

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint-Boniface

Vol. 2 #6 February 2012

## Message from Our Archbishop

Dear Friends

As I first came to the Archdiocese in 2009, I learnt that in its pastoral efforts, about 25 years ago, the experience of RENEW was lived by many of the parishes. Inquiring further about this, I soon came to realize that it had been a very positive experience for many priests, religious and lay people. People remembered it as an experience that had helped them to share and grow in their faith, to come to know fellow parishioners better and to grow as a community as they came together in small groups in their homes over several seasons. In fact, there are a few groups across the diocese still meeting regularly.

This connected with my own experience of living a RENEW 2000 experience in St. Joseph Parish in Prince Albert, when that diocese adopted this program as a

way of preparing for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was nourished and edified in my own faith as I too gathered with a group of eight people, all sharing the Word of God, our own faith and our own life's experience with one another. It was truly wonderful to see the Spirit at work as we learned from one another and journeyed together.

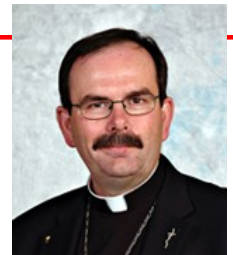
It is therefore with a lot of hope and confidence that I announce that as a key part of the Pastoral and Spiritual Renewal to be undertaken in our archdiocese, we will again be experiencing RENEW for the next three years. This program can be of immense benefit in our efforts to promote

- a new evangelization reaching out to all with the Gospel message;
- faith formation for adults in a way

that touches their daily lives;

- participation of the laity and their growth in leadership within our parish communities;
- the strengthening of our parishes in being both welcoming and a sure place of friendship and mutual support.

I hope that many of you will choose to become involved! Be on the lookout for further information on the meetings and preparatory sessions in view of the launch of the first of our RENEW seasons in the fall of 2012.



*Archbishop Albert*

## Little Lambs of Jesus

The *Agnelets de Jésus* (Little Lambs of Jesus) is one of the evangelization roads of the ecclesial movement *Les Brebis de Jésus* (Sheep of Jesus). It is designed for children 3 to 5 years old. It is inspired by the heart of Christ, Good Shepherd, who wants to reveal his love and tenderness to each of his children in a personal and intimate way.

The child is initiated to dialogue, to prayer, to intimacy with his/her Good Shepherd in the first year of journeying. It is the Word of God that inspires all meetings, orienting the games, the small rituals, the simple gestures, the songs, the set-ups, speaking to the heart of the child, weaving the relationship.

At the meetings, Jesus invites the children to take their rightful place within the Church. Jesus places the little child among us, it is He who becomes our guide, because the little one understands with great simplicity. The child becomes, by his spontaneity, missionary of the love of God.

A French group of *Agnelets* was formed in

our diocese in January 2012 with ten little ones. The parents are invited to attend with their child and to follow up at home. The group leaders have received a special formation. They are Marc Malo, Lise Malo, Chantal Huletey and Louisa Lalonde, assisted by Consuella Huletey, a teen who journeyed for the past three years with the *Brebis*.

*Yvette Bernardin, m.o.*

## Festival of Prayer

If you think Festival, you think fête, get-together, celebration, for example our *Festival du Voyageur*. Is that really what the *Festival of Prayer* for Christian unity is all about? It is not likely as exuberant, nevertheless it is quite an enjoyable meeting time. The idea is to invite Christians of all denominations to meet, eight days in a row, in different churches throughout Winnipeg in order to pray together for Christian unity.

This year, the Festival, held January 22-29, started at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, in the Winnipeg Archdiocese. The celebration, presided by Archbishop James

Weisgerber, included leaders of twenty-one denominations. The celebration was superb, as well as the singing provided by the ecumenical and the parish choirs. Twenty young people, dressed in traditional Polish costume, welcomed the church leaders according to a Polish tradition, by offering bread and salt to each. The theme for this year, "*We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ*" 1 Co 15:51, was chosen by the Polish Ecumenical Council, which also prepared resource materials.

The approach is simple: a time of prayer in the tradition of the host church, followed by refreshments allowing time for meeting people of other religions. Cardinal Mercier of Belgium, who was encouraging of the Catholic-Anglican dialogue wrote: "In order to know ourselves, we have to encounter the other". My wish is that more and more, lay Catholics as well as clergy, will choose to participate in at least one evening during this festival, so efficiently organized by Fr. Luis Melo of our diocese and Fr. Robert Polz of the Winnipeg Diocese.

**Camille Légaré csv**

## **Natural Family Planning**

A few months before our wedding, we took a course on Natural Family Planning (NFP) offered by Serena Manitoba. From our wedding, we used NFP to regulate pregnancies. During the first two years of our marriage we postponed a pregnancy so Janelle could complete her degree. Then we used this same fertility knowledge to determine the best time to conceive and we now have three wonderful children.

