

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 6 #2 – November 2014

Youth at Bloodvein



Top row, from left to right: José, Dylan, Michael, Michael, Andrés, John Paul, John Paul, Santi, Charles, Simon, Matthew, Nicolaas, Abraham

Bottom row, from left to right: Julian, François, Max, Change, Karl, Geoff

To All Benefactors and Good People of God

We spent ten days with seventeen young men who belong to Opus Dei directed by Father Chris and Geoff. Opus Dei means 'the work of God'; one could see the work of God daily.

Bloodvein was a messy place, lumber everywhere. The old rectory was not yet demolished. The boys never complained and they made frequent stops to pay homage to the Blessed Sacrament. It poured rain all around us but Bloodvein remained dry. I see the power of prayer. Praise God!!!

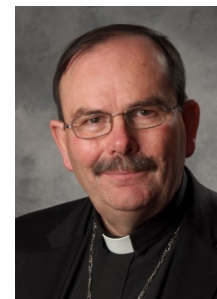
The youth all got along, After supper, these young men would take one young aboriginal fellow and teach maths, spelling, prayers and play football. Some shared their problems –

many did not want to go home. They wanted to stay for the rosary. These kids were at our door at 6 am and couldn't get enough of the kindness and joy and love. Some of these young locals had teary eyes when the visiting youth left.

Yes, these are little glimpses of hope, which tells me that my youth also have a desire, an attraction to goodness, to Christianity and to God. Jesus' love is meant for all nations. Holy Spirit, come and renew us and renew the face of the earth. May Your will be recreated and lived out in our lives, our hearts and our land.

Father Rhéal Forest
Bloodvein First Nation

Our Archbishop's Message



Dear Friends,

As you read this edition of the NEW VISION newsletter of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, I want to let you know that this child has grown to its teenage years, if not already early adulthood. Let me explain myself.

Five years ago, in asking various people at various gatherings in various venues what were the most important priorities for the archdiocese, I received the answer that way up on a long list of needs was the matter of communication within the diocese: from the diocese to the parishes and amongst the parishes themselves.

At this point and after four years of tremendous work, all of it volunteer, I want to thank Michelle

Larose-Kuzenko and her team for producing and distributing 33 editions of NEW VISION. This simple but always rich newsletter has served to communicate across the diocese so many examples of all that is good and alive in our diocese, of all that speaks of Christ's on-going presence and work, by the power of the Spirit, amongst the People of God in this local Church of Saint Boniface.

Now, our efforts of always bettering our communication take another step that will allow us to communicate the good news of our diocese to more people and in a faster, more modern way. A few details of this initiative are described else-

where in this newsletter. Along with a completely revised website and other communication tools, this new initiative seeks to build up our sense of identity, pride and mission and also most importantly, be a tool of evangelization, of reaching out and inviting.

Two disciples asked Jesus: "Where do you live?". He replied: "Come and See". May all our efforts of communication carry the same message. And, thank you again to all those involved throughout our diocese in constantly improving our communication services.

† Archbishop Albert

Excerpts from Participants Reflections

The kids wanted to spend the whole day with us... around the dinner table in Fr. Rhéal's house, singing songs and playing games.

They taught us a few Saukteaux and Ojibway/Cree phrases.

- Geoff, co-organizer, Vancouver BC

You could tell the local kids wanted to be around guys who were often more positive and loving than what they are used to.

- Michael, co-organizer, Guelph ON

The trip was a life-changing experience.

I learned how bad the situation is in

First Nations Reserves like Bloodvein. Unpaved roads, graffiti in public places, the sorry state of the school. We even didn't have full access to water the entire day. This made me more grateful for what we had.

- Max, Gr. 10, Richmond BC

One boy explained his difficult life to me. Despite this, he is like any child, with a dream. He hopes to become a basketball player in the future and a policeman in Winnipeg.

This has truly shown me how fortunate I am to have a loving family, a

valued education and resources at my fingertips.

- JP, Gr 11, Richmond BC

The whole situation of the Native peoples surprised me, since Canada is a developed country.

The work that Fr. Rhéal does will bear fruit. Our little assistance is like a seed planted in the memory and heart of each of the youngsters, who were always beside us. They are the future of Bloodvein and the ones that can change their community.

- Santi, Gr. 11, Valladolid, Spain

NOTE: The complete text of this article and of the participants' reflections can be found online at <http://www.archsaintboniface.ca> under the heading 'Our Faith Stories – Treasures to Share'.

A Word from the Editor

Dear Readers

It is with some sadness, mingled with a touch of pride, that I announce the 'graduation' of NEW VISION. This bulletin has really grown during the past four years. The simple two-page sheet turned into a four-page leaflet, sometimes six, in colour. How much ground we covered together to share the good news of our Archdiocese!

