



# The New Wine Press



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Geoff Kindle (on the ladder) and Bob Swayze clean St. Augustine's Church in Brandon in preparation for Easter.

## Archbishop Weisgerber celebrates the gift of faith with St. Ignatius School

"Jesus forms us into his people and shows us how to love each other. Jesus wants us to live a life of God." Archbishop James Weisgerber, formally attired in black cassock and magenta zucchetto (beanie) and sash, addressed the students of St. Ignatius School with great affection on Friday February 10. His visit set the tone for their celebration of the gift of faith during Catholic Schools Week, February 14 - 18. He was greeted by Pastor Fr. Brian Massie, Principal Richard Querat, Chairman of the School Board Liz Magnifico, President of the Parents' Association Tanis Scott and Student Council President Danny Militano.

Each grade relished the opportunity to welcome the Archbishop to their classroom to discuss matters of faith, church hierarchy, and the life of a bishop. One student asked, "Do you have any hobbies other than preaching?" He learned that Archbishop Weisgerber likes to make bread and wine, go to movies, theatre and opera, ski, canoe, fish and play golf. Much



Archbishop Weisgerber reads to the kindergarten class at St. Ignatius School

attention was drawn by the cassock which the Archbishop admitted was "being worn for the third time in nine years." Students were intrigued that the Archbishop's ring, the design of which incorporates his mother's wedding ring, is a symbol of his marriage to the Church. He also explained the importance and symbolism of the mitre, the crozier and the pectoral cross, identifying him as a leader and shepherd.

## International food festival builds tsunami relief in Dauphin

Nations of the world gathered at St. Viator's Church on February 5 when the parish chapter of Development and Peace played host to an amazing first for Dauphin – an International Food Festival. Bigos from Poland, spring rolls from the Philippines, dark rye bread from Russia, food from Finland, France and Hungary were all available. Unexpectedly, and at the last minute, a Brazilian exchange student who had heard about the event arrived with a pot of steaming hot black bean soup. In total, the foods and cultures of fifteen countries brought people of the Parkland region together for an afternoon filled with multi-cultural fellowship, festivity and entertainment.

Organised under the leadership of parish Development and Peace member, Ligaya Debuque, the afternoon was a fund raiser for South East Asian tsunami relief efforts. It is the first time Debuque has organised an event like this.

"It all started when I was watching TV news about the tsunami," she said. "So many countries were affected. I was moved by the multitudes of people who perished, and with so many survivors affected psychologically, emotionally and physically – it really hit me hard."

Originally from the Philippines – which neighbours some of the countries hit by the disaster – Debuque was inspired to coordinate help from Dauphin. Very quickly her initiative flourished into a joint project that connected Development and Peace with St. Viator's Jubilee Committee, the Catholic Women's League, and people from the Parkland community at large. Debuque approached project planning with several objectives in mind.

"I wanted to raise funds for tsunami victims and to give people in Dauphin another way to donate or to help," she said. "I wanted everyone involved in the project to have fun and to experience the joy and satisfaction that their hard work was for a good cause. I wanted our guests to enjoy themselves."

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg covers an area approximately equal to Ireland and is served by some 98 churches, 22 in the city of Winnipeg. To gasps and murmurs, the Archbishop shared that he would travel to Bogota, Columbia the following morning to meet with 27 other bishops from North and South America. He also spoke of the great privilege of being a part of the high and low points of people's lives and the need for every priest's office to have a box of kleenex to tend tears of both joy and sorrow.

This important visit was celebrated in song by several grades and Kindergarten huddled close to hear Archbishop Weisgerber read a whimsical version of the creation story. Grade 7 and 8, decked out in festive cardboard mitres and hats emblazoned with "Weisgerber's Team", matched wits in high-spirited game show style on topics ranging from the gospels to golf. His Grace won graciously and bid farewell; under his arm was a lovingly illustrated book made by the Kindergarten class.

Contributed by Barbara Fawcett, Parishioner at St. Ignatius Parish

In all of this, she was successful. The event received tremendous response from all over the Parklands. People came to enjoy the food sampling, traditional costumes, music, singing, and dancing. At the heart of the event was the community expression of generosity, compassion, and support for people and communities victimized by the disaster.

Participants also learned something about the work of Development and Peace. Founded in 1967 by the Canadian Catholic Church, its purpose is to fight poverty in



From left: Fr. Yolando Gamallo, Perla Isidoro, Ligaya Debuque, Minda McNaughton, and Gabriel Debuque represent the Philippines at the International Food Festival at St. Viator's

countries of the South and to promote greater international justice. Inspired by Gospel values, Development and Peace efforts focus on human rights, peace building, agrarian reform, education, community development, and economic justice initiatives. Goals include helping to ensure fairness and equity so that women, along with men, participate in decision making and developing a better society. The organisation also provides emergency assistance in crisis situations. On the tsunami relief front,

Development and Peace has to date raised over 18 million dollars to help those devastated by this particular disaster.

Was Debuque happy with the outcome of the Dauphin initiative? "It is fantastic. Participants were so enthusiastic – giving one hundred percent. Planning gave us unimagined opportunities for interesting discussions," she said. "I am so moved by the response of the whole Parkland area. People were lined up waiting for our opening at noon. The parking lot was full. Iran and India ran out of food within an hour. The Netherlands made room at their table for the Brazilian black bean soup. We have witnessed so much generosity and sharing. I think this is something we will want to do again."

Contributed by Therese Koturbash, parishioner at St. Viator's Parish, Dauphin



The community of CFC Youth for Christ and St. Peter's Parish hosted the 18th annual Public Way of the Cross on Good Friday. Over 1000 people joined Archbishop Weisgerber to carry a wooden cross through the area around St. Peter's Parish, stopping at 8 stations along the way, including the Philippines Cultural Centre, Shaughnessy Park School and a housing project, to reflect on social justice themes.

## Role of dean essential to archdiocese

At the March 1, 2005 meeting of the Council of Priests one of the items of discussion was the role of deans in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Currently there are five deaneries (pastoral zones) in the Archdiocese: Parkland, Brandon,

the office of dean gets its impetus from the Second Vatican Council. Basically, the dean shares in the pastoral authority of the bishop. The role of the dean is to encourage pastoral co-operation among the parishes of the deanery.



**Current Deans of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.** From left: Fr. Kevin Smith (Parkland Deanery), Msgr. Maurice Comeault (Central Winnipeg Deanery), Fr. José Eduardo Medeiros (North Winnipeg-Interlake Deanery), Archbishop Weisgerber, Fr. Dominic Yuen (Brandon Deanery), Fr. Richard Arsenault, Fr. Henryk Laciak (South Winnipeg Deanery).

North Winnipeg-Interlake, Central Winnipeg and South Winnipeg. Each of these deaneries has a priest who acts as dean.

