



The

New Wine Press

www.archwinnipeg.ca



A Publication of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg

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January/February 2005

Archdiocese hosts opening of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"We are here tonight because we have been chosen," said Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg in his homily at the opening ecumenical worship service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. "Our task is to allow that gift to shape our lives so that we may become what the Lord has called us to be. The disunity among Christians betrays the prayer of Jesus at the last supper." Faith leaders from 10 denominations gathered with Weisgerber at St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg on Jan. 23 for the service.

"On the cross, Jesus was victorious over sin," Weisgerber continued. "Through his resurrection, he became a life-giving spirit. Through baptism, he shares his spirit with us. The power of the spirit draws us into a new spiritual relationship with one another. This truth is richer than all the things that divide us."

During the week of prayer for Christian Unity, Weisgerber challenged those present to "open our hearts and lives to the Christians we meet as we move from church to church."

As a visual reminder of this challenge, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Cross was present at each of the 8 prayer services held throughout the city during the week. At the beginning of the service at St. Mary's Cathedral, two planks of wood were carried to the altar. The wood, a common material for building houses, represented the foundation on which the churches are invited to construct unity. During the service, the planks were assembled into the form of a cross, a sign of our common foundation, Jesus. At the end of the service, members of



From left: Michelle Garlinski, Sarah Sharp, Debbie MacKenzie and Alexander Sharp of St. John Brebeuf Parish assemble the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Cross

the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg passed the cross on to members of the congregation of Kildonan Community Church who hosted the prayer service the next day. Throughout the week, the cross moved from church to church for each of the prayer services.

Contributed by Joanne Struch

Experiencing liturgy at St. Francis de Sales Church of the Deaf



Sign-singing at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church of the Deaf. Front, from left: Judythe and Jessica Szacilowski, Elvira Sanduliak, Kevin Pilor and Danica Magundayao. Back from left: Fr. Peter Monty and Liette Levesque.

The Mass on the first Sunday of advent at St. Francis de Sales Manitoba Catholic Church of the Deaf is everything one might expect: the advent wreath is lit, the choir tunes instruments before Mass, the homily speaks of being prepared for the Lord's coming, and the bulletin announces coming events like breakfast with Santa. After Mass there

is a bake sale to support World Youth Day pilgrims.

As the Mass begins, however, the instruments are joined by a choir that "sign-sings" the songs. The readings are done in sign language with an interpreter for the hearing in the congregation. Fr. Peter Monty, s.j., who serves the parish, says his homily in words and sign language. The pilgrims at the bake sale explain that they will be attending the celebrations in Cologne with a group of 50 others, lead by a deaf priest. They will all meet in Triere before going to Cologne. My experience of the liturgy in this vibrant, welcoming community was truly one of sounds and sights.

The congregation, a mission of St. Ignatius Parish, gathers on Sundays at the Deaf Centre of Manitoba. Holy Week and Christmas services see the congregation grow as more family members join the

community for the celebrations.

Sr. Olive Fiola, m.o., has been ministering to the deaf community in Manitoba for 37 years. When she started in the ministry, she explains, there were "no professional interpreters because there were no programs to train them." At that time, the congregation gathered in the Friary in downtown Winnipeg. Since 1967, however, much has changed in Sr. Fiola's ministry. There is formal training for interpreters who can help with things like sacramental preparation. As sister Fiola takes her place for mass, her ministry continues. Facing her, back to the altar, is a woman who is both deaf and blind. Throughout the mass, Sr. Fiola interprets for her by signing into the woman's hands so she can feel the words of the liturgy.

Contributed by Joanne Struch

Ukraine election inspires St. Viator's parishioner

As Therese Koturbash boarded the bus at 6:30 a.m. on December 25 for the 6 hour journey from Kyiv to Lutsk in northwestern Ukraine, someone wished her Merry Christmas. "Oh yeah," thought Koturbash, "it's Christmas Day."

Koturbash, a legal aid lawyer from Dauphin and parishioner at St. Viator's Parish, was one of 500 Canadians who spent this past Christmas as an observer in the historic election in Ukraine. While there, observers were to be professional, unbiased, impartial and neutral, she explained. Days of briefings explained the process of observation and suggested the types of problems that the observers should look out for. These included falsification of absentee ballots, intimidation of voters by civic officials at polling stations, polling stations located in different places than advertised, to name only a few.

Therese decided to apply for the mission after reading an article in the Winnipeg Free Press about the Canadian government responding to Ukraine's invitation for election observers.

"Successful applicants needed to demonstrate either elections experience or experience in Ukraine. I knew I could demonstrate both," explains Koturbash. After "waiting on pins and needles" to find out whether or not she had been accepted, she found out on December 15 that she was chosen from the over 4,000 applicants to be a part of the team. On December 19, she was on a plane to Ottawa for briefing and by December 21, she was headed for Ukraine. Her team, posted in the Volyn Oblast, a province in northwestern Ukraine, was lead by renowned Winnipeg human rights lawyer David Matas.

Koturbash's connections to Ukraine are deep; that is where her family's roots are. The mission marked her third time in the country.



Therese Koturbash (left) spent Christmas in Ukraine as an election observer

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Ukraine

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She had been there in 1989 with her grandmother and in 1995 as part of a joint project between the University of Manitoba and Ukraine's Lviv Polytechnical Institute. This trip however, was different. Koturbash's experience was very much one of the reality of participating in an historic event. "I tangibly sensed that I was witnessing the birth of a nation," she explains. "And when I would think about the fact that our government made the call for 500 people to be away from home at Christmas, and over 4,000 volunteers emerged within 4 days, I would inexpressibly be moved to sense that my country has such a deep and abiding interest in a fledgling democracy."

One experience she will never forget is the view from her hotel room on the first night in Ukraine. The balcony looked out onto Independence Square in Kyiv where tens of thousands of people gathered for the rally of the "Orange Revolution". Though she was very tired and the noise made it difficult to sleep, she found the noise of the crowds compelling rather than annoying. "The energy was palpable and the spirit of the people was amazing," said Koturbash. "It impressed me that the people were focused. To say they were inspiring somehow does not capture the sense of that evening. I simply had never seen anything like this ever before...ever."

Would she do it again? "Without a moment's hesitation."

Contributed by Joanne Struch

Coordinator of Pastoral Services retires



At the end of December, Dorothy Lachance, Coordinator of Pastoral Services for the archdiocese, retired. During her three years in her role, Dorothy worked with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, with Deanery Pastoral Councils and with the pastoral offices in the Catholic Centre. We wish her a wonderful retirement!

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

I wish to thank Archbishop Weisgerber for his article, "Understanding the permanent diaconate" (winter, 2004 issue). I believe it to be the clearest, the most accurate and the most concise statement of understanding that I have ever seen. I see it as a giant step forward in our understanding of the Vatican II decision to restore this ancient ministry.

Also I want to thank you for printing it in such a prominent position and I hope it catches the eye of many readers. Now, my

hope is that this article will be picked up by many other Catholic publications in Canada - the permanent diaconate is probably one of the best kept secrets in Canada. Although the Archdiocese of Winnipeg decided to restore the Permanent Diaconate in 1973 and the first permanent deacons were ordained in 1976, this is the first time that a quality statement of understanding has been published in this diocese. I am most grateful.

- Deacon Hal Graham

Response to articles in the New Wine Press is welcome. Send letters to: 1495 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg, MB R3T 2C6 or communications@archwinnipeg.ca. Please include your name address and telephone number. Because space is limited, please keep letters short. The New Wine Press reserves the right to edit letters according to space availability.

Workshops prepare for forum on the catechumenate

On November 27th the Archdiocese of Winnipeg staged the first of three sessions in preparation for the Beginnings Plus Forum on the Catechumenate being held in October 2005.

