



# The New Wine Press

A Publication of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg (Publication Agreement No. 40628045)

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January/February 2006

## “Vocations begin where love is present”: Fr. Paul Bisson

‘Keep it simple’ has been a guiding principle in the life of newly-ordained Fr. Paul Bisson. “My farming background gave me time to meditate for hours as I worked in the fields or in the winter when things really slow down for grain farmers,” he said. “In addition, my vocation was also fostered by the good examples of other people and priests in my life.”

Bisson was ordained to the Ministerial Priesthood by Archbishop Weisgerber on December 16th at St. Mary’s Cathedral. “We live in a world and society characterized by chaos and confusion,” said Weisgerber in his homily. “So many things, the building blocks of culture, are cast aside for something new. But in the midst of that, God is building up his church.” He builds it up in a particular way, he continued, “through shepherds who nourish us with the word of God and who make Jesus present in a particular way through the sacraments.” Of Bisson he said “Paul was called to be ordained a priest and he has answered ‘here I am. I accept the call.’”

Fr. Bisson’s journey to ordination has been a long and varied one. Raised on a farm near Margaret, Manitoba, he attended St-Felix-de-Valois Parish in nearby Dunrea. “I was always a fairly quiet and soft-



Archbishop Weisgerber anoints the hands of Fr. Paul Bisson at his ordination

spoken person and definitely did not like being in large crowds,” he says of himself.

Admittedly not a diligent student, he left school after grade 10 and worked in a lumberyard for a couple of years before returning to the family farm. He felt compelled to get his high school diploma, which he did, saying that his grades im-

proved because he had a better attitude toward education. He has since farmed for 20 years, taking over the family farm and working with bees in the summer.

A conversion experience on an overnight cross-country ski trip in 1999 turned Bisson’s life in a very different direction. After visiting a number of times with the Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese, and an interview with Archbishop Weisgerber, he was accepted to go to Newman Theological College in Edmonton. “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,” he said of the experience. “However, the great friendship and support among the seminarians and staff of the formation team quickly made my journey easier.”

Of his conversion experience he said, “Although it seemed to take place overnight, many small steps were moving me to

where I am today.” He first thought about the priesthood before he was 12 years old, but friends made fun of the idea and he did not bring it up again. At 20, he felt another calling. “This is where I started my list that grew larger as time went on,” he said. “I’m not well-educated”, “I don’t like crowds” and “I’m not outgoing” were on his list of reasons not to consider the call.

Now, Bisson feels that he is on the right path in his life at this time. “It is always reassuring when someone confirms that you are able to deal with people in a pastoral way,” he said. “The feeling that you are not worthy enough, smart enough, or as talented as others often causes people to avoid or delay their calling. Maybe a little reassurance was all they needed to take the first step on the path.”

“Vocations begin where love is present,” he continued. “For vocations to continue to grow, they have to be encouraged at home and in the community. It is important to make people aware that they have valuable talents to share with the community. Being asked is all many are waiting for.”

Fr. Paul Bisson is now Parochial Vicar at St. Peter’s Parish in Winnipeg.

*Contributed by Joanne Struch.*

## Auction raises money for Brandon-area causes

The Brandon Area Nathanael Group, known as “Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Group” had their Christmas Party on December 3rd. In the spirit of Blessed Teresa, instead of spending money on ourselves, we held an auction of donated items from the group and the proceeds were given to local charities. We raised \$850.00 in cash and donated toys. This money will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Brandon Counselling Centre - the toys will be donated to the children of inmates of the Brandon Correctional Institute.



Terry Szmon and Bob Boucher were the auctioneers for the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Group Christmas Party

### Pastoral Vision Facilitation Guide Available

Parishes or groups wishing to delve deeper into Archbishop Weisgerber’s letter, *Building a Church of Communion*, have a new resource available to them. A facilitation guide has been developed for the letter. The guide includes:

- notes for the facilitator
- gathering prayer
- questions for discussion

Trained facilitators are also available to facilitate the discussion with your parish or group. Contact Brian McKinnon at 452-2227, ext. 237.

To obtain the resource: visit [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca), call 478-3206 or e-mail [communications@archwinnipeg.ca](mailto:communications@archwinnipeg.ca).



## Archdiocese committed to creating safe environments for children and youth

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg is committed to creating and maintaining safe environments for children and youth in its parishes and schools. To that end, a project is being undertaken in the archdiocese to make people, especially those who minister to children and youth, aware of what constitutes creating a safe environment. The project consists of two elements: a training program and a screening process. For the training program, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross.

### Why are we undertaking this project?

We have an obligation to provide safe environments, and to protect participants from harm, including physical and emotional harm, which can result from harassment or abuse. Volunteers and staff within the archdiocese, like those in other organizations, need to comply with child protection legislation and be aware of what constitutes harm to a child.

### How will the project work?

Approximately 20 people from areas throughout the archdiocese who work within the Catholic parish and school communities will be trained to be diocesan certified trainers/facilitators to deliver the Red Cross *Prevention in Motion* program to the 1000+ volunteers and staff who work with children and youth within our archdiocese.

The Prevention in Motion program deals with all types of maltreatment – emotional, physical and sexual – and is aimed at educating adults who work with youth and children. Through the program, participants gain knowledge about barriers and benefits to preventing abuse and learn ways to proactively build safer relationships within organizations and communities. The interactive workshops also examine how to handle disclosures, the legal reporting requirements and risk management strategies.

The Diocesan Safe Environment Educators have already started their training in the delivery

of the *Prevention in Motion* program and will complete it this month. Later this year, the first training sessions will be held with volunteers across the diocese. These sessions will be done in locations throughout the archdiocese and at varied times, to ensure the most flexibility for people who are taking part in them. Over the next year, we hope to have all persons who work with children and youth trained in creating safe environments.

