

# **Introducing Our Nine Permanent Deacons**



## Four Men Ordained as Transitional Deacons



### Fr. C. Lambertus Memoriam



LAMBERTUS – Father Cyril Lambertus finished his priestly work for the Lord on Friday, April 27th, 2018 at Whiterock, B.C. at the age of 100 after serving as a priest for almost 71 years. Father Lambertus was born May 30th, 1917 at the Glen Holly farm family home four miles east of Moose Jaw.

Father Lambertus completed his elementary studies at St. Agnes School, Moose Jaw and his high school at St. Joseph's College, Yorkton;

and then studied at Campion College, Regina and St. Mary's College, Brockville, Ontario.In September of 1943 he entered the Regina Diocesan Seminary for a four year study of Theology.

Father Lambertus was ordained a priest by Archbishop Gerald Murray on June 8, 1947 at his parental parish church of St. Joseph's, Moose Jaw. Over the next 37 years Father Lambertus served at Quinton, Radville, Minton, Benson, Bienfait, Oxbow, Cedoux, Good Samaritan in Regina, and Rowatt and was Chaplain at the Regina Correctional Centre for the last six years of his active priestly ministry.

In the late 1980's Fr Lambertus retired out at White Rock B.C.. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Eugene Parish , in Minton, Sk.

### Fr. Eugene Lukasik Memoriam

LUKASIK, Father Eugene Aged 86 years of Moose Jaw, SK passed away peacefully on Monday, May 21, 2018. Father Eugene was born November 9, 1931 in Czestochowa, Poland. He was ordained to the priesthood in Warsaw in 1958. He left Poland for America in 1968 and lived in Houston, Texas for a few years.



Father Eugene came to the Regina Archdiocese in 1972 and was a Parish Priest in various places before coming to Moose Jaw in 1984. He served in Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw Union Hospital, St Anthony's Home, and Providence Place before retiring in 2005.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Smith of Tucson, Arizona.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, May 25, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Church of Our Lady, Moose Jaw, Most Reverend Donald J. Bolen and the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Regina con-celebrating.

## **2018 NEW CLERGY APPOINTMENTS**

**Rev. Yodel Cereno** - Administrator of the parishes of St. Joseph, Whitewood; Holy Name of Mary, Broadview; and St. Elizabeth, Stockholm for a period of 3 years.

**Rev. Brad Fahlman -** Assisting the Archbishop to help in dealing with challenges within the parishes, Archbishop's Delegate for Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse & assisting in putting in place a new protocol for victims of clergy sexual abuse and pastoral misconduct. - Associate Pastor of St. Cecilia Parish, Regina.

**Rev. Ed Hengen -** Pastor of the parishes of the Church of Our Lady, Carlyle; Our Lady of LaSalette, Forget; Sacred Heart, Kenosee and the Reserves of Ocean Man & Pheasant Rump.

**Rev. John Mock -** Pastor of the parishes of St. Mary's, Grayson; St. Elizabeth, Killaly; St. Michael, Lemberg; Sacred Heart of Mary, Marieval, St. Paul's, Sakimay Reserve, and the Reserves of Cowessess, Ochapowace, and Kahkewistahaw

**Rev. Antony Bruno Remigius Moduthagam -** Administrator of the parish of Oxbow; St. Raphael, Cantal/Alida; and St. Jude, Carnduff for a period of two years.

Rev. Thomas Mutavanattu - Administrator of the parish of St. Mary's, Regina.

**Rev. Melchor Samonte -** Administrator of the parishes of Christ the King, Shaunavon; Holy Family, Admiral; Immaculate Conception, Climax; and St. Patrick, Eastend.

In order to strengthen the transition process into new parishes, a member of the personnel committee will be designated to be a dialogue partner to each newly appointed Pastor or Administrator. All the above appointments are for six (6) years unless otherwise indicated or unless the good of the Archdiocese requires otherwise.

# **BERT PITZEL BIDS FAREWELL**



I really don't like the word 'retirement'. So now that my 22 years of work as a Social Justice Coordinator is over, I will move on in the hope that God isn't through with me yet, that something good will find me.

I remember the excitement I felt at 52 years of age, upon the conclusion of my thirty-year classroom teaching career, when I realized that I was to begin work of gigantic proportions. I didn't realize at the time that the work was to be about beginning a journey that would spell out what that work would entail!