The session, led by Fr. Gerald Langevin and Carol Seed, director of Catechetics for the Archdiocese, provided an overview of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process through which parish communities welcome people into the fullness of the Catholic faith.

The session began with a reading of Acts 8:26-40 which is the account of the Ethiopian eunuch reaching out to Philip who proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. This was offered as an analogy for the RCIA process. The eunuch represents the inquirer while Philip represents the RCIA guide or sponsor.

The overview of the day included an informative look at the history of welcoming people into the fullness of the Catholic faith. This included private instruction, marriage instruction and RCIA, the process enshrined in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

To bring the story of the inquiring Ethiopian and the guide Philip to life for the sixty-plus session participants, the session leaders were joined by Kathy Brost of St. John Brebeuf Parish, Amy Almazor of St. Edwards Parish and Julie Soaras of Immaculate

Conception Parish for a theatrical rendition of Acts 8:26-40. Complete with singing and much humour, the presentation warmed the audience up for the small group discussions.

Each of the eight tables discussed Acts 8:26-40 and found similarities with the RCIA program today. The Ethiopian had a strong and heartfelt desire to learn about and grow in faith. He was open to knowledge and guidance. The Spirit, also working in Philip, brought the Good News to the Ethiopian, causing his understanding and faith to grow. The pinnacle of the experience occurred when the Ethiopian asked, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" By taking advantage of the Ethiopian's "teachable moment", Philip brought him to initiation through baptism.

The session also provided time for fellowship over a lovely lunch prepared by the St. Charles Ladies Auxiliary. At one table, Beatrice Godin and Patsy Hayes talked about their parish, Kateri Tekakwitha, where many young people have been catechized.

While the RCIA process is presented all parishes, participants shared information about some of the different touches offered in each of their RCIA programs. Whether it was young people or adults being welcomed into the Catholic Church, another constant

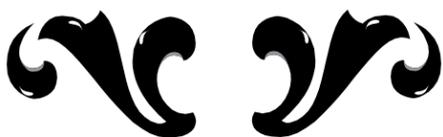
was the sincere love and commitment that session participants gave to the RCIA program in their parish.

To bring the session to a memorable close, Fr. Gerald led the group in singing the Archdiocesan 90th Anniversary hymn, *Sing a New Church*.

The next session in the Beginnings Plus preparation workshops was held on January 29, 2005. This session focused on the various roles and ministries associated with the RCIA and the task of initiation. In May 2005, Archbishop James Weisgerber will lead a day of prayer and reflection for participants to culminate the learning and sharing of the first two preparation sessions. With this thoughtful grounding in the RCIA process, participants will stand ready for full participation in the Beginnings Plus Forum on the Catechumenate in October 2005, and for welcoming new members into our church.

Contributed by Joanne Thibault of St. John Brebeuf Parish

For more information on the May 7th workshop or the Beginnings Plus Forum, contact Carol Seed at 452-2227 or visit: www.archwinnipeg.ca



Assumption Cemetery serves archdiocese

Assumption Cemetery, located at 3990 Portage Avenue, is one of two consecrated cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, with space provided specifically for the needs of the faithful within the Archdiocese.

At Assumption Cemetery we provide a variety of options, including crypts and cremation niches inside the beautiful Queen of Heaven Mausoleum; traditional and cremation burial plots; outdoor columbarium niches; and personal lawn crypts. For the convenience of our families, we also offer an extensive selection of bronze and granite memorials at very competitive prices. Mr. Lorne Bound and Mr. Leo Delaquis are the family counsellors of Assumption Cemetery and have many years of experience in assisting families with their planning requirements. They would be pleased to provide information about our facilities and to answer your questions in a professional and compassionate manner.

Please note that although Assumption Cemetery and Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens share a common entrance on Portage Avenue, we remain separate and distinct organizations (Chapel Lawn is privately-owned). To visit us, turn left from the shared entrance road; or for an appointment and inquiries, please call the office of Assumption Cemetery at 888-7557.



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The View from Micah House

Sr. Johanna Jonker discusses Mental Illness

Art tends to focus a lens on ordinary realities in an extraordinary way.

Such was the case in the movie *A Beautiful Mind*. It was a powerful story about mental illness and love. Viewers were gripped by the faithful and awe inspiring devotion of John Forbes Nash's wife as Nash deals with the delusions, intricacies and fears that are part of the life of someone with schizophrenia.

The story of *A Beautiful Mind* occurs over and over again in our midst. Mental illness occurs in one out of four families. How is it that we are unaware of the struggles, the love and dedication that exist in so many families as they deal with mental illness?

It is not socially acceptable to have a mental illness. As a result, the diagnosis is withheld from friends and neighbours, and family members struggle in isolation and silence. In addition, sometimes family members themselves are excluded from the diagnosis of a loved one who is eighteen or over. Being of an age of majority, the person diagnosed may make ill considered decisions without input from family who care about them. Although the law was enacted to protect people from being declared mentally ill by family, families now face the dilemma of being uninformed and unable to advocate on behalf of a loved one.

Why is there such a silence around mental illness? Why are we unaware that 50% of the 1500 homeless people in our province suffer from a mental illness? Why do we condone or remain ignorant of the fact that an estimated 50% of the prison population has a mental illness?

There is definitely a stigma attached to mental illness. Is it because we attribute the blame to family members or is it because we think mental illness is brought on by the person with the illness? Perhaps we think our own periodic bouts of chaotic thinking are the onset of an illness we fear and so we try to distance ourselves from those who have been diagnosed and treat them badly?

Last spring and fall, a courageous Winnipeg family challenged the silence and the stigma of mental illness by publicly requesting help in their search for their son, Arun. Arun Sud was a good looking man who had wonderful artistic talents. He also suffered from schizophrenia. The family publicly enlisted as many people as possible in their prolonged search for a son and brother. The search ended on the banks of the Red River. Arun had drowned.

How many other families suffer like the Sud family did when a son, daughter, husband, wife or loved one goes missing? From where and from whom can they get support? Add to the number of

people that go missing the 180 people who died as a result of suicide in 2004. The accumulated pain and suffering are staggering and touch us through one grouping or another be it Church, work, clubs or friends.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon us as brothers and sisters in Christ that we begin to offer friendship and support to families who are struggling. The cry for support, understanding and care goes out not only to doctors and politicians, it goes out to us as a Church. It calls for our compassionate understanding, our support and our friendship. Those who suffer and struggle for meaning in the chaos of mental illness are crying for inclusion in the family of peoples, of the Church, its faith life, its life in Christ.

Sr. Johanna Jonker, SNJM is at Micah House, 1039 Main Street, Winnipeg

There will be a meeting at Micah House on February 17th at 7:00 p.m. to hear some proposals and to give input regarding support of people with mental illness. All are welcome: family, people with a mental illness and the community at large.

JustFaith program challenges participants

"It has changed my way of looking at the world. I used to buy gifts for persons; it gave me and them pleasure. I don't choose to do that in the same ways anymore. It is changing me and I like it," was a comment by one of the participants in the Just-Faith program at Micah House.

Eight persons have been meeting Monday evenings. The program has a structured format and is facilitated by Johanna Jonker, SNJM.

The opening communal prayer sets the tone for the evening. Discussion follows, focusing on the readings we have been assigned the previous week. The materials are inspiring and challenging – readings from Catholic Social Teaching to New York Times bestsellers. The videos viewed highlight current national and international issues. Last week's guest speaker shared the painful experience of the racism she has suffered.

The course "has given me the realization that the core of our Catholic Faith is Justice. It is continually challenging my thinking and Jesus' call to justice. My heart is opened to new things."

"I am thankful I was directed to participate," says another member.

"I was eager to volunteer and responded to charity appeals but now I realize there are ways I can help the poor more effectively. There are times when I feel overwhelmed, yes, even find it somewhat depressing and yet I have hope, I want to do my part."

