

NEW VISION

The Church of Saint Boniface

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Message from Our Archbishop



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Dear Friends,

At our first strategic planning meeting for a pastoral vision in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, for the next five to ten years to come, one of the challenges brought up was the current shortage of priests as well as the scarcity of vocations to the priesthood.

The issue of current leadership and leadership for the future is a fundamental issue for any organisation and more so for our Church, as she is the Body of Christ, sacrament of His presence, of His word and of His work amongst us.

Therefore, our calling young men to the vocation of the priesthood, the quality direction of the training of our seminarians, the vision of the ministry of the parish pastor as a shepherd in the image of Christ the Good Shepherd (who nourishes and guides and gathers his flock), the human, affective, moral, pastoral and spiritual support for our priests: those are essential questions to consider for a dynamic future of our Church of Saint Boniface.

The question is not: "What should our priority be, priests or laity?" The essential is the Church and her mission given by Christ. In order that our Church be indeed sacrament, sign and instrument of the Risen Christ, that Church then, by the desire of our Lord, unquestionably needs the Sacrament of Holy Orders. She needs bishops, priests and deacons who serve the Word and the Eucharist, who are the instruments of her unity and her witness to humanity. For this, bishops, priests and deacons

are called to be servants to the full expression of all the gifts and baptismal riches of the laity, with charity and love.

It is such a Church who would be able to attract new vocations to the priesthood and to the permanent diaconate. It is such a Church who would see to the support of her aging priests as they approach retirement. It is such a Church who, with open arms, would welcome priests from abroad coming to help with a missionary spirit. It is such a Church who would cast a new vision upon the leadership to be shared between pastors and laity, so that her truth and her mission always be respected and promoted within her diverse realities of ministry.

And this by the grace of the Holy Spirit. So first and foremost, let us pray for our Church and let us pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Archbishop Albert

Beatification of John Paul II

On Sunday May 1st, Divine Mercy Sunday, a special Mass was celebrated for the beatification of John Paul II. The choice of this Sunday is not a coincidence as the late Pope often spoke of the mercy of God in his homilies.

The afternoon started with Adoration

and prayer followed by Holy Mass with Archbishop LeGatt. The celebration, at St. Andrew Bobola church, was very well attended, with an overflow crowd watching the proceedings on large screens in the basement of the church.

The feast day of Blessed John Paul II will be celebrated October 22nd, the date of his investiture as Pope.

PSALM ENCHANTED EVENING

During Lent, St. Bernadette Parish hosted five evenings to listen to God's word, sing and reflect on a chosen psalm with three priests and two lay women. Lucille Lang reflected on Psalm 51; Father Phil Daley shared his thoughts on Psalm 95. Father Renato Pasinato reflected on Psalm 40, Janine Balingall-Scotten on Psalm 30 and Father Sam Argenziano on Psalm 27.

The Liturgy of the Word began with silent prayer followed by burning of incense and singing Psalm 141: "Let my prayer arise, rise up like incense into your presence."

A scripture reading was proclaimed and the psalm chosen for the evening was sung in response to God's word. Each evening was enhanced by psalmody written by Michael Ferley and led by cantor Maureen Ferley.

"Have we been enchanted by these psalms and the reflections offered? Emphatically, yes!"

Lynda Trenholm, Saint Bernadette

ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS



On April 22, Good Friday, 125 Christians walked in procession around the town of Pinawa, carrying a 7-foot cross. The faithful included members of the Alliance Church, the Lutheran Church, the Christian Fellowship Church and the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. We recognize in front, on the left, Father Jose Montepeque, pastor.

50 Years of Priesthood

Children who appreciate all they have received from their parents will want to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in a very special way and with much joy. It is the same thing for a diocesan Church and its priests who have served 50 years in the ecclesial community.