Information packages about criminal records and child abuse registry checks will be prepared for parishes and implementation of these checks will start in the fall of 2006. More information about this part of the project will be communicated as it is available.

### Who will be trained in creating safe environments?

Anyone who ministers to children and youth in parishes and other organizations across the diocese. This may include, but is not limited to: youth group leaders, catechists, youth choir and altar server coordinators and parish staff.

### Who is organizing the project?

The project’s coordination is being done by Diana Robson, Director of Human Resources. There is also a steering committee for the project. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Dianna Robson at 452-2227 ext. 227 or by email at [drobson@archwinnipeg.ca](mailto:drobson@archwinnipeg.ca)

### Who will be responsible for the costs involved in the project?

Once the initial training of the Diocesan Safe Environment Educators is complete, the costs for the project include the *Prevention in Motion* manuals for program participants and the fees for records checks. The archdiocese has applied for grants from a number of organizations in order to off-set these costs. The Sir Thomas Cropp Foundation will generously be covering the cost of the manuals for all participants in the program.



## Archdiocese of Winnipeg Leads the Way in Christian Youth Leadership Formation!

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg is working in conjunction with the Center for Ministry Development to provide youth leadership training for teams of youth and adults. By sponsoring YouthLeader, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg is making this international youth leadership training program available to local parishes and schools.

### YOUTHLEADER

will be held:

Monday July 24, 1:00 p.m. -  
Friday July 28, 3:00 p.m., 2006  
At the Canadian Mennonite  
University Campus,  
500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg

#### What is YouthLeader?

YouthLeader provides a team approach to Christian leadership formation that integrates Christian spirituality and ministry skills. The purpose of YouthLeader is to empower young people for Christian leadership in the Church and the wider community.

#### The program is based on these principles:

- The voice of youth must be heard if we are to announce the Good News to its fullest.
- Youth have gifts and charisms to share in leadership and ministry.
- Youth who are striving to be young disciples deserve training and support.
- Adults make a crucial difference in sponsoring youth as leaders by readying the community and providing ongoing support.

#### Who should attend?

- Young people (who have completed grade 9/S1) and adults (over 21) who are currently involved in leadership, or who will be assuming leadership roles, in their parish, school or community.
- Registration will only be accepted in teams. Each team must be made up of at least one adult for every five young people.

#### Registration & Cost

##### To register your team:

Call: 452-2227, ext. 248

E-mail: youthleaderarchwinnipeg@gmail.com

Visit: www.archwinnipeg.ca

**Cost:** Youth or adult \$250 per person (includes accommodations, meals, program resources)

**Registration deadline:** April 30, 2006

## Correction

In the last issue of the New Wine Press, the article entitled 'Just Faith takes participants across borders' contained a few factual errors. The retreat took place at Three Fires Western Doorway Midewiwin, which is located near Camp Manitou, not at it. The people leading the border crossing are Anishanabe traditional teachers, not Ojibway elders as identified in the article. Finally, the name of one of the teachers was given as Velma when it is actually Thelma. We are sorry for any inconvenience or misunderstanding these errors may have caused.

## Upcoming Events • February/March 2006

### February, 2006

#### 8, 7:30 p.m.: Book Launch

Fr. John Perry, S.J. will launch his book, *Torture: Religious Ethics and National Security*, at McNally Robinson, Grant Park.

#### 8, 9:30 - 3:00 pm: Day of Prayer:

##### Exploring the Parables of Jesus

with Marie Baker, OSB. Take a mini-Sabbath once a month at St. Benedict's. You will focus on the parables of Jesus through ritual, short presentations, optional group sharing and quiet time. Eucharist is available in the Monastery Chapel at 9 a.m. \$35 (includes lunch). Every second Wednesday.

#### 11, 5:00 p.m. Healing Mass

St. Erik's, Eriksdale (Hwy 6 North, an hour and a half north of Winnipeg) will hold a healing Mass and anointing of the sick. Everyone is welcome.

#### 10-12: Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter gives married couples the tools to keep their relationship in top running condition. For more information call Tony & Rosemary, at 895-9209 to find out how to schedule that tune-up, or visit our web site at [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org).

#### 14, 7:30 p.m.: Hospitality House

##### Refugee Ministry Fundraiser

Hospitality House will present Sisters of the Holy Rock at Mary, Mother of the Church. Admission is \$15.00. Call 589-2092 for tickets and more information.

#### 17 (7:30) - 18 (1:00 pm):

##### Enneagram Spirituality with David Walsh

A workshop on the nine paths to inner freedom - the process of moving through conflict to resolution by cooperating with grace and the clash of opposite forces and their reconciliation in each of the nine energy fields. (Pre-requisite: Enneagram Introduction) Private room \$155, Shared \$135, Commuter \$100 At St. Benedict's Retreat Centre. Call: 339-1705

#### 17, 8:00 p.m.: "Sisters of the Holy Rock"

St. Edward's Church, Winnipeg, presents "Sisters of the Holy Rock". Admission is \$15. Please call 774-4539 for tickets and more information. Proceeds will go to the elevator project.