Reflecting on the course to-date, Kathy finds "it refreshing to belong to a group of such diverse social justice oriented people. We share a common concern for the world's poor and wounded, yet we come with such different ways of seeing, dealing with and experiencing it. It has definitely broadened my way of thinking and dealing with issues."

"When I look at the newspapers, I seem to be drawn to read articles I wouldn't have noticed before. Some of my guilt and defensiveness has become more clear and there is more space. I can see many biases and hope to live my life more honestly and with less fear."

Micah House will begin a new session of JustFaith in the fall of 2005. Anyone interested in participating in the 30 week program may contact Micah House.

Contributed by Pat Deighton

CCODP works in disaster regions

On December 26, 2003, just over a year ago, news on our TV screens showed us the destruction of the historic city of Bam, Iran, by a forceful earthquake. It claimed the lives of 40,000 people, another 30,000 were injured and 85,000 were left homeless. It was in the news for a little while and we talked about it over coffee but then it faded away from our screens like the many other disasters striking parts of our world.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), has worked during the past year, on our behalf and with the resources we provide, with partner organizations to restore municipal services, and address educational, health and social service needs in Iran.

So far our organization has contributed \$435,000 to provide food, basic medical help and assistance to build hundreds of houses in badly damaged villages on the outskirts of the city.

The painful human-made misery in Darfur, also, has continued to take the lives of many thousands and has reduced a sea of people to a life of abject poverty in refugee camps. In Darfur, CCODP has joined with ACT (All Churches Together) in a concerted effort to bring relief and medical help to the refugee camps.

Next came the destructive hurricane in Haiti. A major fundraising campaign was started and Archbishop Weisgerber asked for support from all parishes.

Over one weekend more than \$100,000 was collected in our diocese. In Haiti, CCODP provided immediate relief for many to keep them alive after they lost homes and belongings.

During the first days of September destructive storms hit the islands of the Philippines and on December 3 Caritas Internationalis initiated a relief program to provide food, medical supplies and clothing for families. The same day our organization donated \$30,000 and continues to accept donations for the victims in the Philippines.

Now, just a year since the earthquakes in Iran, pictures of the destruction in several South East Asian countries flash across our televisions. As the scope of the destruction unfolds, the number of dead continues to increase. Immediate assistance is needed to prevent further loss of life due to illness and starvation. So far the people of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have donated over \$180,000 to the tsunami relief effort through CCODP.

CCODP is supporting several development partner organizations in the region and count on our generosity to bring relief where it is most needed. Contributions may be sent to CCODP, 5633 Sherbrooke Street East, Montreal, H1N 1A3. Together we can make a difference.

Contributed by Andre Goussaert of St. Ignatius Parish

Pilgrims prepare for World Youth Day '05 with theatre



The cast of *Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress*
Back, from left: Nicole Friesen, Rick Duha, Patrick Thibert, David Turnbull. Front, from left: Jolene Senecal, Janelle Thibert, Courtney Thibert

"I like the play a lot and I'm super excited about it. I'm having lots of fun with all the people involved and I really like my character," remarks Nicole Friesen.

"I think it's a great experience for those who like to act. It's fun because it's a comedy and you get to laugh. It's definitely going to a worthwhile cause," says Dominique Gibson. Both these St. Charles parishioners are cast members of the dinner theatre production *Taming The Wild, Wild West in a Dress*. Over the last several months, twenty-five young people from the parishes of Good Shepherd (Portage la Prairie), St. Ann's, and St. Charles have been working on a project which will help raise money to make their dream of attending World Youth Day come true.

The group has been alternating their rehearsals between Winnipeg and Portage every week. "The play is really funny. I'm having fun and it's fun getting to know people from other parishes," remarks Jacqueline Bourgeois of St. Charles parish.

"I enjoy the play and going to Win-

nipeg to get together with other youth. I think when we get it all together it will be hilarious," echoes Ashley Barnett of Good Shepherd parish.

Their production will have a format similar to "Celebrations" dinner theatre. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with the show starting at 6:00 p.m. The actors (who will be in character) will serve the meal. The play itself is approximately 1½ hours and the entire evening, including the meal will conclude at approximately 9:00 p.m.

The World Youth Day Dinner Theatre Production company will be performing at St. Charles parish on March 12th and at Good Shepherd parish in Portage La Prairie on April 16th. They are looking for one or two other venues. If you are interested in more details about having this production at your church, please call producer Norbert Thibert at 889-1101. If you wish to purchase tickets for the St. Charles presentation on March 12th call Rita Tully at 864-2137.

Contributed by Eva Arsenault of St. Charles parish

Knights host annual skating party



On a frosty, sunny Sunday afternoon, December 9, 2004, the St. Ignatius Knights of Columbus hosted their 6th annual family fun skating party at Assiniboine Park Duck Pond skating rink. They braved temperatures of -17 degrees and windchill of -29, relatively warm given recent weather patterns, to serve hot dogs with all the fixings and hot chocolate with marshmallows to all ages of grateful frozen skaters and sliders.



World Youth Day Pilgrims from John XXIII and St. Paul the Apostle Parishes (left) hosted a Chinese-themed night which featured a performance by a dancer from the Chinese Cultural Centre (right)



On November 27th, 2004, World Youth Day pilgrims from Blessed John XXIII Parish and St. Paul the Apostle Parish hosted a "Chinese Dinner and Entertainment Night" at Blessed John XXIII Parish. The purpose behind the event was to build community between all those participating in the event as well as to raise some much needed funds for those traveling to Cologne, Germany, for World Youth Day 2005.

From the organizers' perspective, the event was a definite success. The evening was filled with fun, food, ka-

raoke and prizes. But the real highlight of the evening was seeing members of an assortment of parishes spending the evening together to share in the enthusiasm of the pilgrims as they prepare for their pilgrimage next summer.

Much thanks goes out to all those who supported the pilgrims in this endeavor. The net proceeds raised from the event were just under \$3,000.

Contributed by Susan Polz of Blessed John XXIII Parish

Desmond Buhager, S.J. ordained as deacon

"As Christians, we are called to bring people to the Lord with determination and creativity through our words and actions. The Lord gives us leadership to remind us that everyone must be cared for," said Archbishop Weisgerber. "The deacon models that for us through his piety and service," he continued.

On a frigid Friday night, January 14, 2005, the congregation of St. Ignatius Parish warmly celebrated the ordination of Desmond Buhagar, S.J., as a deacon on his journey to ordination to the priesthood this coming April. He was approved and greeted enthusiastically by a con-celebration of eight fellow Jesuits, including the Father Provincial of Upper Canada Jean-Marc Laporte, S.J.

Archbishop Weisgerber charged him, "Be a true minister of God," and addressing the congregation, affirmed, "Desmond offers his life for us."

Deacon Desmond Buhagar will be ordained as a priest at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Toronto, and will continue to serve at St. Ignatius Parish until mid-July.

He enters into his new role with



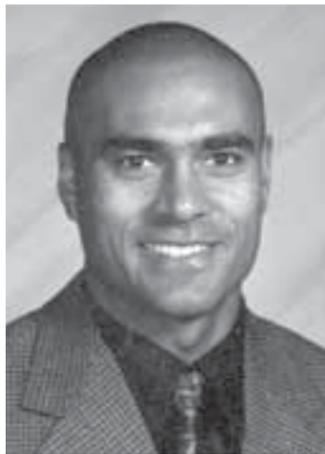
Deacon Desmond Buhager, S.J. (centre) with Archbishop James Weisgerber (left) and Fr. Provincial Jean-Marc Laporte, S.J.

much gratitude for the many palpable signs of kindness and support received from the parish community, with special thanks to Deacon Hal Graham who so generously gave his time and attention to the ceremony and its preparations.

