

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

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Message from Our Archbishop



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Dear Friends,

It's almost Easter. Spring is around the corner. It seems both are slow in coming this year. Good things come to those who wait and prepare.

After our Lenten efforts to transform our inner selves and to increase our commitment to charity towards everyone and our concern for justice for all, we will be able to celebrate that joy and life that is constantly made new in Jesus Christ, the Risen Living Lord.

Our hopes for new life for the church of Saint Boniface, hopes for dynamic and creative new ways of evangelization capable of reaching youth, young adults (and why not middle age people and seniors while we're at it), draw their strength from the person of Christ Himself and from the Spirit that He pours upon us by our baptism and our confirmation.

"Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it. Unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep vigil." (Psalm 127:1) And Jesus said that a house should be built on rock, not on sand.

At the present time, much is happening in our archdiocese: consultation, new initiatives, planning

and organizing. I would like to thank all: laity, religious, deacons and priests, for their earnest collaboration.

But let's remember that everything rests in the hands of God, in the hands and heart of the Risen Christ who gathers us together to build His Body, as He knows best.

Filled with light, joy and peace this Easter season (and praise God with springtime warmth at last), let us pray to Christ, the Font of Life, Our Lord and our Friend to truly guide us. Open to the Spirit, may His divine will be done. Let us pray, let us persevere in prayer and always in humility, gratitude and hope.

Archbishop Albert

"The Bishop Rocks!"

On Saturday March 26, Archbishop LeGat directed a Lenten Youth Retreat at St. Patrick's Parish in Manitou from 9:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

The 43 participants, ages 14 to 25, came from the Mountain Pastoral Region as well as from Winnipeg. The Archbishop spoke to them using humour and real life stories, about the meaning of the Eucharist and how to better live and understand the Holy Mass.

The four sessions were intertwined with fellowship, great food, praise and worship songs and Adoration. Participants enjoyed group discussions, creating posters and performing skits on Eucharistic miracles that have occurred over the years.

The retreat was brought to a close with a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Albert with the youth fully participating in all the ministries. They were truly appreciative to have had this powerful retreat.

It was a wonderful event where the participants learned more about the Holy Mass. All eagerly await news of the next retreat.

In the words of a youth: "The Bishop rocks! He has a brilliant wit and his analogies were amazing." Participants were very excited that he set aside an entire day to spend with them.

Jacinta Sanders, Manitou

Chemin Neuf Community

Ted and Nancy Wood recently returned to St Boniface, after an absence of nearly four years, to establish a Chemin Neuf Community at the invitation of Archbishop LeGat.

The Woods had worked in the Archdiocese and at Holy Cross parish for ten years as pastoral ministers before they left for England to explore life with Chemin Neuf.

Chemin Neuf began in 1973 in France when seven young people answered a call to form community. Today, the

community is in 27 countries and counts more than 1500 members, including priests, consecrated celibates, married couples and singles. It is a Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation.

Since their return the Woods have introduced three community missions:

- Home Bible Study for young adults (ages 18 to 30), with a Bible study in their home
- Cana, for married couples and families
- Net for God - a monthly gathering to pray and learn more about Christian initiatives for unity and peace with a video prepared by the community.

A small group of people who want to learn more about life with the community is now meeting regularly.

For more information contact the Woods at 235-0825 or ehthedwood@hotmail.com

Upcoming Chemin Neuf events are listed in the weekly news bulletin.

Ted Wood

The End of Slavery in Our Day

The Social Justice Committee of the Associates of the Missionary Oblate Sisters hosted a fundraising breakfast on Saturday, March 12 at the lower level at the Saint Boniface Cathedral. The purpose of this gathering was to raise awareness of a new form of slavery: that of prostitution of adults and children. The excellent presentations were very moving and participants were challenged to take action according to their abilities.

Dr. Christine Rae, a psychotherapist, is employed with *International Justice Mission Canada*, this year's recipient of the funds raised. She works with other professionals to rescue and offer support to victims, but also to catch predators. <http://www.ijm.ca>

Nicole Merrick, LL.B, is a member of *Beyond Borders*. Her talk sensitized the audience to the problems that exist here in Canada and elsewhere in the world. <http://www.beyondborders.org/wp/>

The 230 people in attendance were encouraged to live Lent more deeply, following the example of the prophet Isaiah: "*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*" Is 58:6

Thank you and bravo to the committee who organized this event.

Sr. Léonne Dumesnil, snjm

Lenten Retreat in Kilcona

These past 28 to 31 March, the Kilcona Pastoral Region held a retreat at Holy Redeemer Church. Father Gerald Michaud, formerly from Saint Boniface Diocese, used Scripture and a host of stories to challenge those attending on three themes:

- with *Contemplation*, we are called, as the Baptised, to contemplate Jesus, his life, and how he loved us. What does this mean for us, how are we to respond to God's blessings? We are called to bring God's love to others and, ultimately, to the world.
- through *Building Communion* we need to be a sign of the love of Christ, a resurrected people. This is so vital in a world that is broken and divided, in need of healing.
- with *Reconciliation* we place our lives at the Mercy of God. We need to contemplate the love of God and how God blesses us. In the image of the Father, we are called to make an impact on the world by being loving, compassionate and trusting that the Spirit is working within us, on our journey with Christ.

From these three concepts we need to develop our *Mission* to build the Kingdom of God, to be salt of the earth and light for the world, to gather in smaller groups and share scripture and continue to grow in the Love of God and share this love with everyone.

Father Gerry is a member of *Voluntas Dei*, a Secular Institute whose members live in the midst of the world, work in the world and give themselves to God for this same world. <http://www.voluntasdei.org/>

Angela Simmonds and Hal Studholme

"You Have Too Much Baggage"

Holy Redeemer Parish hosted a Dinner Theatre, March 12-13, featuring the play *Baggage Claim; A Modern-Day Parable* by Christian writer Don Bosley.

The D'Baquel family arrives at a much-advertised Bed and Breakfast. Soon, hidden issues of anger and addiction surface. The two children and the mother finally let go of their baggage. The father, Sam, struggles to remain in control. He will not give up his cumbersome baggage until it is too late and he cannot pay the enormous price. The bellhop, Jesus, sacrifices himself to pay it.

A B&B is a wonderful place to go for a rest and be taken care of. It is a metaphor for Jesus' invitation to "*Come to me*", to find rest in Him from life's hardships and relief from the weight of excess baggage. (Mt 11:28)

Co-directors Lou van Ryssel and Rick Loftson came across this play a year ago. This third annual event involves about 50 parishioners in various roles. Says Rick: "I have come to know people beyond the pews and we have become friends". Gerry Ouellette (Sam) tells us "It's a lot of fun, my kids love doing this, that's why I'm back".

These evenings have raised funds but have mainly been a means to build community within the parish. For information on planning and hosting such an event, contact Rick Loftson at loftson@shaw.ca

Meet...

Julien Fradette



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Julien Fradette is the Director of the Pastoral Centre for the Archdiocese since 2004. He manages the services of the Pastoral Centre and coordinates and offers support for the pastoral services that foster all forms of Christian commitment and evangelization.

Julien was a teacher. He later obtained a Master of Divinity from Newman Theological College in Edmonton. Julien and his wife have two children and will soon become grandparents.

Did You Know That...

... our Archdiocese counts 72 parishes, of which 19 are in rural areas; another 29 rural parishes do not have a resident priest. There are also 22 chaplaincies.

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