

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

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When the Word Comes Alive...



L. to R.: Colette Parent, Jacqueline Beaudette, Aurore Chartier, Claire Lavallée, Sheri Desrosiers, Sr Laurette Dubois and Nicole Gosselin. Hands on the heart, before and after a Biblical Recitative, means that the Word of God must settle in the heart to transform it.

On March 21 and 22, Franco-phone catechists met at the Pastoral Centre to be initiated to **Biblical Recitatives**. They learned the story of 'The Lost Sheep' (Lk 15: 4-7), much appreciated by children who prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reading the Word of God as you let the text penetrate your mind, or memorizing passages of the Bible is not an easy task, whether you are a child or an adult. With the help of gestures and melodies, called Biblical Recitatives, the body comprehends Scripture to better welcome it in the heart; it becomes food that can be shared with others. A French Jesuit, Father Marcel Jousse,

developed the method based on the oral Hebrew tradition of communicating through mnemotechnic.

In Canada, the Myriam Beth'léhem Family developed a school of Biblical Recitatives called 'Parole de Vie' ('Word of Life'). It comprises the traditions of communicating, proclaiming and teaching. **Impression** allows for keeping of the Word in one's heart, to remember it, to commit it to memory. The Holy Spirit can only remind us of it if we have heard it. **Expression** aims to share the Word of God; it is linked to the mission we received through baptism, to proclaim the Word of God. The Biblical Recita-

tive allows all the baptised to proclaim the Word that they have received.

It is consequently a precious tool for catechetics because it allows the communication of faith in a vivid way, using its purest source: the Word of God. Children really like this.

Myriam des Prairies, based in Regina, handles Biblical Recitatives formation in English. They can be contacted at prairies@famillemyriam.org

Diane Bélanger
Catechetics Coordinator,
Francophone Sector

Our Archbishop's Message

Vocations to the Priesthood: A Sign and a Source of Hope

Dear friends,

As you read this newsletter, spring should be in all its glory. It is surely welcome after such a hard long cold winter. Our hearts are uplifted by such signs as water flowing, flowers beginning to blossom, sweetly chirping birds building their nest.

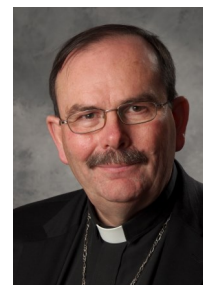
Our diocese is also presently experiencing a certain springtime, with regards to young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood and entering the seminary. This past year, we had six young men at various stages of their formation. This fall, we have the possibility of another four.

Amongst these ten individuals, two are from Vietnam, one is from Congo in Africa and the other seven are Manitobans, sons of our own soil of faith. This is certainly encouraging. Also encouraging is the fact that

a good number of these ten are bilingual, even trilingual.

The principal sources of the coming forth of these varied experiences of discernment and formation for priesthood are the usual ones: a strong faith-filled family, a vibrant parish life, especially in those with room for youth involvement and service, or again the example and encouragement of joyous, fulfilled priests. Another present, and more recent, source of priestly vocation are various new movements focused on evangelization such as NET (National Evangelization Team), CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach) and our very own CSE (Catholic School of Evangelization in St. Malo).

So all in all, there is much hope. There is much to encourage all of the faithful of our diocese and there is much all of us are called to do to



support this renewal of vocations to the priesthood among us.

We need your financial support. We especially need the joyous and generous witness of all the faithful living out their Christian life, according to each their own vocation. And above all, we need the prayers of everyone for vocations to the priesthood. Pray the *Diocesan Prayer for Vocations* using the prayer cards available in your parish. Consider, as a family, taking your parish's *Vocation Cross* home for a week to centre your prayer and reflection.

May God continue to strengthen this springtime in our diocese. A joyous and hope-filled Easter to all of you!

† **Archbishop Albert**

A New Vision for Nathanael

Since the beginning of this pastoral year, a diocesan committee has been reviewing the Nathanael Formation Program for Adults and working to revise the program and its objectives to correspond more closely to our Church of Saint Boniface today. Our goal is a program that is reflective of the spiritual and pastoral renewal as set out in the Action Plan of the Archdiocese.

The fruit of this work is the development of a program that will be based on four calls flowing from our baptism: the call to evangelize, the call to be a Church in communion, and the twin calls to lay Christian leadership both in the Church and in the community. In the renewed program, there will also be a concerted effort to involve the parishes with their candidates in a stronger supportive role.

The specifics of this renewed Nathanael Program, its objectives and its curriculum,

are still being worked on. The progress of this work will continue to be reported on an ongoing basis to the Pastors, Parish Life Directors, as well as the Diocesan and Regional Pastoral Councils. This renewal is being worked on by a committee composed of Julien Fradette (Interim Director), Br. Camille Légaré, Sr. Evelyn Pierret, Susan Shefchyk, Fr. Alain Guénou and Diane Bélanger. When the Coordinator of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation is hired this summer (an announcement about this is pending very shortly), that person will join this committee, helping to complete the work.

When Nathanael is launched, this Coordinator of Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation will be the overall Director of Nathanael as well as the Director of the English program. Diane Bélanger, part-time coordinator of French Catechetics, will also be the Director of

the French program.

This summer, we will firm up the formation team as well as the team of presenters for different subjects or aspects of the program. The progress of all this work may be followed on the diocesan website. With all this, we look forward to beginning a new generation of Nathanael in **September 2015**. Meanwhile, we have to finish establishing Nathanael's structure, promoting it in the parishes and accepting and confirming applications from new candidates. So please continue to pray for all the people involved and the work to be done in order to launch, in a successful way, this program which is crucial to the faith formation of our present and future leaders within the laity of our archdiocese.