Contributed by Barbara Fawcett of St. Ignatius Parish

A Message from the Director

Dr. John Flynn, Ed. D, the former Director of the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association, in the "Editor's Comments" to *Catholic schools across Canada: Into a new millennium* writes: "Catholic education must affect the broader community through the quality of its graduates and must inspire society as a whole with the conviction of its message and the value of its services."



In this supplement to the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's *New Wine Press* you will find highlights of the ways in which the Catholic schools within the Archdiocese are connecting with broader communities to which they belong – the Archdiocesan community, the larger Catholic community of Winnipeg and Manitoba, and the civic communities.

Catholic schools do good things for the students who attend them, and for the various communities to which they belong. Enrolment across the schools has remained relatively stable

over the past five years and our teaching staffs reflect the diversity of Manitoba's teachers. Catholic education offers great hope for the future. Faith in God is the heart and soul of what our schools are about. In addition to the religious education programs, or "Religion" classes, the schools offer a variety of faith programs - retreat programs and service programs - which allow students and staff to see the vision that Christ has entrusted to us. It is the permeation of our faith into all aspects of the curriculum and pedagogy that mark our Catholic schools as distinct from other educational institutions.

Inevitably, the coming years will present challenges to our Catholic schools, but we must remain cognizant of the history of Catholic education in Manitoba, which is one of perseverance and fidelity to the mission of the Church in the face of obstacles. With your continued prayers and support for our Catholic schools, I look forward to working with the Archdiocesan community to meet the challenges, and to ensure that Catholic education continues to be "the start of something great".

Jerome Cranston
Director of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Meeting the needs of all learners

The Manitoba Catholic Schools Resource Teachers' Association (MCSRTA) began fourteen years ago when a group of resource teachers from a few Catholic schools decided to meet to discuss common concerns and interests. At that time, a resource teacher in a Catholic school did not have the same opportunities for learning and professional growth as their public school counterparts. While the initial meetings were held in the evenings, shortly after the resource teachers decided to approach the Superintendent of Catholic Schools to request release time so all of the Catholic School resource teachers could meet. Realizing the benefits of having regular meetings, the MCSRTA invited resource teachers from other independent schools to join. Today, 32 schools have the opportunity to network through the MCSRTA.

MCSRTA meeting agenda topics have included:

- The St. Boniface General Hospital Tourette's Syndrome Team;
- The Department of Education Special Needs Funding; Writing Individual Education Plans; Math Assessments; English as a Second Language (ESL);
- The Child Guidance Clinic - Reading, Communication Skills;
- The Health Science Centre - Autism and Occupational Therapy;
- Barbara Boerchers - At Risk Kids;
- Brenda Marquardson - ESL;
- And, Vision Therapy; Scotopic Sensitivity.



In 1998, a MCSRTA committee wrote a submission to Manitoba Education's Special Education Review Commission, which drew attention to the fact that independent schools have special needs children. MCSRTA realized the importance of Catholic and independent schools having a voice in educational policy making.

Another important initiative was the work of four Catholic school resource teachers and two reading clinicians who spent two years researching reading in the content areas. With the use of the current science curriculum, a source book was produced for teaching the comprehension of expository text. *The Ex(pository) Files: A Compilation of References to Support the Teaching of Expository Text Structures*, has been available to all Catholic Schools since September 2003.

The professional meetings organized by MCSRTA have enriched our growth as resource teachers and provided us with a sense of support and community. We have all been able to take this back to our individual schools to enhance the lives of the children who depend upon us.

Contributed by Joan Brown, St. Edward's School and Margaret Lafreniere, St. John Brebeuf School



Manitoba Catholic Schools Day

February 18th, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Andrews Ukrainian Catholic Church
160 Euclid Ave., Winnipeg and
Immaculate Conception Parish
181 Austin Street, Winnipeg

**Catholic education:
The challenge to connect schools,
parishes and homes**

with guest speaker

Sr. Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, PhD,
a Catholic educator, author and founder/director of the
Catholic Leadership Program, Boston College

Sr. Clare is the founder and first director of the Catholic School Leadership Program at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Boston College. She holds a B.A. from the College of Notre Dame in Maryland, an M.A. from the Catholic University of America, a Ph.D. from St. Louis University, has completed post graduate studies at Yale University, and was awarded two Honorary Doctorates.

She is a sought after speaker around the world, and has shared her wisdom and knowledge in places such as: Guam, Bermuda, England, Scotland, the United States and throughout Canada. Sr. Clare will come to Winnipeg to inform, inspire, and challenge, drawing on her many experiences to demonstrate what the past has to teach the present and the future.

For more information contact: Sheila Forbes at 452-2227

...the start of something great.



It's Time to Register for the 2005/06 School Year!!

We invite you to contact our schools for more information.

School	Registration Information	Contact
Holy Ghost (K-8) 333 Seklirk Ave.	Open House for Kindergarten February 24th, 7:00 p.m.	Mr. Ted Kowaliszyn 582-1053
Our Lady of Victory (K-8) 249 Arnold St.	Open House March 9th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Mr. Alex Cap 452-7632
St. Charles (K - 8) 331 St. Charles Ave.	Open House February 23rd, 7:00 p.m.	Mr. Robert Morrison 837-1520
St. Edward's (K - 6) 836 Arlington St.	Ongoing registration for all grades	Ms. Linda Doyle 774-8773
St. Ignatius (K - 8) 239 Harrow St.	Ongoing registration for all grades	Mr. Richard Querat 475-1386
St. John Brebeuf (K - 8) 605 Renfrew St.	Ongoing registration for all grades	Ms. Kitty Kelly 489-2115
St. Mary's Academy (7-S4) 550 Wellington Cres.	Contact the school for registration information	Mrs. Patricia Johnson 477-0244
St. Maurice (K-S4) 1639 Pembina Hwy.	Open House February 17, 7:30 p.m.	Mr. Giuseppe Caligiuri 452-2873
St. Paul's High School (S1-4) 2200 Grant Ave.	Contact the school for registration information	Mr. Jason Brennan 831-2300
St. Augustine's (K - 8) 330 - 3rd St., Brandon	Contact the school for registration information	Ms. Betty Howell (204)729-3285

Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools 5-YEAR ENROLMENT COMPARISON September 30, 2004

Enrolment as at	Kindergarten	Primary Gr. 1 - 6	Secondary Gr. 7 - S4	Total Enrolment	Decrease/ Increase
Sept. 30/99	158	1171	1453	2872	
Sept. 30/00	160	1157	1563	2880	+8
Sept. 30/01	166	1169	1598	2933	+53
Sept. 30/02	168	1139	1592	2899	-34
Sept. 30/03	155	1140	1571	2866	-33
Sept. 30/04	184	1140	1602	2926	+60

Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools Teacher Demographic Data September 30, 2004

Categories	04/05 Data	% of all Teachers
Total number of Teachers	190	
Male	63	33%
Female	127	67%
49 years and under	134	70%
50 years and over	56	30%
Years of service - less than 5	55	29%
Years of Service between 5 and 9	47	25%
Years of Service between 10 and 14	25	13%
Years of Service - 15 plus	63	33%

Taking the Catholic faith onto the court and track



**Boys 2004 MCSAA Volleyball Champions
St. Alphonsus School**



**Girls 2004 MCSAA Volleyball Champions
Immaculate Heart of Mary School**

The Manitoba Catholic Schools Athletic Association (MCSAA) is an organization whose primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for children and youth in Catholic schools with grades 4-8 in the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface, and the Ukrainian Archeparchy to participate in extracurricular athletic activities. Currently there are 20 member schools in the MCSAA - 16 Catholic schools and 4 associate independent schools.

