

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 5 #1 – September 2014

A Grandfather...at "La P'tite Pasto"



Top row at right Mr. Albert Ruest, volunteer grandfather, surrounded by children

One day, I was invited by Rachelle Lambert to come and help at "La P'tite Pasto" (see our May 2013 edition), as a grandfather. I accepted and since, I am having experiences that I never had as a child.

I totally love to play with the youngsters and to do crafts, even if at first, I might put the stickers upside down. The little ones need a lot of patience to deal with me!

I realise that our Good Lord uses me often to encourage children and give them self-confidence when I sit with them to help in their activities. When I am with them, it is at my level. I feel that they are comfortable with me and I with

them. It is the love of our Good Lord that I share with them.

When children arrive, they are shy and when the time comes to leave, they don't want to go. Rachelle and Nicole, the two mother-facilitators, do excellent work. They have a beautiful interaction with the parents.

I also like the pastoral side of La P'tite Pasto, such as teaching the little ones to pray and to cross themselves. I thank Rachelle for her invitation. This makes my life complete.

Testimony of Mr. Albert Ruest as recorded by Diane Bélanger, Coordinator of Catechetics, Francophone Sector.

N.B.: Beginning in September 2014, "La P'tite Pasto" will be held on Wednesday mornings instead of Thursday mornings. The first gathering is planned for September 24.

Please note that this program is available in French only.

As we begin a new pastoral year,

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Pr 3: 5-6*

Our Archbishop's Message

EL SALVADOR – LAND OF MARTYRS

Dear Friends,

On July 1st to 7th, I had the opportunity to join a group of students from St. Boniface Diocesan High School and St. Paul's High School in El Salvador. It was a missionary trip, a solidarity trip with concrete steps (for example carrying stones with people to build a road in their village) and an exposure trip to the condition of the people in a developing country.

Having lived several such experiences under similar circumstances (Africa, Asia, South America), I was familiar with poverty, suffering and oppression of the people. However, having said that, I lived a particularly rich experience in this country of Central America. Why? Because it is a country of martyrs, in the past and still today. And I use the word 'martyr' in its broadest sense, according to its Greek etymology: martyr means witness.

During a horrible civil war waged between the military, paramilitary and guerrillas, from 1980 to 1992, war that left more than 72,000 dead, mainly innocent civilians, and more than 10,000 disappeared persons, as well as thousands displaced or exiled, there were many martyrs. Among these witnesses for justice, peace, liberation and development for poor people, we include as martyrs Archbishop Oscar Romero, the six Jesuits gunned down in their residence, the five young American nuns killed because they worked with refugees, and so many more! Almost all communities lost some members; that deeply moved me and made me reflect.

Yet, what may have struck me as much, if not more, is the fruit of this witness of efforts, prayers and ultimate sacrifice for peace and solidarity.



The memory of all this is still fresh in El Salvador. We can see the face of Archbishop Romero everywhere, as much in churches as on outside walls of homes and buildings. And, with the strength of this witness, many people today are engaged in organizations for community development, for the good of children, women, very poor farmers; all this to ensure access to schools, health care, economic opportunities for all, and mainly for the underprivileged. I met such witnesses and I was also deeply moved.

So I asked myself: is there a call to the Church of Saint Boniface to know and to help these modern day witnesses, full of strength and hope? It remains to be seen.

† *Monseigneur Albert*

Ecumenical 100th Anniversary Celebration

Three churches in East Kildonan celebrate their 100th anniversary: St. Alphonsus, St. Saviour Anglican and John Black Memorial United. Together, on August 27, they held a prayer service at 5 pm, followed by a BBQ and games on the grounds of St. Alphonsus. The nearly 300 participants declared that they do not want to wait for another centenary to repeat the experience.

All three churches will hold their own anniversary celebrations later this fall.



They Are Family Now

The idea of participating on a mission trip was always intriguing to me and when the opportunity presented itself I eagerly put my name on the list. The year of preparation was stressful, exciting and flew by quickly. However, I now believe that no amount of planning will completely prepare someone for the experience awaiting him or her. When we left for El Salvador, it hadn't actually hit me that I was about to embark on one of the most remarkable excursions of my life.

When we arrived in San Salvador, I was overwhelmed with excitement and zeal. I wanted to help and I wanted to help immediately. I had a purpose for joining the mission: to work side by side with the villagers to complete a common task. I wanted to be exposed to the villager's lifestyle, laugh with them and talk to them.

Despite the rough start, the mission trip exceeded my expectations. Now reflecting on the experience as a whole, it was perfect and exactly what I wanted and needed. So much happened that I have a difficult time choosing when asked to pick the most notable memory, especially since it was two weeks filled with

beautiful, heartfelt and significant moments.

