

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint-Boniface

Vol.2 #9. May 2012

## Message from our Archbishop

Dear Friends,

The parishioners of the Saint Boniface Cathedral have embarked on a very significant journey. The project is to give a new “look” to the building itself of the Cathedral, but also a new “look” to the whole site which includes the plaza, stone walls and facade of the former 1908 Cathedral, as well as the historic cemetery. However, even beyond that scope, they wish to give a new “look” to this parish’s pastoral and community life that would redefine and redevelop it as truly a gathering place for all people, a “place” to meet God and meet one another.

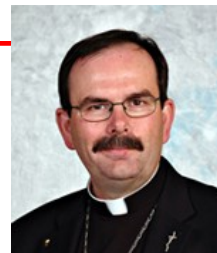
In concert with the Archdiocese, the parish will replace the roof, renovate the worship space and upgrade the facilities such as the hall so that they can fully serve the pastoral and community needs of parish and diocesan gatherings. However, once again in concert with the Archdiocese, the parishioners are also searching for a way to make the whole site – church, historic plaza and walls, cemetery – into a place where events and experiences will see the coming together firstly of people from across the Archdiocese of many languages and cultures, but secondly also of many Christian churches and many faiths (including First Nations’ tradition of spirituality). The hope is that people will

gather at this site to speak, listen and pray about mutual harmony through mutual enrichment and dialogue, about reconciliation and healing of divisions, about peace. It’s a grand dream and vision!

The project, which is budgeted at 6.0 millions, will necessitate a huge effort of fundraising and financial support. The parishioners of the Cathedral have put together a solid plan to achieve this result. It includes first of all, of course, a fundraising drive to obtain gifts and pledges from the parishioners of the Cathedral Parish itself. Secondly, the plan sees the

***“A grand vision  
for the future”***

Cathedral Parish and Archdiocese approaching the clergy, the religious congregations but also levels of government – city, provincial, federal – as well as corporations, foundations and major donors for a substantial part of the total. Then, thirdly, there will be the campaign asking the rest of the people of the Archdiocese to support the project. After all, it is “our” Cathedral and we seek to make it evermore a central focus of our bilingual and multicultural diocesan life.



In approaching the people of the Archdiocese, there will be no taxation or assessment on the other parishes to help fund this project. There will be an information campaign and an appeal for all individual members of the Archdiocese to respond to this request for financial and moral support of this project. You will receive more information as this phase of the fundraising plan approaches.

Along with the Forks and the upcoming Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Cathedral site can indeed become a true gathering place. Already, a concert as part of a Metis anniversary celebration and another concert with the participation of a Jewish choir have taken place within the Cathedral. We can go so much further and do so much more to be a Cathedral site where the Church, the various faiths, the city and indeed the world can meet in a spirit of common humanity blessed by the one God. Please keep your ears opened to more news about this project in the future. Please pray for and support this vision, this project as you can. Thank you.

**Archbishop Albert**

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In June, **NEW VISION** will feature 4 pages of good news from the Archdiocese, all in colour, and with photos!

## NET Team in Manitoba

National Evangelization Teams (NET) is a Catholic Movement of young adult missionaries fresh out of high school, in the middle of university, or well into their careers, who take a year of their lives to proclaim the message of God's love and inspire young Catholics to embrace the life of the Church. They reach out mainly through personal testimony at events such as retreats.

All retreats have key parts. First, meeting in small groups gives youth a chance to feel comfortable, discuss and share their experiences. Then, a team member shares how God has worked in his/her life, linking it to the theme of the day. The focus is on telling youth that God loves them, that He has a plan for them and that they can find their worth in Him. Finally, a NET member prays individually with each youth. This is the climax of the retreat and it is a very powerful moment for

all. Throughout the day there are also skits, games, learning activities, music and tons of fun!

At some retreats participants can choose to go to reconciliation during the time of prayer. Some are nervous at first, but after a little encouragement, many receive the sacrament and afterwards say they feel lighter and free. All the youth who come to the retreats are at different places in their lives and in their faith. The team shows them what is available to them if they open their hearts to Him. The rest is in God's hands.

For more information visit

[www.netcanada.ca](http://www.netcanada.ca)

*Julie Godin is an 18 year old from a large Catholic family in Whitecourt, AB. She is part of the French NET team that held retreats earlier this year, in Winnipeg, Cook's Creek, Ste-Anne and Steinbach.*

## Day of Discernment

*On March 24, a daylong retreat for vocation to the priesthood was held at the Light of the Prairies Centre, near Lorette. Fr. Marcel Damphousse, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese, organized the day along with Archbishop LeGatt and Fr. Gerry Sembrano.*

"Of the five guys who came, I was quite surprised to see that I had met three at a previous retreat. The morning started with prayer and a discussion on what a calling is and how God calls us. We read and reflected on Biblical stories of Jeremiah, Mary, Paul, Isaiah and the apostles then we shared what we experienced from them.

The three priests told us their stories and talked about the different stages in the calling to be a priest: discernment, formation and pastoral

life. It was really neat to hear each unique story. Following this, we watched a short video about the priesthood.

We celebrated Mass in a small chapel to round out the day. This was a different experience than I was used to since only a handful of people participated. Still, it was quite special. At the end of the day, we asked questions and talked about the day. This was a great opportunity for fellowship and learning.

I had a great experience talking with other young men about the priesthood and was able to get more information to help in my own discernment and really take steps to try and follow God's will for myself."

**Brian Trueman,**

**Christ Our Saviour, Steinbach**

## Caritas Award Dinner

On April 24, 2012, the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba held its annual Caritas Award Dinner. This year's recipients, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM), have a long history in Manitoba. The Sisters' charism focuses on education and women's empowerment.

The Sisters arrived from France in 1898 at the behest of Archbishop Adélarde Langevin, o.m.i., who wanted teachers for fast-growing Catholic communities, many of which were French-speaking. They settled in Grande-Clairière, near Brandon. In the following fifteen years, they also went to Brandon, Ste-Rose-du-Lac, St-Eustache, Letellier, Elie, St-Joseph, Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie.

Over the years, the Sisters' ministry broadened to include First Nations communities, mentally challenged persons and refugees.

Archbishop LeGatt referred to the Sisters as "women engaging in third and fourth careers, who lead in service with wonderful work even more needed these days". Sister Veronica Dunne, Provincial Leader, accepted the award. She said that she felt extraordinarily honoured and humbled by such recognition.

The Sisters are the 34<sup>th</sup> recipients of the Caritas Award. The Catholic Foundation was founded in 1964 by the Knights of Columbus, Manitoba State Council, with the blessing of the Catholic Bishops of Manitoba.

## Diocesan Gathering – All Are Welcome

Special Celebration, Saturday June 2nd, at 5pm in Saint Boniface Cathedral  
Bilingual Mass followed by a barbecue and Concert of sacred and popular music

**Don't forget:** The Mass of Saint Boniface will be celebrated June 5th with a bilingual Mass at 7:30 pm, followed by refreshments.