

# NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 3 #7 – June 2013

## Diocesan Gathering 2013

The Saint Boniface Diocesan Gathering was held this past May 31 and June 1. Archbishop LeGatt promises that it is the first of many to come. Held in the Cathedral, with workshops at Université de Saint-Boniface, a daycare at the Cathedral for pre-school children, activities for children ages 6-11 at the Pastoral Centre, a play area with bouncy inflatable games and a giant tent for lunch and supper with a musical show each, it was quite the production! And the sun that had been in hiding for several days joined in the fun.

*Additional photos of the Gathering  
can be seen inside this issue*



*Father Rosica*

Father Rosica gave two conferences.

In 'How to Respond in a Personal Way to the Call of Christ', he related anecdotes about Pope Francis, featuring his humility and charity. But he mainly showed the

Pope as a deliverer of 'shocks' to electrify us, to exhort us to be vigilant against the scandal of poverty. He is indignant about what he calls our sleeping conscience and he asks that we get out of our cocoons, to be active and to serve.

In 'Called by Christ from One Generation to the Next', Fr. Rosica told us of the role his grandparents played in his life. He suggested that elders invite young people over for lunch because good food is a starting point for discussion.

## Archbishop's Message

Dear friends,

As you receive this newsletter, your thoughts are probably already dwelling on summer activities and summer relaxation. Certainly my thoughts are also there as I prepare to once more spend a whole week together with my family at Albert Beach on Lake Winnipeg at the end of July.

However, this time of the year brings us also to look at the pastoral life of our parishes and of the Archdiocese these past months and to look to the horizon of the coming year. I invite you to do so within the perspective of the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI in the fall of 2012 and which will culminate with the Feast of Christ the King this year on November 24, 2013. He invited us to consider our faith, both in Christ and in the Church and her teachings, at a personal and a community level, seeking to understand better our foundational beliefs so as to live out our relationship with Christ and his

Body, the Church, more faithfully and to share the Gospel in our world today with more joy and more vigour.

In this Year of Faith much has been lived out in our Archdiocese. Approximately 60 parishes and about 2050 individuals participated in the *ARISE, Together in Christ* experience of RENEW. Several parishes journeyed in sharing groups with Fr. Robert Barron's DVD program, entitled *Catholicism*. The Emmaus group of young adults which meet every Wednesday evening at the Pastoral Centre for praise and worship and learning, have reflected on the Creed and now are reviewing Pope John Paul II's teaching on the *Theology of the Body*. So many other endeavours have also been taken up including parents in the parishes coming to better understand their own faith journey and religious questions as their children are preparing for the sacraments.

Thank you to so very many of you for embracing this Year of Faith. Pope

Francis has continued to call for an energetic journey to the completion of this Year. And with his own particular approach, he has reminded us that any true growth in faith is measured by a growth in real charity and in practical efforts for social justice, especially in response to the needs and sufferings of the poor!

Let us give thanks to God for Benedict XVI and for Francis; let us give thanks for our faith and our Church. Let us set our sights on how to live and develop this faith and Church all the more. And in closing, I also say, let us just enjoy a beautiful summer we all feel we've richly deserved.

**Archbishop Albert**



## Guest Speaker from El Salvador



Maria Lique, Youth Ministry Coordinator at Saint Boniface Diocesan High School, welcomes Mr. Roberto Garay.

Mr. Garay, of San Salvador, was in Winnipeg at the beginning of May to meet with various individuals and groups who supported Project El Salvador through 17 missions since 2003 in the villages of Loma Linda and La Loma. He is the translator and guide who accompanied each group of adults or students who went to do humanitarian work.

He spoke of the positive impact of the project on the two impoverished communities and described the situation and living conditions of people in his country. He answered pertinent questions from students. His knowledge of Salvadoran history and culture has made each mission a profound learning experience for participants.

He met with Archbishop LeGatt to describe the work of the 17 groups who travelled to El Salvador. He spoke with grade 10 and 11 students at Saint Boniface Di-

ocesan High School. Some of them hope to participate in a mission experience in the future.

Mrs. Dembicki, Grade 3 teacher at St. Alphonsus School, invited him to speak to K-5 students. Her class has been supporting the project for many years. He also answered questions of St. Alphonsus catechism students who have been contributing to the project through their 'Penny Power' collections.