### March, 2006

#### 3 (7:30 pm) - 5 (2:30 pm)

##### Progoff Intensive Journal - Part 2

with Virginia Evard, OSB, at St. Benedict's Retreat

Centre. This workshop puts you in touch with the movement of your life at the depth level of consciousness, including dreams and other images that stimulate your creative process, drawing messages from inner symbolic experiences. Helps to clarify values and beliefs and develop connections with larger aspects of life. (Prerequisite: Part 1) Private room \$245, Shared \$225, Commuter \$145. Call: 339-1705

#### 3-5:

##### Prayer, Healing & Discernment seminar

With author Sr. Kathryn Hermes of Boston, director of Pauline Books & Media. Info call CCRS 204-895-7544 [ccrs@catholicrenewalservices.com](mailto:ccrs@catholicrenewalservices.com)

#### 18, 8:00 a.m.:

##### One Day Fun-Cashspiel in support of the Seminarian Education Fund

It will take place at Teulon Curling Club. Four-end games, round robin, \$30 per person; come as a team or an individual. Registration deadline: March 13, 2006. Contact Jo-anne Carman at (204)886-2781 for information or to register.

#### Finding God

"In 'Finding God in the Dark' (the authors) guide you through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as you watch popular films ... watching and discussing these films 'the Ignatius way' becomes an action of contemplative prayer and self-reflection."

##### Mondays 6:30 p.m.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 or

##### Fridays 1:00 p.m.

March 3, 17, 24, 31, April 7

at the St. Ignatius Adult Education Centre

Information: Valerie at 453-9243

### April, 2006

#### 8: Live out Part of Matthew 25

You are invited to participate in a one-day prison retreat at Stony Mountain Institution. You can attend "an exposure" church service at the institution on Saturday, March 25, 2006 or Sunday, March 26, 2006 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. and a short training session on Sunday, April 2, 2006 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. This is a chance to get a quick "birds-eye-view" of what it is like in prison and explore prison ministry. **Sign up must be completed by March 10, 2006.** For more information contact Ron Storozuk at 257-9636.

### EXPLORATIONS OF FAITH A LENTEN SERIES

#### Thursday, March 9th

Icons • Fr. Richard Soo, SJ

#### Thursday, March 16th

Francis Xavier & the Universality of God's Mission • Fr. Peter Monty, SJ

#### Thursday, March 23rd

*The DaVinci Code & Angels & Demons:* Fact & Fiction • Fr. Dave Creamer, SJ

#### Thursday, March 30th

Torture • Fr. John Perry, SJ

#### Thursday, April 6th

The Spirituality of Imperfection  
Fr. Brian Massie, SJ

The series will be held in the St. Ignatius Adult Education Centre (enter off Jessie Avenue) and will begin at 7:30 pm.

If you plan to attend it would help us if you call Valerie at 453-9243 to register.

### Catechist Lenten Workshops

#### Primary Catechists (K - grade 3)

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

or

Wednesday, February 8, 1:20 - 3:00 p.m.

#### Intermediate Catechists (Grades 4 - 6)

Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

or

Thursday, February 23, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held at the Catholic Centre, 1495 Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg.

Each session will consist of input and reflection on Lent and the themes of Lent in resources.

Please bring your manuals.

#### For information:

Margaret Craddock at 452-2227, ext. 243

Visit [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)  
for more event information



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The  
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Editor: Joanne Struch, Director of Communications



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic Schools

Catholic Identity  
Academic Excellence  
School Vitality

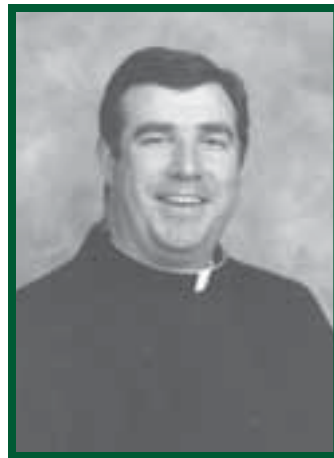
## Distinguished Alumni

Catholic Schools Week 2006 is an opportunity to celebrate our many successful and distinguished alumni who, each and every day, demonstrate their Christian leadership in their contributions to our society.



**John Ferguson Jr.**  
St. Paul's High School

Throughout his four years at St. Paul's, John Ferguson Jr. excelled in his studies and as a leader in athletics. Mr. Ferguson went on to play four professional hockey seasons with the Montreal Canadiens and Ottawa Senators organizations in the American Hockey league. After his career as a player, he graduated Cum Laude with the degree of juris doctor from Suffolk Law School. Mr. Ferguson has become a major force in the National Hockey League, as a current general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Before this, he was vice president and director of hockey operations for the St. Louis Blues.



**Fr. Gerald Langevin**  
St. John Brebeuf School

Fr. Gerald attended grades 1 – 7 at St. John Brebeuf in the 1970s. While at the school, he sang in the choir and attended camps during the school years in grade 5 and 6 at Camp Morton and Camp Manitou. Fr. Gerald began his service in the Church in grade four, when he became an altar server. Fr. Gerald attended Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta and was ordained a priest in 1996. He is currently a priest in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, serving the parishes in Stonewall, Inwood, Stony Mountain and Teulon. He is also the Director of Vocations for the archdiocese.

**Christopher Lorenc**  
Holy Ghost School

Mr. Lorenc graduated from the University of Manitoba with Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees and practiced law until 1992. He served on Winnipeg's City Council between 1983 and 1992, during which time he established a record of accomplishment in initiating legislation and was a contributing presence in intergovernmental affairs. He is currently president of a number of associations including the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. During his career, Mr. Lorenc has served on a number of business and governmental task forces and on the boards of a number of cultural, community and hospital organizations.



**Dr. Davide Panagia**  
**Dr. Marcello Panagia**  
St. Ignatius School

Brothers Dr. Davide (right) and Dr. Marcello Panagia (left) attended St. Ignatius School in the 1980s. Both attended St. Paul's High School and the University of Manitoba and both are Rhodes Scholars. After finishing at Oxford University in 1995, Davide went to Johns Hopkins University where he completed his Ph.D. in Political Philosophy and Aesthetics in 2002. He is currently Canada Research Chair in Cultural Studies at Trent University where he teaches classes on the relationship between our judgements of taste and our moral values. His first book will be published this month.