The role of dean has a five hundred year history in the life of the church. It began in 1565 in the Archdiocese of Milan and quickly spread throughout the church until in 1917 it was made a necessary office in the life of a diocese. Today

In the Archdiocese of Winnipeg deans are appointed by the Archbishop after he hears the recommendation of the priests of the deanery. They are appointed to a three year term which can be renewed once. Deans serve on the Council of Priests and advise the Archbishop on personnel matters (priest transfers and appointments). The dean has a key role in the Deanery Pastoral Council by providing spiritual and pastoral advice. One of the primary duties of the dean

is to chair the monthly meeting of the clergy and pastoral agents of the deanery; it is here that pastoral action is co-ordinated. The dean is also involved when pastors are installed and helps to facilitate the transfer from a parish when needed by ensuring that parish inventories and other duties are completed.

## Reverend Tadeusz (Ted) Lubecki (1931-2005)

Father Tadeusz Lubecki passed away peacefully, after a courageous battle with heart attacks, strokes and Alzheimer's disease, on February 26, 2005 at Fairview Home in Brandon, Manitoba. He was 73 years old. As a priest he served and provided pastoral care for the Roman Catholics in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg since 1975. He was incardinated into the Archdiocese in 1982.

Son of Józef Lubecki and Zofia Miernik, he was born on March 3, 1931, in Błoto (today it is part of Suchedniów, near Kielce), Poland. Here he attended elementary school and then pursued his secondary education. These proved to be very difficult times, as the Nazi occupation during World War II was followed by post-War atheistic Communism. Unable to pursue his religious vocation in such a climate, he awaited better times. Thus, in the following four years, he worked as an official of the Social Insurance Institution, carrying out work relating to payment of old-age and disability pensions.

On September 17, 1954 the young man's prayers to pursue a religious vocation were answered by the Lord; he finally managed to enter the Salvatorian novitiate, and from September 1955 to June 1962 he studied at the Major Seminary of the Salvatorian Order in Bagno, near Wrocław. He received training as deacon and on March 17, 1963 he was ordained to the ministerial priesthood.

On November 27, 1975 Fr. Tadeusz arrived in Canada. Assigned to the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, he took up residence in the rectory of St. Edward's Parish, Winnipeg, and studied English. In August 1976, he was named parochial vicar in St. Viator's, Dauphin, and Holy Trinity, Sifton.

In the following year Cardinal George Flahiff appointed Fr. Tadeusz parochial vicar of Corpus Christi, Winnipegosis, with missions at Holy Trinity, Sifton, Nativity of Our Lady, Ethelbert, Our Lady of Loretto, Fork River, Saints Peter and Paul, Pine River and St. Joseph's, Renwar. On March 24, 1980 he had a severe heart attack. By July he resumed his pastoral duties in Winnipegosis.

On October 4, 1980 Fr. Tadeusz was assigned as pastoral vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish in Rivers and St. Alphonsus, Minnedosa. On August 28, 1983 he became pastor of St. Hedwig's, Brandon, where he stayed until 1992. Upon meeting his new parishioners in Brandon he remarked that



he had already driven three used cars, and counting the distances he traveled in them to the various parishes in Manitoba would comprise enough kilometers to circle the globe three times at the equator.

From 1992 to 1993 Fr. Tadeusz became pastor of St. Mary's in Souris and St-Jean in Grande Clairière, with missions at Deleau, Griswold (Sioux Valley Reserve) and Oak Lake. From 1993 to 1999 he was pastor of St. Jude's in Erickson and St. Elizabeth's in Polonia, with missions in Sacred Heart, Elphinstone, St. Alphonsus, Minnedosa and St. Anthony's, Rackham (Jackfish).

On 31 May 1999 Fr. Tadeusz retired from active ministry due to ill health.

Fr. Tadeusz leaves in Poland his brother Włodzimierz Lubecki and his sister, Krystyna Włodarczyk. Many of his former parishioners, remembering his spiritual labours and dedication, also mourn the passing of this kind priest.

Vigil prayers for Fr. Tadeusz were held on March 1 at St. Hedwig's Church, Brandon. On March 2, the Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Hedwig's, with Most Reverend V. James Weisgerber, Archbishop of Winnipeg, presiding. Internment took place in Assumption Cemetery, Winnipeg, on March 3, 2005.

Fr. Tadeusz will be remembered by those who knew him as a kind and a modest individual, as well as a dedicated priest who persevered throughout his life to overcome his own difficulties and to serve his parishioners faithfully to the best of his ability. This he did, whether to spread the word of God to them, or to maintain their Polish heritage. Father Tadeusz Lubecki will also be recalled as that smiling priest, the one who received that special gift from God – to welcome people to the Church. May he rest in peace.

*Contributed by Andrew B. Pernal, Parishioner at St. Hedwig's Parish, Brandon.*

*But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.'*  
(Mark 16:6)

## Parish Pastoral Council norms enacted

Following discussions with the clergy and pastoral leadership of the five deaneries and having received the unanimous recommendation of the Council of Priests, Archbishop Weisgerber recently enacted new norms for the functioning of Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) throughout the Archdiocese. These new norms replace those enacted in 1988 and reflect a growing awareness of pastoral issues at the parochial and diocesan level. It is hoped that the implementation of the new norms will strengthen the Deanery and the Archdiocesan Pastoral councils.

Parish Pastoral Councils were strongly recommended at the Second Vatican Council. In the Archdiocese of Winnipeg the establishment of PPCs in every parish has been mandatory for some time. Over the years these councils have been effective

and essential in the pastoral life of each of our parishes.

The new norms are meant to ensure that PPCs have as their focus the pastoral welfare of the parish. The aim of the PPC should be to assist and advise the pastor with pastoral planning and goal setting, moving from a parish council to a pastoral one.

Beginning this fall workshops will be facilitated with PPCs throughout the Archdiocese to help with the implementation of the new norms. It is hoped that over the next few years every parish in the Archdiocese will experience a renewal of their Parish Pastoral Council.

For more information about the PPC norms, contact Joanne Struch at 452-2227.

## From the Editor

Happy Easter!

As the weather gets warmer and the snow starts melting, I cannot help but be excited by the coming of spring. I can hear birdsong coming from the trees near my house, the shrubs and plants in my garden are starting to peek out through the snow and as I walk through my neighbourhood, I am greeted by people walking, jogging and biking and children playing. It is a time when all things become new again.

With the spring, there also comes a renewed flurry of activity in our Archdiocese. Page seven provides a listing of all of the events that are happening over the next few

months. If you have an event you would like listed in the next issue of the paper (to be published at the beginning of June), please send it to the communications office by e-mail (communications@archwinnipeg.ca) or fax (453-8236).

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to submit articles for publication in the newspaper. If you would like to contribute an article or have someone cover an event you are hosting, please contact me at 452-2227 so we can discuss the details.

Comments or letters about articles in the paper are also welcome.

-JS



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# The View from Micah House



## Sr. Johanna Jonker asks 'How much is enough?'

When Howard Hughes was asked by a reporter, "How much is enough?" his answer was reported to be, "Just a little bit more."

We, too, are asked, "How much is enough?"

Luke reports that, "While they were there [Bethlehem] the time came for [Mary] to have her child, and she gave birth to a son."

Is this enough?

