

Message from our Archbishop

The Promotion of Vocations to the Priesthood at Home

Dear Friends,

This year, the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* will be held Sunday April 29th. In this fourth Sunday of Easter, we are invited to pray in a special way for vocations to the priesthood among our young men here in Manitoba. At other times during the year, we pray for couples on the *World Marriage Day* and for religious on the *World Day of Consecrated Life*.

In my last message of March, I spoke of our diocesan efforts to invite seminarians and priests from other countries to come assist us. We should not however lose hope to encourage vocations to the

priesthood in our home soil of Manitoba.

Saturday March 24th, a day of information and discernment was held for five young men who consider the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. It was a very beautiful day in the company of these young men from Steinbach, from Cathedral Parish and from the Catholic School of Evangelization.

The Archdiocese considers having three other seminarians starting their studies this fall, in addition to the two who started in 2011. Four of them are from Manitoba and one

from Vietnam. The Manitoba seminarians

are from Saint Bernadette, Holy Cross, Christ Our Saviour of Steinbach and Saint Martin of Tours of Swan Lake. Yes, there is hope!

I invite all, parents, grandparents, priests, religious, Youth Ministry Leaders, catechists to continue to talk about vocations, including that of course to the priesthood. Let's continue to pray and to act to encourage future pastors for our communities. The Lord continues his calling. Let us be confident!

Archbishop Albert



Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is an opportunity for young people in their 20s and 30s to meet and discuss issues of faith in a relaxed atmosphere.

On March 8th, about ten young people met at the Jolly Friar restaurant of the Norwood Hotel to discuss, with Archbishop LeGatt, the role of women in the church. The opening question: "Are they permitted full participation in the church?" The reply of the Archbishop: "Not yet."

Even if we exclude ordination of women, there is still much inclusion work to be done, for example, participation in the formation of seminarians and holding key positions at the Curia in Vatican. Their contribution in the Church is important as it needs the qualities, the abilities and the gifts of women.

A participant

God Called Me

I was born and raised in a Catholic family in the town of Saint Joseph. As a child, my parents sent me to the camps in Saint Malo, where I encountered the Catholic School of Evangelization (CSE). I first heard about the Catholic Outreach Team when I went to a 15-17 year old retreat, but I thought nothing of it at the time. It wasn't until Kurt, the Outreach Coordinator, called and asked me if I had ever thought about the Outreach Team, that I actually considered joining.

I am not sure what I was expecting, maybe to learn about my faith and to grow closer to God. I was also expecting to go out, to lead retreats, to touch lives and to change lives. But, I never expected that MY life would change so much. For me, every

time I help put on a retreat, I meet new people and they minister to me as much as I to them. They teach me about the love of God and I am blessed to be able to see a little bit of God's love through them. God continues to amaze me and draws me closer to Him. I am glad He called me to be on the Outreach Team!

For information on Summer Camps or joining the Catholic Outreach Team, visit www.catholicway.ca or call 204-347-5396.

Nicolas Brais, Saint Joseph

Meeting God in Friend and Stranger

For four consecutive Wednesdays in March, members of the South Urban English Pastoral Region participated in *Finding Direction for Inter-Religious Dialogue: Meeting God in Friend and Stranger*. The presentations by Rev. Dr. Luis Melo, S.M. contained relevant information, interspersed with audiovisuals, well-timed humour and input from participants.

The following is but a taste of the vast amount of information we shared:

...As Catholics, if we are to be successful in inter-religious dialogue, we need to be knowledgeable about OTHER religions and their varied traditions. Prudence is essential.

...It becomes clear that WE also need to be well-informed of our own Church's teaching on the necessity of Christ, the Church and Baptism for salvation.

...The First World Day of Prayer for Peace was in Assisi on October 27, 1986. Representatives of various religions gathered in places set aside for them, to pray at the same time, from their own tradition (Multi-religious Prayer).

...We are connected, everyone, through love of God. If Catholics are to participate in interfaith events, we must be at the planning table. When announcing such events, attention must be given to correct wording and appropriate days (Many religions have different days of observing the Sabbath). We must also be allowed to pray from our own tradition.

...Marriage in other faith traditions - it is important to have a good understanding of Christian marriage as well as the other person's tradition. Once an inter-religious couple has asked to marry, they are entitled to every support.

Attending these talks has enriched my understanding of Catholic tradition and the traditions of other religions.

**Dorothy Weldon
Christ the King Parish**

« Brebis de Jésus »

On October 22nd 2010, three 'shepherdesses' (group leaders), Noëlla Bissonnette, m.o., Rose-Aimée Morier and Diane Carrière, started a fourth year of evangelization with seven young people of the archdiocese. The movement *Les Brebis de Jésus (The Sheep of Jesus)* started in 1985 in Québec and is sponsored by the Missionary Oblate Sisters and their Associates.

The goal of this program is to offer young people of 6 to 12 years of age evangelical experiences that open the door to the development of a personal relationship of love between the youth and Jesus. The movement gets its *raison d'être* and its creed in the Gospel of John, chapter 10, with the story of the Good Shepherd.

Group sharing and integration activities strengthen the values depicted in the text. The youth are encouraged to live these values in their everyday life through concrete actions, by using loving words, in taking healthy decisions and in bringing to others the Great and the Good News of the Risen Jesus.

It is with much love and gratitude that we, the shepherdesses, accept to participate in this project of evangelization of our youth. Together, we work to build the Kingdom of God among us!

For more information, contact Sr. Yvette Bernardin, m.o., at 594-6402 or ybernardin@hotmail.com

Diane Carrière

Lenten Mission Reflection

Blessed Sacrament Parish hosted a Lenten Retreat for the Kilcona Pastoral Region, March 12-15, led by Archbishop Albert LeGatt, with the theme "Thy Will Be Done". More than a phrase from the *Our Father* or the title of the theme hymn for the four evenings, these words actually became alive for all.

The presentations gently united participants into a 'family feeling' as children of God, as children who want to please their Father and enjoy being a part of that family. The down to earth way of explaining God's will for us and all that it entails was warmly inviting.

"What is God's will?" Expanding on Ephesians 1:3-14, we understood the words more deeply than previously imagined; this generated excitement that we are a part of that will and can become even more so. It was encouraging to reposition one's self as the member of a Kingdom and imagine

what our world would look like when the Reign of God grows in the world through our living God's will.

A close examination of the Eucharistic Prayer enhanced the meaning of this high part of our Mass and the nourishment it provides, giving us the strength to live the Will of God.

Recognizing our humanity Archbishop Albert made God's loving mercy come alive so that when we experience ourselves falling short of living His will, we need not despair. On the final evening Luke 15:1-32 brought us to Reconciliation with God and with ourselves so we could pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off. The participants continued to share their enthusiasm and joy well past the end of the formal presentation.

**Valerie Wadephul
Blessed Sacrament Parish**

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