Through athletic activities, the MCSAA helps young people develop the fundamentals of sport and a sense of physical well being. The MCSAA promotes sportsmanship through fair and enjoyable athletic competition. The main sports that the MCSAA convenes are: volleyball, basketball, badminton and track and field. There are both competitive and developmental levels of play for volleyball and basketball. The Knights of Columbus generously sponsor the annual track and field meets. With the four main sports offered, along with the 20 participating schools, this equates to over 2000 opportunities in various sport activities for students to participate in! Play on!!

Contributed by Rod Picklyk, Immaculate Heart of Mary School



Right: Fall 2004 cross country meet

New Staff Gathering

Newer staff and teachers of Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic schools gathered at the Catholic Centre on December 16 to meet Archbishop Weisgerber and each other.



**Archbishop Weisgerber greets Heather
Guillou of St. Charles School**



**Sheila Forbes (Assistant to the Director of
Catholic Education) and Louise LaBossiere
of Holy Ghost School**



**Catherine Kelly and Andrea Peitkiewicz of
St. John Brebeuf School**



This year more than 2800 students returned to their desks in the 10 Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. The schools represent a long tradition of Catholic education tracing its origin to the earliest settlers of Manitoba.

Following Manitoba's provincial curriculum, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's Catholic schools provide an excellent academic and moral faith-based education for the children who attend them and for the greater communities they serve.

If you would like to find out more information about the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's Catholic schools, consider this your invitation to contact them.

For information about the schools follow the Catholic education links located at:
www.archwinnipeg.ca



Holy Ghost School
333 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg
Phone: 582-1053 Fax: 582-4870
www.holyghostschool.ca
Principal: Ted Kowalyszyn



Our Lady of Victory School
249 Arnold Avenue, Winnipeg
Phone: 452-7632 Fax: 453-3081
www.victoryedu.com
Principal: Alexander Cap



St. Charles Catholic School
331 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg
Phone: 837-1520 Fax: 837-2326
www.stcharlescatholicsschool.ca
Principal: Robert Morrison
Pastoral Coordinator: Sr. Emma Berard, m.o.



St. Edward's School
836 Arlington Street, Winnipeg
Phone: 774-8773 Fax: 775-0011
Principal: Linda Doyle



St. Ignatius School
239 Harrow Street, Winnipeg
Phone: 475-1386 Fax: 475-3961
www.stignatius.winnipeg.mb.ca
Principal: Richard Querat



St. John Brebeuf School
605 Renfrew Street, Winnipeg
Phone: 489-2115 Fax: 489-6097
www.sjb.shawbiz.ca
Principal: Catherine Kelly



St. Mary's Academy
550 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg
Phone: 477-0244 Fax: 453-2417
www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca
Director: Sister Susan Wikeem, s.n.j.m.
Principal: Pat Johnson



St. Maurice School
1639 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg
Phone: 452-2873 Fax: 452-4050
www.stmaurice.mb.ca
Principal: Giuseppe Caligiuri



St. Paul's High School
2200 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg
Phone: 831-2300 Fax: 831-2340
www.stpauls.mb.ca
Director: Reverend Joseph Mroz, S.J.
Principal: Tom Lussier



Learning in
His Spirit

St. Augustine's School
330 - 3rd Street, Brandon
Phone: 729-3285 Fax: 729-3286
www.brandonsd.mb.ca/bsd/staugustine
Principal: Betty Howell

St. Edward's Parish and School, 1909



This picture from a calendar dates back to 1909, the year in which St. Edward's school was blessed by Archbishop Langevin. Fr. Gerritsma was instrumental in the construction of the school. He was pastor of the parish until 1914 when he left due to illness. Parishioners were saddened by his departure because he had done so much for the parish and school.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, who taught at the school, resided on the top floor until their convent was built in 1922.

If you would like to know more about St. Edward's parish and school during this time, contact the archivist of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions at 774-5067.

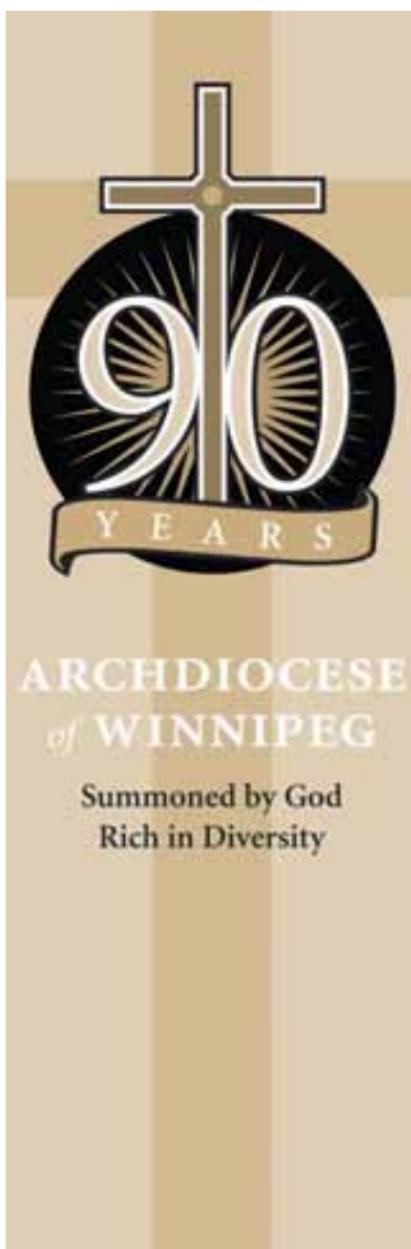
If you have any interesting comparative photos or stories that you would like to share in another issue of the New Wine Press, contact the communications office at 452-2227 or communications@archwinnipeg.ca

St. Edward's Parish and School, 2005



The current St. Edward's church on Arlington St., also built under the direction of Fr. Gerritsma, was blessed on October 19, 1913 by Archbishop Langevin. The church underwent extensive renovations between 1945 and 1949, including the painting of sanctuary murals by Leo Mol. St. Edward's school, with a student population of 189 continues to be a vibrant and exciting Catholic institution.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions still reside at the convent and continue the ministry of private music lessons and English language instruction for immigrants.



90th Anniversary History Facts Correction

The last issue of the New Wine Press listed St. Charles as the oldest parish in the Central Deanery. St-François Xavier is actually the oldest parish in the deanery. It was established in 1834.

Sister celebrates 50th Jubilee

On July 4th, 2004 parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Russell, celebrated and gave thanks for Sr. Marcelline Pasloski's 50th Jubilee of Monastic Profession as a Benedictine Sister.

Born in Rama, Sask., the second youngest of sixteen siblings, Sr. Marcelline entered the Sisters of St. Benedict in Arborg, Manitoba, in 1952 and made her first Profession in August, 1954.

Sr. Marcelline owes her vocation to her parents, Peter and Magdelene Pasloski, who continuously prayed for vocations and to the Benedictine Sisters who came yearly to teach catechism in her parish. Sr. Marcelline also owes her vocation to Fr. Anthony Sylla O.M.I., pastor of her childhood parish, who promoted vocations.

Sr. Marcelline spent almost 50 years in health care ministry. She served as a nurse in Gimli, Winnipegosis, Birtle, and St. Benedict's Health Centre. Following this, she spent 27 consecutive years in Russell at the Personal Care Home, where she presently continues to work. Sr. Marcelline is also involved as a member of this parish faith community.

Sr. Marcelline is most grateful to Fr. Dominic Yuen and members of the Parish Council for arranging a joyful celebration of the Eucharist followed by a generous potluck feast organized by the parish C.W.L.

"My 50th Jubilee was a joyous celebration of faith, peace and love surrounded by my parish community and friends," said Sr. Marcelline, "and then by my Benedictine Sisters and family at St. Benedict's Monastery in Winnipeg on August 4th." It was a day to remember and to give thanks!