"When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there...." Lk 23:33.

Is this enough?

It is difficult to comprehend the love God has poured out on us; to contemplate the love of God made visible to us in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Is this enough? The question seems sacrilegious and the answer appears to be self-evident. This is more than enough.

Paradoxically, although our heads can acknowledge it and our hearts revel in it, often our lives do not reflect that what we have been given freely by our God is enough. We live unreflective lives, caught up in chaotic activity. The love poured out upon each of us is un-remarked, even at times regarded as deserved. It is therefore so good to journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter to contemplate the mystery of God's love for us. Within this context the question of "How much is enough?" takes on a new dimension.

In the light of God's love, the rhetoric of numbers in the various budgets that have been passed somehow look different. Our desire for a bigger, better house in an expensive suburb appear petty in the face of sub-standard housing for many hard working low income people.

The fact that one out of five children in Manitoba goes to bed hungry each day becomes unacceptable and our satisfaction with tougher laws and higher incarceration rates for our youth questionable when seen within the context of God's unfathomable love.

We insist on a larger police force to control burglaries, assaults and violence but balk at spending money on programs that would empower and train people in trades and decent life styles giving them an option to choose a productive life outside the criminal justice system.

Could we divert some of our recreational dollars to those who have no money for recreation? How about examining and adjusting our eating habits so that we can share our food with the hungry not just through soup kitchens but through providing jobs that pay a living wage so soup kitchens are no longer needed?

We all want to make a difference in our world, as evidenced by the great generosity displayed every time a tragedy strikes. Our busy lives tend to make us unreflective and we get caught in details instead of essentials. In time of hardship we work together, are generous to a fault.

Lent and Easter invite us to live our lives as conscious, reflective Christians asking ourselves all the while, "How much is enough?"

Sr. Johanna Jonker, s.n.j.m., is at Micah House, 1039 Main St., Winnipeg

# The feminine face of incarceration

Five days before Christmas, I sat beside a pregnant woman in the common space of a range at the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC), quietly chatting. She wondered if she would be released soon, prior to giving birth, but her lawyer had gone on vacation. She was skeptical but hopeful. She would be one of three women I spoke with that morning to learn a little more about the feminine face of incarceration.

Joseph Lintz, the Roman Catholic chaplain, had introduced us and left us to talk, though a female correctional officer (CO) was not too far away, playing cards with some other inmates. I also knew that behind the glass, another CO, was monitoring the ranges and common area. Privacy is not always possible in such close quarters.

During our conversation, the woman began to cry, admitting that she found God while at WRC and that jail saved her and her baby. Her pregnancy was discovered soon after her arrest. She had been sober and clean while here, sparing her unborn child from any adverse effects of drugs or alcohol. Her other children had been apprehended by an agency. This time, wanting a life different than the one that had brought her here, she hoped that she could beat her addiction and keep her child.

The young woman that I spoke with next has a partner at Stony Mountain Institution. She has been in and out of the system since she was a teenager but wants to get out and help keep her boyfriend out of trouble. Barely an adult, she has a lengthy criminal record and a child she is not allowed to see. She vaguely knew about the spiritual care services offered, but said that she prays every night for herself and her boyfriend.

The first woman I saw was about my age, a recovering addict, awaiting an opening at the Behavioural Health Foundation, formerly called St. Norbert Centre. She had been married to a professional and they had had a family together. Her husband is remarried. Her adult son had

been in to visit her recently; her daughter refused to see her. Having children come to visit her here is a shaming experience. She talked freely of her feelings, more so than many of the male inmates interviewed for the NWP prison ministry series. Lintz had been a tremendous help to her, introducing her to the Enneagram as one way of seeing her compulsions. She thought she was more ready to integrate into society, a place that she believes she originally never fit into because she grew up in a criminal family.

Using scripture, prayer, Ignatian spirituality and the Enneagram, Lintz works with both men and women who are awaiting charges yet to be disposed or who have not yet been given bail. Some will be released on bail and some may be transferred to the Portage Correctional Centre (PCC), a provincial jail for women. Once convicted they will be moved to PCC or an out-of-province Federal Correctional Institution. The odd one might even be extradited to the United States. The crimes entail activities such as prostitution, possession of drugs, theft, and murder. Some of the women seem to be caught in a revolving door, stuck in a cycle of poverty, without positive role models, and with no place to go after being released. Programs on the outside are sadly lacking. Not many Catholics minister to incarcerated women which is unfortunate because, according to Lintz, women who are at the WRC are receptive to working on their issues regardless of their innocence or guilt.

Volunteers would be welcomed, though on the female ranges the number is at its limit at this time. Tuesdays and Thursdays female volunteers visit the ranges, Saturday nights a bible study is conducted in the chapel, and Sunday is a worship service. Outside organizations that run programs include AA, CA, and Elizabeth Fry.

*Contributed by Suzanne St. Yves, Parishioner at St. Ignatius Parish*

## Formation of Healing Ministry Program 'presences' the Kingdom of God on earth

"Presencing the Kingdom of God on Earth" is how Fr. Brian Massie, s.j. insightfully formulated the role of 12 ministers of healing prayer who graduated from the two-year Formation of Healing Ministry (FHM) program on March 18th, 2005. FHM, initiated by Fr. Leo Thomas O.P., is an ecumenical program of spiritual formation and training for healing ministry. While this in-depth program of training for the ministry of religious healing is taught from a Catholic Christian perspective, it is designed for use by Christian communities of all traditions. What was the experience like for some who completed the program?

### Different Denominations, Common Focus

Maria Martinez, a parishioner from St. Ignatius Parish, readily admitted that while she was "very skeptical at the beginning, especially with people from different denominations," she became encouraged by the experience of being with others who were "focused on the same thing - bringing God to others." Both Beth Sawatsky and Wendy Fergusson, parishioners from Grain of Wheat, echoed this sentiment. "I learned how good it is to be with people from different denominations... working together in the name of Christ," said Beth. Similarly, Wendy found her experience "to be very affirming" because "there were so many people from different backgrounds... acting like they were one body in Christ."

### Affirmation and Understanding

For Alfred Posaluko and Ernie Daigle, both from St. Ignatius Parish, the experience was humbling and rewarding. "I am really honored to be part of the healing

prayer process," said Ernie, "it has been so instrumental in my spiritual growth." For Alfred, healing prayer was a "powerful space" where "individual gifts were seen, experienced, and affirmed." Maria painted the power of affirmation as follows: "I am able to see other people with compassion and understand that they are who they are for a reason, and that they are able to experience the love of God through the prayer team."

### The Power of Prayer

Linda Stokes, a priest in training in the Anglican tradition, continues to yearn for the four 1-hour prayer sessions that she experienced while in training. "In my church," she declared, "healing prayer is 4 or 5 minutes of quick prayer in the midst of a lot of other activity." However, she was quick to point out that the "Lord can do anything...time is not a restriction for the Lord." Echoing Fr. Massie's formulation of the role of healing ministers, Maria commented that she truly experienced the "healing presence of God in prayer teams...it is so powerful...it is simply fabulous to witness how prayer can actually change lives..." Hence we now understand Paul, who in his letter to the Ephesians praised God: "Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (3:20)

### Thank You

The graduates of Class 13 are particularly thankful for the leadership of both Bea Goussaert and Elian Joseph, who committed their time and energy to lead us all in prayer and learning. Praise the Lord!

