

# NEW VISION

The Church of St Boniface

Vol. 3 #1 – September 2012



## *The Gospel Has Been Brought To Life*

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of the Passion Play at La Riviere, was held in early July. Director and writer Belita Sanders tells us the play is "Beyond a theatrical experience, it is the words of Jesus and the story of his life."

Sanders takes much of the dialogue directly from the Bible and includes some fictional characters representing people who could have met Jesus. Last year, several new scenes were added, including the Annunciation, the early life of Jesus, and the Sermon on the Mount, while others were removed to keep the length at around two hours. She insists that the Passion Play is meant for family viewing.

"Because of this, we do not overdramatize".

Starting in May, a large ecumenical cast and crew from across

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southern Manitoba meets. One such volunteer is Father Dominic LaFleur who played Judas Iscariot. When asked why a priest would act this character, he replied "...It is the easiest role to play, that of Judas... after all, I just have to be myself. It is, by the same token, the most disturbing reality to accept; easy

because I just follow my fallen human nature, disturbing because I could easily follow Judas' path by persisting in my sinful inclinations..."

Archbishop LeGatt celebrated Mass and led the Way of the Cross at the last presentation of the season. He describes it as a very concrete way to represent the Gospel. "Reading the Gospel is an intellectual exercise, imagined by each reader", he says, but seeing it live is "a very concrete reality that hits us, all our senses are engaged".

For more information and photos, visit <http://www.passionplay.ca>

## Our Archbishop's Message

### Diversity in Communion



Dear Friends,

Our archdiocese has a rich past, a heritage we will celebrate in a special way in 2018 as we remember the arrival of Father (later Bishop) Joseph-Norbert Provencher two hundred years ago in 1818. With his arrival, the Church was established on these western plains and in these northern forests. Since then, through the work of dedicated lay people, religious, priests and bishops, the Church has grown, woven through and through with the threads of many languages and cultures.

Our archdiocese today continues to be made up of a wide diversity of cultures. We recognize our foundational bilingual reality of French and English-speaking communities. However, we also have a host of people, parishes and

communities that reflect other languages and cultures, especially those of relative newcomers to Canada. Hence, we are transformed, as people from the Philippines, India, Eastern Europe, etc, now come with the faith, traditions and devotions of their lands.

To serve specific groups we have a Spanish-speaking community (Nuestra Señora) a Vietnamese community (Saint Philippe Minh), a Korean community (Saint Thomas More), an African Catholic Community (Saint Kizito), and a Laotian community (part of Holy Family).

As we acknowledge the richness of cultures coming to be part of our one Church, we must not forget the culture of those members of our archdiocese whose ancestors have been here for thousands of

years, the First Nations, as well as that of the Métis. We have eight native parishes centered in Fort Alexander (Sagkeeng) and Berens River.

The linguistic and cultural diversity of our archdiocese is both a challenge and a source of great potential.

This year, a part of the efforts of the Diocesan Pastoral Council will be to further two questions. Firstly, 'How can our archdiocese be more fully, more truly bilingual, with full possibility of participation whether one is English or French-speaking?' Secondly, 'How must our archdiocese reflect and draw upon its multicultural richness?'

**Archbishop Albert**

## Freedom To Love

Christopher West is recognized for his work promoting an integral, biblical vision of human life, love and sexuality. About 500 people attended the *Freedom to Love Conference* on Saturday, August 4 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. It is based on the *Theology of the Body*—Blessed Pope John Paul II's first major teaching during his pontificate—a study of what God has revealed about Himself in and through the human body.

Father Jeffrey Burwell, S.J. celebrated the Opening Mass. He said, "We as priests are not called to be ordinary or mediocre. We are called to be heroes." I think the same can be said about the laity.

The previous day, West spoke to 23 priests and 4 deacons from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface on "Proclaiming the Theology of the Body - An Introduction

for Priests", at St Edward's Church Hall.

West is a very vibrant, energetic and charismatic speaker. He is able to reach the mind and the heart of his audience by his simple and true-to-life personal examples and through the music of his band. It was an inspiring experience for many of us.

Overall, he summarized the main theme of the 'marital' sexual relationship to be a foreshadowing of what awaits us in heaven. He honoured the priests and nuns present saying, "they are the living proof that celibacy is possible."

Visit Christopher West's site at <http://www.christopherwest.com>

**Carolina Lucas, St. Andrew Bobola**





## *Need a Faith Lift?*

We will launch shortly the first season of  
*ARISE Together in Christ*

***ARISE Together in Christ*** is an opportunity for each of us to develop a closer relationship with Christ and deepen our faith in a unique way. The three-year, process of spiritual renewal, divided in 5 "seasons" of six weeks each, enables people to get together in small groups in a relaxed setting to read and share upon the Word of God.