Sr. Marcelline with her parents Peter and Magdelene Pasloski in Arborg, August 1954



Sr. Marcelline Pasloski at St. Benedict's in Winnipeg, August 2004

Contributed by Nicole Petz of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Russell

St. Charles parish publishes history book

"It is very important to remember from where we have come as we try to chart our course for the future." This excerpt is from Archbishop V. James Weisgerber's congratulatory letter to the parishioners of St. Charles parish regarding the publication of their history book.

The inspiration for a St. Charles history book came to Irene Gordon, its editor, after an interview with fellow parishioner Martial LaFleche. "He was a man with an encyclopedic knowledge of St. Charles, as well as his own family's history," says Irene. She felt that it was important to chronicle stories like these before they vanished.

Irene Gordon and her thirteen person committee worked four years to make this history book a reality. The book spans a 150 year period, from 1854 to 2004. The handsome hard covered book has 160 pages, over 300 photographs and 130 family histories.

Committee member Bertha LaFleche was pleased to see the project brought to a successful conclusion. "It was a lot of work, but it was worth it," said Bertha.

"Our history has many things to teach us and our history can so easily be forgotten," reads Archbishop Weisgerber's letter. Irene Gordon and her committee have guaranteed that the history of St. Charles Parish will not be lost. "It's a real treasure to have a history of your parish for the generations to come. It is something that our kids and grandkids will cherish," said Martial LaFleche.

If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of the history book for \$75.00, they can contact Cordy Thomaszewski at 888-4102 or Bertha LaFleche at 895-1667.

Contributed by Eva Arsenault of St. Charles Parish

Ministering to the sick

Suzanne St. Yves takes an in-depth look at the healing ministry

Faith and healing at Misericordia Health Centre

“The re-structuring of healthcare has created a challenge for faith-based groups to articulate what they bring to the arena,” explains Fr. Vince Herner, Director of Missions and Spiritual Care at Misericordia Health Centre (MHC), “which has led to self-reflection about the need for our continued existence. When the Sisters of Misericordia left, the memory of what they brought remained. They had an attentiveness to staff, patients and operations that must continue.”

Misericordia Health Centre is a private, not-for-profit Catholic care centre which by its name does not reveal its origin. “There was a need to return to our roots which is part of the reason we erected the cross on the roof this past summer. We needed to show our Catholic identity and be a public witness,”

Herner admits. “Catholic and all faith-based health care facilities and social service agencies are a meeting place of God’s healing love. We need to be a reminder of God’s compassion for those who deserve wholeness.”

Herner has worked 15 years in healthcare, first as a chaplain at St. Boniface Hospital for 10 years before assuming his current position. He has seen a shift from health ministry being primarily the domain of the clergy to more non-ordained people going through the theological formation to do the work.

MHC utilizes volunteers for worship services which are run by staff as well as clergy from the community. Faith-sharing groups like “Nurturing



Fr. Vince Herner

the Spirit” focus on life events, such as exploring the concept of home. This is a crucial transitioning question for those waiting to be moved to a personal care home or arriving from independent living. Bible studies occur on Fridays while communal anointing of the sick happens quarterly. Three times a year a Memory Service is held to honour those who have died and to reassure residents that they too will be remembered. These memorials are important at this stage of life, and when a death occurs at MHC time is taken at lunch to mention the deceased and pray. At MHC, morning and evening prayers are broadcast over the public announcement system in the hallways.

At the same time, providing activities to create new memories is crucial. Keeping the residents engaged in life is a validation of who they are and upholds their dignity. A full range of volunteer opportunities are available, everything from cleaning the fish tanks to watering the plants to giving manicures. Watching the elderly residents respond to the mass and the programs is a living testimony to this generation who gave abundantly to the Church and community. Volunteering is a wonderful and rich opportunity to honour their fidelity and they are appreciative of these efforts. Encountering these seniors will provide a deep satisfaction for those who help them and respond to the gospel message of healing the sick.

Dignity and human value emphasized by spiritual care associate

As a Spiritual Care Associate III at Misericordia Place, a 100-bed Personal Care Home adjacent to Misericordia Health Centre, Teresa Campbell attends to the spiritual needs of residents, their families, and staff. Being attentive is a priority in her job. She helps people cope with losses such as sight, hearing, mobility, the death of loved ones, independence, and home. Campbell says her work is about building relationships.

She does one-to-one visits, learning about the residents and caring for them. “They need lots of touch. They get polite, official touches but they don’t get hugs,” she says. Many are lonely and they need to know that they are still valued as people.

The resident is someone loved by God, Campbell explains. Some are cognitively impaired, others have vivid memories and love to share them with interested visitors. “We always have room for more volunteers,” Campbell says. She mentions the concept in

Isaiah 42 of the ‘bruised reed’ and states that the residents need to be recognized for their worth regardless of their ability or disability. Campbell believes the ability to uphold the dignity of each resident for the remainder of their journey and to walk with them as they finish their journey is crucial.

She also co-ordinates and leads liturgies. Fr. Vince Herner says mass twice a week while inter-church services, led by ministers of Anglican and United Churches for example, occur once a week. Bible studies are held weekly as well. Campbell notices how important liturgy and rituals are not only for the Catholic residents but for all those who attend.

Campbell’s training includes four units, two basic and two advanced, of the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education (CAPPE). She is currently working on a Masters of Divinity at the University of Winnipeg.

Healing ministry the responsibility of every Christian

“The healing ministry is every Christian’s responsibility,” maintains Wilmar Chopyk, Executive Director of the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM). “We need to ask what we can do as a Christian community to improve our health. Everyone should have an active role.”

“More facilities are depending on volunteers for practical things--everything from transporting people to fundraising, Chopyk continues. “Resources are scarce and budgets are tight. We have a good representation of volunteers now but it could be increased.” Visitation, advocacy, education, and prayer are specific areas that fall under the healing ministry.

A voluntary, provincial organization, CHAM focuses on education, ethics, spiritual care, and advocacy. Upholding Catholic values such as respect for human life and faith-based health care, CHAM strives towards collaborative relations with the Church, government, health partners and the wider community.

CHAM’s membership hints at the variety of ministries within which Catholics might volunteer. Current members include facilities such as Youville Centre, Sara Riel Inc., Misericordia Health Centre, Ste-Rose General Hospital, and St. Joseph’s Residence. Individuals interested in the Church’s healing ministry and who wish to support the aims of CHAM can become a personal member.

Mary Kiernan has been bringing the residents of Misericordia Health Centre (MHC) to chapel on Friday mornings for five years. She is also available to help distribute communion or do a reading, if need be.

Arriving at 8:45 a.m., she can bring up to 50 residents down to the chapel for the 10:30 Mass and then return them to their floors afterwards. The wheelchairs can be heavy and she received an orientation on how to manoeuvre them.

“It is not a glamorous ministry but a necessary one,” she admits, “because no matter how old or incapacitated people become, the Eucharist remains important in their lives.”

She has gained humility from her work. “I could be in one of the wheelchairs one day,” she reflects. Since the Sisters of Misericordia left the facility, Kiernan sees a great need for more volunteers.

Volunteers are always welcome

For more information about volunteer positions at Misericordia Health Centre, contact Fr. Vince Herner at 788 - 8285

The Catholic Health Association of Manitoba can be reached at 235-3106 or visit www.cham.mb.ca

All articles contributed by Suzanne St. Yves, a parishioner at St. Ignatius Parish in Winnipeg.

World Day of the Sick is February 11th, 2005.
Information on the day is available at www.chac.ca.

Parents For Life Ministry established at St. Augustine's

Four years ago, St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish in Brandon established the youth ministry program "LIFE TEEN" in their parish. They are now taking the next step; establishing the Parents for Life Ministry. LIFE TEEN recognizes the importance of ministry not only to teens but also their families, especially parents. The parish of St. Augustine's realizes that the best thing we could do for any teen is help their parents develop a strong relationship with God and the Church.