*Contributed by Stan Amaladas, Graduate of FHM, Class 13.*



Fr. Brian Massie (left) presents Maria Martinez with a certificate upon completion of the FHM program. Also pictured are Bea Goussaert and Elian Joseph.

*Photograph by Paul Chipman*

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# Meet our seminarians

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg has four seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton. In anticipation of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 17, the New Wine Press asked the seminarians the following questions: Why did you want to become a seminarian? What has been the most challenging aspect of the seminary up to now? and What is the most surprising thing you have learned about yourself since being in the seminary? Here are their responses.



**Paul Bisson**

I grew up on a farm near Margaret, Manitoba and went to church in the neighboring town of Dunrea at St-Felix-de-Valois Parish. After quitting school at grade ten, I went to work at a lumber yard in Hudson Bay, SK, for two years. Then in 1980, I came back home to help on our small family farm in Margaret Manitoba, and I took up many odd jobs. By this time, I was a jack-of-all-trades and master of none.

That fall I returned to finish my grade eleven and grade twelve. I do not know why, I was planning to work on a farm anyway. When I went back to school, my grades improved because I had a better attitude toward education and wanted to obtain my diploma. To make a long story short, I took over the family farm and got into working with bees during the summer, and I have farmed for 20 years.

Then a strong conversion experience led me to turn my life in a very different direction. On January 1, 2001 I was driving to Edmonton to some seminary that I had never seen and, up to this time, I had no experience with seminary life. The first few days were rough remembering the names of people, the piles of books and assignments, and learning to use a computer for the first time in my life. After being out of school for 20 years, my grammar skills were nearly non-existent. The first paper I wrote soon was deleted as it was so poor in grammar and spelling it was faster and better to start from the beginning. In time, these skills have greatly improved.

I have completed four years of studies; I am nearing completion of my Bachelor of Theology and will be ordained to the diaconate on May 22 at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Church.



**Maurice Marion**

Since my entry into the seminary my time in friendly Manitoba is restricted to summer and Christmas holidays. I always look forward to going home to visit family and friends. Our home is situated across from the University of Manitoba in the parish of St. Vital. I was working as a pastoral assistant at St. Paul the Apostle Parish when Msgr. Jamieson encouraged and prompted me to discern if I was being called to enter the seminary. After a retreat, and some spiritual direction, I made my application to Archbishop James Weisgerber for entrance to St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton. I have really enjoyed my experience here at the seminary, and I am already looking forward to summer courses and next fall's semester. My studies are very challenging and difficult but are also invigorating and rewarding. They have brought new life and much joy. I thank all of you who have made my journey to the seminary possible. My time here has been an absolute gift of peace and joy. Blessings, and my prayers are with you all!

## A challenge to the young and not so young

In December we commemorated the memorial of St. François Xavier, priest. This was my motivation to reflect on the priesthood.

As I have been travelling to St. Augustine's Parish in Brandon for almost two months and was pastor there almost twenty years ago, I am able to appreciate the pastoral work load in that parish. However, during my pastoral ministry in Brandon, we were not responsible for any missions. Today, St. Augustine's Parish has the responsibility of two missions, each approximately thirty miles from Brandon.

This parish in some ways typifies the workload for priests in our Archdiocese. There is a Saturday evening Mass (with confessions beforehand), three Sunday morning Masses and one Sunday evening Mass. In total, there are five congregations to look after.

In addition to this, there is ministry needed at Seniors' residences and hospitals. Most parishes also have many ongoing programs such as Bible study groups, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, St. Vincent de Paul, R.C.I.A., marriage preparation, baptism preparation and more.

Now back to St. François Xavier. The liturgy of the Hours relates how he "tirelessly proclaimed the Gospel in India and Japan and through his preaching brought

many to believe. He died in 1552 near the Chinese coast on the island of Sancian."

His heart was on fire for Jesus Christ. It is amazing what God accomplished through him in a period of ten years of ministry. In writing to St. Ignatius, François Xavier said: "Again and again I have thought of going round the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity: 'what a tragedy: how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!'" He goes on to say how he wishes that these students would give themselves over entirely to God's will and his choice.

It is imperative that on our life journey we seek to discover God's plan for our lives. And God does have a plan. One of the basic elements in discovering this plan is prayer.

So, my plea to the young and not so young is seek the Lord's will and plan for your lives. We will be amazed at what can happen. We may have sufficient numbers of ordained clergy to serve God's people, but what about sending missionaries elsewhere?

We must be grateful for many who have come here from elsewhere to serve us. It is time we reciprocated.

Contributed by Msgr. Stan Jaworski



**Geoffrey Angeles** - St. Peter's Parish

My becoming a seminarian is mainly in response to the proverbial "call" with which I am sure most priests and seminarians can identify. Three years ago, I would have pinpointed specific events of God's "call" manifesting in my life, bringing me to the doors of St. Joseph Seminary. Although those moments are just as true today as they were when they first happened, my ongoing discernment has made me realize that I cannot limit God's initiative and action, which has been a constant guide and continues to lead me throughout this exciting journey.

I would say that the most challenging aspect of the seminary is maintaining a balanced, integrated life, which is in turn the goal of our seminary formation process. Our seminary formation consists of four main areas: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. I have realized that maintaining a "balance" is not so much in being able to separate equal portions of each formation aspect. Rather, a successful balance is the integration of these four areas into one common lifestyle. This lifestyle is achieved by bringing forth the gifts with which God has blessed me, while being open to finding strength in my weaknesses.

I have learned that God's plan for me is bigger than I could ever imagine.



**James deBeer** - St. Paul the Apostle Parish

I had felt a potential calling to the priesthood when I was very young, but I had put it out of my mind for quite a while. It wasn't until I was beginning my second year of university that I seriously considered it. I had always thought 'God will just have to choose someone else' because I had my own plans for life. Taking studies at university however, made me realize that I didn't really want a career in the sciences. At this time, my pastor had approached me about discerning a vocation. He put me in touch with the vocations director and I began my discernment process on a more 'formal' level. Eventually I committed myself to go to the seminary to continue discernment but I wanted to finish my degree first. When it came down to filling out my applications and telling my parents I was moving to Edmonton, I realized I was not ready to move away from home just yet. God truly blessed me that summer because through friends I met at World Youth Day, I was given a chance to work within a parish, Blessed John XXIII, for 10 months. It confirmed for me a calling to ministry within the Church. I then entered the seminary in the fall of 2003.

My biggest challenge in the seminary has been to adjust to living in a community. Although it has its ups and downs, I really appreciate discerning a call to ordained ministry with my brothers and that they are always there for me, praying with me and sharing my joys and struggles.