Marcello completed his doctorate in biochemistry at Oxford in 2003. He has just completed

his medical degree at Columbia University and is currently being courted for residency programs throughout the Eastern Seaboard. His interest is to specialize in internal medicine and continue the medical research he began at Oxford.

**Maureen Wright**  
St. Charles School

Ms. Wright attended St. Charles School in the 1970s. After graduating from the University of Manitoba with a degree in Sociology, she opened Academy Kids Daycare with her mother, Tena. Maureen has also completed her early childhood educator certification at the University of Manitoba. Academy Kids Daycare has been in operation within the St. Charles Catholic School building for 22 years and employs a number of other alumni of St. Charles School. Maureen and her husband John have two children, Brock and Christena, who have followed in their mother's footsteps by attending St. Charles School.



**Larissa Mae Tumang**  
St. Edward's School

Ms. Tumang graduated with honours from grade 6 at St. Edward's School in the early 1990s. Upon graduation from High School on the honour roll, she received a University of Manitoba Entrance Scholarship, the John Trevenan Memorial Scholarship, The Kamampangan Association of Manitoba Scholarship and a Student Leadership Award. She has been teaching English in Japan for the past four years, since her graduation from university.



**Sr. Lesley Sacouman, snjm**  
St. Mary's Academy

Since graduating from St. Mary's in the 1960s, Sr. Lesley has worked in varied and interesting ways in the area of social justice. She has been Executive Co-Director of Rossbrook House, an alternative and safe haven for children who face pressures of poverty, street gangs and drugs. She has served on the board of UNANIMA International, an NGO working at the UN for Human Rights. She was instrumental in opening Esther House, which provides temporary housing for women who have completed primary treatment for chemical addiction. MacLean's Magazine named her to their 1999 Honour Roll and her life and work has been featured in both local and national publications.



**Tom Scatliff**  
St. Maurice School

After graduating from St. Maurice in the 1990s, Mr. Scatliff studied Engineering at the University of Manitoba. In 1999, he started working at the Health Sciences Centre where he helped to build a new clinic that finds ways for persons with disabilities to use technology to improve their quality of life. He is a Rehabilitation Engineer at the clinic, and has also started a part-time Master's Degree in Medical Rehabilitation. As a volunteer, he is the Winnipeg chapter chair of an international organization which connects volunteers and persons with disabilities to: improve quality of life; enable the volunteers to share their skills; and augment the services that are provided through Rehab Engineering and the health care system.





## From the Director



January 2006

Dear friends of Catholic Schools,

Catholic Schools are integral to the educational mission of the Church. The bishops of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have repeatedly stated that Catholic schools are the best means the Church has to educate the young people in our faith.

The Catholic Schools of Manitoba have a long history of success that we want to continually build upon in carrying out the educational mission of the Church. This annual supplement to the New Wine Press is intended to highlight a small part of this history. It is worth noting that our legacy of success is the result of tremendous effort and sacrifice on the part of untold numbers of pastors, religious, teachers, principals, parents, alumni, benefactors, and Church officials for well over one hundred years.

The deep history of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg allows us to look forward and work towards making our schools more Catholic, excellent and vital. Each of us has a significant leadership role to play in making our Catholic Schools available and viable for future generations of students.

Thank you for all that each of you does to support and advance the mission of Catholic schools. Your investment and involvement of dedicated leadership is the greatest hope we have for a vital future for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

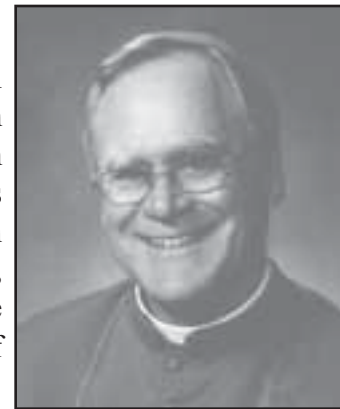
With a prayer,

Jerome Cranston  
Director of Education

## From Archbishop Weisgerber

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Building a church of communion is our goal and vision for the next ten years. This church involves the 155,000 Catholics who live in the Archdiocese, our good works, parishes and institutions. Our Catholic Schools, which are an important part of our local church, contribute to this vision of communion. The excellence of education and the quality of alumni speak to this fact.



I am grateful to all who are investing in Catholic education. Know that this sacrifice you make helps to build our Church of Communion.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ V. James Weisgerber  
Archbishop of Winnipeg

## It's Time to Register for the 2006/07 School Year!! Registration information and Open House events

School	Registration Information	Contact
Holy Ghost (K-8) 333 Selkirk Ave.	Open House February 16th, 6:00 p.m.	Mr. Ted Kowaliszyn 582-1053
Our Lady of Victory (K-8) 249 Arnold St.	Open House March 8th, 7:00 p.m.	Mr. Alex Cap 452-7632
St. Charles (K - 8) 331 St. Charles Ave.	Open House February 21, 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.	Open House February 9th, 7:00 p.m.	Mrs. Connie Yunyk 477-0244
St. Maurice (K-S4) 1639 Pembina Hwy.	Open House February 16th, 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

<b>Total number of schools</b>	<b>10</b>
Kindergarten to grade 6	1
Kindergarten to Grade 8	6
Kindergarten to Grade 12	1
Grade 7 to 12 (senior 4)	1
Grade 9 to 12 (senior 1 - 4)	1
<b>Total number of students</b>	
Elementary (K-8)	1747
Secondary	1205
Total number of teachers	190

## Information Evening SMA

Thursday, February 9, 2006 at 7pm



A community of learning, faith and service  
...this is my school.



