

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

Vol. 4 #3 – December 2013

3rd Diocesan Celebration of Marriage Anniversaries



The Third Diocesan Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries was held at 3 pm, in Saint Boniface Cathedral on November 17th. 47 couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary, that is 25, 30, 35 years or more, including one married for 65 years, came together for a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop LeGatt. Once again, couples renewed their wedding vows and received a special blessing.

A participant shares her feelings on the celebration: "It was a time to be aware of the other, the one we chose. A time to stop our lives to come in front of God, our family and the community that supports us and was there to rejoice with us. When we renewed our vows, we really turned towards the other in a very intimate moment through gaze and handholding. Our fidelity towards each other

truly reflects the fidelity of Christ for us. If he is true to us, how can we not be so ourselves? The Mass gave us an opportunity to nourish our union through the Eucharist."

A reception followed for them as well as family and friends. Many used this opportunity to have their photo taken with Archbishop LeGatt. Thank you to all volunteers who helped make this event possible.

Our Archbishop's Message

Dear friends,

As you receive this newsletter, you are in the midst of Advent, preparing to celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child, a time of expectancy and a time of joy. As Christians, we look forward to Christ's constant coming into our world and our lives to bring about once more the joy and peace, the love, charity and justice he ushered in by his birth, his public ministry, his passion, his resurrection and the sending forth of the Spirit.

In our diocese, there has also recently been a birth that can well strengthen our hope for our Church of Saint Boniface. On December 9th, as we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate

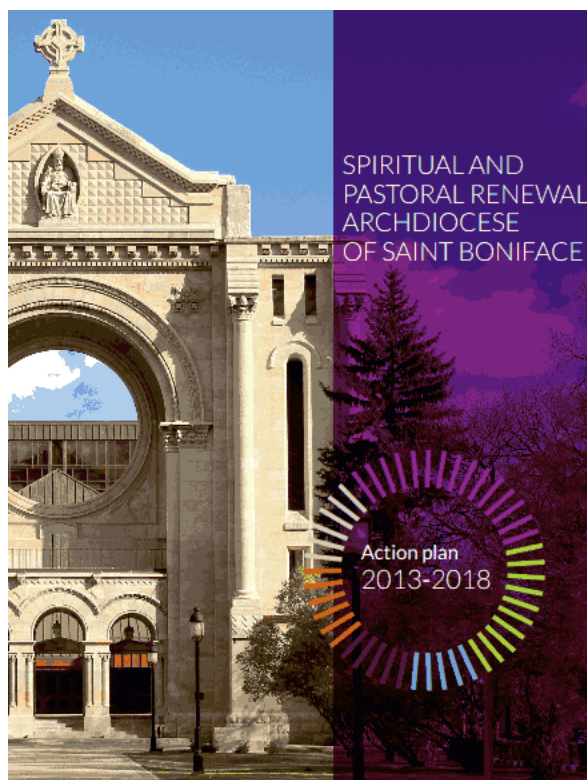
Conception of Mary, Principal Patron of our diocese, we formally launched our *Action Plan for the Pastoral and Spiritual Renewal of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface*. Pastors and lay representatives from the parishes received, in a ceremonial way, a copy of this *Action Plan*. It sets out our mission, vision, values, guiding principles and concrete actions to be taken by all of our diocesan pastoral services and endeavours.

This document is the fruit of much consultation across the diocese and is meant to guide us along our way for the next five years. Please take the time to pick up a copy and consider how your parish might

take up our common mission as it plans and builds its own particular future, considering also how the diocesan services might be of help in this.

And especially, let us pray, particularly in this Advent season, that Christ will indeed come and be present and give life to our faith and our Church again and again. Let the Light of His coming help us to walk forward with hope and commitment.

† Archbishop Albert



The Action Plan will be distributed in parishes after the Christmas Season.

ARISE: In the Footsteps of Christ

The third season of ARISE finished just before Advent in our parishes. Once again for six weeks, small groups of faithful met once a week to pray, read scripture, reflect and commit to action to reach out.

