

Greetings!

I hope you have had a chance to take a summer break from work. Whether it was a “vacation” or a “stay-cation” a temporary change is rejuvenating. Mine was a “stay-cation”. I slept in, worked in the yard and garden, went fishing and helped tame the latest batch of kittens.

Out-of-doors is my favourite place to rejuvenate. Sunshine enlivens, water soothes, wind refreshes, dirt bonds, playful kittens entertain. I gratefully embrace all of these and praise God for His wisdom and generosity.

Back at work the Pastoral Centre is being rejuvenated. The sunshine can hardly be seen through dusty windows. The plumber tries to keep at least one toilet and sink functional. The intermitting roar from power tools makes it difficult to hold a conversation. Dust delicately blankets everything. The staff is entertained by the latest item someone is looking for i.e. where is the photocopy machine?

We will survive. The renovations are progressing well and soon we should all be able to work in clean and quiet offices. Nonetheless we are happy to receive you and your calls. We thank you for all you do for the church, and for your continued support of our collaborative diocesan / parish pastoral efforts.

One final note, Pope Benedict XVI dedicated June 19, 2009 *Feast of the Sacred Heart* – June 19, 2010 as the YEAR OF THE PRIEST. Let us pray for a greater understanding of the Priesthood as instituted by Jesus himself at the Last Supper. Let us pray for our priests. May God protect you. May God grant you the graces and strength to fulfill your vocation. Thank you for dedicating your life to the Church and the world.

I remain,

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“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Feel free to publish the following information in your parish bulletin and spread the word about this newsletter. You can read this newsletter and much more at:

www.dioceseofstpaul.ca

In this issue you will find:

- Urgent matter -- Bill C – 384
- Farewell note from the Felician Sisters
- Diocesan Resources
- Upcoming events in the Diocese of St. Paul
- Upcoming events in neighbouring dioceses

URGENT MATTER

R.E. Bill C – 384

Dear Parishioners of the Diocese of St. Paul,

I write to request your assistance in a mission we all share: that of protecting and defending human life. It is vital that we take every opportunity to defend this precious gift from God from conception to natural death whenever it is threatened in contemporary society.

On May 13, 2009 MP Francine Lalonde, Bloc Quebecois, introduced her private member's Bill C – 384, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity), to legalize Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide in Canada.

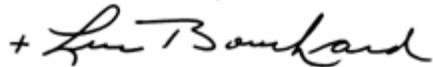
As Catholic Christians we need to become informed about this Bill, its implications for all of us, and what we can do to voice our opposition to it.

I ask you to

- 1. contact your MP, by phone, a personal letter or in a face-to-face conversation. To find the name or address of an MP, call toll free 1-866-599-4999 or Google: "Members of Parliament of Canada Postal Code" Personal contact is most effective.*
- 2. postcards suitable for mailing, postage-free will soon be made available. I urge you to sign and mail the cards promptly to your MP.*
- 3. see www.colf.ca for further information.*

Thank you for your cooperation in this serious matter.

Yours in Christ,



*+Luc Bouchard
Bishop of St. Paul*

Farewell note from Sister Mary Anne Olekszyk and Sister Laurette Couture,

As this ministry year begins, SM Laurette and I are leaving St. Paul. There is sadness in leaving but also a deep gratefulness for the five and half years we were here. We wish to thank Bishop Luc Bouchard for accepting us to this Diocese. To all the pastors, Pastoral Assistants, Pastoral agents, Secretaries and all who assisted us in our ministry, a heartfelt thanks. To all those who entrusted their sacred stories and allowed me to witness your faith journey, I owe a debt of gratitude for this privilege.

Our Felician Congregation is entering into a reconfiguration of eight North American provinces into one province, Our Lady of Hope Province. Over the past ten years, we have been going through a process of discernment and on November 21, 2009, these 8 Provinces will be one. In April, I was elected to the Leadership Council and will be moving to the new headquarters in November. I will be in Mississauga until then. My email address is smolekszyk@hotmail.com. I will no longer use the mcsnet account.

