

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

V.1#5, March 2011

Message from Our Archbishop



Dear Friends,

A most enjoyable first visit! Such was my impression during my visit to the communities of Little Grand Rapids, Bloodvein, Poplar River and Berens River at the end of January and the beginning of February.

These communities of about 800 to 1500 residents, mainly Aboriginal, are also home to workers from the outside, employed in the fields of health care or education. In Little Grand Rapids for example, many teachers come from Newfoundland.

The parishes of these communities are served by Fathers Rhéal Forest and Anthony Udengwu, with the support of a lay missionary, Mr. Paul Cyr.

Their pastoral ministry is mainly a ministry of presence, of celebration of sacraments and of catechesis in preparation for sacraments. Not to mention splitting wood for the furnace, repairing this and that in the rectory, distributing second-hand clothing and so much more.

Throughout all this, the ministry of the presence and continued relationships of supportive and mutual trust with the people of these communities are of the utmost importance. Being

present to them in moments of joy (the baptism of a newborn) as well as moments of great sorrow (the suicide of a teenager), that is the key to encountering Christ and serving Christ in these parishes.

It was for me a wonderful experience to be able to meet several parishioners, all very welcoming and committed, seeking a presence and a model of Church that corresponds to the complex reality of these Northern communities. It was also an opportunity to find myself in this beautiful country of lakes and forests with, as a bonus, the opportunity to accompany commercial fishers on lake Winnipeg. Life is good!

Archbishop Albert

The Global South – Catholic Schools Workshop

On Friday, February 25th, the Saint Boniface Pastoral Centre was filled with 70 students and their teachers, Gr. 6-12, from Catholic schools throughout the city of Winnipeg, who met for the fourth annual day to explore social and economic issues plaguing developing countries in the Global South

The event was organized by Brenda Chaput - Saltel, Regional Animator, Development and Peace (D&P); Pierre St-Amant, Youth Ministry Coordinator, Saint Boniface Archdiocese; Robert Praznik, Director of Catholic Education and Erin Kinsella, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, both of Winnipeg Archdiocese



Brenda Chaput-Saltel addresses students

“It’s important”, says Brenda Chaput-Saltel, “that youth today find their voice to speak out against these global injustices, and it’s crucial that we, as educators, provide an avenue for them to do so.”

Students were introduced to some of the important projects that D&P supports in the South, in particular, the right to water for all people and the fight against global poverty. They were given tools to create change by becoming missionaries right here at home, by educating their peers on global injustices and by participating in the 25-hour Thinkfast, a youth-led fundraising event held annually in various parishes and schools across the province.

The best part of the day was watching the 70 more missionaries spill out into the streets of Winnipeg!

Building a World of Justice

Share Lent is the most visible campaign of Development and Peace (D&P). It helps to build a collective conscience about the situation of the Global South, to underline the invitation of the Gospel to create justice and to offer concrete means to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters of the South. This time of Lent, a time of prayer, sacrifice and renewal of spirit has always been the perfect opportunity to participate in the campaign of Share Lent. We are grateful for our blessings and recognize the need to share with others.

This year's campaign, *Building a World of Justice*, March 9 to April 24 2011, hopes to raise 10 million dollars across the country for Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Visit *D&P Manitoba* at: www.dp-mb.blogspot.com

Watch a video at:

<http://www.devp.org/devpme/eng/donate/sharelent-eng.html>

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Meet...

The Resource Library



The Resource Library contains a variety of religious materials: videos, DVDs, cassettes, CDs and books. These are available to enrich any religious education program as well as one's spiritual journey.

The Resource Library, located on the main floor of the Pastoral Centre, 622 Taché Avenue, is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 to noon and from 1 to 4 pm.

Requests for material may be made on-line by registering as a member or by telephone. All individuals, parishes and schools are responsible for the pick up and return of the materials borrowed.

Please contact Agata Johns at (204) 237-9851, ext. 225
<http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/english/resources/index.php>

Editorial Board

Publications do not happen on their own. With their feedback, their suggestions and their wise counsel, the members of the Editorial Board ensure that *NEW VISION* is published. They are Father Robert Campeau, Marie Cormier Brunet and Aurise Kondziela. Pascale Dalcq and Ed Labossière are proofreaders, the first for the French and the second for the English versions.

Did You Know That...

➤ ...this is Lent. Read about Lenten-related activities in the *Weekly News Bulletin*

<http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/english/index.php>

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Into the Heart

At St Alphonse Parish recently, a group of young adults embarked on a journey *Into the Heart; A Journey Through the Theology of the Body*. This series is an eight-week, 16-parts video study by Christopher West that aims to deliver the message of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* to our deepest centre, our hearts.

Every gathering began with a prayer immediately followed by viewing two parts of the video series for about an hour. Men and women then met separately to unwrap, to discern the meanings of the messages with the help of thought-provoking questions.

As they near the end of their 8-week journey, participants appreciate that this experience provided them with enlightenment and blessings. Everyone in attendance heard something special that awakened in them what it means to be a man or woman. The sessions showed how the world has taken the most beautiful creation of God, our sexuality and has twisted and distorted it. The evenings have helped participants 'untwist' these views and live their sexuality purely and intimately with God in every vocation, be it marriage, single life or religious life.

Amy Borges, who facilitated the evenings, hopes to run this series again and recommends it: "I encourage anyone to attend the series or watch the videos on their own! Pope John Paul II's message is one for every age and it will change your life."

Christopher West has numerous videos available for everyone: *Theology of the Body for Teens*, *Intro to Theology of the Body* and *Into the Heart*.

For information on organizing a series in your area, contact Amy at borgesamy@hotmail.com. The videos are available at the Resource Library.

<http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/english/resources/index.php>
They can also be loaned from St. Alphonse Parish (667-9580).

A Celebration of the Heart

Sunday, February 13, World Marriage Day was celebrated in many parishes of our diocese. At Cathedral Parish, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) organized a special Sunday mass celebration.

Claudette Savard, President of the PPC, explained that the council wanted to recognize specially some couples celebrating 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of marriage this year. Thirteen couples were acknowledged, one celebrating 70 years of marriage! At all masses, the couples received boutonnieres made of fresh flowers and were introduced to the assembly by Father Marcel Damphousse. The homily touched on a few important aspects of marriage such as fidelity and forgiveness. The Prayers of the Faithful were an opportunity to pray for the couples. At offertory, one couple brought the gifts to the altar. The celebration ended with a blessing for all married couples, the reading of the Archbishop's message for the occasion and the distribution of bookmarks with a "Prayer for Our Marriage".

The festive mood was a notable aspect of the day according to Claudette. Following each mass, many gathered in the narthex to chat and congratulate the couples, who expressed their appreciation.