My Social Justice engagement would be a grand follow-up to earlier phases of my life—the local fame that fell on a good ball player, the toil and worry of my final three years on the family farm when I was put in charge of managing and working rocky land with terribly inadequate technology, to be done along side the matter of completing my high school education.

Later, I began my career as a classroom teacher, a thirty year experience that included the supreme challenge of teaching Christian education. All this, together with the joys, struggles, and demands of being husband, father, presenter at the Lay Ministries Formation Program, and participant in various ministries in my parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Weyburn, was to be the backdrop and sufficient preparation for my enormous undertaking.

Now some 22 years later, I think a pretty solid approach, something I call the 'six-tracked program' awaits the new coordinator. For the last two months I have had the privilege of explaining the tracks to Tashia, telling her the stories, and arranging meetings with some of the many people who have been part of my journey. But the tracks are only foundational guides; the new Coordinator, Tashia Toupin, will be able to offer her own significant gifts to deepen and expand the Social Justice ministry. I am excited by the new possibilities.

I am grateful to all 'family members' in the building who gather for prayer every morning, as we listened to the Word of God, found support and heard of the many difficult struggles the human journey can entail. I owe a great deal to the three Bishops I have served under, Bishops Peter Malon, Dan Bohan, Don Bolen, as well as the five Pastoral Directors. It was during this time that I began my love affair with Encyclicals and other social justice writings. It was in such readings that I was able to make some sense of this world, find hope, and see a way forward.

My deepest gratitude goes to the parishioners of the Archdiocese of Regina; I will not offer any names here-you know who you are. You are in Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Esterhazy, Windthorst, Fort Qu'Appelle, Melville, Yorkton, Estevan, Weyburn, Maple Creek, Lac Pelletier and various parishes in Regina. You are the heroes who made it all happen, refugee sponsorship, different justice workshops, Social Justice in Motion Conferencing, the 'road shows' and meetings that made Restorative Justice and the TRC visible. Some of you are now engaged in the Laudato Si workbook sessions, seeking to respond to the ecological crisis that is now part of our legacy. There are the many people whose faithful work seeks to transform a culture unable to reverence life in all its stages and conditions.

To one and all, thank you for honouring me with your listening and your participation. What an honour!

God bless, Bert Pitzel

### **RAMA, VILLAGE OF THREE SAINTS**

#### by Frank Flegel

This tiny village of 75 souls could become known as the Village of the Three Saints. Thanks to the generosity of Casmir and Maria Broda, their son Gordie and daughterin-law Barb, and the efforts of St. Anthony's Parish Council. Statues of Saints Gianna Beretta Molla, Pope John Paul II, and Mother Theresa of Calcutta, stand in a group on the East side of the church. With the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes on the West the church is now bracketed by awe inspiring symbols of the faith commitment of the Rama parishioners.

Rama was settled by Polish immigrants in the late 1800. It is located about an hour's drive northwest of Yorkton. Soon after the first settlers arrived they began building signs of their faith; a church, then a grotto made of stones gathered from the surrounding fields completed in 1941. Here they hold an annual pilgrimage on August 14 -15 which has attracted thousands of people over the years.



# **Chrism Mass Bringing the Good News**



#### By Frank Flegel

The faithful came from across the archdiocese to take part in the annual Chrism Mass for the blessing of the oils and renewal of the priestly promises of service, and the congregation is asked to renew their support prayers for them.

This year, for the first time, an ecumenical choir provided music for the service. The singers were drawn from several Roman Catholic churches, Knox Metropolitan United Church, Grace Mennonite Church and St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral.

"We all need the Good News that Jesus brings," said Archbishop Donald Bolen in his homily after speaking initially about a wounded Church, society and the wounds that people carry. "There is no exemption clause in ordination," Bolen said, directing his remarks specifically to the priests. "But the wounds are not the total story about the human condition," he continued. He spoke about the beauty, wonder, and awe as seen through the eyes of his mother, who would have been 100 years old on that day, (she died in 2006) "I'm thinking about her learning the prayers, hearing the meadowlark for the first time in the Spring, learning to walk, to love and be loved by the family, falling in love and how that changed her life and the lives of all of us who come from that love."

He talked about her aging and the struggles she had. "I'm thinking this human condition that God made is a beautiful, wonderful and amazing thing."

