



# Your CHURCH, Your VOICE



**InfoJOURNAL**  
FALL 2015

## A Model of COOPERATION

**F**or five years, the Youth Ministry coordinators of five Seine River Region parishes have been working together to combat their isolation and ensure a renewal of ideas, a model that could inspire other regions.

The coordinators of Lorette, La Salle, Sainte-Anne, Steinbach and La Broquerie have made a habit of meeting once a month.

“Being a youth ministry coordinator can be pretty lonely because we are often the only ones in our parish and it’s up to us to find our vision and ideas to lead youth on a spiritual pathway,” confided the Youth Ministry coordinator of Notre-Dame de Lorette, Paula Granger. “We always have to be full of energy, creative, and young at heart. It’s hard sometimes!”

“Being able to meet up as a group allows us to share what we are doing in our parishes, share our ideas, and it gives us energy to go back to our parishes and continue to accomplish our mission,” she explained. “Without these round tables, I would never know what’s going on in other parishes in the area.” The ideas shared can be applied in other parishes, or may even lead to visits from one parish to another, so that the youth may benefit from a wider variety of events.

Additionally, the five coordinators organize three or four rallies a year in their area in order to bring together all the youth of the parishes. “The youth want to meet up,” explained Paula Granger. “It helps their own

faith grow by seeing how widely it is shared by others.”

On October 17, the Annual Diocesan Youth Rally will take place in the Seine Region; its theme will be hockey as a metaphor for life. “It will be the first time the rally will be held outside of the Saint Boniface Cathedral,” said Paula Granger.

Other than gathering the youth together, it’s an opportunity to share the model of cooperation among youth ministry coordinators, which at the moment, is unique to the Seine River on a regional level.

“We have met with coordinators from the South Urban English Region that will host the 2016 Diocesan Youth Rally; they came to our coordinator meetings,” said Paula Granger. “Next year, they will host the coordinators from the 2017 rally area, until our model has been shared everywhere.”

The Youth Ministry coordinators also have the opportunity to attend diocesan-wide meetings two or three times a year. †



picture by Paul Grenier

*Jason Baize, Claude Lagacé, Paula Granger et Mark Stewart*

## Youth and Young Adults MINISTRY

**T**he Archdiocese of Saint Boniface’s Youth and Young Adult Ministry is working towards having adolescents (aged 12 to 17) and young adults (aged 18 to 35) become an integral part of the parish community, and having them become young missionaries.

In order to reach this goal, the Ministry is offering to assist those parishes wanting to begin a youth pastoral ministry by helping them elaborate an action plan.

For Coordinators of Youth Ministries, meetings are being organized to share ideas with colleagues. Training sessions, workshops and retreats are also being made available throughout the year.

In addition, many books on various themes are available at the Resource Centre: Leadership,

Catechesis, examples of activities, and even resources explaining how to initiate a youth pastoral ministry.

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry, in partnership with other youth groups, also organizes a few events during the year for adolescents and young adults. For instance a Youth Rally, evenings with a special guest, sessions to discover where to get involved, an evening targeting young adult vocations, and a great deal more.

To find out more about what’s happening with the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, check out our website [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca) or contact Mireille Grenier, Coordinator, 204-594-0278, [mgrenier@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:mgrenier@archsaintboniface.ca) or on Facebook. †



Picture by Claude Lagacé

*Mireille Grenier*



# To be a Missionary: A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

## Jocelyne Chartier

**Missionary with St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission (Saskatoon), 2013-2014.**

**Favourite memory:** Living in community with other Catholics and the opportunity to deepen our faith. It was really remarkable.

**Greatest challenge:** I found the personal healing program to be difficult. It's not easy for me to take the time to accept myself for who I am. I also found it difficult to take courses in English.

**How have you been able to integrate this experience into**

**your life?** I am active in my parish with the youth group and the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). I try to be a witness for God's love.

**What are your current activities, and did this experience guide you toward them?** I have committed to a year of missionary work with NET (National Evangelization Team) Canada. The Institut definitely helped me choose to become involved in this movement. †

## Stephanie Sundell

**Stephanie Sundell worked with a 2011-2012 ministry at the Catholic School of Evangelization (CSE), when she and four other people helped lead the St. Malo Catholic summer camps for youth.**

**Favourite memory:** I have found memories of my meetings with the kids. It was really a great experience talking and living with young people of all ages and backgrounds.

