

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 4 #7 – June 2014



## Diocesan Gathering

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**"I don't come as a  
speaker...  
...but as a witness  
of Christ."**

Participants of the Diocesan Gathering listened to an authentic witness of "the love and the mercy of God". Having been in the presence of Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse, we understand more easily why she sees herself as a witness of Christ rather than a speaker. Not only is her story captivating but her testimony is also believable.

Indeed, although the atrocity of a fratricidal war did not leave her untouched, Maggy feels no hatred in her heart. She even asserts that we must love the enemy. She declares: "Forgiveness has triumphed".

Maggy often repeated that we are first and foremost children of God, even before belonging to an ethnic group! God is God. We are all princes and princesses of a same noble family.

Throughout all the workshops offered at the Gathering, we can see that the same Holy Spirit is at work, regardless of culture. It is the same message. The same graces are given to help us live difficult situations. Wilma Derksen, mother of a young murdered girl, asserts like Maggy, that we must forgive. According to her, it is "love first and justice next".

What a wonderful day we had. Archbishop Albert summarized well the experience of all when he stated: "What a beautiful atmosphere."

To learn more about Maggy, read the following:

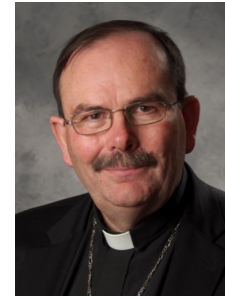
- Martin, Christel. *La haine n'aura pas le dernier mot*. Albin Michel (2005)
- Hoskins, Judith. *Hummingbird, Why Am I Here?* CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (2012)

**Donald Boulet  
Co-President,  
Gathering Committee**

*More photos of the Gathering on pages 4 & 5*

## Our Archbishop's Message

### THE CHURCH - AN ASSEMBLY



Dear friends,

In Greek, the word “*eklesia*” means an assembly of people. The first Christians took this secular word to express their lived reality as the disciples of Christ. In Act 2, 42, we read that the disciples: “*devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers*”.

As I write these words, we have just experienced, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, a gathering of 275 people (most of the priests of the diocese and a very large number of laity from throughout the diocese), to learn and

discuss about elements of growth in Churches and about parish leadership teams.

Then on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Diocesan Gala Banquet raised funds for the renovation of the Cathedral and the formation of seminarians. Over 300 people had a most enjoyable evening.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Diocesan Gathering. And far on the horizon we can see the year 2018 approaching, with many, many gatherings, events and

celebrations to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Fr. Norbert Provencher (later Bishop Provencher) and the beginning of the Church in Western and Northern Canada.

Like the first Christians, let us continue to assemble often, both to break bread and to live out fellowship.

**† Archbishop Albert**

## The Power House

OK. No one asked me for this article. But I’ve got to let it out.

My name is Fr. Rhéal and I am a missionary up North. I had a very hectic day at my last shopping expedition for the Missions, before winter roads melted down. An idea came to me as I went to bed the night before. “Tomorrow, when you get up, go for Adoration”.

Well, at any previous times, I would get from Winnipeg to Bloodvein at 1:30 am and to Little Grand Rapids at 3:00 am. However, it’s not safe to drive during the day, there have been some head-on collisions. I was very tired and decided to go for

one hour of adoration. Then I had a coffee and began my errands: pick up mass wine for the year, get keys cut, drop off truck at garage, pick up DVDs for courses for the North and so on and so forth; it all fell in place, why? ... because I spent one hour in adoration at the Holy Cross Adoration Chapel.

I told myself ‘Stupid fool, why don’t you do this every day!’ I try when I’m in the Missions but in the city, I usually run all day. YES, put Jesus first, give him one hour and he looks after the rest. Praise God! So now I challenge those of you who go for adoration to write a

reflection about that experience and **share it with NEW VISION...**

Jesus divinizes us, He uplifts us!