**ST. MARY'S ACADEMY**

EDUCATING YOUNG WOMEN WITHIN A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

550 Wellington Crescent • Winnipeg MB • R3M 0C1 • 204.477.0244 • www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

## Interested in a teaching position in one of our Catholic schools?

Applicants are invited to send resumes to the Director of Catholic Education. Archdiocese of Winnipeg Catholic schools are members of the Education Canada Recruitment network and **applytoteach**. Applicants interested in employment with our schools will find job openings posted electronically at [www.educationcanada.com](http://www.educationcanada.com) and [applytoteach.ca](http://applytoteach.ca). Both sites contain detailed application information.



February 12th – 18th, 2006

Catholic Schools Day

February 17, 2006

Featured Speaker: Dr. Kathleen Chesto

Dr. Kathleen Chesto is a woman of faith, a wife, a mother, a storyteller. She holds a Doctorate in Ministry from Hartford Seminary and a Masters in Religious Studies from St. Joseph College. She is the author of numerous books, articles and videos on spirituality and family life. Kathleen has been the recipient of the Emmaus award for excellence in catechesis, the NACFLM award for outstanding service to families, Hartford Seminary Distinguished Alumna Award, the National Catholic Press Award for educational materials, and a Christopher Award for her book *Risking Hope*. She has just completed a video series on the history of the sacraments and a book on the beatitudes.



**Topic:** Raising Kids Who Care: Catholic Schools Contribution

**Time:** Eucharistic Celebration - 9:00 a.m.

St. Gerard Church, 45 Foster St., Winnipeg

Program - 10:45 a.m.

St. Gerard School, 40 Foster St., Winnipeg

**For Information:** Sheila Forbes at 478-3205



## Bioethicist provides tools for discussion of human health outcomes in Catholic School context

Teachers and administrators from Catholic Schools in the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface gathered January 24th to hear Rev. Dr. Mark Miller, C.Ss.R. speak on the topic 'Human sexuality: 'Wonderful Gift' and 'Awesome Responsibility.' The presentation by Miller, bioethicist and Director of the Redemptorist Bioethics consultancy, is part of the Catholic Archbishops' commitment to support the implementation of guidelines regarding the human sexuality curriculum for Catholic Schools. The curriculum document was approved in September, 2005 by three of Manitoba's Catholic Archbishops.

"The curriculum provides a Catholic worldview from which teachers can deliver the human sexuality learning outcomes of the Physical Education/Health curricula as prescribed by Manitoba Education," says Jerome Cranston, Director of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. The guidelines were adapted by a committee of teachers, administrators and religious from curriculum developed by the Alberta Schools Trustees Association.

In the first session, Miller set the context for the discussion by giving an introduction to the theology of marriage and speaking about marriage as a sacrament. Miller asked the group to think about what it means to be a Christian community supporting marriage. "How are we going to teach this to young people as something they want to embrace?" he asked.

During the second session, Miller

turned his attention to human sexuality, specifically speaking about ways of educating young people. Every Catholic deserves to hear the Church's teaching, he asserted, but they have to be able to understand it at their level. Children will have many questions about sexuality and marriage, and many will try to push the boundaries with their questions, because teachers and parents are the authority. "Be the boundaries for these children," Miller said, "because they need it."

It is essential, says Miller, to build a foundation for our children on which they can learn to respect themselves, the gift of their sexuality and understand the faith context of it. "Children are going to get varied ideas about sexuality and marriage from society and their peers," he said, "but if we don't plant the seeds based on the teachings of the church, we are not doing our children a service. We need to give them a foundation in order for them to make wise choices." Miller says that this is done not only by teaching the theory, but also by giving some personal time to the discussion; making it concrete for the students by using examples from real life contexts. "As students get older," he said, "they ask questions from their experiences." It is important to take these questions seriously and at the same time challenge students to have respect for themselves and their sexuality.

In the final session, Miller spoke about secular influences on perceptions of sexuality before opening the floor to participants for discussion.

Captain Miles MacDonell Assembly #370  
30th Annual Dinner & Draw in support of  
Catholic Parochial School Education  
St. John Brebeuf School will be the 2006  
recipient of the funds raised

**Date:** Wednesday, April 26th, 2006

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour with Dinner and Draw to follow.

**Location:** Blessed John XXIII Parish Auditorium  
3390 Portage Ave., Winnipeg

**Cost:** Dinner & Draw ticket \$50.00

Draw only ticket \$25.00

(\$25.00 tax receipt to be provided)

**For Tickets:** Call St. John Brebeuf School Office at 489-2115

Last year's recipient, St Edwards School,  
received \$6700.00 for their school operational activities.

### St John Brebeuf

#### Catholic School

605 Renfrew Street • Winnipeg, MB  
489-2115

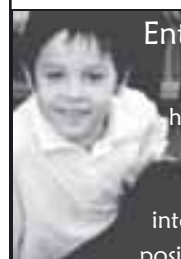
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~ The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium (1997) ~



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Principal: Robert Morrison  
Pastoral Coordinator: Sr. Emma Berard, m.o.  
Pastors & Parochial Administrators:  
St. Charles: Rev. Terance McGrath  
St. Paul the Apostle: Rev. Mark Tarrant,  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help:  
Rev. Barry Schoonbaert  
Blessed John XXIII:  
Msgr. Maurice Comeault,  
St. Anne's: Sr. Alice Konefall, snjm,  
Parochial Administrator



**St. Edward's School**  
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Principal: Linda Doyle  
Pastor: Rev. Vicente Tungolh



**St. John Brebeuf School**  
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[www.sjbcommunity.ca](http://www.sjbcommunity.ca)  
Principal: Catherine Kelly  
Pastor: Msgr. D. Ward Jamieson