### ***Sign Up Sunday!***

Since February, *ARISE* parish teams throughout the diocese have been preparing for the launch of *ARISE's* first season, *Encountering Christ Today*.

On September 23, your *ARISE* parish team will invite you to join a small faith-sharing group. Groups will start meeting during the week of October 14 for the first season.

Ask your *ARISE* parish team how you can be part of this exciting process!

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"By gathering us in small Christian communities and leading us to share upon the Word of God, upon our faith and upon our lives, the *ARISE Together in Christ* experience can help us to both grow in our spiritual lives and to reach out to many who hunger for love and meaning in their lives."

***Archbishop Albert LeGatt***



***"Two small faith sharing groups meet"***

## ***A New Bishop for Alexandria-Cornwall***

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 21 years to the day after his ordination to the priesthood, Rev. Marcel Damphousse was appointed by Pope Benedict XV1 to become Bishop-elect of Alexandria-Cornwall, in Southeastern Ontario. He had been rector of Saint Boniface Cathedral since 2008.

Born in St. Joseph, he served in several parishes and was Director of Vocations for the past dozen years. He also worked with youth, teaching at the Catholic School of Evangelization; he was Chaplain of *St Boniface*

*Diocesan High School* and spiritual director of TEC (To Encounter Christ). When asked what Bishop Damphousse will bring to Alexandria-Cornwall, Archbishop LeGatt praised him as a man of prayer. "He sees the qualities and the humanity in people. His people skills and his presence will serve him well."

Father Marcel Damphousse explained that he prefers to take a team approach, looking for collaboration, rarely making decisions without

consultation. He said he won't make any drastic changes just yet. "My first tasks will be to listen, observe and understand the needs".

Saint Boniface hosted a going away celebration on August 19th in the afternoon. The morning Mass at 10:00 was celebrated by Archbishop LeGatt with the homily given by Father Damphousse. He was ordained to the Episcopate on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at St Finnan Cathedral in Alexandria.

## Meet...



### **Michelle Marchildon**

The Office of Youth Ministry serves those who serve the youth and young adults of the Archdiocese. "Our vision is for youth to live fully their Catholic faith and to take a leadership role in the advent of a new humanity, following Jesus".

Michelle has been the Interim Coordinator of this ministry since June, working seven days a month. Teacher by training, she starts a master of education this fall. She is married, mother of two young adults and a member of Holy Family Parish.



### **Gabrielle Marion**

As Coordinator of Communications, Gabrielle will be in charge of communications, three days a week, from the Diocesan Curia and the pastoral services to clergy, lay personnel and volunteers who work in the diverse ministries of the Archdiocese, as well as communication with public in general.

Married, mother to two daughters, trained as a nurse, Gabrielle has been long involved as Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation in her parish of Saint-Eugène.

## **Support for Parish Councils**

On April 25, 2012 Archbishop Albert LeGatt decreed new *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*; "From the 'UpperRoom' to 'The Ends of the Earth'" for Saint Boniface. In his letter Archbishop LeGatt refers to the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) as being "vital in the life of all our parishes in its unique and distinctive role as the primary deliberative body of the parish. United with the pastor, the council members are to pray as our ancestors in faith did in the Upper Room, reflect as Jesus taught us throughout his life and then guide and inspire the parish with the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding in defining the pastoral situation of the parish and the initiatives required to meet all its pastoral needs."

In support of the implementation of these *Guidelines*, a committee has prepared a workshop and will offer it in all pastoral regions of the archdiocese, in English and in French. Every member of a PPC, regardless of their years of experience on a council, would benefit from and is encouraged to attend a workshop in the coming year. Watch for announcements in your area.

In addition to these workshops, the *Guidelines*, support documents and videos will be made available on the diocesan web site under the icon *Parish Pastoral Council*. More information is available from:

**Julien Fradette,**  
**Director of Pastoral Services**  
**(204.594.0270)**

## **Announcements**

- Archbishop LeGatt shared a pastoral message with the faithful of the Archdiocese on September 9<sup>th</sup>. You can read the text of his message or view the video on the Website of the Archdiocese, under the icon "Messages from Archbishop LeGatt" [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca).
- Father Marcel Carrière was named Rector of Saint Boniface Cathedral, following the appointment of Father Damphousse as Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall.

## **A Word from the Editor**

Thank you for all your positive comments on the new 4-page format. We really appreciate your feedback.

Continue to send it.

Two questions were asked:

**Q:** Is this paper recyclable?

**A:** Yes, it is totally recyclable.

**Q:** This paper seems high quality, is it expensive?

**A:** Actually, it is very economical; have you noticed that many commercial flyers you receive in the mail are printed on shiny paper, like the paper we use to publish NEW VISION?

**Michelle Larose-Kuzenko**

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Select the icon on the left menu