Our initial decision to use NFP was straightforward. We were versed in Catholic teachings on love, family and our sexual nature. Prior to marriage, most of this information was theoretical; we have since discovered that NFP is more than a “technical reproductive planning tool”; it actually engenders a whole “way of life” and presents a fresh perspective on sexuality and human fertility. As a couple, we stand in reverent awe of the powerful gift of fertility that God has granted us.

For couples not trying to conceive, NFP means a time of sexual abstinence every cycle. At the beginning of our marriage, this was challenging, but we soon learned to use these times to diversify our expressions of love and make them more creative. Using NFP has actually increased our ability to be self-giving, loving and caring people.

Since our marriage, we have delved deeper into texts about marriage, family, love and sex, such as Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. We have also become involved as volunteers with Serena.

For more information, call 783-0091 in Winnipeg or 1-866-317-5362 outside Winnipeg, email [mbserena@gmail.com](mailto:mbserena@gmail.com) or check out the website at [serenamb.wordpress.com](http://serenamb.wordpress.com)

**Jean and Janelle Lafrance,  
Holy Cross Parish**

## **Archbishop Meets First Nations Parish Representatives**

An historic meeting took place on January 10-11, 2012 at St. Alexander Parish, on the Sagkeeng First Nation. Chief Donovan Fontaine welcomed Archbishop LeGatt and the 30 representatives from the ten First Nations parishes of the Archdiocese. Richard Fréchette, Financial Administrator and Julien Fradette, Director of Pastoral Services accompanied the Archbishop.

This event marked the first time the Archbishop of Saint Boniface met with parish representatives in this manner and it was much appreciated. It gave the parish leaders an opportunity to share with their archbishop what it is they value and enjoy about the Catholic Community in their area and parish, what makes their faith important to them.

In a traditional Sharing Circle, the accounts were a vivid testimony to the deep faith that resides in the parishioners of our First Nations – all despite the many hardships they personally face in their lives and in

their families. For some, this includes difficulties encountered in residential schools, one of which stood not far from the church where the meeting took place. Many also shared good memories they had of the Oblate Priests and Grey Nuns that served them so well in years past.

As in previous meetings with other groups of the archdiocese, the representatives shared their needs with Archbishop LeGatt, as they continue on their faith journey. Those needs may be similar to that of the rest of the archdiocese yet they differ in that the challenges to deliver the spiritual care and services are more pronounced, in particular because of the lack of priests and religious. Currently, four priests serve the ten parishes.

The gathering concluded with Archbishop LeGatt stating: “We need to make this an annual event. I commit myself to that.”

**Julien Fradette**

## **Spiritual and Pastoral Renewal**

The renewal process, which started with consultations in Pastoral Regions, followed by Planning sessions in January and May 2011, took another step on Feb. 10-11, this time with members of Pastoral Services and their teams. They met, once again under the skilled leadership of Mr. Ronald Bisson, to assess current pastoral services to “Discover, Rediscover and Renew Our Baptismal Commitment”.

Archbishop LeGatt presented the Action Plan for 2011-2017, developed after the sessions of 2011. As he spoke of the mission of our diocese, he said that “we are the people of God which is expressed well in the words ‘your kingdom come’”. The talents and charisms of the baptized are recognized and valued “as we commit to our relationship with Christ and our Church becomes ‘less social’ and more ‘belief and personal engagement’”.

The value of “welcoming” strongly stood

out in the feedback of participants. It is not enough to attend a church because it is nearby, “we want to go there because we are welcomed and we can build community with other members”.

The Archbishop then described the five guiding principles that would be the basis for discussion in the session. In work groups including catechetics, youth ministry, missions, marriage and family, liturgy, vocation and ecumenism, participants discussed what activities currently taking place in the diocese align themselves with the principles and which new or different activities could be implemented.

The many suggestions put forth reflect the vibrancy of our Church and the strong desire from all to actively take it forward in the next five years of implementation of this Plan.

**Michelle Larose-Kuzenko**

Read **NEW VISION** online at [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca)  
Select the icon in the left menu.

**Update** - The article “Amigos” published in January contained some information that might have confused readers and caused embarrassment to some people. We apologize.

Please note the following updates:

- Houses cost between \$5500 and \$6000 each in building materials;
- The fundraising evening of December 9<sup>th</sup> raised \$3661;

- Overall donations totalled more than \$20,245, including one of \$10,000, presented to Norbert Ritchot, Mission Leader of the group by Raymond Lafond on behalf of a charitable foundation.