The theme of this season, In the Footsteps of Christ, allowed us to consider "what it means, both personally and as a community, to walk in the footsteps of Christ as we face today's challenges and opportunities" (*ARISE* 3rd booklet, p.13).

As we consider the suffering and lonely persons, as we commit to bring joy, hope and life-giving love, as we are called to be neighbour, so then we are called to *ARISE* and act on the needs of our Church: "...I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity." Pope Francis

The fourth season will start at the beginning of March 2014, to take place during Lent.

We are Community

Unity Wheel



A bilingual rally was held this past October 18, from 7 to 10, in the parish hall of the Cathedral. Under the theme *We Are Community*, about fifty youth celebrated Unity and wondered about the reasons why we should seek diocesan unity. They created a Unity Wheel to represent their idea of unity.

The 'Saints' Team facilitated the evening organised by Michelle Marchildon, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Archdiocese. The six members of the team represent the

six principles that guide them in their mission as 'saints': "Service, Action, Integrity, Noble, Trustworthy and Supportive".

This team of young people, 17 to 20 years old, were trained last August at St. Benedict Retreat House, at a workshop organized jointly with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. The team, which looks after games, music and reflections, will organize more rallies in the Archdiocese.

The 'SAINTS' team leading a discussion



"I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses. I want noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets."

Pope Francis

Address to young Argentines, World Youth Day, Rio, July 25, 2013

4th Missionary Send-Off

The Fourth Annual Diocesan Missionary Send-off was held Sunday November 24, in the Saint Boniface Cathedral. Saint Boniface Missions and Archbishop LeGatt welcomed individuals and groups who will be travelling to Third World countries in 2014. During this celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, the Archbishop addressed the participants, their families and friends who came to support them.

He suggested three possibilities for what might spur participants to be involved. First, the desire to experience something new, which at the same time, brings about the discovery of the reality of poverty and oppression. It is recognizing that even in very difficult situations, they are people of hope and joy who wish for the best for their children and their community. We learn so much from them about life, and they become our

brothers and sisters.

Then, we work on concrete projects, not for them but **with** them. It is a gesture that tells people: "You are not alone, you have support". Finally, it is through baptism and confirmation; the Spirit of the Lord is within us. We go to 'give sight to the blind,

"Solidarity is learned through 'contact' rather than through 'concepts'"
Pope John Paul II

help the oppressed'. Together, we will build the Reign of God. We come back enriched.

Dennis Kuzenko, founder of *Project El Salvador*, gave a testimonial with a slide presentation on the 18 missions he led. The Archbishop recognized his contribution and thanked him for his commitment.

The Archbishop blessed each group.

Together, more than 100 participants will go to Malawi (Africa), Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Bolivia, Peru, Jamaica, Haïti, Thailand and Laos. They leave for periods ranging from two weeks to one year.

Each person received a candle to bring on the mission, to give to a far-away brother or sister. "As you go forth, may you walk with the strength of Christ, the sense of his presence in your words and actions, with those you meet and through all the bonds that you may establish. May God bless you in this."

Father Banville blessed Archbishop LeGatt who will join a group of students from two high schools, St. Boniface Diocesan and St. Paul's, on their mission to El Salvador next July.

After the ceremony, coffee and dainties were served in the parish hall.



From Birth to Life

A monk, abbot of his monastery, wrote: "In our life, there is always a child to give birth to: the child of God that we are". Let us rejoice and prepare to celebrate this great celebration of our faith: the birth of the God-Child. As Christians, we must always welcome the initial grace that comes with the birth of Jesus: the Love of God who comes to us as a child.

My faith will be that much more grown up as I become more trusting in this infinite love of God in Jesus. This trust gives me the liberty and the strength of Christ so I can live more fully my Christian life in joy. This birthing process is not necessarily without pain, but it opens to true Life.

Noël Delaquis, OCSO
Our Lady of the Prairies Monastery, Holland