a stable is dirty and messy, just like our heart. That is why Jesus came in each of us, he chose us and that is the Good News. This was a very encouraging and inspiring message.

I loved that each day, morning and evening, a music group from CCO sang and played Christian songs. The words were projected on the wall so we could all sing and pray together. It was the best way to start and end our days. It is also how we rang in the New Year 2014, so that made it very special. I can't wait to go back to *Rise Up* next year in Calgary.

**Andrée Labossière, Cathedral Parish**

## Our Archbishop's Message



Dear friends,

As you receive this newsletter on or near February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we are marking, along with the universal Church, the World Day for Consecrated Life. It is the specific moment in the year where we acknowledge and give thanks for the gift of religious life in our Church as lived out by religious sisters, brothers and priests as well as by monks, consecrated virgins and consecrated hermits. And yes, we have all of these within our archdiocese!

Having taken vows or promises, they have committed themselves to living out in a particular way their baptismal call and this especially in the manner they live

out the evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience and chastity according to either the charism of their religious congregation or their particular call.

Even while decreasing in number and advancing in age, the religious continue to be a very important part of our diocese. They enrich our Church in so many ways: by their prayer for us all and for the pastoral and spiritual renewal of the diocese, by their continued involvement in works of charity and justice especially for the poor, the downtrodden and oppressed (e.g. people caught up in human trafficking), by their generous continued involvement in (and financial

support of) diocesan and parish initiatives of pastoral life.

Therefore, I urge you to reach out to any religious men or women you know, nuns and priests, and thank them for their witness. Continue praying for new vocations to consecrated life, and for all vocations.

Perhaps inquire about beginning the *Parish Vocation Cross Project* in your parish as a concrete way to involve your families, each one week at a time, to pray for all vocations, including vocations to religious life.

**† Archbishop Albert**

## ARISE: Season Four

Last November, over 2000 children, youth and adults concluded Season Three of *ARISE Together in Christ*. It was centered on the life of social justice in the universal Church and how to respond to the many needs in our parishes and communities. Many gestures or initiatives came about to offer specific supports to those on the margins of our society.

Everyone, new or previous attendee, is invited to join the small faith sharing communities for Season Four of *ARISE*. The six-weeks *New Heart, New Spirit* begins the week of March 3 and takes place during Lent. Its central focus is forgiveness and reconciliation, both of which lead to new life.

- Week 1 is a journey with Christ when he is led into the wilderness (Lk 4.1-13); it is an invitation to take a look at life choices in a new light, in the light of Christ.



- Week 2 considers "The Transforming Power of Forgiveness," and how to come to forgive.
- Week 3 shows how such actions help to build anew, to renew ... lives, parishes, communities.
- In week 4, participants consider that by their Baptism they are

called to live as children of light (Eph 5.7-14), going from darkness to become children of light in the Lord.

- Week 5 is a consideration of how "we are being unbound", to be able to say "Once I was in a tomb, but forgiveness has set me free."
- These encounters conclude in Week 6 to consider how to become "new creation" with a new heart and a new spirit.

Join a small faith sharing community during Lent and ask yourself: Can I come to forgive? Can I see by the light of faith? Can I arise to new life, to a new creation?

**Julien Fradette, Coordinator,  
*ARISE Together in Christ***

## Diocesan Gathering Keynote Speaker



The committee for the Diocesan Gathering, to be held May 30 and 31, is pleased to announce that **Marguerite 'Maggy' Barankitse** will be the keynote speaker. She is a Burundian woman who was nearly killed in a machete attack by Hutus in 1993.

Since the civil war in her country, she has looked after, sheltered and fed nearly 20,000

Hutu and Tutsi children in shelters she set up, including 'Maison Shalom', celebrating its 20 years.

She was honoured with many prizes and distinctions around the world for her indefatigable work.

For more information check out <http://www.maisonshalom.org/en>

## Prison Ministry

"I was...in prison and you visited me." Mt 25:36

Prison Ministry is a tri-diocesan initiative between the Archdioceses of Saint Boniface, Winnipeg and the Ukrainian Archeparchy. Besides diocesan representatives and Catholic prison chaplains, its membership includes people with prison and offender-related experience as well as potential employers and community-based release facilities.

The goals of the committee are to develop and sustain prison ministry and to promote restorative justice in a manner consistent with the

Church's teachings and the need for a safe, supportive and accountable environment for those upon release.

One of the most important elements in a successful release and reintegration of offenders is the result of their turning to God at some point in their incarceration. That opportunity can only come from people of faith who are willing to support offenders in prison and in helping each and every one of them to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency when they are released in society.

