

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

V.1#4, February 2011

Message from Our Archbishop



Dear Friends,

A prophetic meeting! Such was my impression of the workshop held January 21 and 22 at the parish hall of Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens.

This “retreat” gathered more than 55 participants, representing the Diocesan Council of Priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the

Pastoral Services Team and a few other invited guests

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ronald Bisson, originally from La Broquerie. He currently works in Ottawa as a professional consultant and is also very much involved in his parish.

Together we defined a strategic plan for the life and the pastoral services of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. What a task to undertake! However it must be done if we want to work **together** to advance the Reign of God **among us**.

We discussed the challenges posed to the life of faith and the life of the Church, in Manitoba, in the upcoming years.

We identified elements of a common vision for the next fifteen years. We outlined concrete actions to undertake to achieve this vision.

We shared such rich conversations, hopes and projects. You will hear about them in the coming months, in your regions and parishes. Become involved!

Archbishop Albert

One in the Apostles' Teaching

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual event that began over 100 years ago. Seven days are set aside to remind us that the visible unity that Jesus wills for the Church requires a “change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed.)

From January 23 to 30, Christians were invited to visit other members of their spiritual family in towns and cities throughout southern Manitoba. This year, we prayed to be “One in the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of the bread, and prayer.” (Act. 2:42)

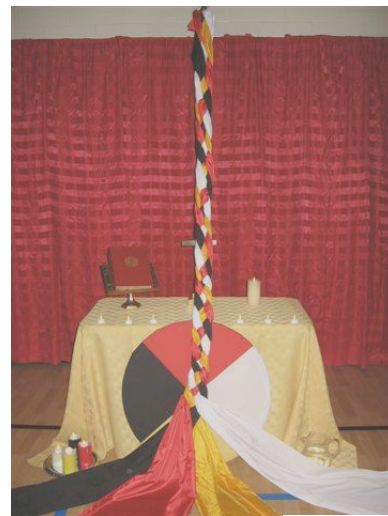
In Winnipeg, the opening ecumenical service was held at St. Joseph’s

Ukrainian Catholic Church with bishops, leaders and the faithful of participating churches. On the following evenings, the Salvation Army brass band raised our spirits; an Anglican choir led us at Evensong; 300 people met at Bronx Park Community Centre, hosted by the “Churches in North-East Winnipeg”; the Mennonite Brethren led a praise and worship service; the Ethiopian Orthodox let us glimpse into their ancient Church with Vespers; the Presbyterians closed the week with a service reflecting the power of biblical preaching.

We gathered not as strangers or spectators at these worship services but as brothers and sisters in Christ, in the spirit of ecumenism.

Luis M. Melo, S.M., Director, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. For more information and photos of events, visit:

www.archsaintboniface.ca/english/ecumenism



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A four-colour braid - Oneness of the Church in its diversity (Bronx Park Community Centre)

Beautiful Witness of Service

World Day for Consecrated Life was first celebrated on February 2, 1997. It was instituted by Pope John Paul II to promote the knowledge, the respect and the relevance of consecrated life in the modern world.

This year marks the first time this celebration is observed in our Archdiocese. Approximately 150 participants gathered in Saint Boniface Cathedral for a celebration of prayerful gratitude and testimony for consecrated life. The assembled included religious men and women along with a number of parents, families and youth. Archbishop LeGatt could not attend but conveyed a message and a blessing for the assembled, offering thanks to God "for the beautiful witness of your lives of prayer and service. Your faithfulness has touched many lives and transformed many hearts."

Sister Laurette Doiron, s.g.m., led Vespers. A group of young people from the Catholic School of Evangelization were integrally involved in the Vesper Service, which included a Renewal of Vows of all religious present.

Father John Kracher, s.m. and Sister Ludmilla Grabetz, f.m.m. shared the story of their religious life and spoke of the many rewards of Consecrated Life. They invited the young people present to consider the call of God and to pray for discernment.

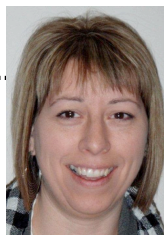
This meditative and joyful celebration of prayer and songs to the Lord was followed by a time of fellowship and a panel discussion downstairs.



Meet...

Joanne Comeault

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Koreen Hrizai

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Koreen is Diocesan Coordinator of Catechetics, English Sector. Her office responds to the needs of the diocese with models and methods of catechetical activities and resources. She provides assistance through the formation of catechists and encouragement of catechetical activity in parish community, school and home environments. *"The definite aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ."* (GDC 80)

Joanne is Diocesan Coordinator, French Sector. Her responsibilities are similar, with an added emphasis on adult catechesis in parishes and continued work with schools and children at the parish level.

Koreen has been serving in this part-time position since the fall of 2004 and Joanne since January 2011. Koreen is from St Joseph the Worker Parish and Joanne from Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish.

"Family Feud", Catholic-Style

On January 21st, a group from the Seine River Pastoral region organized an evening of "Family Feud" Catholic-style, at Holy Family Parish. 40 youth participated from Lorette (English and French youth groups), St Anne (English and French) and Holy Family. Master of ceremonies Gilles Marchildon skilfully managed the bilingual evening, with his entertaining comments.

This catholic version of the television game show was created four years ago by Monique Couture of Cathedral Parish. She conceived questions based on suggestions from parishioners. Since then, the game has been used throughout the archdiocese.

Ronda Lachance, an organizer, tells us: "It was most encouraging to see our young people have fun together and build friendships. I hope to plan another event in 2011." For more information, contact Ronda at 010304@mts.net

Become What You Receive...

...become the Body of Christ. The liturgy of the Church invites us to express our joy, thanks, reverence and unity as the Body of Christ. As the Second Vatican Council tells us, liturgy is the work of ALL the faithful. Full and active participation in the liturgy is not only our right but an obligation as baptized.

Such was the message of a workshop, held on January 29 at Blessed Sacrament Parish. Most of the 120 participants were liturgical ministers in their parishes. The workshop was facilitated by Susan Shefchyk, who holds a Master of Theological Studies from Newman Theological College in Edmonton and has served on the Diocesan Liturgy Commission.

Participants learned the meaning of the parts of the mass and the role of the many ministries and the assembly, involved in serving the liturgy and the People of God. A list of questions to use as private reflection was handed out to help all ponder their role as ministers.

For information on organizing a similar workshop in your region, contact Father Ed Bonin at 224-1669, ext. 2.

Did You Know That...

...you can download a **colour** version of *NEW VISION* online, at www.archsaintboniface.ca.

Michelle Larose-Kuzenko, Editor

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