SM Laurette will be assisting the transition at the current Provincial Home in Mississauga. Please remember us in your prayers that we continue to journey in hope to serve better the needs of our world.

May God bless this diocese, each of your parishes and each of you in your own witness to the Gospel. May God bless your every good deed and guide you in your own Journey of Hope. Be assured of my affection and prayers.

S. MaryAnne

Diocesan Resources

Social Justice -- Anyone interested in staying current on social justice issues that may impact Alberta are asked to contact Joe McMorrow at jmcmo@cable-lynx.net in order to receive periodic e-mail informational announcements.

For your information -- KAIROS resources *Connecting Climate, Justice and Global Poverty* are available at <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/what-we-say/times-archive/news/archive/2009/08/article/climate-change-threatens-all-creation/?x>

Youth Ministry – On the website, you will find pdf documents for use in your parish, to encourage ALL of your parishioners to reflect on the ways they can support young people and youth ministry in your parish and schools. Print them as a half-page, photo on one side and text on the back. They photo copy well when they are printed in gray-tone. Feel free to duplicate them and keep them visible on your announcement boards, in the bulletin and for parish meetings.

Links to Youth Ministry Resources: <http://wcacym.ca>, <http://ccymn.ca>, www.religionteachersjournal.com.

Formation of Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes and Altar Servers – Louise Belland is available to offer formation sessions in parishes. She can be contacted at (780) 645 – 2767 to make arrangements.

Marriage Preparation 2010 – Two Marriage Preparation Weekends will be held. One in the spring, the weekend of **April 23, 24, 25** and one in the fall, **September 24, 25, 26** at the St. Edouard Renewal Center. **It is strongly recommended that the Marriage Preparation Course be taken at least SIX months prior to the proposed wedding date.** Contact your local parish or Louise Lavoie for more information and to register.

Refocus -- a five session retreat for couples married five years or more. The sessions can be offered one per evening (depending on distance from St. Paul) or on a weekend. The themes are

1. Marriage as a Process,
2. Compatibility,
3. Commitment,
4. Intimacy,
5. Communication.

Please call Louise Lavoie to make arrangements.

Permanent Deacons -- Anyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate is asked to contact Joe McMorrow at jmcmo@cable-lynx.net. The next formation class for permanent deacons begins in September 2010, but the application process needs to be underway by September 2009. Please give this office of service your prayerful consideration.

Materials for Sacramental Preparation (Sacraments of Initiation)

Add shipping cost or pick up at the Pastoral Center, first come first served.

Baptism Preparation books,

What do you Ask of God's Church? (Leader's guides) \$26.00 each
single parent packets and married couple packets \$2.00 each

Reconciliation

We Discover God's Paths (Child Books 150 copies) \$7.80 each
Des chemins a découvrir (livres enfants 20 copies) \$7.80 chaque

First Communion

On Our Way with Jesus (Child Books 11 copies) \$7.80 each
Un repas à partager (livres enfants 29 copies) \$7.80 chaque
Come Join Us at Table (Leaders Guides 10 copies) \$10.25 each
Come Join Us at Table (Child Books 55 copies) \$8.00 each
We Share in the Eucharist (Child Books 40 copies) \$7.80 each

Confirmation

Viens, Esprit de Dieu (Guide d'animation 2 copies) \$29.95 chaque
Viens, Esprit de Dieu (Livret parents-enfants 25 copies) \$8.15 chaque
Viens, Esprit Saint (Catéchètes 7 copies) \$6.95 chaque
Viens, Esprit Saint (Parent, Jeune 37 copies) \$2.85 chaque
Come Holy Spirit (Parent, Child 25 copies) \$4.35 each
Come Holy Spirit (Catechist 6 copies) \$6.95 each
Come, Spirit of God (Leaders Guide 35 copies) \$15.95 each
Come, Spirit of God (Family Book 8 copies) \$8.15 each

Other (i.e. RCIC materials...) please call the Pastoral Centre.