Living in a community has also been self-revelatory. Our Rector likens the experience to a bunch of rough, sharp rocks being thrown in a tumbler together to smooth out the edges. One comes to realize that the idiosyncrasies that bug us about others may be the same ones we ourselves possess.

I have loved my experience within the seminary and ministry in parishes. Whomever God is calling me to be, I am truly thankful for His many graces and blessings, and I hope to be able to live out my calling in whatever capacity that I can be most of service to our Lord and His people.

## Help Wanted. Inquire Within.

Help wanted...Inquire within...This is one of many catch phrases used to encourage people to consider a call to the priesthood.

What have we been about here in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg? Since January of 2000, we have had contact with over 50 men ranging from the age of 14 to 55 considering the call. Some have come to our attention through the *Called By Name* program that we offered in the Fall of 2000. Others have been referred by their parish priests or by other members of the faithful in the archdiocese. After the *Called By Name* follow-up in which we offered a discernment retreat in the Spring of 2001, the Office of Vocations offered a 3 year discernment program until last Spring called Reflections About Priesthood (RAP).

Our "RAP" sessions began on a monthly basis in September of 2001. We gathered at Holy Rosary Parish on Friday evenings, often at table to begin our evenings taking time to get to know one another and build community. Archbishop Weisgerber was very supportive of the program and has been in attendance at more than one occasion. Along with ongoing help and support of Fr. Michael Wollbaum, pastor of Good

Shepherd Parish in Portage La Prairie, many priests have come as guest speakers to the sessions.

In addition to the support of the Archbishop and priests of the archdiocese, there has been significant support from the religious communities and the various lay organizations in the archdiocese. Serra Club International is represented by two clubs in the archdiocese, one in Winnipeg and one in Brandon. Along with them, the Knights of Columbus (who often support our 4 seminarians financially) and the Catholic Women's League (the CWL members have pledged to support the seminarian fund and to help establish dialogue with parents and youth) have been very helpful along the way.

At the dawn of the new millennium, Pope John Paul II encouraged the Church to create a "culture for vocations". It is hoped that we will, as a diocesan community, enable this culture to thrive as we move towards the 100th anniversary of the Church of Winnipeg.

Contributed by Fr. Gerald Langevin, Director of Vocations, Pastor of Christ the King, Stonewall and Missions

## Catholic Schools Day speaker reminds educators of their roots

Sr. Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, was the guest speaker at this year's Manitoba Catholic Schools Day in-service held in February. Teachers from the Catholic Schools of the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy gathered to hear the Catholic Educator, author and founder/director of the Catholic Leadership Program at Boston College speak on the topic "Catholic education: The challenge to connect schools, parishes and homes".

Fitzgerald said that among the most important concerns of Catholic educators are the Catholic identity of our institutions, leadership and how we educate in such a way that we can graduate men and women who can have an effective conversation with the world.

It is the last concern that left a lasting impression with Linda Doyle, principal of St. Edward's School. "We have to remember to focus on the positive to encourage students," said Doyle.

According to Fitzgerald, Catholic Education must do three things: proclaim church, provide space and time for the sacred and promote justice and moral ethics.

The message of proclaiming Catholic identity is one that resonated with many of the participants. For Richard Querat, Prin-

cipal of St. Ignatius School, the message of "proclaiming that we are a Catholic School" was "the right message at the right time."

Doyle agrees, citing Fitzgerald's suggestion of beginning each day with the sign of the cross with the students as one that resonated with her and teachers at her school. "Some of the teachers at our school have taken this example," said Doyle. "It is a way to make our Catholic identity more visible."

"We were reminded of our roots," said Kitty Kelly, principal of St. John Brebeuf School, of

Fitzgerald's assertion. "The challenge is to articulate who we are to the parents."

Providing space and time for the sacred, Fitzgerald said, means speaking of the importance of sacred symbols and prayer. "We need to model to students and each other by how we treat one another," she said.

Promoting social justice, ethical values and morals, means instilling in students a love of learning and knowledge. "If you want a just world, you have to teach intellectually," said Fitzgerald. "When you feed the hungry, that's charity. When you ask why there are hungry people and look at the system to make improvements, that's justice."

Contributed by Joanne Struch

**"We need to model to students and each other by how we treat one another"**

**- Sr. Claire Fitzgerald**



Holy Ghost School recently held a cultural fair that included guest speakers from the Aboriginal and African communities, a cultural luncheon and an opportunity for students, like those above, to participate in crafts and activities from different cultures. "It was an opportunity to stress virtue and faith as they relate to being tolerant of others," said principal Ted Kowaliszyn.

## Interfaith tour promotes understanding of other religions

On February 14, 2005, grade 8 students from St. John Brebeuf School were the first in Manitoba to participate in the Diversity in Action Schools program facilitated by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ). Already active in Ontario, the launch of the program in Winnipeg had the students visit a synagogue, a mosque and a Mennonite church to provide them with first-hand experience of those faiths. Following is a reflection by Jessica Cuddy, grade 8 student at St. John Brebeuf School, on the experience.

Church. Our first stop was the Synagogue. It was set up like our church, with pews and a large altar at the front. However, the altar contained many scrolls decorated lavishly. It was so interesting to hear readings from the Torah and learn about the Jewish faith. Next we went to the Mosque. It was basically a large, carpeted area with pillars, an archway and beautiful woodwork around the ceiling. It was very calming because there were no distractions, and we got to really focus on the Muslim beliefs. Lastly, we went to the Mennonite Church. It looked quite a bit like our church, and although they don't like distractions, there was a beautiful stained glass window at the front. It was definitely the most similar to Catholicism out of the three. Overall it was a very enlightening trip.

Recently, our grade 8 class took part in the Interfaith Program. It was designed to help kids and teenagers of different religions to better understand other religions. There is so much discrimination because of religion, and the people running this program are trying to change that by raising awareness. A lot of people are afraid of what they don't know, or think that their way of doing things is the only right way. It helped us all to realize something very important. People of the Muslim, Jewish, or Mennonite faith, or other faiths, are really not that different from us.

On our field trip, we visited a Synagogue, a Mosque and a Mennonite

My entire class had a great day. Personally, I wouldn't have changed anything about it. It was so great to experience first hand how they pray and what they believe in. We likely wouldn't have gotten the chance to experience it like that otherwise. I think it's very important to have a good education on other religions because it prevents us from judging others so quickly. Everyone in our class got something out of it that they wouldn't trade.



Natasha Klaponski, Tanya Hajjav and Erin McIntyre of the Amnesty International group at St. Mary's Academy

The students pose in front of a banner on which students traced their hands and feet to raise awareness of anti-personnel landmines around the world. As part of the campaign, pictures of land mines were placed on tables in the cafeteria. The opposite side of the picture had a story of someone whose life was affected by landmines.

The Amnesty International group at St. Mary's Academy runs three or four letter-writing campaigns a year in addition to other consciousness-raising activities. Last fall the group held a dinner that raised over \$2,000 for Marymount Inc.'s work with Aboriginal women. "We have to be aware of the injustices in our own backyard," said McIntyre, "in addition to those around the world."