The task of this committee is sometimes made challenging because of a mistaken public perception that serving time in prison is restorative justice in itself, or that retribution is more effective than mediation. Restoration and a difficult to overcome instinctive hesitation among the public prevents people from engaging in helping those who have gone to prison.

**William Grossman**  
*Representative for Saint Boniface*

## Adoration. Praise. Worship. Community. ILLUMINATE



Once a month, on a Friday, Illuminate holds a praise and worship evening, alternating in parishes of the Archdioceses of Saint Boniface and Winnipeg.

This group of five musicians and singers came together in February 2013 because it 'saw a need to cater

to a younger generation', as founding member Rachel Dupuis puts it. Fortunately, they found that people of all ages attended their events. As they move from parish to parish, they find that some participants follow them from month to month, thus creating the 'community building' that they hoped for.

An evening with the group opens with a speaker from the Catholic community who shares a personal faith experience. The Blessed Sacrament is present while music is played through the evening. Priests

are available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Symbolic actions are often included; participants might pick up a rough rock as they enter the church to later exchange it for a smooth one after reconciliation. The event is followed by a time of fellowship with coffee and dainties.

The group has had a presence at other events in the diocese. Those who attended the Diocesan Gathering last June 1<sup>st</sup> heard them in the Cathedral at the beginning of the day of celebration.

For more information on the group, to book an evening or for a calendar of upcoming events, visit their Website at <http://illuminatemb.com>



## Christian Stewardship: **TIME, TALENT, TREASURE**

Christian stewardship is one of five sectors identified by the Archdiocese for the implementation of the Action Plan, in the next five years.

“Christian stewardship is a form of spirituality ... anchored ... especially in the life of Jesus ... Everything we have and who we are comes from God.

We are managers and stewards, not owners, of everything that God has entrusted to us. We must welcome all these gifts with gratitude, use them wisely, share them with a sense of justice and love, and make them fruitful before God so that His kingdom may come.” (Action Plan, 2013-18)

Stewardship is three-fold: Time, Talents, Treasure.

### **TIME . . .**

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“Giving of **time** involves being with God in prayer and worship, sharing our love with family and friends, and volunteering our time in church, diocesan and community activities that help others and promote justice.”

I have a deep desire to share my faith and I know there is a great need to educate and re-educate people in the Catholic faith. Therefore, I joined the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Committee.

Meanwhile, the Gathering was being set up, as a public celebration of our Catholic faith. It is with this evangelical perspective that I became involved to ensure that the Gathering became a family celebration where faith is not only talked about but also lived.

**Donald Boulet,**  
**Adult Faith Formation**

From liturgical ministries, RCIA, pastoral council, catechism and more, I have lent a hand in many ways in our faith community. When I was approached to participate in a committee for PPCs, I wondered what I could possibly contribute. I decided to try anyway. The rewards have been wonderful.

**Bernie Quennelle, PPC**

### **TALENTS . . .**

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“Sharing our **talents** arises from the fact that God has given each of us the ability and gifts to do certain things well and we are to develop those talents for the good of others. Many individuals commit a certain number of hours each week to prayer and charitable activities.”

For many years now, I have been interpreting in my community SNJM and it seems to be appreciated. I like to serve this way because I can meet interesting people. I always learn something when I volunteer, be it in interpreting or in visiting people at Actionmarguerite (Taché Centre). It is a gift to myself!

**Sister Jeannine Vermette, SNJM**

*Note: Interpretation is the simultaneous spoken translation of what a person says as he/she talks.*

In June 2010, I accepted to head the Translation Services, as a volunteer. In the past, I very often translated in French for various non-profit organizations. The Diocese was asking me to put my abilities and my experiences to good use for the service of the Church.

The Church is vital to me and this seemed like a call from the Holy Spirit. Since then, I have been blessed, for working with people of great spiritual and human depth nourishes my religious and inner life.

**Gilberte Proteau, Translation Services**

### **TREASURE . . .**

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“Giving of our **treasure** is equally as important as giving of our time and talent. Since God does not hold back on any area of His giving, we are not to hold back on any area of our giving, especially in the crucial area of supporting our parish, diocese, Catholic schools and community organizations.”

**Think about it!**

**Come forward!**

**You are needed!**

Requests for volunteers, at the Diocesan level or for organizations, are often listed in the Weekly News ([www.archsaintboniface.ca/english](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/english)). Currently, the following committees are in urgent need of volunteers: the Diocesan Committee for Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC), the Translation Services, the Diocesan Gathering and the Interpretation Services.

One of the challenges we now face is “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few”.

We all have God-given talents that can be multiplied tenfold as we work together. “Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers in his fields”. (Mt 9:37-38)

**Bernie Quennelle, PPC**

\*The text for **Time, Talent, Treasure** is adapted from the *Stewardship Manual*. Diocese of Charlotte, NC. 2010