**Greatest challenge:** There were several challenges during that adventure, but I think the main one was having to learn guitar

very quickly. We were teaching the youth music, and given that I didn't know how to play, I had to learn fast!

**Lessons learned:** I learned a lot, and gained more experience. I discovered more about myself and my faith in God. Now I am less timid about approaching people. †

## Paul Grenier

**Paul Grenier took part in a 10-month NET (National Evangelization Team) evangelization project with young people from August 2013 to June 2014, in Quebec's Beauce region.**

**Favourite memory:** The team organized an event for Grades 7-9 youth. One of my best memories is their reaction when we encouraged them to give their lives to God and to show it by approaching the altar... they literally ran up to it!

**Greatest challenge:** My biggest challenge was getting used to a life that depended on the generosity of others. NET relies on families to provide accommodations and host the people working on its missions. I lived with several families during

the year and greatly appreciated their hospitality. Staying with a series of different people I didn't know was a real challenge and I had to adjust my habits and preferences.

**Lessons learned:** The experience taught me the importance and habit of prayer. During that year, I was surrounded by a team who prayed a great deal. The relationship with the team members helped me build a life of regular and deeper prayer. †

## Élaine Jeanson

**After graduating, Élaine Jeanson took part in a 2006-2007 ministry with the Catholic School of Evangelization, working with young people in Saint Malo**

**Favourite memory:** My best memories are my encounters with all of the kids. Brought together by our love of God, we would all sit down together, talking and laughing with people we just met. Those are good memories.

**Greatest challenge:** That experience involved many challenges. We travelled a lot to Native reserves and slept in churches and farms without any of the comforts of home. I'm also

quite an introvert and need time by myself now and then. If we had always been together, it would have been difficult to find any alone time.

**Lessons learned:** I learned to overcome my shyness and to be more spontaneous in approaching other people. There was a lot of sharing and we had to speak in front of a lot of people, so I learned a great deal from that experience. †

# Being Able to ENJOY THE PRESENT

Single people often forget to welcome their state as an opportunity to enjoy the present without worrying about the future. ***Being Single: The Catholic Version*** was meant to remind them of this. The Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface organized its very first evening of this sort a year ago in November 2014. Fifty young adults attended, one of whom was Nicole Richard.

"As a single person, I'm always asking myself what God is calling me to be and this event seemed as if it might be interesting for me," she recalls.

The evening consisted of sharing personal stories and watching a video of a single woman from Saskatoon, Gertrude Rompré. She explained how she didn't worry about whether God was calling her to be single forever or not; rather she concentrated on the present without worrying about "what if...?" The participants discussed and reflected in small groups on how to live a single life as a disciple of Christ.

"It helped me understand that I have a career that I love, a great group of friends; so I don't have to worry!" said Nicole Richard. "I trust that God will help me at each step of the way and I definitely don't have to find the answer all by myself.

"Consecrated celibacy can be a vocation, but as wonderful as that can be, if you don't feel called to this life/vocation, it's okay," she continued. "I now feel that I can follow God in my life just as it is right now, without being obligated to remain single long-term."

The event also highlighted the advantages of a period of single-ness in life, the ability to go away, the opportunity to get to know yourself better, or the opportunity to take more time for you without having too many responsibilities.

Nicole came to understand through her discussions with other singles that evening that she has the right to choose where she would serve and to say no to some requests for help, "even if technically I do have the time to do it," she said.

"Because we are single, we are very often asked to participate in all kinds of committees and groups. And if we never say no, we'll burn out easily! We have the right to take time for ourselves to pray and



**Nicole Richard**

relax. It's actually important in order to serve well."

"I had the grace to understand that the best way for me to discover my vocation was to concentrate on getting to know Jesus," she concluded. "He knows what will make me whole. Through Him, I will find everything I need. I am not worried about the future."