Parents For Life Ministry brings about numerous benefits to the Parish. The Ministry consists of:

- Parents' Retreat, which is the foundation of Parent's Ministry. It challenges and affirms parents to be strong in their faith and calls parents to be true disciples of Christ at home and in the world.

- Parents For Life Sunday Meetings, which are a natural progression from the retreat. This is offered at the same time as LIFE Night for teens and gives an opportunity for parents to continue their spiritual journey. It serves all the needs of parents – prayer experiences, service opportunities, social interaction, community support, education and spiritual growth - and fosters good Christian families.

- Parents' Support Team, which provides physical and spiritual support to the LIFE TEEN Core. This allows the youth minister and the core team to do what they are supposed to do: be with teens to lead them closer to Christ. This mission of Parents For Life not only leads parents with children of all ages closer to Christ but also solidifies the family structure.

St. Augustine's is held their first annual Parent Retreat at Camp Wannakumbak on the shores of Clear Lake the weekend of February 4 - 7, 2005. This retreat challenged the participants to grow deeper in their faith and return feeling refreshed, loved and part of a community. A natural progression from the retreat is to meet on a regular basis. We will be holding weekly gatherings after every 6:00 Sunday evening mass. Parents are encouraged to attend the Sunday evening gatherings for spiritual nourishment and community building.

Contributed by Lynne Potvin of St. Augustine's Parish

New Church Celebrates Inaugural Christmas Mass



The choir of the Roman Catholic Community of Whyte Ridge, Linden Ridge and Lindenwoods

In the temporary home of the Winnipeg Technical College, faithful from the communities of Whyte Ridge, Linden Woods and Linden Ridge braved a typical Winnipeg winter to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Members of the congregation converted a bare lecture hall into a yuletide setting with messages of Love, Peace and Joy adorning the walls. A unique candle vigil, in which all attending held a lighted candle in the darkened hall, provided an appropriate mood for the celebration. Stirring performances by violinist Francis Watson and pianist (Seminarist) Geoffery Angeles supported the choir, led by Ernest Lacuna, in providing musical accompaniment to the mass. Reverend Darrin Gurr provided a light-hearted, yet powerful Christmas sermon that gave all in attendance food for thought.

Three Christmas services were celebrated by over 750 people; two on Christmas Eve at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. and one on Christmas Day at 10:30 am.

Contributed by Brian Hodge of the Roman Catholic Community of Whyte Ridge, Linden Ridge and Lindenwoods

Upcoming Events

February

4 – 6: Faith filled weekend with Maria Vadia

Inspirational faith filled weekend with Maria Vadia from Miami, Florida. Includes a vibrant worship group, a healing service plus seven presentations at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Love offering. Call CCRS at 895-7544 or ccrs@CatholicRenewalServices.com.

13, 3:00 p.m.

Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral

March

4 - 6: Missionary Oblate Sisters Vocation Awareness Live-in

This session is open to all women ages 18 and up interested in reflecting about a possible call to religious life. The weekend will consist of a time for input, prayer, reflection and sharing. Contact Sr. Caroline at 885-2260 or e-mail carolinedeters@missionaryoblatesisters.ca. To be held at St. Charles Retreat Centre, 323 St. Charles St., Winnipeg.

14, 7:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

19: One Day Prison Retreat at Stony Mountain Institution

This is an opportunity to get a quick 'bird's-eye-view' of what it is like in prison and to explore the possibility of some type of prison ministry in the future. There is an opportunity to attend an exposure church service at the institution on March 5 or 6 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and a short training session on March 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Sign up must be completed by February 14, 2005. Contact Ron Storozuk at 257-9636. Priority may be given to first time participants.

25, 9:30 a.m.

Public Way of the Cross

Starting at St. Peter's Parish, 775 Keewatin St. Call 697-7600

April

10: 40th Anniversary of Ordination of Fr. Henryk Laciak

Mass is at 11:30 a.m., lunch is at 1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Parish, 249 Arnold Ave., Winnipeg. Tickets are \$20.00 and \$10.00. Call Joan McKinley, 475-4106.

St. Charles Catholic School needs your voice for 100th anniversary celebration!

St. Charles Catholic School (formerly L'Academie St. Charles Academy) will be celebrating our 100th year of serving the community in May, 2006. Preparations are already underway.

We are looking for people with good strong voices to be part of our centennial choir. (They really needn't be that good or that strong, enthusiasm makes up for a lot.)

We invite any past students or staff to join by leaving your contact number with the school office at 837-1520. If singing is not your forte there are many other ways to get involved, so give us a call.

Explorations of Faith; A Lenten Series

Thursday, February 24th - Fr. David Creamer, SJ
James Fowler; Adult Faith Development

Thursday, March 3rd - Fr. Brian Massie, SJ
Let's Talk About Sin

Thursday, March 10th - Fr. John Perry, SJ
Catholics and Torture

Thursday, March 17th - Fr. Richard Soo, SJ
Death to the World; Spirituality in Social Justice
All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m.

St. Ignatius Adult Education Centre, 925 Jessie Avenue
Call to register: 453-9243. There is no charge.

Holy Names House of Peace Firesides

Friday evening Firesides offer a chance to meet with old friends and make new ones. Join us in reflection and celebration as we explore ways of encouraging justice and peace in our midst.

Friday, February 11 – Thirsting for Justice

Friday, February 18 – Water: Life before profit

Friday, February 25 – Justice Rosary

Friday, March 4 – Symbols of solidarity

Friday, March 11 – And here at home?

Friday, March 18 – Responding with heart, mind, soul and strength

Good Friday, March 25 – 'World suffering' Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 1 – Celebrating Easter's story of justice for the Earth and water

All firesides are from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Holy Names House of Peace, 211 Edmonton St., 942-5535

Firesides continue weekly except for a summer break between May 20 and September 16.

St. Paul's Dramatic Society Presents

Pasta 'n Plays II

Thursday March 10 - Sunday March 13, 2005
Doors Open at 6:00 PM, Curtain Promptly at 6:30 PM

St. Paul's High School, 2200 Grant Avenue

Call 831-2303 for tickets
Tickets \$20.00 per person

Archdiocese celebrates 150th anniversary of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception

“Through our Baptism, we are all immaculately re-conceived,” said Archbishop James Weisgerber at a prayer service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the promulgation of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The service was held last December at St. Mary’s Cathedral. “In the same way,” commented the Archbishop, “through our Baptism, the effects of Original Sin are washed away.”

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was formally pronounced December 8, 1854, by Pope Pius IX. He declared that the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from the stain of Original Sin, through Jesus, at the time of her conception. “This teaching has often been confused with the conception and birth of Jesus, but it is about Mary and all of us,” said Archbishop Weisgerber.