Archbishop Bolen also referred to movies he recently watched on the plane. *Our Town* and *The Shape of Water* both emphasized the beauty of the human condition that we often take for granted. "We yearn for a voice that comes from the other side of death reassuring us that there is meaning, that there has been purpose to what we have lived; that there is something that holds it all together," said Bolen, "Is there something, someone out there who will bind our wounds, who will bring joy to our struggles and bring the Good News that we really long to hear." The overwhelming good news, is that He has come.



After Mass, a reception was held hosted by the Filipino Knights of Columbus from Blessed Sacrament Parish which featured a suckling pig cooked by Knights Sonny Du Poz and Edgar Regnim.

### LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM COMMISSIONS FIVE CANDIDATES



The Archbishop continued, "We need each other's gifts, we need each other. You are sent forth to be a healing agent to a world that needs it; your own healing, but more so the healing of others around you, the healing of society."

He quoted Pope Francis, who acknowledged that if the Church reaches out to places of suffering and brokenness, it is going to be messy. "I hope that your lives become lovingly complicated as you go to bring hope and God's love." Bolen ended.

Patricia Schiissler, from Resurrection Parish, Regina thought, "The program is fantastic and it does change you. You grow in your faith, you grow in your relationship with others, and of course you grow in your love with God." As a retired teacher, she said, she would like to work in spiritual education.

Program Coordinator Eric Gurash reminded graduates and their friends and family who witnessed the commissioning that this is the 35th commissioning class of the longest running lay formation program in North America.

"There is nothing similar that has been running this long," said Gurash. There are 564 alumni working and/or volunteering in a variety of capacities throughout the Regina Archdiocese. The Lay Ministry program is offered during the fall and winter months, one weekend a month for three years.



Pictured above are the 2018 Lay Ministry graduates (L to R) Rod Degenstein, Elizabeth Mus, Judy Corkery, Patricia Schiissler, and Blair Ferguson.

#### By Frank Flegel

Rod Degenstein is one of the five Lay Ministry candidates who was commissioned at a special celebration held June 23rd at Little Flower Church. He said the program changed him. "We have such a big wonderful Church and there are so many things that I still don't know about it. I don't want to stop learning. I realize I am such a small part of such a large creation, yet I know how much God loves me as an individual."

Archbishop Donald Bolen began his remarks to the Lay Ministry graduates by calling the occasion "a day of great joy." He thanked the graduates for taking the program, and all those who supported them, and those who taught them. The commissioning of these five candidates was a little more personal for Archbishop Bolen as one of his sisters, Judith Corkery of Holy Family Parish, is among the graduates.

Referring to the readings chosen for the Mass, Archbishop Bolen talked about the gifts, gifts given to Jesus' disciples by the Holy Spirit. "You have received the Holy Spirit," he told the graduates, "He has been at work in your lives. There are

### DIACONATE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### By Frank Flegel

REGINA.....Organizers were hoping for 60 but more than 100 registered for the first Anglican-Roman Catholic-Ukrainian Catholic Diaconate International conference held here May 10 -13 at Campion College, University of Regina. Delegates listened and took part in discussions as papers presented by known authors and scholars offered a variety of opinions about deacons and their role in their faith communities.

Co-chairs Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle Robert Hardwick (L) and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina Donald Bolen (R) officially opened and closed the conference.

Joe Lang, a Roman Catholic deacon for 20 years, felt reaffirmed in his ministry after listening and taking part in all the discussions. "It was very interesting to hear the variety of ministries in all the faith communities." Conference Secretary Deacon Michael Jackson has served the Qu'Appelle Anglican Diocese for 41 years. "We learn so much from each other and experienced each other's worship and theology and came closer together which is really what the ecumenical



movement is all about."

Sister Gloria Marie Jones OP, Dominican Sisters of San Jose Mission California, presented papers to the panels on Women and the Diaconate and the Prophetic Ministry of the Deacon. "I belong to an order of preachers," she said referring to the 'OP' after her name, "but I am not allowed to preach." She did, however, read one of the daily Scriptures at the Anglican Choral Communion Service that closed the conference and was seated in the Sanctuary, and said, "I was privileged to be a part of the conference."

A session entitled Conundrum of Transitional Diaconate opened the conference. Panel members Susanne Watson Epting, former Director for Episcopal Deacons in the USA; George Newman, retired deacon of St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Diocese, Ontario; and Director of

Ordinands, Deacon Alison Peden, of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, Scotland,



engaged the audience with views for and against Transitional Diaconate. "We wanted the first paper to provoke

a lively discussion to set a tone for the conference," said Conference Committee member Dr. Brett Salkeld, Regina Archdiocese Theologian and Director of Diaconate Formation, "and it did that."