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[www.stignatius.winnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.stignatius.winnipeg.mb.ca)  
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Pastor: Rev. Brian Massie, SJ



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[www.stmaurice.mb.ca](http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca)  
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Principal: Connie Yunyk



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[www.brandonsd.mb.ca/bsd/staugustine](http://www.brandonsd.mb.ca/bsd/staugustine)  
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Principal: Tom Lussier



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Director of Catholic Education: Jerome Cranston  
Assistant to the Director: Sheila Forbes

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## Visioning, formation important aspects of Parish Pastoral Councils

In 2005, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg published new archdiocesan norms for Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs). Acknowledging that Parish Pastoral Councils respond to the decrees of the Second Vatican Council, these norms suggest a move from a 'maintenance' council to one of 'mission'. The norms call for the pastoral council to be engaged in "common pastoral visioning and planning, and in the fostering of a pastoral action" in the teaching ministry, prayer and worship and shepherding ministry of the Church. The councils are called to be prayerful, pastoral, prophetic, discerning and consensus building. This is the first in a series of feature articles that will look at the functioning of pastoral councils throughout the archdiocese.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Winnipeg is one of the parishes in the diocese in which the Parish Pastoral Council model is taking shape. "The PPC sees itself as an advisory body that is representative and speaks for the faithful of St. Paul the Apostle," says Fred Bilous, current moderator of the Council. As a guiding principle, he continues, the PPC looks to the mission statement of the parish which describes it as people "journeying together in faith as disciples of Jesus," who "strive to be an important sign of God's presence within our community."

Bilous has been involved with the Parish Council for 9 years. During that time, he says, the council has changed in nature, "evolving from a business-like functioning body to a pastoral functioning body." Bilous admits that in the earlier years when the council was still a 'maintenance' body, there were a few trying moments in building consensus. "Since we've changed to a 'Parish Pastoral Council' I have found my experiences much more rewarding," he said, noting that a separate maintenance and operations committee was set up to deal with more administrative concerns of the parish.

A typical meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council at St. Paul the Apostle begins with gathering in prayer and reflection. The agenda is set by the moderator in consultation with the pastor and it always includes visioning and goal setting for the parish. It is the visioning that takes the longest time, says pastor Fr. Mark Tarrant, but it is also an aspect of the council that is very important. At a recent meeting, for example, World Youth Day 2008 was discussed, including what the gathering means for the parish as a whole and the youth of the parish specifically.

Formation also plays an important role in the council's gatherings. One of the challenges Tarrant sees for Parish Pastoral Councils is having an understanding of catechetics; an adult faith. For that reason, the council has also spent time studying Archbishop Weisgerber's recent Pastoral Letter, Building a Church of Communion. "We have to keep current, reading and praying," he says, "from that the PPC will get life." He believes that a 'come and see' attitude is needed, not a 'wait and see' one.

For Tarrant, opportunities for Parish Pastoral Councils in the Archdiocese include "really understanding that what we are doing is a call to connect to the rest of the parish and the world in service. If we believe that the Holy Spirit has called us to be part of the PPC, he has called us to wash the feet of the people we are dealing with."

Of the PPC at St. Paul the Apostle, Tarrant says: "The Holy Spirit works through these people. It is not a voting voice. It is a voice of the baptized sitting at a table trying to figure out what God's call is for us and for our parish at this point in time." The members of the PPC, he says, are "people of good will who love their church and recognize that they have a voice in it."

Contributed by Joanne Struch

## Culture, environment influence response to vocational call: Craemer

"Vocation is a divine call," said Fr. David Craemer, SJ, the keynote speaker at the Serra Club of Winnipeg annual dinner in December. "God continues to call men and women in adequate numbers." The lack of vocations to priesthood and religious life, he asserted, has "nothing to do with the failure on the part of God to call, but is in ourselves."

In his address, Craemer set out to "affirm his vocation and talk about how it might be different for a young man or woman considering it now."

A native of New Brunswick, Craemer went to a Catholic school and although he attended church when he was young, he admits a certain indifference toward religion at that time. It was at St. Mary's University in Halifax where things changed. A persistent roommate was an influence on him with regard to religion. The roommate invited him to a talk by a Jesuit priest. On the walk back to his apartment from that talk, Craemer felt called. "I realized that the people God worked with were not always the most noble or the greatest," he said. "That walk was the foundation on which I built my life as a priest." He later approached the Jesuit superior about entering the order. Craemer has now been a priest for 36 years.

There are many young people who are committed Catholics searching for meaning and direction today, he said. "Many would have gone into priesthood or religious life at one time," he said. "It is not an easy choice for a

young person today because there are not as many supports." He cites culture (society), environment (home, family, friends) as two places where these supports are not as strong as they were at one time.

"Society is secular, materialistic," he said. "It is hard to connect the event of Christ's birth with what is going on around us." Religion is not as public as it was, he continued, and priesthood is not a high calling as much as it used to be. "Young people have difficulty making a long-term commitment even to a job. Vocation is a call to a life of service, commitment." He asserts that culture is a bigger reason for people not joining the priesthood than scandals or other aspects of the Church itself.

Turning to environment, Craemer said that family is different now than it used to be. "Good Catholic families have fewer children and they don't want their children to be priests or nuns," he said. Parents are concerned about things like their child's health and how they will deal with loneliness. "At one time vocations came from families, Catholic schools and parishes," he said, "but not so anymore."

"Being a priest is not going to make anyone wealthy," he concluded. "The working conditions are demanding and unpredictable. Research shows, though, that job satisfaction is high." Craemer said that he wouldn't change his decision to become a priest. "Parts of the 36 years," he said, "but not the decision."