Once again a similar evening of discussion and reflection will be taking place on November 17th, 2015 at 6:30 pm in Hanley Hall (room 220) at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba. This year's theme will be "What's my vocation?" †

# In the Name of the FATHER

**"Dear Father, I feel an urge to go to confession but it has been a very long time. I'm embarrassed! I don't remember any of the prayers or what I am supposed to say. What can I expect if I do get the courage to go?"**

If I can say anything at all, let me say this ... don't be afraid to tell the priest that it's been a while and that you're not sure what to do. Even tell him that you're nervous or perhaps afraid. Believe me, he will be very happy to help you. It will definitely NOT be the first time he has heard this. Also, he is very well trained for this and he knows exactly how to help. Try to realize that no one feels an urge to go to confession, after a long while, without some special prompting and help from the Holy Spirit. A good confessor will feel honoured and humbled to hear your confession and help you get through it. You'll be so happy that you did this.

If you need help, the priest is sensitive to that and is prepared to guide you with some simple questions. Likely, they will have to do with how you are doing in your relationships with God and with others in your life. Remember that the great commandment that Jesus gave us is a summary of all law. It is: a) "Love the Lord your God ..." and b) "Love your neighbour (everybody else)". Sin is fundamentally a failure to love. Isn't that just so simple? So what have been your main failures to love? The answer to that simple question is what we call your "sinful matter".

One last thing! A common set of questions is, "Will Father remember what I said? Will he see me



**Father Phil Daley**

differently outside the confessional from now on? I don't necessarily understand this but most priests that I know will say that they actually forget what they have heard. It's not that it's not important; I think it's a grace that confessors receive to actually forget because they choose to forget. However, it is always humbling for me and I always feel closer to those whose confessions I hear. Remember! We're all human beings and you likely didn't tell me anything that I have never heard before.

Isn't it absolutely fascinating how we're all far more spectacular in the ways we can be loving than in the ways we can be sinful? Who knew? (Well ... God did!). †



# Our SEMINARIANS

"One of the bishop's chief concerns is ensuring that there are enough priests on a regular basis to celebrate the Eucharist in each of our parishes and missions. Likewise, the office of a pastor is essential for the development and growth of the Church as Body of Christ and People of God. With nine seminarians, there is certainly hope in our diocese. Let us continue to encourage vocations to the priesthood in our families and in our parishes." Archbishop Albert LeGatt †



### Vincent Paul Champagne Lusty

**Age:** 26  
**Born and raised:** Winnipeg  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**  
I have always felt a strong draw to the Church but it was always others who pointed out that

I should be a priest. It was while I was in university that I finally began to listen myself to God's call to Joy.

**What would you like to tell youth/young adults to encourage them to be open to God's calling in their life? To parents & grandparents?**

In God is our joy and, in our vocation, God is calling us to participate in his Joy.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2017

### Serge Buissé

**Age:** 20  
**Born and raised:** Selkirk  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**

It was mainly through a small Catholic College called St. Therese School of Faith and Mission which helped me to hear the calling to the Priesthood. Openness to God and His will is key to hear your calling in life.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2022



### Joshua Gundrum

**Age:** 36  
**Born and raised:** Swan Lake  
Now, I am a seminarian doing my studies in Edmonton. But, for this year I am on my internship at St. Emile Parish in Winnipeg. This is my fifth year as a seminarian. In my sparetime I love to play or watch sports of any kind.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2017

### Brian Trueman

**Age:** 28  
**Born and raised:** Winnipeg/Landmark  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**

In my prayer life, I felt a call to grow closer to Christ in a more intimate way, and I desired to find a way to serve the Church in some practical way.

**What would you like to tell youth/young adults to encourage them to be open to God's calling in their life or to parents & grandparents?:**

The biggest way to encourage a life of service is to encourage prayer and serving others.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2020



### Peter Lê Văn Ngữ

**Age:** 33  
**Born and raised:** Vietnam  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**  
I am currently studying Theology II at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario.

I was an altar server in my youth. At Hue University, I was a member of a Vocation Group of the Archdiocese of Hue, Vietnam. I attended monthly retreats led by my vocation director. It was a wonderful time for me to discern and maintain my vocation.