COLF (The Catholic Organization for Life and Family) has launched its annual Message to Families, titled **"Families, Let's Build a Better World Together!"**

"Familles, A Nous De Batir Ensemble un Monde Meilleur!"

See this publication and more on the COLF website: www.colf.ca

Upcoming Events in The Diocese of St. Paul

MUSIC WORKSHOP

The Diocese of St. Paul is organizing a music workshop with Bernadette Gasslien. Bernadette is music editor for the Novalis publication "Living with Christ" and editor of *Celebrate!* – Canada's award-winning liturgy magazine.

The morning sessions will be devoted to funerals and weddings, and the afternoon to Advent 2009 and Lent 2010. Bernadette also intends to weave the New General Instruction into her presentations. It promises to be an exciting and enriching day!

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person for the whole day or \$30.00 per person for a half-day. This includes two beverage breaks and lunch. Bed and continental breakfast are also available at \$40.00 per person per night.

Spend a day with an expert in liturgical music!
Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 9:00 – 4:00
At St. Edouard Renewal Centre

****Please register by September 18, 2009**

by calling Yvette or Louise at (780) 645 –
3277
or email pastoral@mcsnet.ca

This invitation is for all who are involved in music ministry and to those who aspire to get involved in music ministry.

RESPONSIBILITY IN MINISTRY WORKSHOP

A workshop on the diocese's "Responsibility in Ministry" policy will be conducted for all priests, religious, lay parish workers, and mandated volunteers at the St. Edouard Renewal Centre on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This is the same workshop that was offered in April 2008. If you attended that workshop, you do *not* have to attend this one.

This workshop is ***mandatory*** for all who are newly employed and/or ministering in the diocese since April 2008 or who failed to attend the April 2008 workshop.

The workshop explains the diocese's policy and procedures in regard to sexual abuse, exploitation, and/or harassment.

Attendance at this workshop is a condition of employment. If you work in the diocese in any capacity you must attend this workshop.

Priests and parish secretaries are asked to insure that this announcement is duplicated and distributed to all parish staff.

By October 1st, please advise the diocesan receptionist, Yvette, at 780 645 3277, as to the number from your parish that will be attending so

that lunch may be provided.

Parish volunteers who provide significant leadership especially in the fields of youth ministry and catechesis are also urged to attend.

Any questions, contact Joe McMorrow at jmcmo@cable-lynx.net <<mailto:jmcmo@cable-lynx.net>> or call him at 780 678 2827.

NATIONAL EVAGELIZATION TEAMS OF CANADA (NET)

are scheduled to come to the Diocese of St. Paul October 25 – November 6, 2009. To book a retreat in your school or parish please contact Louise at (780) 645 – 3277 ext. 30, pastoral@mcsnet.ca. To find out more about NET see www.netcanada.ca

Upcoming Events in Neighboring Dioceses

Youth Leaders' Retreat September 18 – 20, 2009, in Stony Plain. For more information and to register click on www.caedm.ca/youth-yarm/newsletter

Congrès catholique francophone de l'Alberta les 5, 6, 7 novembre 2009, Calgary, AB
Consultez le site web du CÉFFA www.ceffa.ca

2010 Catholic Conference – Stand in the Light: Washed, Anointed, Sent
March 12 & 13, 2010 at the Mayfield Inn & Conference Centre, Edmonton. For more information contact the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association at (780) 484 – 6209.

National Marriage Enrichment Conference to be held March 19 – 20, 2010 at the Sheraton Cavalier, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

A Time for Hope: Finally, Good News About Marriage!

Featuring:

Dr. Reginald Bibby – researcher of trends in faith and society.
Stephanie Coontz – History and family studies researcher and author.
Dr. Richard Gaillardetz – Author of *A Daring Promise: A Spirituality of Christian
Marriage*
Kathy and Neil Heskin – Active in family ministry for 31 years.

Please publish this information in your parishes. **Registrations received before
December 3, 2009** will be entered for a one night free accommodation at the Sheraton
Cavalier.

For more information see www.marriage2010.ca
For application forms e-mail: mindevel@saskatoonrcdiocese.com