

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 2 #2 October 2011

Message from Our Archbishop

A Retreat: A Time of Internalization

Dear friends,

With the beginning of the new pastoral year and the relaunching of numerous activities, the question of a parish or regional retreat is often on the agenda for many of our Christian communities. The French urban parishes recently lived a rich experience with Father Georges Madore who introduced in a very profound and vibrant manner, with a touch of humour, several prophets from the Old Testament.

The parishes of the Red River Pastoral Region are preparing for an

Advent retreat about encountering Christ who comes towards us at every moment. In 2012, Blessed Sacrament parish in Transcona will host a Lenten retreat about the Eucharist. Those two retreats are but a few of the many already in preparation in our Archdiocese, be they at the parish level or for a particular group such as youth or seniors.

Where does this interest come for a retreat running several evenings or a whole weekend? The word "retreat" itself tells much. In a world where the way of life is often on over-drive, we need to stop to reflect, to pray and to share together so we can reconnect with what is deep within us. In this

way, we come to more fully understand our faith and to grow in our spirituality, in our relationship with God and with others.

Faith education and the growth of spirituality in everyone and mainly our adults – this is a key priority of our spiritual and pastoral renewal. A retreat is a privileged opportunity to live this time of internalization. Think about it... a retreat for your parish or your region??

Archbishop Albert



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Mission Workshop

For nearly a year, a group of nine people have worked in the new diocesan *Pontifical Mission Societies* (PMS) committee. The purpose of the committee is to create a culture of inclusion, of collective participation to the decisions and of valorisation of grassroots initiatives. Its first objective is to create a network of communication among all parishes. The committee invited each parish to name one or two laypersons with whom to communicate and share information.

On Saturday September 24, it organized the first bilingual missionary workshop at the Pastoral Centre.

The goals of this meeting were:

- ♦ to explain the history, the objectives and the annual activities of the PMSs for which the committee is responsible

- ♦ to identify, know, make known and valorise the grassroots initiatives currently happening in different parishes
- ♦ to describe what is Social Justice
- ♦ to ask the question: "Should the Saint Boniface diocese pursue a missionary project to which all can participate according to their interest?" The committee will discuss the many suggestions put forth at its next meeting.

35 priests, deacons, religious and lay people participated in this first workshop. Based on their feedback, this is an event worth repeating.

The president of the committee, **Denis Robert**, can be reached at 470-3340 or by email at lesserre@mts.net

Responding to a Call

Mountain Pastoral Region is blessed that four of its young women responded to a call. Nathania Mangin from Bruxelles left at the end of August to spend one year with NET Ireland. Louise Hutlet of St Claude, having just returned from several months of spiritual growth and service with Impact in Ottawa, has left for St Theresa in Bruno, Saskatchewan. Stephanie Sundell from Holland and Mariette Hutlet of St Claude are part of the Outreach Team 2011-2012 in St Malo.

All four young women will receive formation, spread the Gospel within parishes, and engage in Christian community lifestyles. This time of being immersed in the faith, learning about the Catholic Church and sharing their faith with others will allow them to deepen their personal encounter with the person of Christ. We ask you to keep these young women in your prayers.

Denise Walley, Holland

New Roman Missal Workshops

By the First Sunday of Advent of this year, parishes throughout the world that use English in their Liturgy will have a new *Roman Missal* with a revised translation of the original Latin text. There will also be a few revised instructions for the *Missal* and for the ritual of the Mass. The changes in ritual will be minor, but they need to be explained before they are implemented. To this end, the Archdiocese, through the Divine Worship Committee, has organized workshops in Pastoral Regions to educate Liturgy Committees, presiders, lay ministers and all interested in this renewal of our Eucharistic celebration.

The workshops reached capacity in Lorette, Anola, Somerset and at Holy Redeemer Parish in Winnipeg. We have been well received in each location and we thank the many men and women who have made these workshops possible. Two more have been added at Christ The King Parish on October 29 and November 5. Fr. Marcel Toupin also conducted one well-attended workshop in French at the Pastoral Centre.