## 'Abraham's Tent' welcomes students of diverse faiths

On the morning of February 21, 2005, some 140 students from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities gathered at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in "Abraham's Tent" for a Winnipeg interfaith educational program of dialogue and interactive discussion. Four faith-based schools participated: Al Hijra Islamic School, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, St. Mary's Academy and St. Paul's High School.

Traditionally, "Abraham's Tent" was a place of shelter, hospitality, learning and discussion; it becomes a place where students of many faith and ethnic backgrounds can learn more about and appreciate both their similarities and their rich diversities. Students heard from distinguished

religious leaders: Fr. Sam Argenziano of Winnipeg, Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka of Ottawa and Imam Abdul Hai Patel of Toronto. Small group discussion promoted enthusiastic dialogue and new understanding among the students.

Questions from the students were also diverse: "What are the distinctions and similarities in each faith's creation story and where is the place for science within it?", "Who is the Holy Spirit?", "How are prophets accepted in the various faiths?" and "What is the importance of the Ka'ba?"

Imam Patel exhorted the students, "Open up. Keep this dialogue going. Don't stop. We are building a model for the world in Canada. We respect each other and yet we

are what we are."

Fr. Argenziano added, "The Dalai Lama counselled New Yorkers to simply 'Be good to one another.' We love the traditions and our faiths. Our community is not a melting pot but a rich mosaic where each beautiful stone shines brightly. God is our common denominator."

Rabbi Bulka concluded, "At the end of a morning like this, now you know what you don't know. Work, live and interact with each other. Be strengthened in your own traditions. Love your neighbour as yourself. Religion lives in the hearts and souls of all of you. Spread that word."

Contributed by Barbara Fawcett, Parishioner at St. Ignatius Parish



Grade 8 students from St. John Brebeuf School visited the Winnipeg Central Mosque as part of their interfaith tour.



Holy Thursday Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, 1950s



Holy Thursday Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, 2005

## CWL Day of Celebration highlights social justice

The Manitoba Provincial CWL Council held their Annual Day of Celebration on February 5, 2005 at Notre Dame Parish in Selkirk, Manitoba. Some one hundred members from all dioceses in Manitoba attended. This special day for the provincial council was begun in 1999 by then provincial president Alice Makodanski to celebrate the League. Since then, one day in February has been set aside to be used as either a retreat or a training day to remind CWL members of their roots and their mission in the League.

The day began in prayer followed by a presentation by Jacqueline Nogier, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan President, that showed the audience what beauty lies outside Winnipeg in Northern Canada, particularly in Snow Lake where she lives. "Perimeteritis" should not stop us from travelling to experience the majesty of God's creations, especially in the North, she said.

The keynote speaker for the day was Archbishop Weisgerber. He acknowledged that the CWL does many things well, but it is particularly known for its social justice work. He went on to say that we are a sacramental church and the sacraments are the heart of who we are. The challenge of social justice is one of the ways we live the sacraments. "We need to look at our story. Why are we here? And why do we have to look after the poor?" asked Weisgerber.

By outlining the history of the church and reminding us of how the Jews wandered the desert for forty years, Weisgerber reminded us that we need to celebrate the Sabbath and once a week we need to disrupt our days to see who we really are. With the coming of Jesus, we are now the new people, called to be in Jesus, united with God, so that His fidelity becomes our fidelity, said Weisgerber.

He asked two questions: "who are the poor, the

forgotten, the widows and orphans in Manitoba?" and "how does your community relate to them?" The CWL, he said, helps all people on the edge of society through drop-in shelters and daycare centres or by teaching English to newcomers to Canada. Weisgerber stressed that the CWL doesn't do all of this to "look good", but it is part of the identity of the organization.

Social justice is working to change the problem. Weisgerber stressed that if there's one thing we should take away today it is this: "helping victims is an essential part of what it means to be a disciple, but asking why people are victims and trying to change the cause of oppression is equally important."

He left the CWL with five points to remember for working in the field of social justice: understand why we need to be involved, modify our life style by fasting which helps change our hearts and our minds, hear victims of injustice, denounce injustices in our communities and collaborate with others for change.

"Key in all this?" asked Weisgerber. "When Adam and Eve are expelled from Eden, God immediately offers salvation. When we damage the plan God gives us, God immediately comes up with a new plan. God doesn't come from the outside, he comes from within. God chose us out of love because he sees in us what he sees in Jesus. Believe that we can make a difference in the world. Jesus came to complete the plan of God. Then Jesus chooses us to keep the plan going to comfort the sick, open the eyes of the blind, feed the poor."

*Contributed by Terri Scott, a CWL member at St. Peter's Parish and parishioner at St. Marguerite Parish at 17 Wing.*

## D&P campaign draws attention to water issues



From left, Michael Rennie, Serge Laval, Indira Rampersad and Melba Rous perform "The World Bank Muddies the Water in Ghana" as part of the D&P campaign at Blessed John XXIII Parish.

"Groundswell 2005" was the caption used by the Blessed John XXIII Development and Peace Committee for a project aimed at forging a closer link with the parishioners. It included a skit entitled "The World Bank muddies the Water in Ghana" presented at all Masses on the weekend of February 5th and 6th. The skit portrayed how poor people's access to clean water is jeopardized where World Bank policies encourage governments of poor countries to turn over the management of water and resources to profit-making corporations. This project reinforced the Development and Peace card signing campaign asking the government of Canada to protect the right of the world's poorest nations to have access to safe drinking water. It also influenced over 60 parishioners to register as new members of the Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. At the same time, the Knights of Columbus, St. James Council, donated \$2000 to Development and Peace in support of its "Thirsting for Justice" campaign.

*Contributed by Serge Laval of Blessed John XXIII Parish*



The Elect at the Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"We have come from the four corners of the diocese to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the diocese and the Mass of the Chrism," said Archbishop James Weisgerber in his homily at the Chrism Mass on March 14. This is the 90th time that we have celebrated this occasion as a church, he said, reminding those present that we have gathered faithfully year after year, during wars and floods, because it is important. "We are one body called into communion with one another," he continued. "We are called to have concern for each other and each other's communities. A spirituality of communion means to know how to make room for our brothers and sisters and to bear each other's burdens." The oil of the sick, of the catechumens and of Chrism was blessed during the Mass and then distributed to representatives from all parishes in the archdiocese. The collection at this year's Mass was for St. Francis de Sales Manitoba Catholic Church for the Deaf. Over \$1,900 was raised.

In February, Candidates and Catechumens from parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election. This Easter, the following parishes welcomed the elect into the Church.

