

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

V.1#8, June 2011

## Message from Our Archbishop



Dear Friends,

In the first chapter of the book of Genesis, we are told, in the story of Creation, that after six days of labour to create sky and earth in all their splendour, with all their inhabitants and having created humanity in His image as the high point of this creation, God rested on the seventh day. God saw all he had made. He saw that it was good, very good, and he rested to admire his masterpiece and rejoice in it.

Each Sunday is an opportunity for us to stop, to rest and above all to

rejoice in all the blessings of God: our families, our friends, our communities, creation and life itself, especially our new and eternal life in Jesus Christ, the Crucified, the Resurrected. We must rejoice and give thanks.

Summer also has this pace with its moments of holiday, of travelling, of beach and of rest: taking a break, tasting the goodness of life, of human relations, of our beautiful country. As Christians, we are called to reverence with awe before the magnificent works of God and to give thanks.

This year, in our parishes and our diocese, many efforts have been undertaken for the spiritual and pastoral renewal of our faith life and our faith communities. Let us give thanks and take the time to

re-energize so we can resume these efforts in the fall.

As I personally plan, with much anticipation, a week of canoeing at the beginning of summer and later a week with my whole family at Albert Beach, I wish you all a beautiful summer.

**Archbishop Albert**

### Summer Break

NEW VISION will not be published this summer. We will be back in September. Meanwhile, please continue to send your communiqués and news at: [bulletin@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:bulletin@archsaintboniface.ca)

## A Look at the Future of Pastoral Services

Over 55 representatives from across the diocese gathered at Mary Mother of the Church Parish on May 27 and 28 to continue a planning initiative that began last January. As in January, representatives from the Diocesan Council of Priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Pastoral Services Team and other invited guests came together, with Mr. Ronald Bisson as facilitator, to discuss the future needs of pastoral services for the faithful of the archdiocese.

The major areas of discussion were Lay Ministers' Leadership Formation; Evangelization Initiatives, for practicing Catholics as well as for those not involved in the Church but still searching spiritually; Youth Commitment; Christian Stewardship; and Communication Strategies, to reach across our diocesan structures and to the wider communities.

Initial indications are that the meeting was an important and successful step as we move forward in improving pastoral services for this archdiocese that is so rich in faith traditions and so blessed with a strong foundation of faith-filled people.

We can look forward to further reports from these meetings and further initiatives as they develop in the fall.

## St. Charles Retreat Centre

The initiatives of Chemin Neuf Community received a huge affirmation when the Missionary Oblate Sisters generously offered to give this ecumenical group their St. Charles Retreat House adjacent to St. Charles Roman Catholic Church in the west end of Winnipeg.

Instead of selling the riverfront property on the open market, the sisters decided to give it to Chemin Neuf to use as a residence for university students (ages 18-25) and a summer retreat centre for other groups to hold retreats and meetings. It will be open to people from all Christian faith traditions.

By September, Ted and Nancy Wood of Chemin Neuf hope to open the St. Charles campus to up to a dozen young adults, offering small private bedrooms with basic furnishings, common meals and an opportunity to live and study with other Christians. The students will live on the campus until April at a cost of about \$700 a month.

There will be an Open House on Sunday, June 26 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at 232 St. Charles Street.

For more information contact the Woods at 885-2260 or [ehtedwood@hotmail.com](mailto:ehtedwood@hotmail.com)

## A New Church for Morden

It took fifteen years of praying, planning and fundraising and finally the parishioners of St. John the Evangelist turned the sod for a new church this spring. Archbishop LeGatt was invited to do the honours.

This long-term project will cost approximately \$2.1 million, of which more than half is already raised. Philanthropist Mr. John Buhler generously donated the land. The project involves a church, rectory and hall, all of which will be geothermally heated.

Some creative fundraising included the sale of perogies, apple pies in September and tourtières in November, as well as window-washing. These fund-raising activities have contributed towards building a sense of community.

**Marylin Skubovius, Morden**

## Seminarians... A Rare Breed?

With the lack of priests in today's western Church, we could legitimately ask whether there are still seminarians, young men training to become priests.

Although the number of priests throughout the world has diminished in the last 25 years, the number of seminarians has doubled, jumping from nearly 64,000 candidates in 1978 to more than 115,919 in 2007. Unfortunately here in Canada and more specifically in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface only a few are called to the priesthood. God constantly calls young men to discern this ministry to the Church. Many hear the call, but few find the personal courage and the support of others to answer it.