Now, please pray that I find a handyman for the North and/or a ‘gopher’, ‘go-for-this and that.’ Having five missions to upkeep is not a joke! If I don’t find someone to help, I may soon be joining the Monastery.

Peace and love in Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

**Fr. Rhéal Forest,  
Berens River, Bloodvein,  
Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi,  
Poplar River**

## March for Life

On Saturday May 10, nearly 300 people of all ages gathered on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature for the annual March for Life. They carried signs, some which read: Defend Life, Choose Life, Defund Abortion.

Many young people spoke out against Justin Trudeau’s stance of pro-choice. They said they were very disappointed about the lack of choice he was giving his candidates, clearly in conflict with his stance.





## "Hateless"

Holy Redeemer Parish hosted Hateless "I Believe in We" on Saturday, March 22. 250 Girl Guides and their leaders from surrounding communities, as well as girls, ages of 5 - 16 years from the Parish, enjoyed singing, dancing and actively participating in peace activities. The Hateless Experience is an interactive anti-bullying campaign for children across Canada. Through music and motivational speakers, the team aims to inspire, uplift, motivate and make a difference in the lives of others, and that they did!

Award winning Rhythm & Blues singer *Flo*, from Winnipeg, performed her hit Hateless. Anna Morgante, counsellor and speaker to children and teens, talked about bullying prevention (including verbal, physical, social, and cyber bullying). Two youth, ages, 17 and 19, spoke of being bullied as children and its effects on them. All talked about the impact each of the girls could have in someone's life by spreading the message of love,



respect, hope and acceptance of all persons. *Enharmony*, teenagers from the Winnipeg Youth Chorus also performed.

Lunch was served by five ladies from one of Holy Redeemer's *ARISE* Small Groups. After lunch, the girls wrote a Friendship Bill of Rights, built Pinwheels for Peace and made loom bracelets in blue, meaning that they stand up against bullies.

They worked on a Peace Pin Project, each making a pin of colourful beads representing the colours of

the rainbow. Each colour has a meaning. Together they symbolize how you can help make a peaceful world.

The day ended with all girls reciting the Pledge of Peace. What a beautiful reflection for children. Thanks to Brother Joseph Lourdasamy, OFM Cap, for letting us use Holy Redeemer Parish for a day full of love and learning.

**Pat van Rysselt**  
**Holy Redeemer**

## Ecumenical Way of the Cross



An Ecumenical Way of the Cross took place in Pinawa on Good Friday, with the participation of all the local churches: Alliance, Christian Fellowship, Lutheran and Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic.

About 70 Christian faithful carried a seven-foot wooden cross as they prayed, sang, worshiped and reflected on

the Stations of Cross. There were seven stops, including each church; each time, two of the Stations were read and reflected upon, with singing by the participants. Churches took turns reading. People of all faiths were joined together in the commemoration of the life, passion, crucifixion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. They really identified with this event that filled them with a sense of devotion, together in one faith community.

Fr. Jose Montepeque initiated this event four year ago, with the other churches joining in. He says: "It is good for Pinawa as it shows solidarity through our Christian faith, that we are - as brothers and sisters - the children of God and one family in the rural area sharing our sorrows, joys, hopes and celebrations. All for the glory of God and the glory of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Risen Christ."



## Annual Diocesan Gala

The annual Gala Dinner was held May 29 at the Victoria Inn. More than 300 people attended this event in support of the Renewal of the Cathedral and for Seminarians.

Archbishop LeGatt said that he expects there will be ten seminarians this fall, the most the Diocese has had in 50 years! Paul Blair, a seminarian, spoke and asked all to keep praying for vocations. He said that it must be how the grace of God reached him and brought him from atheism to the priesthood.