This year, in our diocese of Saint Boniface, six priests celebrate 50 years of generous service. Many readers know them well. They are fathers Léonce Aubin, Raymond Baudry, David Brabant, Gérard Dionne, Jean-Louis Rocan and Lucien Roy. Can you imagine that well into their seventies, all but two are still ministering in a parish on a regular basis. One of them has even embarked on a missionary venture that brings him to Asia each year.

How have they served during these many years? All have been parish pastors but have been involved in other ministries. Three have worked in the field of youth education at the Minor Seminary of Saint Boniface, one has worked at formation of future priests in major seminaries throughout the country, one more was military chaplain, another worked in communications with Radio Canada and the last is still Chancellor for the Archdiocese.

The parishes where these priests are still active believed it was important to recognize these anniversaries mainly to give thanks to God for their priests' precious contribution to the spiritual well-being of the many baptized. Let us join them in a spirit of gratitude and give thanks to God for so much dedication, particularly on this Sunday as we celebrate the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*.

Robert Campeau, priest

Meet...

*Luis M.
Melo, s.m.*



Luis M. Melo, s.m., is the director of the Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs of the Archdiocese. Together with Catholic Churches throughout the province, it promotes the goals of the Catholic Church in its pursuit of visible unity. Established in 2003, the office works to foster understanding, respect, and co-operation among Christians as well as peoples of other beliefs and faith convictions.

Father Melo is also a professor of Catholic Studies at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba.
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« Dieu parle à son peuple »

Friday, April 15th, an ambitious celebration was held at the Cathedral before an enthusiastic full house. "God Speaks To His People" was the brainchild of Father Jean-Louis Rocan. The evening featured ten biblical readings, from Genesis to the Resurrection, alternating with sacred song and instrumental music.

The Word of God was proclaimed by Francis Fontaine; the musicians were the *Chorale des Intrépides*, the *Petits Intrépides*, the group *Christ Contemporain* from the Cathedral, as well as harpist Judith Jardines-Lopes and violinist John Racaru. The free-will offerings will go towards projects of renovations in the parish.

Nurturing vocations in our family ...

...reminds me of tending someone else's garden, when the sower didn't use labels, not knowing which seeds are planted where, nor what is expected to sprout when.

As a parent, I tried to be mindful that each of my children was **first** God's child and only after, the child who grew within me. I did not know what path God would walk with them or which vocation it was that He would, in his own time and in his own way, call them to take. So, I nurtured with prayer and trust; with laughter, and gentle comments.

During the years, not just for our own 4, but for all of the other young adults whose lives have touched ours, I have tried to keep the doors open to the awareness of vocation: to a way of being in a covenant relationship with God and his people: priesthood, religious life, marriage, or single ... none "better" than another, but each an opportunity to bring God's love and presence into our world, as He calls us to be.

Germaine Cross, Diocesan Commission on Vocations

Tri-Diocesan Youth Rally

Over 200 young people came together at St. Mary's Academy, on Saturday, April 30th, for a Catholic Youth rally that was hosted by the offices of Youth Ministry from the three Archdioceses in Winnipeg. It was a day to experience community building, uplifting music and amazing presentations given by our very special guest ValLimar Jansen.

ValLimar is a college professor, musician and gifted conference leader. She used music, drama and storytelling to share with the young people the truths and joys of walking together with Jesus in community. She invited all of us to join her in sharing that joy with those we live with, go to school with and see on a day to day basis.

Bill Dykstra and Brigitte Cormier, co-leaders of the Emmaus prayer group, led a session on the eight components of youth ministry, inviting those in attendance to dream of goals that could be implemented within the parishes of three Archdioceses.

When asked about the day, Danielle Savard, of Holy Cross parish, exclaimed, "It was mind-blowing. More than what I expected from the day. ValLimar is so inspiring." She added: "Let God into your heart and He'll blow you away for what he has in store for you." Good advice for us all.

Anita Van Der Aa, Holy Family Parish

Did You Know That...

... today is the 48th *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* with the theme "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church."

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