Holy Ghost Parish, Winnipeg  
 Immaculate Conception Parish, Fisher Branch  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Winnipeg  
 Our Lady of Victory Parish, Winnipeg  
 St. Anthony of Padua Parish (WK), Winnipeg  
 St. Augustine's Parish, Brandon  
 St. Columba's Parish, Swan River  
 St. Edward's Parish, Winnipeg  
 St. Ignatius Parish, Winnipeg  
 St. John Brebeuf Parish,, Winnipeg  
 St. Mary's Cathedral, Winnipeg  
 St. Michael's Parish, Gimli  
 St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Winnipeg  
 St. Theresa's Parish, West St. Paul  
 Blessed John XXIII Parish, Winnipeg  
 Holy Rosary Parish, Winnipeg  
 St. Joseph's Parish, Winnipeg

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg extends our hope that the Lord continues to watch over our brothers and sisters in faith, keep them in his care and bless them with his peace.

# Upcoming Events

## Spring 2005

### April

8 – 10:

#### Centering Prayer Follow-Up Weekend

With Catherine Labinowich, OSB at St. Benedict's Retreat Centre. The follow-up is crucial for clarifying and extending the practice of Centering Prayer. It includes the first six sessions of The Spiritual Journey, periods of centering, lectio divina, silence and group sharing. The Introductory Workshop is a prerequisite. For more information call: 339-1705 or visit [www.mts.net/~stbens/](http://www.mts.net/~stbens/).

#### 12, 7:00 p.m.: Caritas Award Dinner

Tickets are available through the Catholic Foundation of office at 233-4268. This year's honouree is world renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Jaroslaw Barwinsky.

#### 13, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Day of Prayer

Saging Psalms with Marie Baker, OSB at St. Benedict's Retreat Centre. For more information call: 339-1705 or visit [www.mts.net/~stbens/](http://www.mts.net/~stbens/).

#### 16, 1:00 p.m.: Natural Family Planning Class

Classes are held at 691 Wolseley Ave., Winnipeg. Contact Serena Manitoba at 783-0091, 1-866-317-5362 or [serenamb@mts.net](mailto:serenamb@mts.net).

#### 23, 6:00 p.m.: Perogy Supper in Aid of Archdiocesan Home Missions

The supper will take place at St. Theresa's Parish Hall, 3597 Main St., West St. Paul. Call 339-2649 for more information.

### May

2, 7:00 p.m.:

#### "Are you called to the Healing Ministry?"

Formation for Healing Ministry will be starting its 14th course this coming September. The 2 year program is an in-depth study of healing in all its aspects, including emotional, relational, spiritual and physical. The purpose of the course is to prepare people to pray in teams with those who want healing. We invite anyone who feels drawn to this ministry to come to this session at St. Ignatius Adult Education Centre, 925 Jessie Avenue. For more information call Bea Goussaert at 489-7269.

13, 7:30 p.m.:

#### Holy Names House of Peace Firesides

All are invited to a time of reflection and sharing on justice and peace issues. The topic will be Women and Economic Justice. The following Fireside is on Friday, June 10 with the topic of Men's Issues. Each session is followed by refreshments. Place: Holy Names House of Peace, 211 Edmonton Street (between St. Mary and Graham, parking nearby). Call 942-5535 for more information.

#### 13 – 15: Gifted by the Spirit: Western Canadian Catholic Stewardship Conference

The conference will take place at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. Speakers include Reverend J. Glenn Murray of the Diocese of Cleveland and Stan Amaladas of the Center for Spirited Integration. For more information contact the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Stewardship Office at 452-2227.

27-29:

#### "I Am The Light Of Life" Catholic Conference

Featured speakers include Archbishop V. James Weisgerber, Fr. John Gordon, Sr. Helena Burns and Alex Jones. There will also be a special day for youth. Conference includes Eucharistic celebrations, healing prayer, vibrant worship band. For info call CCRS 895-7544 or [ccrs@catholicrenewalservices.com](mailto:ccrs@catholicrenewalservices.com)

### June

#### 8, 7:00 p.m.: Public Book Launch "The Lord Keeps Faith Forever"

Please join us as we launch the history book of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg at McNally-Robinson Bookstore, Grant Park. Author Msgr. Norman Chartrand will speak about and sign copies of the book. All are welcome!

Visit [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca) for a complete listing of events.

### The Initiation Experience:



In October 2005 the Archdiocese of Winnipeg will host the Beginnings Plus Forum on the Catechumenate

October 4-7, 2005

'BEGINNINGS PLUS', the upcoming Forum in October, is an opportunity to experience the journey of faith outlined by the Second Vatican Council. The North American Forum is a network of initiation ministers throughout the U.S. and Canada and beyond. Their purpose is to implement the process of initiation in all parishes. These initiation ministers are well experienced, fully informed and deeply committed to a renewal of the catechumenate in our church.

The three and a half days and three evenings in October, will:

- present the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- provide an experience of the flow, steps, and periods of the Rite
- teach the skills necessary for local implementation
- invite reflection, faith sharing, and liturgical celebration
- deepen understanding of the conversion journey.

#### Who would benefit from this Forum?

All priests, catechists, teams, ministers of music, sponsors, parish people, would benefit from this week's experience. For, as Sheila O'Dea, RSM, from Newfoundland says, the people who inquire about the Christian/Catholic way of life "...are initiated into the community by the community".

We look forward to seeing many of you interested in journeying with new Christians in this rewarding life-long faith formation.

For more information, contact 'BEGINNINGS PLUS' co-ordinator, Kathy Brost at 488-4467. Registration forms are available on-line at [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca).

#### RCIA retreat with Archbishop Weisgerber in preparation for the Beginnings Plus Forum

Saturday, May 7, 2005  
10:00-4:00 p.m.

St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Centre  
Cost \$13.00 (for lunches and snacks)

Please register: 452-2227 (Carol Seed)

#### R.C.I.A. Workshops

Saturday, April 16, 2005  
at St. Viator's Parish, Dauphin

Saturday, April 30, 2005  
at St. Augustine's Parish, Brandon

Time: 10:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Carol Anne Seed  
Catechetical Director, Archdiocese of Winnipeg

#### SESSION I: OVERVIEW OF THE RCIA PROCESS

The presentation will study: the vision of Vatican II for the implementation of the rite; how the rite is a source of renewal for the whole church; and the overall structure of the process including the various stages (catechetical and liturgical) in the process.

#### SESSION II: LEADERSHIP ROLES

The work of Christian Initiation is the work of the entire community. This session we will focus in detail on the various roles and ministries associated with the task of Initiation. The role of the priest, catechist, sponsor, assembly, and godparent will be at the heart of this session

Please register

Brandon Deanery: 726-3330 (Donni Zuk)  
Parkland Deanery: 447-2846 (Elvier Brunel)

LUNCH AVAILABLE \$5.00



Look for appeal brochures and information in your parish.  
Commitment Sunday is May 1st.

Rich in Diversity

#### Excess candle wax?

Bits and pieces of candle wax are strained and recycled into candles for mission churches. If you have any wax for pick up call 586-9345 (Jacky). Deliveries may be made to the Chancery Office.