Who are those who answer the call? There is no exact profile to describe today's seminarian. They come in all ages, though mainly their late 20s, from various milieus and walks of life, from this country as well as from abroad. They have a love of God and a love of our Church, expressed as a sincere desire to serve the people of God and to journey in faith with them. Each vocation story is unique, but the intervention of God can be seen in each one. He is the One who touches the life of people and calls them to give of themselves like Christ did, to build the Kingdom.

This coming September, we will likely have three seminarians. Others who may wish to join them or speak to someone about discernment for this vocation can call Father Marcel Damphousse, Director of Vocations, at 233-7304 or contact him at <marcel\_damphousse@hotmail.com>.

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## The New Testament Through Jewish Eyes

This spring, Christ the King Parish hosted a five-evening series, with Rabbi Neal Rose on "*The New Testament Through Jewish Eyes*". About 55 people from various parishes attended.

Rabbi Neal journeyed with us through the phrases of the "Our Father", affirming the importance of the Holy Name of God and the tender love of our Father and Creator. Participants proclaimed aloud chosen passages from the Book of Deuteronomy and, through comments, connected to the New Testament. We shared a simplified Seder supper and listened to songs that are sung at a Passover Meal.

Rabbi Neal explained that the command of Jesus from the Last Supper "Eat my body and drink my blood..." shows a big difference between Catholicism and Judaism because according to the First Testament laws and kosher prayers, Jews are never to eat blood.

Rabbi Neal brought his prayer shawl. Wrapped around the shoulders, one expresses the desire to embrace and envelop oneself with God. He also showed us a phylactery (tefillin in Hebrew), a small box containing a sacred scripture scroll, worn on the forehead during prayer, expressing the desire to have the Word of God on one's mind.

May we continue to share our faiths and beliefs with one another in peace as God's people, seeking unity through, with and in the Holy One.

**Donna Salo-Campbell, Christ the King**

## Summer Chapels

From Victoria Day until Labour Day, the Summer Chapels will be open in the different recreation areas of the Saint Boniface Diocese, such as the Whiteshell Provincial Park and Grand Beach area.

These Chapels give cottage owners and campers the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. The assembled faithful come from many different parishes, but create here a new faith community with a wonderful feeling of togetherness and sharing in worship and song.

Each Chapel has a Board of Directors, made up of people who regularly attend and together they prepare for the Sunday celebration. Each member has a specific role or ministry. They ensure the altar is set up and bread and wine are ready for service. Lectors and Eucharistic ministers are appointed. Music ministry is sometimes available. Someone takes the offerings. Others are in charge of maintenance of the Chapel.

The presider can be a priest who celebrates the Eucharist, or a deacon or designated lay leader who presides at a Liturgy of the Word.

My husband and I have been members of such a Chapel for many years and we are very grateful to have been able to attend Mass while at the lake.

**Nellie Guezen, St. Alphonsus**

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## Wind of Renewal at the Cathedral

Earlier this year, nearly a hundred parishioners and community representatives met in the basement of the Cathedral to discuss the future of this parish, its proposed services and facilities.

This meeting publicly started a process to breathe fresh life into the faith community by creating a more comfortable and functional liturgical space. The process will continue in parallel with the initiative of spiritual and pastoral renewal for the Archdiocese started by Archbishop LeGat.

After watching the video of the Archbishop on the vision for the Archdiocese, the participants met in small groups to discuss the strengths, the weaknesses and the opportunities of the parish. Then, they identified four priorities from among the following: faith education, catechesis for children, ministry to the sick and the aged, community and social justice, liturgy, youth and new immigrants. Some met in target groups: youth, heritage and tourism. Finally, everyone discussed the vision of the diocese.

The report of this meeting will provide feedback to help in the planning for the parish committees and the pastoral team in charge of developing and realizing the new vision. An initiative that initially targeted major repairs to the structure of the church has been transformed into a project to realize a new global vision for the Cathedral parish.

**Régis Gosselin, Cathédrale**

### Did You Know That...

... the schedule for Summer Chapels can be found on our Website: [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca)

**Michelle Larose-Kuzenko, Editor**  
[bulletin@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:bulletin@archsaintboniface.ca)