## Diocesan Gathering

*Gospel Singers Bill and Doreen Meade >*



*< Les Louis Boys*

*Evening for the youth - Youth for Christ Band*

*Praise and Worship with Illuminate*



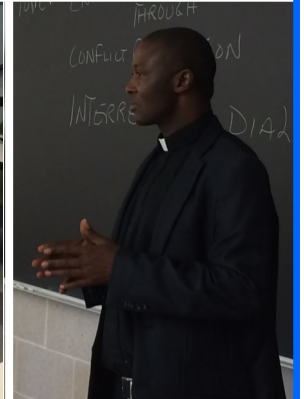


## Speakers...

Margot Lavoie >

From left to right:

Marguerite 'Maggy' Barankitse, Wilma Derksen  
Julien Fradette and Father Peter Genger



Children had fun in the  
daycare area

Crowd at the Mass with  
Archbishop LeGat

Good Food



## The Future of Our Parishes

Why are we here? Archbishop Albert LeGatt got to the point quickly as he welcomed about 275 participants, including parish priests, deacons, members of ministries and Parish Pastoral Councils, Religious and lay people to a day of information and formation on *The Future of Our Parishes*. "This meeting follows many years of effort and consultation started [by my predecessors] and continued since I've come", he added.

This meeting of May 28, in the Parish Hall of the Cathedral, was held to present and discuss with pastors and lay people of the Archdiocese, the pastoral orientations that foster Parish Renewal and Growth.

Pierre-Alain Giffard, Director of Pastoral Services, described several common threads to growing Churches: their leadership style; their work with lay people; their emphasis on

prayer; daring to reach out to the community at large AND ensuring that their church is vibrant and welcoming to new people.

"We need to change from being a Church sometimes too centred on itself to adopt a vision of an evangelical Church turned to the world, towards those who do not know or who do not follow Jesus Christ." says Pierre-Alain Giffard.

"...make them [parishes] environments of living communion and participation, and ... completely mission-oriented." Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*.

He went on to talk about Parish Leadership Teams (PLT) that are teams of lay people called, in communion with their pastor, to facilitate a Christian community or a parish. The team

works and takes decisions to foster the life and growth of the parish. The team seeks to ensure that the parish is a sign of the love of God in its community, a sign of unity and adoration towards God and a sign of the commitment of God in the world. (1Tim: 2, 3-4)

Later on, Julien Fradette, Interim Director of *Nathanael* and Coordinator of *ARISE Together in Christ* spoke of those two programs. *Nathanael* will resume in September 2015 with a renewed curriculum in response to the Action Plan of the Archdiocese.

*ARISE* will hold its last Season with Advent 2014. However, Fradette explained that this is not the end; for example, Parish Missions for Lent 2015 will be led by a team of lay people trained by Sr. Marie Cooper, SJC. More opportunities will be developed later.

## Aiming for 2017

Members of Development and Peace (D&P) Manitoba met at St. Michael Parish in Cook's Creek on May 2-3 for their Annual Regional Meeting. It was an opportunity to review the past year and to discuss the future of this organization that will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.

Isabelle Kim, Deputy Director, In-Canada Programs Department, mentioned the importance of standing together, especially since the financing for the regular programming will end in 2017. D&P will have to diversify its sources of financing by creating a culture of philanthropy.

"We must act to accomplish our mission, regardless of the circumstances of our social and political environment", she added. The organization also experiences other challenges such as the revision of its

governance. To this end, participants will be consulted on the type of reform they would like to see.

As for ensuring continuity, one of the



most important objectives of D&P, the Manitoba youth seems very active around questions of development and social justice. Young and less young were seated at table to discuss the future of the organization.

One participant, Mohamed Rakbi from Morocco and in Manitoba for

eight months, appreciated the openness to the world and the fight for peace and social justice. "I was not expecting to integrate among Catholics," he said. "It was a surprise to see the openness of people. There are no borders. Right away you are welcomed regardless of your culture, your nationality, your religion. You are part of the family."

He continued: "I've always been a person who likes to help others. That is why I gave of myself at the beginning. Meeting people who are by and large older and who have been engaged for many years makes me very happy."

D&P meetings allow for beautiful exchanges that enrich participants, young and old.

**Wilgis Agossa**