After graduating from the university, I entered the Hue Major Seminary in 2008, and completed a three-year Philosophy program. I also spent a pastoral year of internship at La Vang, a Marian National Shrine in Vietnam.

I was invited by Archbishop Albert LeGatt and granted permission by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Hue to continue my formation in Canada. After a two month visit in the spring of 2012, I decided to study with the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. I have felt God's calling since I was a little boy, and it is still echoing in my heart. I realize that people today still hunger for the Gospel of God. I really desire to bring the love of God to everyone. That is why I wish to become a shepherd after Jesus' heart.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2019

### Paul Blair

**Age:** 32  
**Born and raised:** St. Norbert  
**What would you like to tell youth/young adults to encourage them to be open to God's calling in their life or to parents & grandparents? :**

To anyone seeking the will of God for their life: vocation is inseparably linked to commitment. If the life you are leading hasn't led you to any kind of lasting commitment, then you haven't yet discovered your vocation. "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2016



### Sean Wilson

**Age:** 28  
**Born and raised:** Gimli  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**  
My first call, of many, occurred as an Altar boy. I hope to be ordained a deacon next year (2016) and as a priest the year after (2017).

**What would you like to tell youth/young adults to encourage them to be open to God's calling in their life or to parents & grandparents? :**

My advice is to be open to the love of God and to seek Him in all you do. He will come to help you. Teach this to your children and grandchildren.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2017



### Jean-Baptiste (Anh Duy) Nguyen

**Age:** 30 years  
**Born and raised:** Vietnam  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**

At the age of 12, I started to serve as an altar boy. I received good moral and spiritual lessons from my parish pastor. His holy life and his passion for serving the poor deeply influenced my vocation discernment. He promoted my relationship with God by showing me how to pray and encouraging me to adore Jesus in the Eucharist.

From my inner desire, I wish to conform myself to our Good Shepherd in order to express faithfully God's love and His joy to everyone. I want to become a good shepherd according to the heart of God, not my own personal will. God's Will is my decisive choice.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2021

### Christian Ilunga Mutombo

**Age:** 23  
**Born and raised:** Republic of Congo  
**How did you hear God's calling to become a priest?**

I am the firstborn of a family of nine children. At the age of 10, I became conscious of my desire to become a Catholic priest after my first communion. I was very fond of going to church since my early childhood. I was convinced by good examples of the priests in my area; their way of celebrating the Eucharist was more than I could take, I fancied it so eagerly. I could also attend meetings for liturgical devotion acts and practices they organized at church such as Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary. Eventually, I made up my mind with all my heart to resemble them.

I began my seminarian studies in the Mbujimayi Diocese, Congo. Currently, I am a seminarian with the Diocese of Saint Boniface and I study theology at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. Becoming a priest is a strong desire that I have cherished since my childhood. I want to become a priest to serve in the mission of spreading the Holy Gospel.

**Projected date of ordination to the priesthood:** 2020



## An Eye-Opening TRIP



Some 45 high school students spent two weeks living with Salvadorians. For many of them, it was a life-changing experience.

In early July 2015, nearly 45 grade 11 and 12 students from three schools in the diocese of St. Boniface, including eight from St. Boniface Diocesan High School, left for a two-week, humanitarian trip to El Salvador.

Jamie Slivinski, Coordinator of the Youth Pastoral Ministry at St. Boniface Diocesan High School, says that the trip was to be a service mission to the Salvadorian communities. The group helped with what needed to be done - for instance building a pond at the school where they could raise fish. This was an educational experience: it was teaching the students natural science, but it also provided the fish with food.

The school also asked the young humanitarians for their help in taking care of their community garden, in particular by teaching the young Salvadorians some of the rudiments of gardening and agriculture; they were also asked to help build a hen-house and to repaint the school. As well, they assisted the students in English class and Physical Education.

According to Jamie Slivinski, the tasks were quite varied.

Besides the on-site services offered by the students, money for the Salvadorians had been collected by the young people all year long. For their part, St. Boniface Diocesan High School's students had organized a Christmas lunch. Jamie Slivinski states that with the money raised, they bought books and a microscope for the school.