Mr. Garay was the speaker at two dinners organized by St. Mary's Academy and St. Paul's High School to raise funds for this summer's projects: build an addition to the Community House in Loma Linda and a Chapel in La Loma.

For more information on Project El Salvador, contact Dennis Kuzenko, [dkuzenko@shaw.ca](mailto:dkuzenko@shaw.ca)



## Projet réconcili**ACTION** : A Two-Year Journey of Reconciliation with First Nations

Since September 2011, “Projet réconcili**ACTION**” has gathered students and staff of Université de Saint-Boniface to increase their awareness about the socio-cultural and political issues, past and present, resulting from the Indian Act, particularly the repercussions of the Residential School System. The goal of this project is to forge relationships between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals so as to promote healing and reconciliation.

For the past 2 years, the réconcili**ACTION** group has attended many workshops, presentations and events. It developed long-lasting ties with Hollow Water First Nation in Manitoba. It also participated in *Returning to Spirit*, a non-profit organization whose mission is to transform the negative legacy of Residential Schools. The group attended both the 5-day Workshop and the Reconciliation Workshop.

“By the end of the Reconciliation Workshop, we were no longer Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals, we were people,” stated Myriam Dupuis. “Each one of us was unique, alive, loveable and beautiful. We were transformed.”

The project culminated with a solidarity trip to British Columbia. From May 7 to 23, a group of six women, led by project coordinator Sister Norma McDonald, c.s.c., went to meet and reconcile with members of First Nations communities, primarily on Vancouver Island.

With the Tla-o-qui-aht community, a day

### *Offering of a Franco Manitoban “Ceinture fléchée” to Chief Simon de Tla-o-qui-aht.*



*Left to right: Janelle Chartier, Gisèle Lapointe, Myriam Dupuis, Chief Simon, Jennifer Lagassé, Janelle de Rocquigny, Sr Norma McDonald, c.s.c.*

of ceremony was organised to honour Residential School survivors and their families. The réconcili**ACTION** delegation met with survivors as well as second and third generation survivors. Unbeknownst to many attending this event, children attending residential schools were stripped of their name and given a number. Participants were asked to wear their own number or the number of a relative.

“The most powerful moment for me was for us, non-First Nation, to take off their numbers”, said Sr. Norma.

This journey has transformed the lives of each member of the “Projet réconcili**ACTION**” to be agents of change in the world. “I know that I can have a positive

impact on people’s lives and that “Projet réconcili**ACTION**” is the instrument through which I can make my country a better place,” affirmed Myriam Dupuis.

“Projet réconcili**ACTION**” has not ended. Mentored by those who have already accomplished this journey, a new group of students and staff will be encouraged to join the movement to create healing and reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples.

For more information about this project, contact Sr. Norma McDonald, c.s.c., at [nmcdonald@ustboniface.ca](mailto:nmcdonald@ustboniface.ca).

**Janelle de Rocquigny**  
**For the Réconcili**ACTION** group,**  
**Université de Saint-Boniface**

## A Ghanaian Priest in Mountain

Father Alain Guénou arrived in Manitoba this past March 5<sup>th</sup>. When he left tropical Ghana, the temperatures were in the high thirties. He remarked that the warm welcome he received touched him and made up for the shock of the Manitoba winter.

During his visit of last year in Africa, Archbishop LeGatt requested from a fellow archbishop for a priest to come to Manitoba and serve in the Archdiocese.

Father Guénou said he was very happy to answer the call of his superior.

Father Armand Le Gal, o.m.i., has since become the mentor of Father Alain. Archbishop LeGatt asked whether he could introduce him to the customs of Manitoba as well as the workings of the Church of Saint Boniface. After reflection and consultation, he accepted this role. Father Alain now resides at the rectory in Somerset since March 12<sup>th</sup>. He works

there and in the neighbouring communities and fills in for priests when needed, for both English and French Eucharistic celebrations and pastoral work.

Archbishop LeGatt says he is pleased that Father Alain accepted his invitation. Father Guénou will be posted as an assistant-pastor when the assignments for the 2013-14 pastoral year are announced.

## NET Retreat in Kilcona

This year marks the fourth year that the five parishes in the Kilcona Pastoral Region joined to facilitate a NET (*National Evangelization Team*) retreat for candidates preparing for Confirmation. NET is an outreach ministry of young, faith-filled Catholics. Through small group interaction, prayer and music they share of their relationship with Christ and spark a desire to know God in the youth. The retreat is a full 12-hour day including Reconciliation and Mass.