Contributed by Joanne Struch



Fr. David Craemer, SJ



Bob Girouard, Sister Bernadette, George Ferris and a child from Rossbrook House

On December 23rd, the members of Winnipeg (St. John Brebeuf) Council #1107, Knights of Columbus, donated toys, dolls and clothing to the children of Rossbrook House. Sister Bernadette accepted the donations from the Knights. The three boxes of toys were obtained through a project entitled "The Knights before Christmas." Through this program, parishioners of St. John Brebeuf Church buy a pair of toys for either \$5.00 or \$10.00. The buyer then keeps one of the toys and donates the other to our "Wishing well." Just prior to Christmas the toys are distributed to Rossbrook House and to Osborne House.

## The View from Micah House



Christmas has come and gone leaving behind a kaleidoscope of images, memories and emotions. Family and friends have returned home. People have gone back to work. Ordinary life has returned.

What remains? Snapshots of family, of friends, of fun; memories of abundance. For me, the strongest impression of Christmas is the overwhelming outpouring of love and generosity that came from people, young and old.

A veritable mountain of gifts of all shapes, sizes and colours - mitts, scarves, toiletries, cards, candy, toys - all expressed a longing and desire to address the inequities found in our city. Volunteers prepared hundreds of food hampers many of which contained home-made baking.

Kindness was not limited to gift giving. People from different backgrounds and ages volunteered to serve Christmas Dinner so they could share their abundance with those who had less. At one dinner on Christmas Day, the servers almost equalled in number the people who had come for the meal. A spirit of camaraderie was created that blurred the lines between givers and receivers. It became a community celebrating the long ago birth of Jesus.

In some small measure the people, events and gifts reflected for me the incredible and freely given love of God. "God so loved the world, that God gave us his only-begotten Son." Furthermore, God loved us while we were still sinners. In no way were we or are we deserving of that great love. We cannot earn it or buy it. God gives it freely to the good and the not-so-good. It surpasses our understanding. We can marvel at it, we can argue that some are not worthy of God's love or that we are not worthy of God's love, but God's love IS. God's love is God's prerogative!

Christmas reminds us that God became a baby, one of us, so that through his life, death and resurrection, we might have life, life in abundance. How can we understand that a baby, a vulnerable helpless baby, is God? William J. Bausch, an eminent theologian, claims that even if the nativity stories of angel songs and shepherds were not true, that the wonder of the birth would have us conjure them up because words alone could not express the reality. For some of us, that love becomes so tangible that we are caught up in reflecting in visible ways, the love God has for each of us. We express it in gift giving, in presence to one another, in love for friend and stranger alike.

However, we are now back in ordinary time. The feelings of magnanimity and generosity may be fading. The seriousness of every day living is taking over. Work, activities, and the daily grind rules our days once again. The awareness of children and families living on the edge are fading from our minds.

But God's love never fades. It is steadfast and enduring. Christmas has simply reminded us of this love. It is a measure of our love if we can continue to love God, our neighbour and ourselves in Ordinary Time. We are challenged to continue to reach out to those who live with AIDS, to the under and unemployed, to those who live on our streets, to the mentally ill, to the deserving and undeserving alike. It is now, when the hope of giving has died down, that the conscious effort of loving and caring must be nourished. It is important that we consciously break down barriers that keep us from loving our neighbour.

Check out some agencies listed on the diocesan web page - [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca) - under Micah House.

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



## Dinner theatre project raises funds for WYD pilgrims



**World Youth Day Dinner Theatre Production Company**

The World Youth Day celebrations have become increasingly significant in the life of the church. They are a very special opportunity for young people to come together and see beyond differences in culture, language and nationality. It is an occasion to learn about the universality of the Catholic Church. By experiencing numerous enriching encounters, these young pilgrims will realize that they are not alone – there are hundreds of thousands like them all over the world.

Traveling to places like Germany and Australia to attend WYD events is very costly, beyond the reach of most young people. Youth groups from several parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have hit upon a way to meet new friends, have fun and raise money toward this goal.

In 2004 the World Youth Day Dinner Theatre Production Company was created. Again this year, the company is hard at work with a troupe of 25 youth ranging in age from 12 to 18. These young people belong to the parishes of Blessed John XXIII, St. Ann's and St. Charles in Winnipeg and Good Shepherd in Portage la Prairie. This year a 17 year old exchange student from Mexico has also joined.

The group gathers every Sunday evening from September through March for 3 hours. This year's production, an entertaining comedy called "Virgil's Wedding", tells the story of a marriage taking place in a small town and includes an array of quirky characters.

"The dinner theatre is awesome and I love my part," said 13-year-old Ruth Tully. "I am

Lou-Anne and I have 3 sisters named Jessie, Bessy and Tessy. Tessy is actually my real sister and her name is Marie".

"We also have two younger brothers who are eagerly waiting to join in our dinner theatre," adds 14-year-old Marie.

Although the intention of this endeavor is fundraising for World Youth Day pilgrims, it also provides fundraising opportunities for hosting parishes and organizations. Last year's production of "Taming the Wild, Wild, West in a Dress" had five performances held in three different venues in front of more than 600 people. So far this year, seven performances of "Virgil's Wedding" have been booked. Two shows are booked at St. Charles Parish as well as two at Good Shepherd Parish in Portage La Prairie. Other groups who have booked the show as a fundraiser are the Grade 12 graduating class at St. Paul's Collegiate in Elie, St. Andrew's Anglican Church Men's group and the 100th Anniversary Committee of St. Charles Catholic School.

"The fundraising has been successful for both the production company and the host groups," states Norbert Thibert, producer of the dinner theatre. "An additional benefit to these weekly gatherings is the spiritual growth resulting from the faith sharing component at the beginning of every meeting." Director Denyse LaFleche Turnbull adds, "It's great to see these kids working together and supporting one another as they prepare for another great show. It's a wonderful time of camaraderie".

*Contributed by Eva Arsenault, parishioner at St. Charles Parish*

## Twinning project creates link between Brandon and Tanzania

In 1997 a group of interested parishioners developed a twinning project between St. Augustine's Parish in Brandon and St. Aloysius in Tanzania. The goal of the project was to create a link between the two parishes to enhance catechetical training in the Tanzanian villages and alleviate poverty among the women and youth in the St. Aloysius Mission. This project let the parishioners at St. Augustine's grow in awareness of our Christian brothers and sisters, to share their faith and to deepen our relationship in Christ.

The partnership came about when Beny Mwenda, a representative from St. Aloysius Mission who was attending school at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, and Phyllis Paskewitz, from St. Augustine's Parish, proposed the idea and a small group of parishioners in Brandon took up the cause.

The project started off with fundraising at St. Augustine's to purchase bicycles for the mission in Africa. These bicycles were used to support catechetical training by providing much needed transportation between villages. The money raised in Canada was sent to Africa for the purchase of a number of bicycles.

Following committee discussions it was decided to provide training for 10 women and 10 youth to develop micro enterprises in Tanzania. Micro enterprises consisting of the growing and selling of tomatoes and fruit were successful by supplying no-interest loans to women wanting to be part of the program. This was expanded to a successful program where women were trained to care for and harvest milk from dairy cows that were purchased through the interest-free loan program.

This past April Phyllis Paskewitz passed away. In her honour St. Augustine's Parish held the Phyllis Paskewitz Memorial Cattle Drive. Parishioners were requested to donate money towards this very worthwhile cause. It was the goal of the committee to raise enough money to purchase 4 dairy cows or approximately \$1,800. With the support of the entire parish, fundraising topped \$5,400 or enough money to purchase 12 dairy cows. Shortly after this fundraising effort Beny Mwenda was in Brandon for a conference and at that time a cheque was presented to him.

While he was in Brandon, the committee had the opportunity to meet with Beny to discuss long term projects. The committee will be meeting early in the New Year to discuss a project about the harvesting of water to reduce the impact of drought during the dry season in Tanzania.

*Submitted by Tom Keep, Chairman of the Toonies for Tanzania Committee*



**Tom Keep (left), Chairman of 'Toonies for Tanzania', presenting the stylized cheque to Beny Mwenda from Tanzania**

## Archbishop Weisgerber on Safe Environments

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is news to no one that Canadian society and culture continue to change and to change at an alarming rate. Some changes make us wince, while other changes make us better. Canadian society now demands that public institutions, including churches, be more accountable and transparent. Good intentions are not enough; institutions must be able to demonstrate what they are doing.

Our society asks: "What are you doing to ensure that our children in your care are safe?" Schools, day-cares, sports and recreation organizations have responded with concrete, verifiable programs. Church institutions, especially parishes, can do no less.

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg is embarking on a new program to ensure not only that our children are safe, but that they can be seen to be safe. Each parish community will be assisted to develop a plan to create a safe environment for its children. Any adult who is given responsibility to work with children - catechist, coordinator of altar servers or youth groups, etc. - will obtain a police record check, a sexual abuse registry check and will also receive a seminar on best practices in creating safe environments for children. The Archdiocese is presently preparing educators who will be able to assist in parish initiatives.

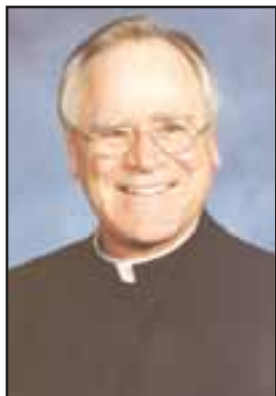
The Archdiocese has many different kinds of parishes. A small rural parish will be tempted to say, 'we know

each other, so what's the use of a police check?' Consider this scenario: someone new moves into the community, volunteers to work with children, and is asked to follow the protocol and reacts by saying: 'you don't trust me!' With great confidence the parish replies, 'but we've all done that! Creating safe environments is part of our parish life.'

It certainly appears surprising to ask a 20 year veteran catechist to obtain a sexual abuse registry check. This can be viewed either as a personal affront, or as a way of affirming our commitment to show everyone that in our parish we are most serious about the safety of our children. We are in this together and we will be strong together.

Our program for safe environments will unfold over the coming year. As bishop and shepherd of the whole diocese I ask you to see this new initiative in a positive light and I ask for your generous cooperation so that I can confidently affirm that in our Archdiocese we do all that we can to ensure the safety and protection of our children.

Sincerely in Christ,



*+James Weisgerber*

+V. James Weisgerber, Archbishop of Winnipeg

## Archbishop Weisgerber's Schedule

### February 2006

- 9, 7:00 p.m.: ACCE Gathering
- 11, 10:00 a.m.: Installation of Archbishop Lawrence Huculak, Archeparch of Winnipeg and Metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada
- 13 – 16: Inter-American Bishops' Meeting, Toronto
- 17: Catholic Schools Day
- 18, 4:30 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Mass, St. Paul the Apostle Parish
- 23 – 26: Western Conference of Bishops' Meetings, Edmonton

### March 2005

- 11, 10:00 a.m.: Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
- 12, 2:30 p.m.: Rite of Election, St. Mary's Cathedral
- 17, 2:30 p.m.: St. Paul's College Baccalaureate Mass
- 17, 7:30 p.m.: Confirmation, St. Vital Parish, Winnipeg
- 20, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Joseph's Residence, Winnipeg
- 22 – 23: CCCB Meetings, Ottawa
- 25: Day of Reflection at Micah House