We are indeed grateful for the interest that continues to be shown for the beauty and the renewal of our ancient liturgy. While providing a specific plan for the minor changes of the Mass and specific dates for their implementation, our focus has been on the renewed Theology of the Eucharist. This is a tremendous opportunity for our parish communities to continue to expand their understanding of the Mass.

We wish to thank the many eager souls who participated in the workshops by listening and asking relevant questions with open minds and hearts. It has been a privilege for us to serve and to learn from you.

**Fr. Renato Pasinato, Chair,
Divine Worship Committee**

Catechist's Toolbox Workshop

At the beginning of September, more than 150 Catechists from the Archdioceses of Saint Boniface (English parishes) and Winnipeg gathered to explore "*The Catechist's Toolbox*", an excellent resource for both new and

seasoned catechists. We learned so much! Prayer, large and small group sessions and presentations that formed our day were filled with great ideas for passing on the faith to children of all grade levels. Using song, collages, role-playing and symbols we had hands-on experience of particular activities at all age levels.

Denise Walley, Holland

Catechists from the French parishes of the Archdiocese held their own workshop on September 10th. They focused on a new role for Catechists as accompanying adults to young parents, transmitting to them the essential elements of the Catholic faith as they prepare their child for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

**Joanne Comeault,
Diocesan Coordinator of Catechetics
(French)**

Ecumenism in Lac du Bonnet

"We are all pilgrims, not strangers, coming from a parallel path to walk together in Christ". This was the message that Father Luis Melo, S.M., director of Ecumenism for the Diocese, shared with parishioners of Notre Dame du Lac Church and surrounding areas on the 22nd and 29th of last month.

We search for Christian unity as we examine our past and present and long for the future. Why should we care about ecumenism and what have been its accomplishments and challenges? We care because Jesus did – it was His prayer to His Father for His disciples (Jn 17:21). The foundations set by the Second Vatican Council were looked at, especially *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)* and the *Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio)*.

The workshops also included prayer and several creative group dynamics that led participants to an understanding of the modern Ecumenical Movement, different approaches to unity, the call to the entire people of God to be about unity, a discussion on the goals of dialogue and the significant post Vatican II developments in Catholicism.

People were touched by Father Melo's presentation. They felt that they gained a better understanding and appreciation in the work our Church has done in order to promote Christian Unity. They now have more positive attitudes towards their own tradition within the Christian family and about why it is important to learn and understand the theology behind Spiritual Ecumenism.

Fr. Jose Montepeque

A Parish Retreat

An inter-parish retreat! What a neat idea! From Sunday September 25 to Wednesday the 28th, the four parishes in the French Urban Pastoral Region had the privilege of sharing a retreat: one evening per parish, starting at Saints-Martyrs, then at Précieux-Sang, Saint-Eugène ending at the Cathedral.

It was led by Father Georges Madore, a Montfortian preacher, and what a leader he was! It is never easy to talk Bible because it is the history of the development of a faith in a unique God and it represents a two thousand years journey. Things change over two thousand years and the story is complex and not easy to understand. Yet Father Madore was able to present it with life, simplicity and humour. The evenings seemed short but so enriching! Indeed, more people came each night.

In the context of four great prophets of the Old Testament: Moses, Amos, Ezekiel and Jonas, we understood that we still count in the eyes of God, regardless of our weaknesses, our slights, our sins. And that God always manages to find us and transform us, if only we open ourselves to his mercy.

The inspiration for a parish retreat came from Saints-Martyrs, from where it grew into an inter-parish event. Sharing our resources and our ideas, that is the fruit of the new evangelization in our diocese. There must be others, there must be more...

A big thank you to Father Georges and to the parishes who welcomed him so well.

Gilberte Proteau, Cathedral Parish