For the youngsters, this experience is revealing, according to the Youth Coordinator. It is like a pilgrimage. It gets them out of their comfort zone -going to a country troubled by poverty, injustice, oppression, fear, insecurity, gang-related problems and a lack of dignity. But it is also a country where the people are happy, generous, hard workers and resilient, despite the difficulties. That is inspiring for young people.

Jamie Slivinski tells us happily that as a matter of fact, some have already begun working towards change since their return to Winnipeg - like this one student who will only wear fair-trade clothing - or this other student who has organized his own fund-raiser, to be able to offer bursaries to young Salvadorians who are too poor to go to school.†





## Dear FRIENDS

**A**s I visit parishes I often get asked: "What will we do in the future if we don't have enough priests?"

The primary answer to this question will always be that we must foster more vocations to the priesthood. This means being diligent in our prayers for more vocations. Vocations are firstly the fruit of God's call and work.

This also means parents and grandparents inviting and encouraging their sons/grandsons to search for God's personal call and whether this call might be the priesthood. It means parishes that are life-giving (and lively!), reach out and nourish young people, fostering the participation of young people with their particular gifts and values in many aspects of parish life.

We must pray and work that all young people will come to know God, to know the love and friendship of Jesus, to know that the Church community has something to offer them. Let us find ways to let them know that in fact we count on them very much for the vitality of our parishes now and in the future. God calls each and every one of them, whatever road they take in life, to build up the Church and especially to make our world a better place for all people.

A sign that such efforts do pay off is that we presently have nine young men preparing for the priesthood, several more seriously considering it as a possibility and many young people already involved in our parishes. God is at work.

Let us remain hopeful! †

+ Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

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## The Year of MERCY



20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – and living face of the Father's mercy. Why, today, a Jubilee of Mercy? Read more: [www.news.va](http://www.news.va) †

**P**ope Francis has announced an extraordinary Jubilee dedicated to Divine Mercy. This Holy Year will begin on the upcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015 and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. It will end on November

# Free RESOURCES

The Resource Library offers a wide variety of CDs, DVDs, religious books and pastoral resources. It is located at 622 Taché Ave. and is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – Noon and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. [www.archsaintboniface.ca/resources/en](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca/resources/en) or 204-594-0271.

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## An Inspiring ASSEMBLY

**S**ophie Freynet-Agossa and her husband, Wilgis Agossa, travelled to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on behalf of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. Sophie the coordinator of Marriage, Family and Life Services at the Archdiocese along with her husband and another diocesan couple were sponsored to participate in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia from September 22nd to 27th. The event takes place every three years and is organized by the Pontifical Council for the Family.

"The first four days were sessions, then there was the Festival of Families and the Papal Mass", explained Sophie Freynet-Agossa. "Around 20,000 people were at the sessions, and at the mass there were close to one million! It was really encouraging to be surrounded by all of those people who are passionate about family and the Gospel."

Sophie says the gathering was "a breath of fresh air both personally and for my position at the Archdiocese. I learned of so many resources available to couples and to families around the world that I had been unaware of, and that could help people here. I learned, for example, that there is a magazine dedicated exclusively to natural family planning."



Photo by Bishop Marcel Damphousse  
Mireille Fréchette, Kevin Gallays, Bishop Marcel Damphousse, Sophie Freynet-Agossa and Wilgis Agossa

She was also excited about the "international caliber" of the sessions. "It was a gathering of the biggest names in the areas of marriage and family, like Christopher West, Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak, authors that I've read and admired for a long time."

"Thanks to them, I was able to deepen my knowledge of the Church's teachings on marriage and family. Now that I better understand the Church's message, I'll be able to deliver it more clearly", she concluded. †

### NATHANIEL 2015-2018:

**A New Chapter. Lay Faith Formation Program, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface.**

We have launched!! September 19, 2015 was our official start date for the 3-year program. Weekend sessions once per month over 3 years; 30 candidates, of all ages, of all walks of life. Look for more news from us later.



### Youth + Young Adults Ministry

What's my vocation? Evening of discussion and reflection for young adults on November 17, 2015, 6:30 PM, Hanley Hall (room 220), St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba.



SCAN THIS CODE TO VIEW THE EVENTS CALENDAR.

## Your FEEDBACK

Questions, comments or suggestions?  
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