Over the next two days panel members presented papers and led discussions on: *The Theological Basis of the Diaconate, Women and the Diaconate, Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity, Prophetic Ministry of the Deacon, Diaconate in Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches, Deacons in Worshipping Community and Diaconal formation.* 





A Catholic Mass in the Campion College chapel opened the conference with Bishop Hardwick as preacher, and an Anglican Choral Communion Service, held at St. Paul's Cathedral, closed

the conference on Sunday with Archbishop Bolen as preacher.

The conference arose out of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Covenant signed in 2011 between the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Regina Roman Catholic Archdiocese. Archbishop Bolen is Co-Chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue sponsored by

the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and continues to work internationally on Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue. He said of the conference, "It will be exciting to watch where the seeds planted here will go."

Following the conference both bishops said they were pleased with the ecumenical experience it afforded. "It's a privileged moment to have representatives from different Christian Churches, most notably Anglican, Roman Catholic and Eastern Catholic communities, to share their reflections on living the diaconate" said Bolen. "The whole church needs to hear what was said here," offered Hardwick. "I think it will strengthen our ecumenical partnerships." It is expected that all papers presented at the conference will be collated into a book.

### **Diocesan CWL Reaffirms Executive**

The 2018 Regina Archdiocesan CWL Convention took place at St. Gerard's Parish in Yorkton in April and began with the rosary and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Donald Bolen, the Spiritual Advisor Rev. Ed Hengen and attending priests.

The guest Speaker was Rev. Rene Mangahas on the topic of "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call" which is our current CWL theme. -Rev. Rene used his love of music to get his message across starting with an Amen Clap to music from Sister Act, Sound of Music and ABBA. His energetic speech had everyone captivated. He was followed by an air band quartet called BAABA. Their costumes and lip syncing to ABBA had everyone singing along with them.

Margaret Schwab our Provincial President, Shirley Lamoureux, Prince Albert Diocesan President and Marlene VanDresar (on behalf of Ingrid Eggerman), Saskatoon Diocesan President all brought greetings.

Dr. Mary Deutscher provided our members with her talk on "Protection

of Conscience for Health Care Professionals. Mary took us through the Canadian Landscape of what is happening in the courts, understanding what conscience means (Legal or Philosophical) and what are the next steps.

Margaret Ann Jacobs our CWL National President brought greetings from National and conducted a workshop allowing members to voice their opinions on the future of our CWL in Canada. The topics ranged from how to increase membership, lack of engagement, marketing of the League, use of technology.

The diocesan executive presented oral reports on diverse topics such as palliative care, future of our CWL, Theodore School Board decision, Pornography Hurts and other areas of concerns.

The Travelling Madonna was passed on to the Yorkton/Melville Regional Councils ending with the retiring of colours and reaffirmation of the executive at the closing Mass.



# The Executive for 2018-2019 were reaffirmed as follows:

President – Marilyn Schuck; Past President & Archivist – Lynn Rogers; President Elect & Organization Chair – Yvonne Bachelu; First Vice-President & Resolutions/Legislation Chair – Janette Rieger; Recording Secretary – Marilyn Mudry Lautsch; Corresponding Secretary – Wendy Pitre; Treasurer – Donna Seebach; Spiritual Development – Denise Soroka; Christian Family Life – Bernice Gobeil; Communications – Lynn Jones; Community Life – Marjorie Butel; Education & Health – Sharon Mayer; Rev. Ed Hengen – Spiritual Advisor.



#### by Frank Flegel

The Prairie Messenger ceased publication on May 9, 2018. A high level of concern was expressed which caused Regina Archbishop Donald Bolen to convene a meeting of communication representatives from the Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert dioceses and the Saskatoon Eparchy.

They met on April 4 at St. Peters Abbey where a brainstorming session was held to determine what can be done to serve the Prairie Messenger community after May 9. It will likely be some form of digital/ electronic communication, if the general direction established at the brainstorming session is any indication.

There was much discussion of the consequences to society in moving away from print and toward electronic media, and it was pointed out printing presses and the distribution of a paper copy are major considerations when everyone is under budget constraints. Digital media offers more bang for the buck.

Participants were concerned that holding a paper copy and taking the time to read and absorb the written word, is a different and more rewarding gain of knowledge compared to reading an electronic device. The electronic version fosters a short attention span and supports todays move to multitasking or task-switching. There was also concern that moving to a digital copy would lose the generations who don't use electronic devices; however, others noted there is plenty of evidence available that dedicated print readers are also accessing and using those electronic devices.

Ongoing discussion about the future of communication within the archdiocese is going to be a priority in the coming months.

### **Meet Our Nine Ordained Permanent Deacons**

#### by Frank Flegel

The first cohort of nine candidates to complete the four-year permanent diaconate program of the Regina Archdiocese were be ordained June 15 at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

Ten candidates began their journey in the fall of 2014. They spent ten weekends a year over four years to become permanent deacons. Through a process of discernment 10 men were selected for the program. One of the 10 withdrew part way through because of an emerging health issue. Nine of the men were married and one was a widower who lost his wife to illness a year prior to the start of the program. Wives were encouraged to attend formative weekends, said Salkeld, and most did unless other commitments interfered.

It's a rigorous program that focuses on four main areas of formation as outlined by the Vatican: spiritual, academic (intellectual), pastoral, and human basic maturity (can you deal with life). Salkeld continued, "As we go through the program there are lots of opportunities to learn what it means to be a servant of God and God's people." Included are things like developing a prayer life; scripture, and what authority does it have; how to read the Bible; pastoral care; Church history; practical things like working with the priest at the altar, conducting vigil prayers, weddings, funerals, benediction, all the things a deacon can do. "It all has to do with forming the deacon's identity or what we sometimes call forming the deacon heart," Salkeld explained. The weekends are usually academic, with lectures, reading of textbooks and some workshops and discussions. Guest lecturers often come in to present specific themes. "David Sax of Catholic Family Services, for example, talked to us about being with people who are hurting." Dr. Salkeld is the primary instructor but several current permanent deacons who are living the life spoke to the group as well as several priests who spoke on specific subjects. Chancellor Reverend James Owolagba lectured on Canon Law and Director of Liturgy Ron Andree talked about Liturgy.

The diaconate program is a voluntary giving of expertise, time and effort to the Church. Deacons are not paid for their service and as a volunteer all deacons must have an independent source of income to support their families.

#### The following are brief profiles of each candidate:



**David Hagel,** farmer/rancher from Cabri, SK. He was widowed after 20 years of marriage, no children. He has always had a desire in his heart to provide some form of service in the Church. As a layman, he felt there was something more and the diaconate program fit the bill. "it's been a very positive experience deepening my faith and understanding of the Church." He

is assigned to his home parish of St. Joseph in Cabri.



**Kevin Harty**, lives in the Windsor Park Regina. He retired as a Human Resource Officer for Canada Post. He is married to Terry and they have two adult children.

"My walk with the Lord has been a slow, gradual progression," said Harty in explaining his route to the program. He also "fell in love" with scripture as he sponsored and accompanied his

wife through the RCIA program. Harty is a 4th degree Knight and his wife is a member of the CWL. Besides his liturgical responsibilities at his assigned parish of Resurrection, he feels his calling is evangelization, leading people to the Lord.

**David Hudy** has a farm just northeast of Melville but considers himself semiretired. He has been married to Bev for 35 years and they have one adult daughter. He volunteers at hospitals and nursing homes and twice a week brings residents to church for the recitation of the rosary. That, and other activities, made him think he could represent the Church more as a



deacon and it all came together in what he felt was a calling for the deaconate. "I learned to trust God more." He is assigned to St. Henry's Parish in Melville. He expects that, as an ordained deacon, he will continue to do much of what he is now doing as a lay volunteer.



Harper Boucher had a 40-year career with the RCMP that took him to posts all over Canada including one as Commanding Officer of Depot Division in Regina. His last posting was to the United Nations in New York as a special representative of Interpol developing anti-terrorism programs. He is a currently a full-time Provincial Court Justice. Married for 45 years to Rose

Ann they have two adult children. They now live in Deer Valley, near Lumsden, SK. He felt a calling to the priesthood as a youth but life got in the way. "I saw the opportunity to apply for the deaconate program and jumped at it." He is assigned to St. Peter's Parish in Lumsden and St. Jerome in Regina Beach. He expects to work with the elderly, "I'm at that stage now in my life where I have lots of experience and I believe I have something to offer."

**Arron Polk** retired from the RCMP after a 25-year career and now works as a civil servant in RCMP recruiting. He and his wife Lisa will celebrate their 25th anniversary in August. They have two daughters, one still in high school. "I began thinking about being a deacon



#### Meet Our Nine Ordained Permanent Deacons Cont'd...

...about seven years ago but there was no program here when it was announced a program would open in Regina. "It's the answer to your prayers, Father Bill told me." Following ordination he expects to continue with Friends on the Outside, a prison ministry that meets with released inmates as a community support group as well as Indigenous relationship building. He is assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows, Fort Qu'Appelle, and other nearby churches in the valley, as well as parishes on surrounding First Nations Reserves.



**Dennis Ziegler,** is a business product developer with Sasktel. He is married to Karen for 37 years, they have a family of five adult children. His involvement in the ALPHA program at Holy Child parish and as a Spiritual Director, led him to the think about becoming a deacon. "I really enjoyed working with people on their faith journey and began wondering if there was something more

I could be doing," he said. Discussing his calling with his own spiritual director, he decided to apply and was accepted in the program. Going through the program has changed him, he said. There's been a lot of personal growth. "It's amazing how God works to bring me to this point. I'm not thinking of myself so much, I'm not as selfish." Following ordination, he will continue training other spiritual directors. He and his wife also volunteer with an inner-city group that works and mentors First Nations youth and gang members. He is assigned to his home parish of Holy Child in Regina.

Eric Gurash has been married for 29 years to Melissa,

and together they have two adult children. He is Coordinator for Lay Formation and Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Regina. "I always had this feeling during my faith journey that Christ had a little more in store for me. I just didn't know what it was." He tried several things including Spiritual Direction which eventually led to the diaconate program." The program has given him a deeper call to service, "to



bring the faith of Christ to other people, to be that icon of Christ, the servant for others." He is assigned to Holy Rosary Cathedral for his liturgical ministry. Following ordination, he expects to follow what he calls a strong call to evangelization, but not just for himself; he will encourage lay men and women to take on that evangelizing role and get involved with inner city agencies that work with the poor, the disadvantaged and minister to families with mental health issues. It's something that has touched their family and they understand the great need in that area.

**Norbert Gaudet**, and his wife of 39 years, Carleen, have eight children. He retired from his teaching vocation in 2010. He started thinking about becoming a deacon when



he first heard about the program and, after listening to a letter from the Archbishop read in church about Christ the Servant, he thought, "Yeah, I can do that." He discussed it with his wife and several parishioners encouraged him to apply. "So I started the process thinking if I am not called for this I will be told or someone along the line will tell me this is not for you."

As the process continued he began to feel more and more that there was something specific he was being called for. The course helped him to better understand himself and be aware of his weaknesses and not to fear if God called, "but I knew I needed to be here." He is assigned to his home parish of Sacred Heart, Raymore; Our Lady of Lourdes, Govan; St. Patrick's, Nokomis; St. Mary Hungarian, Quinton; Immaculate Conception, Quinton; Mary Queen of All Heart's, Lestock and the reserves of Day Star, Gordon's, Kawacatoose, and Muskowekwan - Kateri Place. He also expects to continue and expand his volunteer work in senior care homes. "The practicum in the hospital was really amazing and I felt a real call to be present to the sick and dying."

Lamont Dyck, has been married to Katherine for 17 years and

they have one child in Grade 2. He is the Pastoral Assistant at St. Joseph's Parish, Moose Jaw. Prior to St. Joseph's, he worked in the Saskatoon Diocese and was in discernment conversations with Bishop Albert Legatt about the permanent diaconate, but the diocese decided to not go ahead with a diaconate program. Then about 10 years ago, he received an invitation to come to St. Joseph's



parish, "I was told the Archdiocese was open to the idea and since then I have been in the process of pestering bishops and priests about this call that I had, five years ago the call was answered." During his university years he lived with a group of priests and had the opportunity to discern their vocation, close-up. "During those discernment years I found that my particular style of service was not to religious life but to married life. I met my wife there, but I still had this call to work within the church and work with the most marginalized, with people who need help, who don't have a voice. I felt the diaconate was the best way to share my talents." He is the youngest in the cohort at age 47 and his biggest challenge was finding a baby sitter for their young child on weekends. He is assigned to parish ministry at the parish of St. Joseph's, Moose Jaw.

The nine candidates received their liturgical ministry assignments after consultations with Archbishop Donald Bolen and the Archdiocesan personnel committee.

# **Four Ordained to Transitional Diaconate**





By Frank Flegel

Four men, one Canadian-born, two from Vietnam, and one from Trinidad-Tobago, took another step towards the priesthood on June 29. The four were ordained to the transitional diaconate by Archbishop Donald Bolen.

Parker Love was born and raised in Regina, Ricardo Escalante is from Trinidad Tobago, (Anthony) Buu Phung Tran and Chinh Vu came to Canada from Viet Nam. The four attended St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton prior to their ordination. Tran, Vu, and Love will return to St. Joseph's for their final year of formation and expect to be ordained priests sometime in the summer of 2019. Escalante is on a different track, said Archbishop Bolen, and he could be ordained earlier than the other three. He is presently completing a PhD degree in Philosophy in Rome.

**Chin Vu** belonged to a missionary order and was in the Philippines when Reverend Rafael Danilo, on one of his visits home, interviewed then recommended Vu to the late Archbishop Daniel Bohan. Vu came to Canada in 2010.





**Buu Phung Tran**, better known as Anthony, arrived

here in 2014, and entered St. Joseph's Seminary with Vu. Both Tran and Vu had attended a seminary in Viet Nam before coming to Canada.

Ricardo Escalante took up

law and practiced as a lawyer for 10 years before moving to Vancouver where he had family. He worked as a Legal Aid with a law firm there. It was then when he heard God's call to the priesthood. He entered Vancouver's Christ the King Seminary and from there went to Rome, with the approval



of Vancouver's Archbishop, to study philosophy. Escalante was introduced to Archbishop Bohan through a colleague who thought Escalante would make a good priest for the Regina Archdiocese. He came to Regina and liked what he saw; "The people of Regina and Saskatchewan are seen as people close to the land, which would make it is easier for the Holy Spirit to take root when one is close to nature rather than a bustling metropolis," he said in an interview, "God works in silence, not in activity." Regina's former Archbishop Bohan agreed with Escalante's request to complete his Doctorate in Philosophy in Rome.

Parker Love's story is different. He grew up with no religious



affiliation and at age 23, he said, "The Holy Spirit" led him to be baptised as a Roman Catholic. Reverend Stephen Bill, Pastor at Resurrection Parish, baptised him and almost immediately he joined the RCIA program to learn about his Christian faith. "Almost from the beginning, I felt the call to be a priest." He entered St. Joseph's

Seminary in Edmonton in 2012. A year later, in 2013, a mountain bike accident put him in hospital for four months and left him a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair, but he never lost his determination to be a priest. With Archbishop Bohan's permission, he returned to St. Joseph's Seminary and then completed a year's internship at Resurrection Parish.

"Every emotion under the sun I was feeling," said Love after his ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. "A lot of excitement, anticipation, and just kind of a sea of calm when the Archbishop laid his hands on me" (during the ordination ceremony).

# **Thinking Faith**

Is an audio podcast on the Archdiocesan Website



Eric Gurash and Dr. Brett Salkeld discuss topics of concern for today's catholics.

Just click on the **Thinking Faith** icon at the bottom of the front page or go to:

http://archregina.sk.ca/thinkingfaith

### Rowatt's Our Lady of the Prairies... Deconsecrated

#### By Frank Flegel

ROWATT, SASKATCHEWAN.....Our Lady of the Prairies Catholic Church has probably been seen by more people than most churches in Saskatchewan. Located in the hamlet of Rowatt, a hop, skip and a jump south of Regina on Highway Six, the church is just on the east edge of the highway that leads to Weyburn and the American border. Thousands of people in their vehicles pass by the unobtrusive drab little church with the curious square steeple, as they realize that Regina is just a few minutes away.

Our Lady of the Prairies parish was established in 1932 when the community was settled by largely German immigrants. Early masses were held at Springdale School a few miles east of Rowatt on a grid road. After a meeting with then Archbishop Monahan local farmers built the church in 1939. However as the city of Regina grew, it slowly absorbed residents of the community, eventually leaving the church abandoned in 1992 when Father Emmet Mooney celebrated the last mass there.

"We tried to keep it going for community events, dinners, meetings, baby showers and the occasional wedding, that sort of thing. A small group of us kept it up, even put in a couple of furnaces, but it needs a new roof and siding that's going to cost thousands of dollars and we just couldn't afford it anymore. So, we held a vote last fall and decided to ask the archdiocese to take it over," lamented long time resident Tim Novak. The church interior appears well kept and is relatively new. The sanctuary was re-done in the 1960s following Vatican II, said Novak.

At the deconsecration ceremony Archbishop Donald Bolen, talked about the connections that many of the people in the hamlet had to the church, including his grandfather who settled in the area. It wasn't until years later that his grandfather's family moved to the Gravelbourg area where Bolen's father was born and where he grew up.

Bolen began by relating a story told by an 18th century Rabbi about his grandfather that showed the power stories have to transform. The grandfather was a cripple but got up to dance and leap about with joy as he told how the founder of Hassidic Judaism Baal Shem Tov danced when he was at prayers. The grandfather got so excited in retelling the story that he forgot he was crippled and danced and was cured. "Stories tell us about God," said Bolen, "And in the telling we encounter the presence of God." He then referred to the day's scripture readings that told how Peter and John, on the way to pray at the temple encountered a crippled beggar. Peter said they had no silver or gold to give but would give what they had, and in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth told the beggar to get up and walk and the cripple was instantly cured. Questioned later by the rulers Peter told them there is no other name by which we can be saved. There is salvation in no one else. "That was the gospel story that was at the heart of this little parish here, Our Lady of the Prairies," said the Archbishop.

The actual decree of the church followed the archbishop's



homily and was brief because the church had been inactive for 26 years. Bolen blessed some water and sprinkled the 50 or so people in attendance. Then with Archdiocesan Chancellor Reverend James Owalagba, removed the altar stone.

A reception in the church basement was held after the ceremony. It is not known what the future holds for the building, but it likely will be sold along with the land. The artifacts and vessels will be distributed to other churches, if requested, or be placed in the Archdiocesan archives.

Our Lady of the Prairies was a mission church for Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina and at one time was part of a group of

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BID ON ARTWORK by local artists as a special project of the Archdiocesan Appeal. Proceeds will go towards the education of our seminarians.



https://archregina.sk.ca/auction/

### **Bishop's Cup BB Tourney**



By Frank Flegel

It was a hard-fought battle but when it ended the clergy team beat the student all-star team 23-22 in the first Annual Bishop's Cup Basketball Tournament held April 17 at Miller Catholic High School.

"I think they gave us a few points," said the sweating team captain, Regina Archbishop Don Bolen. His team was made up of clergy from the Regina archdiocese. Their all-star opponents were selected from the student teams that were playing earlier in the evening. They were mostly high school students from Grade eight and up and several played regularly on their school teams. This was the first time the tournament was held in Regina. "We started this in Saskatoon," said Bolen who was Bishop of Saskatoon prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Regina. "It was such a fun time for everyone we thought to try it here."

Cheryl Harvey's, Miller High School, Catholic Studies 10 class, took on the task of organizing the tournament as part of their Christian Action plan. Harvey said it began with a phone call from Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator Michelle Braden who told her about the tournaments held in Saskatoon and suggested the Archbishop would like to do something similar for the kids in the Regina Archdiocese. Harvey said her class did everything, designing and sending posters to all the churches and schools to recruit participants, organizing the teams, designing and making the trophies, scheduling the evening's games, recruiting referees and score keepers.

The evening began with pizza followed by the games. Each team was assigned an alphabetic letter and referred to the posted schedule to determine their opponent and when they played. The preliminary games were 15 minutes and played on the half courts. The all-star team that played the Archbishop's clergy team was selected from those teams.

The Bishop's Cup game was a half-hour long and was played on the full court. A donut break split the evening between the preliminary and main event games. The Clergy team was outfitted with white and blue-trimmed jerseys; the Archbishop wore Number 55 with ARCH-DON on the back. A few other clergy had their names on their jerseys. The front of their jerseys had ARCH in black over an orange background.

Harvey said she and her class offered to do it all again next year.

# This is Your Life

A musical comedic journey from the cradle to the grave!



Planning and preparation began for the Spring edition of the three day talent show in January. "This is Your Llfe" a talent showcase of some wonderful young people in our archdiocese. Fifty singers, dancers, musicians, magicians and comedians joined forces to raise money for orphanages in Belize and in the Phillipines.

*"It's a great community builder," said Archdiocesan Youth Director Michelle Braden, "a lot of work but a lot of fun."*