An event of this scale could drain the energy and financial means of any parish, however by working together, we were able to minister to 91 participants. "Many hands make light work". I value most of all the opportunity for candidates to experience Church as a larger community beyond the walls of their own parish.

Working with the other coordinators has been a blessing. Each one is doing similar work in their parish yet we bring such different gifts to the table.

We are now experienced enough to organize the retreat through email. After we book a NET team, we send out registration forms and letters. We delegate meal shopping and preparation, we book our priests for Reconciliation, we reserve a venue, we find host homes for NET members and on the day of the event we all work together.

When asked: "What is one thing you learned from this encounter day?", most participants replied "I learned there is nothing I can do to make God love me less".

Was the retreat worth it? After reading that, I would say so!

Thank you to the wonderful coordinators: Janice Cummine (Blessed Sacrament), Lynne Barske (Holy Redeemer), Angie Brinkworth (St. Gerard), Koreen Hrizai (St. Joseph the Worker).

**Gina Borges**  
**St. Alphonsus**



The 2013 edition of the *March for Life* was held May 9<sup>th</sup>, on a beautiful sunny evening. It started with a gathering at the Forks in front of the Johnston Terminal, at 5:30. Monsignor Louis McCloskey, State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, offered a prayer and blessing.

A mixed crowd, ranging from the month-old baby to 80+ seniors, participated to protect life and fight against abortion. From all over Manitoba, representing diverse denomina-

tions, one in a single goal, the more than 700 people sang and prayed as they made their way along Broadway Avenue towards the Legislative Assembly.

Archbishop LeGatt closed the rally with a reflection on the scary trend to selective abortion, not only in countries such as China, but also here in Canada. He invited the crowd to unite in prayer.

**Lodzi Agbodan**  
**Marriage, Family and Respect for Life**

## Blessing of Seeds



On Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, on the eve of a new agricultural season, some parishioners took advantage once again of a special prayer for their seeds. Many feel that they need all the help they can get, not the least of which comes from their very own Creator, God.

This special blessing is given the Sunday closest to Earth Day.

Some years, people say it's too late as the seeds are already in the ground. However this year, we still had snow on the ground in April; this time people said it's too early! In the ORDO Liturgical Calendar, under Prayers for Good Harvest, it is suggested to hold a Blessing of New Seeds as early as the beginning of March. Many prayer options are given. We gave a simple blessing at the end of Sunday Mass in Sacred Heart Parish (Garson), St. Michael Parish (Cooks Creek) and Oakbank Catholic Community.

*"The seed is Christ's, the harvest His; may we be stored within God's barn."*  
Traditional Gaelic prayer

**Fr. Charles Fillion**

**Happy holidays. We will return in September.**





## Youth Gathering

Friday May 31, Father Rosica met with young adults and youth in the Cathedral for an evening of praise, worship and sharing on the theme 'Called by Christ.' Accompanied by many adults, they listened to Fr. Rosica as he offered an overview of the popes from Pope John XXIII and how they responded, each in their own way, to the Call of Christ.

*Thank you to all our volunteers ...  
without whom this day  
would not have been possible!*



## Workshops

Participants had a choice of several concurrent workshops on varied subjects: 'The First Oblates', with Fr. Albert Lalonde, o.m.i.; 'Grey Nuns', with Srs. Thérèse Vachon and Juliette Thévenot, s.g.m.; 'Return to Spirit', with Lisa Raven, Fr. François Paradis, o.m.i. and Sr. Olive Halpin, m.o.; 'Prayer of St. Ignatius', with Raymond Comeault; 'Active Contemplation', with Julien Fradette; 'World Peace', with Barbara Gajda.



Raymond Comeault



Lisa Raven





## Eucharistic Celebration

The Cathedral was full when Archbishop LeGatt presided at an end of day mass with several priests. A diocesan choir, including Latino and African groups, sang in four languages.



Salmon, beef and the Bill Meade Country Gospel Ensemble at lunch. Hot dogs, hamburgers and the Louis Boys at supper.



Children were kept busy with activities in a daycare and enjoyed inflated bouncy games, clowns, jugglers and face-painting.