Notwithstanding my struggle to pick a favourite, I will say the people I met and relationships I formed were the best part. The people of El Salvador are beautiful and when you look at them you can see

Life for them is simple but significant and they have inspired me to live my life with that mentality. The people are incredible despite their tribulations; they are aware that they have voices and simply ask us to listen. They are wise and striving to create a better future for themselves and their country. They are admirable.

I knew that going into this, I had to have an open mind and be accepting to new opinions, philosophies and lifestyles. As a result, I truly believe I had a fulfilling experience and walked away being a well-rounded individual, who lives a more enriched life. I am so grateful to have been a part of the mission and now that I am home, I have begun taking the steps to apply what I learned into my daily life. For



The rock detail - Archbishop LeGatt is in the middle with two students.

that they are longstanding and have a deeply rooted history. Their eyes sparkle with compassionate souls and love. Every encounter I had, whether with individuals or communities, I was overwhelmed with their loving nature and the stories that they shared. I felt so much love for them; when I was with them, I was perfectly content.

example I bought new school clothes that are sweatshop-free and I am working to address issues we have in Canada. I hope I will have the chance to revisit El Salvador and continue to build on my relationships there. They are family now.

**Jo-Hannah Minty, student
St. Boniface Diocesan High School**

We all chase after time...



Lillian's Art.

On the left: **King, Prophet, Priest** 'as you are going' was inspired during praise and worship at an 'Evangelizing Through the Arts' workshop.

On the right, **Ton Oikos à découvrir**, based on 2 Tm 2:2, is a collage created by participants for the people not yet in the Church, for whom they prayed.

so... by the time you read this, it will have been two months since I drove 2,200 km to bring my little bit to the vision of the Archdiocese. Have you captured Archbishop Albert's renewed vision? "Let us go out to meet all the people that He wants us to encounter and save through His most merciful grace!" (Letter to the Faithful, August 1, 2014)

It is one of my personal life inspirations: **"as you are going ... make disciples"** Mt 28:19.

Do you know what I really like about it? No matter where I am and what I am doing, I can respond to God's prompting, in the moment, to make disciples. That means – I do not need to stop and carve out a specific time. I do not need to go to

Africa to be a missionary. Time is something we all chase after. We can, using the God-given talents breathed into us, simply be who we are, and move forward and live the mission of the Church.

Make the main thing the main thing. We can be modern missionaries in our time expressing the joy of the Gospel so all may know the outlandish, crazy love of God for us right now, here on this earth and for all of eternity.

So come by and see me ... my office is open ... drop in ...

**Lillian Ćulumović,
Coordinator, Evangelization &
Adult Faith Formation
Director of Nathanael**

We Are No Longer Alone

Such was the theme for a day of spiritual renewal with Alain Dumont at St. Joachim Parish in La Broquerie earlier this year.

Alain Dumont is no stranger to Manitoba. His first visit was about 20 years ago. He still lives in Trois-Rivières, QC. This married man, father of four within a blended family, is a faith-filled engaged layperson. Following a turbulent personal search with hippies in California, he returned to Christianity at age twenty-two. That is when he started his interior adventure of Silence, of communal life with Oblate Fathers and of theological and biblical studies, carried out and completed at Laval University in Québec.

Since 1985, he has been leading spiritual renewal workshops and doing personal counselling. He

also worked for about ten years with 'Anonymous'-type groups, such as AA, through weekly conferences and intensive spiritual sessions. He deeply believes that real spirituality is the best of therapies for all people.

His presentation was in four parts:

- To love is easy
- Tears of the widow
- The look of simple people
- A period of questions, sharing and exchange

The day was held in silence, including lunchtime, sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus.

About 80 people participated in this day and the general impression was very positive. We hope to do this again.

***Jean Balcaen,
PPC member,
St. Joachim Parish, La Broquerie***



ARISE! Season 5

We are the Good News

Did you know that "We are the Good News"? Did you know that we are, by our baptism, called to "Come and See," that we are called to "Go and Make Disciples" because we are called to bring the Good News to all we meet! While this may seem to be a daunting task that Jesus calls us to, it is one that when filled with the joy, the peace and love of God, is done with ease. Come to Season V, which will start on October 12. COME!

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



Meet... Lillian Čulumović

Coordinator, Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation

ArtReach program, small groups that evangelize, all undergirded by a passion to share the Gospel with people who do not know Christ. She has often been called upon as speaker and teacher.

She is also Director (and Coordinator of the Anglophone sector) of the renewed Nathanael Program, resuming in September 2015. She will support the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Lillian's background includes studies in sociology and theology, an entrepreneurial perspective and a Certified Financial Planner designation; she is also a visual artist, Acrylic Mixed Media.

The trilingual (Croatian, English, French) native of Sudbury was raised in Ottawa. She is a favourite aunt of seven nieces and nephews.

Lillian brings "feet-on-the-ground" experience in many areas including outreach evangelization, leadership train-the-trainer, First Nations healing and forgiveness ministry, street-involved youth through

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<http://www.archsaintboniface.ca>