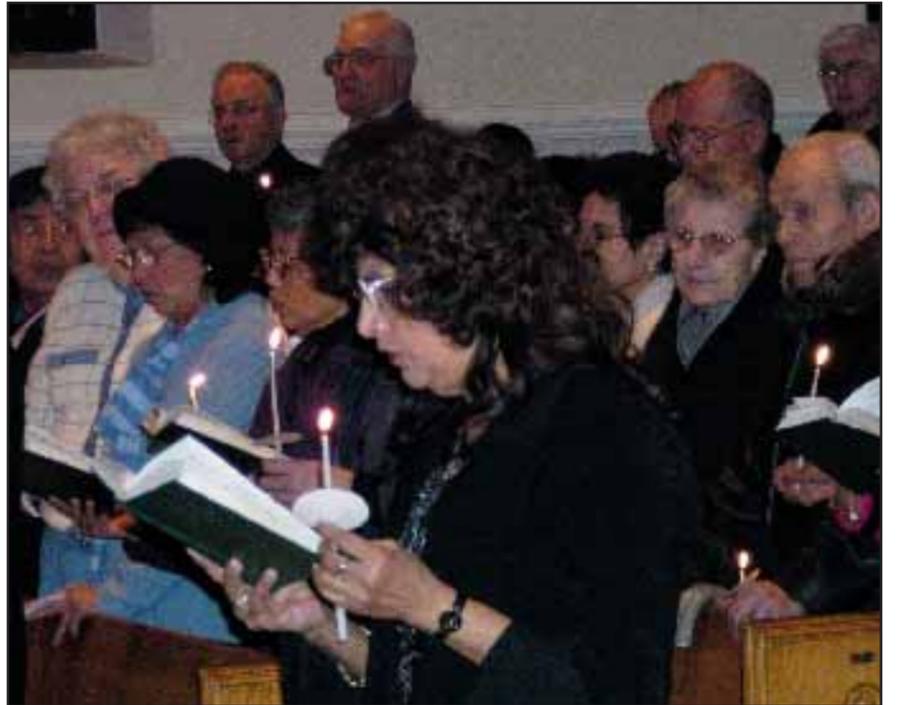
The Archbishop reminded the community that although signs of Original Sin are everywhere, we have, in a sense,

been reborn through our Baptism. This realization presents, for Catholics, an opportunity for renewal in their mission and a connection to Mary as a model for the Church.

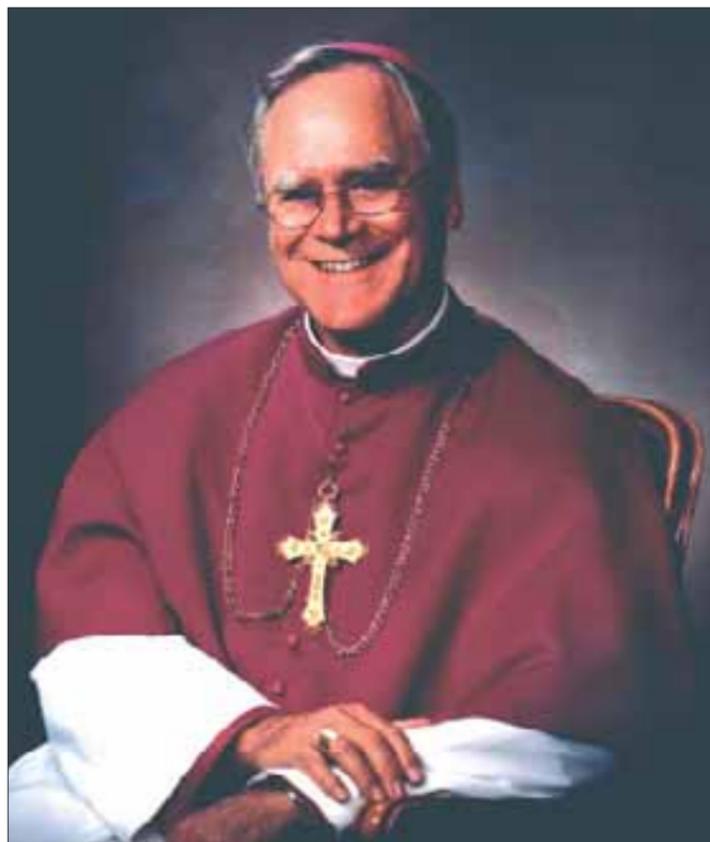
Mary’s current relevance for individuals in the Christian community was explained by Lucille Beaudin of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Elie. “Through motherhood I relate to Mary as a friend,” she stated. “Our joys and sufferings as mothers are shared spiritually, particularly when our children suffer and there is nothing more I can do but pray. I call on Mary. She knows exactly the pain I’m experiencing and she hears my cry. We ponder together. Her compassion heals. With time, God turns my complications into blessings.”

The December 8, 2004 service also launched the 90th Anniversary celebrations for the archdiocese.

Contributed by Carol Seed, Director of Catechetics for the Archdiocese



A prayer service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Promulgation of the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was held last December at St. Mary’s Cathedral



Archbishop Weisgerber’s Schedule

February

- 13, 3:00 p.m. – Rite of Election, St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 14 – 16 – Meeting of the Bishops of the Church in America, Bogota, Colombia
- 25 - 27 – Western Conference of Catholic Bishops Meetings

March

- 5 - 8 – St. Viator’s Parish Mission, Dauphin
- 12, 10:00 a.m. – Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
- 14, 7:00 p.m. – Chrism Mass, St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 18, 2:30 p.m. – St. Paul’s College Baccalaureate Mass
- 24, 7:30 p.m. – Holy Thursday Mass, St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 25, 9:30 a.m. – Public Way of the Cross, St. Peter’s Parish, Winnipeg
- 25, 3:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service, St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 26, 7:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil, St. Mary’s Cathedral

April

- 10, 11:30 a.m. – 40th Anniversary of ordination of Fr. Henryk Laciak, mass and luncheon, Our Lady of Victory Parish, Winnipeg

A Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Weisgerber

Dear Members of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg,

Our Canadian Parliament is preparing to make a decision on the meaning of marriage in Canada. Seldom have we been called upon to make a decision which will have such a profound impact on our future, on the kind of society we want to become.

Because this is such an important moment in our history, all of us should become fully informed about the question and all of us, too, should be in touch with our political leaders.

The Canadian public is in so many ways being manipulated in the debate. The courts have decided that marriage has nothing to do with begetting and raising children; marriage is solely about a relationship between two persons and therefore it is unconstitutional to deny the right of two persons of the same sex to enter marriage. I believe most Canadians are people of good will, interested in fairness. If we can be convinced that this is a question of equality of rights, most of us will support the concept. The problem is that same sex marriage only becomes a right once we have changed the definition.

Canada has been led down the same path on the question of abortion. We have been convinced that it is a matter of “choice”. Who can be against choice? However, the matter at the heart of abortion is the depriving of an innocent child of life, not the matter of choice. In the present debate, in a similar way, we are being told that the real issue is minority rights, when in fact the real issue is the meaning, purpose and future of marriage.

In our western world marriage has always been seen as the foundation of society. Marriage is the loving union of a man and a woman whose very love brings new life into the world. Their partnership gives them the strength and generosity to raise their children so that they can be assets to the larger society. When families are strong, children will be lovingly cared for and the whole of society benefits.

To equate any other kind of relationship with marriage undermines the importance and the uniqueness of this important institution. We were told some forty years ago when the Canadian Parliament allowed for easier divorce that this would affect very few people, not marriage or the family. How differently have things turned out. Almost half of Canadian marriages end in divorce, damaging so many children and weakening our social fabric. Marriage and the family are the cornerstones of our society and more support is needed, not less.

As Catholics we are recipients of a long, rich tradition about marriage. God’s Spirit has guided the Church in its insistence on the meaning and the importance of marriage for the spouses, for children, for the Church and for society. We are privileged to have an important God-given body of wisdom and teaching which should inform our consciences in this matter. Since in a democratic country all of us are involved in making a decision, we are invited to know and study the teaching of the Church. I believe our tradition is a much surer guide in this important matter than is the self interest being displayed by our political parties.

I invite all members of the Church to bring this important matter to prayer. Let us pray that each of us will come to a personal judgment which reflects the goodness and intent of God. Let us pray that, as a believing community, we will have the determination and generosity to inform our political leaders about our views in this matter. Prepared post cards and petitions are of some help, but nothing is more effective than a personal letter written to one’s Member of Parliament. My hope and my prayer is that we all become involved in this momentous decision. The future of Canada deserves our concern.

Fraternally yours in Our Lord,

+ V. James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg