

### What is a Pilgrimage?

What is a pilgrimage? Wikipedia states that it is a journey, a search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith. The purpose of a pilgrimage is an attempt to connect with the sacred or to gain insight into one's own life. For some it leads to healing or a spiritual awakening.

Throughout the coming year, you are invited to register for a pilgrimage to a place in our city which can become for us 'holy ground', a place where we may encounter courage and tragedy, a place where we may be led to understand that we are one family with God as Father/Mother.

Confirmed Locations: Our Place/Chez Nous, the House of Hesus, Rossbrook House, Main Street Project, The NEED centre. Siloam Mission.

Perhaps we will learn to see with new eyes. In scripture we read about the rich man who daily walked past a beggar at his gate. The rich man never acknowledged him. The rich man dies and finds himself in hell. It is only then that we discover that the rich man knew the beggar's name all along. He asked the beggar, Lazarus, for help and was refused. He had had his chance while he was still on earth. (Luke 16:19-31)

We too may walk through or past sights but are never really aware of them. Perhaps we will be challenged by a line from William Sloan Coffin; "To show compassion for an individual without showing concern for the structures of society that make him an object of compassion is to be sentimental rather than loving." Can we learn to love?

### Book launch held for

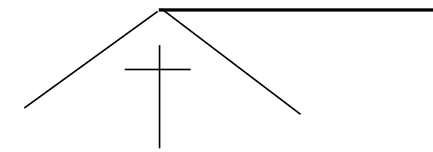
### *The Vindication of Remi de Roo*

The Forks hosted a book launch of *The Vindication of Remi de Roo* by Patrick Jamieson. Bishop De Roo was the prophetic voice of the CCCB in the 70s. It is gratifying to have Patrick Jamieson unravel the intricacies behind the attack on Bishop De Roo's reputation. He served as Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria for more than 37 years between 1962-1999. One full year after retirement his reputation as a financial administrator was attacked by allegations in the media of poor judgment in business investments. Five years later his reputation was vindicated by a jury trial decision in Washington State but his reputation still suffers from the original aspersions.

St. Augustine once demonstrated the effects of gossip (false accusations) by inviting a penitent to empty her feather pillow out of an upstairs window. Strange though the penance appeared, the woman complied. When she went back to Augustine for confession, Augustine insisted that she now gather all the feathers. That's impossible, the penitent said. So, although De Roo has been vindicated, the harm to his reputation lingers on. Beware of false accusations!



Bishop Remi de Roo

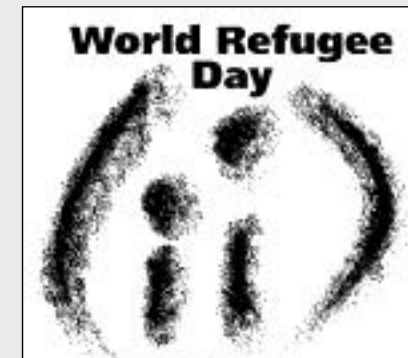


## Real People, Real Needs

UN World Refugee Day was June 20th with the theme, Real People, Real Needs.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. About 42 million people around the world are displaced by conflict, persecution and natural disasters. Hospitality House which is located in the choir loft

at Micah House is sponsoring 500 people this year and has invited the archdiocese to become more active in sponsoring refugees. The archdiocese has accepted. How the refugee ministry will play out has not yet been determined. We do know that welcoming the stranger is a gospel



imperative. It is good the archdiocese is getting more actively involved especially because we have been gifted with much that can be shared and because of the great suffering and needs of refugees. The UN states that 80 per cent of all refugees have found shelter in developing countries while

the U.S., Canada and Australia have only made room for 20 per cent.

Contrary to media suggestions, refugees are no more a security risk than those of us who are citizens.

### Pontifical Academy says to bring justice we must protect our habitat

In a May 2011 report, a Vatican-appointed panel of independent scientists called for urgent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and other pollutants contributing to climate change. Posted on the Vatican website ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)), the

final report by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences says "if we want justice and peace, we must protect the habitat that sustains us."

Interested in practical responses to Earth's fragility? You may wish to try a free online sub-

scription to *Green Ideas* by New Brunswick environmental consultant Carl Duivenvoorden.

Go to: [www.changeyourcorner.com](http://www.changeyourcorner.com) to subscribe, share tips or offer feedback, please e-mail [info@changeyourcorner.com](mailto:info@changeyourcorner.com)

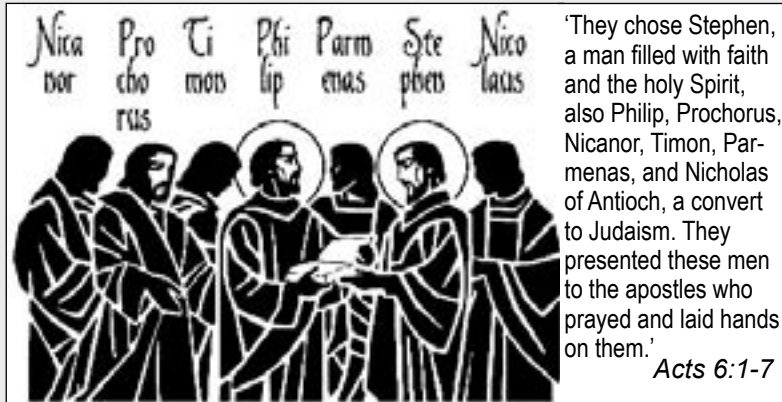
Around the Archdiocese:

## In Discovery of Deacons and Their Ministries

On Friday, June 24, deacons from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg met in Brandon. What a powerhouse for good. St. Stephen, the first deacon, would have found himself at home. He would rejoice that his deacons were supporting and engaging 'orphans and widow.'

They welcome the poor and broken, help with affordable housing initiatives, serve meals at soup kitchens and schools and grow community gardens.

They visit and work with prisoners and organize Return to Spirit workshops to offer opportunities for healing for Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people alike. Their



Christ-centred attitude and work seeps into the surrounding communities inexorably as more people offer their help and one small group of volunteers multiplies to four teams of seven.

Growth is often almost impercep-

tible. Although the deacons themselves may not see it, day by day their work touches greater and greater circles of people. "Go," said Jesus, "make disciples of all nations."

## Bishops wrote that justice is an element of faith

Did you know that on November 30, 1971, the Synod of Bishops published a document entitled *Justice in the World*. The document declares that social justice is a constitutive element of our faith, one of its building blocks.

Every person of faith is challenged to integrate faith with justice; is invited to "See, Judge, and Act" in a world where hunger is at the top of the list of the world's top 10 health risks; a world wounded by wars, conflicts, discrimination and marginalization. Each



one of us, singly or with others must actively address these issues if we claim to be persons of faith.

Many of us are involved in changing our world for the better. We may not call it social justice but our efforts address the inequalities and sufferings of our world. We continue to stand with those

who are being unjustly dealt with. At the end of the eucharistic celebration, we are told, "Go in the peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord. May our response continue to be, "Thanks be to God!"

## A Community Kitchen

At times in my life, I've experienced extreme loneliness. I'm sure if we're honest with ourselves, most of us can relate. Through circumstance, undesirable choices I've made, or just the "ups and downs" of life (some out of my control) – I've felt a tremendous ache to share and listen. Sometimes, to just be around others, to be quiet. I've felt a need to spend time around others who may or may not understand; to laugh, and possibly cry – to love and be loved. I've felt a need to reach out, but haven't known how. Through these experiences and situations in my life, I've then noticed many others are the same; people from all walks of life, male or female, all ages, cultures. I've asked, what circumstance, what opportunity could be made available to bring people together? What situation can develop to provide companionship, strengthen families, fill gaps? What do we need?

Amazingly enough it's been in the kitchen. I've experienced an incredible intimacy developing over time in a kitchen, people working to-

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gether. All ages coming together to cook a healthy nutritious meal to take home and eat in their household; planning the next cooking morning over a cup of coffee. Maybe even selecting and buying the groceries together. Seeing, experiencing God in each other – in the children. We have so much to learn from each other. Playing, laughing, crying or just being, ending the morning with a thanksgiving prayer – together. This is a Com-

munity Kitchen. Fellowship, socializing for all ages, people cooking a meal together to take home, all helps establish community. How often we cook together is determined by the group. All of this has happened in our church – it's also possible in yours. A large space isn't needed, nor is a "Martha Stewart" kitchen! In fact, it's sometimes easier to cook and keep an eye on children in a small area. This idea has led now to another possibility. Establish a cooking group for moms and their babies. In winter there is a quilting group. The opportunities are really endless. We need each other. Our churches, the body, the people, you, have so much to offer each other, our communities. In giving our time, our "yes" – we receive so much more than what we knew possible.

*Contributed by,  
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