Julien Fradette
Interim Director, Nathanael

Regional Youth Ministry

God opened a door for me in October 2013 with a job opportunity at the Archdiocese. I now stand before you as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Mountain Pastoral Region. Are you unfamiliar with the title? Essentially, I act as a contact person between the Archdiocese and youth ministry leaders at the parish level in the region.

My main responsibility is to initiate or support youth ministry (YM). In parishes that are eager to nourish its youth, the contact person and I work together to gather anyone interested in YM to a presentation. I give a brief talk on the value of YM for youth, parents and the whole parish community, as it is a relational ministry. After an interactive component where we play a game, we look at how to

personalize YM for that specific parish. My long-term objective is to form young disciples and leaders who will participate in the life of the parish and from there on engage the world.

Thus far, I have held three youth-focused gatherings in different towns. The general formula is to gather, learn and share. The “learn” element explores Catholic teaching while the “share” element invites discussion or reflection. Ice-breakers gather everyone in and are sprinkled throughout the event as energy boosters.

Ultimately, the Holy Spirit has made all this possible. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge the energy and effort of the numerous priests and adult volunteers who have collaborated with me. Their time and

talents are appreciated, and I am happy to build the Kingdom of God with them!

Maria Legal,
Youth Ministry Coordinator,
Mountain Pastoral Region

Note :

Michelle Marchildon, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Archdiocese, shared with NEW VISION the Action Plan for this ministry. The goal is to create more positions such as the one described by Maria, so that in five years, at a rate of about two per year, each pastoral region will have a Coordinator of Youth Ministry. They will ensure that all are united in a common vision for this ministry throughout the Archdiocese.



Looking for contributors to NEW VISION (NV) and to the new Website of the Archdiocese

Are you a budding writer? Amateur photographer? Do you have a few minutes to share with us? We are looking for people engaged in their community or their pastoral region, with their finger on the pulse of parish events and initiatives.

We hope these people can keep us posted on what is happening, and possibly write short articles or take photos for NV and the Web site, that illustrate the active pastoral life of our Archdiocese.

A Hermit's Journey

The Solemn Consecration of Brian Watson-Colter as a Diocesan Hermit, by Archbishop LeGatt, took place on Sunday, October 6, 2013. As we near World Day of Prayer for Vocations, NEW VISION asked Brian about his journey.

Q - What is a Hermit?

A - The Canon Law states that 'Hermits ... lead their particular form of life under the guidance of the diocesan Bishop' (Can 603 § 2). Each hermit writes his/her own rule with the Bishop's approval. I had suggestions from Archbishop Albert and from Brother Noël, OCSO, (Bishop Emeritus Delaquis) who walked with me through the last several years.

Q - How do you hear the call?

A - The understanding of my call started in a firm way maybe twenty years ago. I had been alone most of my life but I realized that I was alone not by omission, but by design.

Eventually, I sold most of my possessions and moved at the monastery in Holland to see if I fit there. The monks were wonderful and kind, but I knew that I was called to a life of solitude.

Q - Why did you become a Hermit?

A - I wrote the Archbishop, telling him of my hopes of becoming a hermit. A plan was put in place and I carried it out as best I could until he felt I was ready to take vows.

I did not think I would be able to live the asceticism, self-denial, fasting, daily Liturgy, yet I found that if I kept my eye on the goal and immersed myself in prayerfulness, the rest was added as time went on.

My goal is a loving union with God, as continual as possible. The love of God just for Himself and for no other reason, freely given and founded on a faith in the love which the invisible Father makes visible in Jesus Christ and gives to us by His Spirit.

It is really quite simple and yet profound when meditated on. It was and is my desire to hand my life over to God for Him to use as he sees fit.

Q - What is 'a day in the life of a

Hermit'?

A - What a hermit "does" is to focus on his inner life (the Kingdom of Heaven is within), opening it up for purification. It is 'the clean of heart' who can see God and the tools of cultivation are solitude, silence, poverty, chastity, obedience, fraternal charity, spiritual reading, study and work. Above all there must be a dedication to prayer: adoration, praise, intercession and the Liturgy of Hours.

I live alone so I prepare my own food, shop, drive to medical appointments, travel to Church or the Monastery; on some Sundays I have dinner with my sister. The key for me is to have the silence and solitude in my heart, mind and soul at all times, leaving my hermitage only when necessary and returning to it as quickly as possible.

A hermit is a pilgrim, as we all are, so the journey is never complete.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is growing in Manitoba. Long established at Holy Cross Parish, this Montessori approach to religious education has extended to other Catholic and Anglican parishes. It involves the creation of a special space called an atrium, like a child-sized retreat house, a place that fosters contemplation and plants seeds for a lifetime of love with God. The newest atrium, and the first bilingual one, has been established recently in Lorette.

Catechists who have completed the significant formation for doing this work love to gather to share stories

and encourage each other. At the beginning of Lent, catechists from four atriums gathered in Lorette to visit the new atrium, share a meal and learn from the wisdom of speaker and catechist Ann Garrido, on "Living in Communion". Participants were quick to recognize how useful her strategies for communication and handling difficult conversations would be in many settings.

Participants also discussed plans for the first national gathering of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to be held in Winnipeg, entitled "Listening to God with Children: Preparing Ourselves, Our Spaces and Our

Communities." The event will take place October 17-18 at St. Charles Parish. Montessori consultant Sandra Giralto will speak. There will be a variety of workshops and reports from the international 60th anniversary celebrations of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. All are welcome.

For more information, consult www.cgsac.ca or email Catechesis.Canada@gmail.com.

***Heather Skublics Lampman,
Teacher,
Atrium and Holy Cross School***