I wish to thank all collaborators. First, Julien Fradette who allowed me to serve when he asked whether I would set up this new publication AND become its editor. Through the years, Fr. Robert Campeau, Donald Boulet, Aurise Kondziela, Marie Cormier Brunet and Gabrielle Marion were part of the team. From the start, Pascale Dalcq and Ed Labossière proofread the contents. At the beginning of the second year Norman Collette and Denise Walleyne started doing the layout. Maria Cox created the superb masthead for the title. Whatever the length of their involvement, each made my job easier and greatly supported me in this journey.

I am grateful to all who contributed articles, reports, reflections. I appreciate the words of encouragement and helpful suggestions that many readers graciously sent. And finally, thank you to all of you, our faithful readers.

As Archbishop Albert put it so well, this bulletin is now a 'young adult'. It will be published in a new, enlarged format in the spring. There will still be a French and an English edition, in colour. Keep an eye out for announcements in parish bulletins.

Meanwhile, our readers can continue to read the good news online at <http://www.archsaintboniface.ca> in the new column "***Our Faith Stories – Treasures to Share***". You can still share stories and events by sending them to communications@archsaintboniface.ca

Sincerely,
Michelle Larose-Kuzenko
Editor, NEW VISION

Christian Stewardship As Told To Children



Chantal Piché with one of her beautiful drawings illustrating the story of Pumpkin Angèle

One day, Bishop Robert Morneau, of the Diocese of Green Bay in the United States, was invited to talk to grade two students about stewardship and evangelization. The teacher had allotted him ten minutes. He made up the story of Pumpkin Angèle to explain to children how the person who has received everything from God is called upon, in turn, to give all to others.

A talented youngster of Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish, Chantal Piché, generously accepted to illustrate this story, using her God-given skills. She not only illustrated the story and contributed to the creation of a very good pedagogical tool, she also demonstrated, through this work, what Christian stewardship is about. With this beautiful story and the outstanding accompanying drawings, the

catechists and teachers will be able to sensitize children to the gift of themselves.

For her achievement, Chantal received a prize of two tickets to 'Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park', offered by the Catechetics Office, French Sector, of the archdiocese. Congratulations and a thousand thank yous to you Chantal!

Chantal's beautiful drawings and the inspiring story of Pumpkin Angèle can be found on the French website of the Archdiocese at <http://www.archsaintboniface.ca>, under 'Services aux paroisses', then 'Catéchèse', then 'Intendance chrétienne'. An English version will be available shortly.

Diane Bélanger
Catechetics Coordinator,
Francophone Sector

God of All Creation

The God of all creation is so loving, regardless of colour or race.

Praise be to Jesus Christ who can do far more than we can imagine!

"The work of God must be done at all cost, no matter the inconvenience." Mother Mary Magdalene Walker, Foundress, HHCIJ.

The Sisters Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCIJ) continue to carry out their pastoral ministry with the First Nations of Northern Manitoba, a ministry started in the spring of 2013.

Their work includes catechesis, faith sharing/prayer meetings, radio outreach, counselling and home visitations. Interestingly, every parent(s) wants her/his child baptized in the Catholic Church.

The most challenging part of their ministry is home visitations, regardless of religious denomination. Still, witnessing by actual PRESENCE has an immense impact. People are happy when they are listened to and prayed for. They are able to share their feelings and experiences.

"It is really helpful not only to the



Earlier this year, Father Artur Nagraha of Saint John Bosco Catholic Church in Poplar River welcomed Archbishop LeGat for a celebration of First Communion and Confirmation.

On the left is Sister Eucharica and on the right Sister Glory Umoh.

people but also to us. It calls us to meditation and sober reflection on God and life generally. We meet with many different people. I feel sad when we meet those who really need

"The work of God must be done at all cost, no matter the inconvenience."

financial help and we are not able to help. We never stop praying for them."

In as much as there are positive challenges, there are also some heart breaking ones in the Aboriginal

Communities. There is alcoholism, smoking and sniffing, sometimes in children as young as ten, who also experience bullying in schools. This can lead to their dropping out of school as well as hanging out with friends almost aimlessly, even suicide.

In these challenges, God is still good. We continue to pray for these good people, who hope and trust in God for a better tomorrow. Thank you Jesus for your love and care for us all.

Sister Eucharica Mgbeadichie, HHCIJ

Meet...

Mireille Grenier



Mireille is the new Diocesan Coordinator for the Youth Ministry. Originally from La Broquerie, she obtained a B.A. from Université de Saint-Boniface. She just completed a Baccalaureate in Recreation Studies from Université de Moncton, NB.

With much experience in event organizing, working with volunteers and community help, Mireille is happy to put her expertise to good use, fostering the work of the Lord.

In this new position, Mireille will support anyone who works in Youth Ministry in parishes and schools. She will assist those who might wish to initiate a Youth Ministry in their own parish. She will also act as liaison to local and national groups and Youth Ministry organisations. Be sure to keep an eye out for events for youth (12 to 17 years) and young adults (18 to 30 years).

Mireille can be contacted at 204-594-0278 or at mgrenier@archsaintboniface.ca