## Cuba trip community-building experience for parish group

Fr. Brian Massie, pastor of St. Ignatius Church, was approached by a travel agent in early 2004 with a unique fundraising idea: travel to Cuba for a week with your church, bring down some medical and school supplies, and make some money for the parish. This sounded too good to pass up! Twenty-eight people registered for the week-long trip to Holguin, Cuba, raising approximately \$2,100 for St. Ignatius parish. As well as garnishing lots of supplies for medical and educational purposes for the Cubans via Cuban Friendship House, and allowing the group one excursion to the Cuban countryside, we also attended Sunday Mass together at a local Cathedral. The event was a great community-building experience for those who went and many parishioners who did not know each other well look forward to further interaction back in Winterpeg. Following is a reflection on the trip by Rosemary Oige.

While accompanying me to a 9 pm Mass at St. Ignatius Church in the spring of 2004, my son, Kyle, noticed a trip to Cuba mentioned in the bulletin. I told him it was probably a mission trip and he replied that he was interested. After talking

with Fr. Massie, we were assured that it was a pleasure trip with something for everyone - and we could find him on the beach, relaxing.

The travel agent's write-up about the trip mentioned it would change your life. 'In what way?' I wondered. As soon as we got to Holguin and were on our way to the paradise in which we were staying, we noticed the poverty of the people. Some homes had palm frond roofs; others rusted tin. They were in such disrepair. How could people live like this?

After going on tours and talking to the guides we all came to know a little of what Cuba was really like. There were no materials for repairs. Old cars were in abundance. Young girls were not even thinking of marriage - a married couple would have to live with their parents or grandparents because they could not buy their own home. People up and down the streets were looking for food! What kind of country was this? The people explained they were given a lot: free education for all, plus universal health care. The dissolution of the Soviet Union had caused them to start over. Tourism now accounts for



The St. Ignatius group visiting a Banana plantation in Cuba.

Photograph by Remo Mamaril

51% of Cuba's income.

This all spoke to my heart. Here we are by no means rich, having scrimped and saved for the trip, but by these standards we had it made. We have so much and take it all for granted. We live in such a free country. There were places we went that even though we had money, we could not buy anything. The convertible peso was worth 25 Cuban pesos and most people make a wage of 200-400 Cuban pesos per month. This put it into perspective; a tip of three convertible pesos (75 Cuban) was close to half of their

monthly salary. We left tips for the extremely friendly, happy Cuban people. We were waited on hand and foot - and we in turn gave what we could - tips, clothes, everyday necessities that we take for granted.

As for my first assumption of this being a mission trip - maybe it was not that false after all in that it changed my heart and I will not be the same again. Cuba has taken my heart of stone and made it one of flesh.

Compiled by Suzanne St. Yves, Parishioner at St. Ignatius Parish.



In March, Archbishop Weisgerber met with Jesi Chancy-Manigat (pictured above, second from right), economist, professor and social justice activist from Haiti who was in Winnipeg to speak about the reconstruction program in Haiti which was funded through donations to Development and Peace. Also pictured are (left) Roger Dubois, Past President, CCODP National Council and (right) Andre Goussaert, current President, CCODP National Council.

## The Eucharist: the centre of life of our parish communities

### Archbishop Weisgerber writes about the Year of the Eucharist

Every four years the Church celebrates an International Eucharistic Congress some place in the world. In October, 2004 the Congress took place in Guadalajara, Mexico. (The next International Congress will be in Quebec City in 2008.) In October, 2005 the theme for the Synod of Bishops in Rome will be the Eucharist: The Summit and Source of the Life and Mission of the Church. The Holy Father has designated the time between these two events as The Year of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist, or Holy Mass as it is often known, is the center of the life of our parish communities and is at the heart of the faith of each believer. Our faith tells us that in the Eucharist, it is the Risen Lord who calls us together as His Body and offers Himself and us to the Father. The Eucharist is the perfect prayer of worship, praise and thanksgiving. Our offerings of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of the Lord and are given to us as food and drink. It is through the Eucharist that the Lord Jesus continually builds up the Church.

The entire Church is invited in this Year of the Eucharist to deepen our understanding and appreciation of this great gift to the Church. The Pope invites each community to examine the manner in which the Eucharist is celebrated. Do we celebrate with reverence, recognizing what we are doing? Does our celebration truly encourage the full, active participation

of all?

This special year challenges us to see how well we are handing on faith in this life-giving Mystery to our young people. We are given an opportunity to examine our catechetical and sacramental preparation programs.

The Year of the Eucharist invites us to examine how our weekly celebrations of this great sacrament shape us into eucharistic communities - people for others, communities of care and compassion, called to genuine love for each other and called to a generous outreach to the world.

I pray that each parish will use the Year of the Eucharist as a time for stock-taking. I would hope, too, that there will be in each parish a time when the whole community will be invited to acknowledge and give thanks for this rich gift we have received from the Lord. Such an occasion can take place in many ways, but the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), May 29 would seem to be a particularly appropriate day for such a celebration.

The Holy Father has been clear that the Year of the Eucharist is not so much about creating new, extraordinary events to honour our faith in the Eucharist, but rather it is a time to deepen our faith and appreciation; a time to ensure that the Eucharist is at the heart of our parish lives and at the center of our personal faith.

## Archbishop Weisgerber's Schedule

### April

9, 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation, Holy Ghost Parish, Winnipeg  
 10, 11:30 a.m. - Mass and Luncheon for the 40th Anniversary of priesthood of Fr. Henryk Laciak, Our Lady of Victory Parish  
 11, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Theresa's Parish, West St. Paul  
 12, 7:00 p.m. - Caritas Dinner  
 15 & 16 - CWL Diocesan Convention, St. Michael's Church, Gimli  
 16, 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Joseph's Parish, Winnipeg  
 17, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. John Brebeuf Parish, Winnipeg  
 18, 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Philip Neri Parish, Arborg  
 20, 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, Christ the King Parish, Stonewall  
 26, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Anthony of Padua Parish (WK), Winnipeg  
 27, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Winnipeg  
 28, 6:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Augustine's Parish, Brandon

### May

1, 10:30 a.m. - Confirmation, The Roman Catholic Community of Whyte Ridge, Linden Ridge and Lindenwoods  
 2 - 6 - Priests' Retreat  
 7, 10:00 a.m. - RCIA Retreat, St. Benedict's

8, 11:15 a.m. - Confirmation, St. Paul the Apostle Parish

9, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, Notre Dame Parish, Selkirk

12 - Celebrating the Call Conference, Ottawa

14 - 21 - Rome, Bishops' Meetings

22, 11:00 a.m. - Ordination to the diaconate of Paul Bisson, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

22, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Edward's Parish, Winnipeg

24, 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Nicholas Tavelich Parish, Winnipeg

25, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Ignatius Parish, Winnipeg

27, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Peter's Parish, Winnipeg

28, 4:00 p.m. - Mass at "I Am The Light Of Life" Catholic Conference

30, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, Sacred Heart Parish, Roblin

31, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Russell

### June

2, 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Michael's Parish, Gimli

3, 7:00 p.m. - Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Parish, Winnipeg

4, 11:00 a.m. - Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting

5, 10:30 a.m. - Confirmation, Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Winnipeg

6, 7:30 p.m. - Confirmation, Church of the Annunciation, Woodlands