

# VOCATION NEWSLETTER

*Diocese of Prince Albert*

*Spring 2011*

Dear Lord, as you call men and women from amongst your faithful people, help us to foster this call with our prayers and support. May you strengthen each of us so that our lives and our words proclaim your goodness! Give us your spirit to guide those from our community to hear Your call, so that, with our assistance, they may faithfully answer Your call. Amen

**Meet our seminarians.**

**News Flash-** *Diocesan Discernment house has been named:  
Saint Andre Bessette Discernment House.*

## **Adopt a Seminarian**

**We presently have 2 seminarians**

**Kendrick Beler and German Alegria**

**By adopting one of them you can offer your support through prayers and letters.**

May 15, 2011 – Good Shepherd Sunday (Priesthood)  
*Please pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.*

## **Seminarians**



**Kendrick Beler**

**Date and place of birth:** December 22, 1990 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

### **Story of discernment to the priesthood:**

There have been numerous instances where the priesthood has stood out for me in my life. However, the amount of school and the idea of being such a public figure really deterred me. It was not until the last semester of Grade 12 that I really started feeling a call to the priesthood.

The fear I had of how my life would change kept me from listening at first, but God really spoke to me during a retreat and I decided to surrender my will, and seek God's plan for

my life. After that, things started to become clearer to me. I started reevaluating my life and felt the priesthood was something to look into. I figured that if God really wanted me to be a priest, he would allow it to happen even if it meant getting me through the academies of seminary and overcoming my shyness.

The thought that I should talk to a priest about the desire I had became progressively stronger, until it reached a point where the priesthood was on my mind the better part of the day. I eventually talked to a priest about my thoughts and feelings; he encouraged me, as well as organized a meeting for me with the Bishop. The fear of leaving everything behind receded and I felt that I should go to the seminary.

On August 25, 2010, I talked to the Bishop and it was decided that I should try to get into the Seminary for the Fall. Time was short, but, within a week, everything was in place for me to go to St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton. Since then, I have come to appreciate the Seminary life and feel that this is where God wants me to be.

**Hobby and sport:** I enjoy working with wood and play guitar. It gives me great satisfaction to improve some things, and to figure out how to fix things that are broken. I enjoy sports such as paintball, snowboarding, and badminton.

### **Summer address:**

(From May to August):  
Box 296  
North Battleford, SK. S9A 2Y3  
(306) 445-8673

### **Seminary address:**

(from September to April)  
St. Joseph Seminary  
9828 – 84 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T6A 0B2



**German Jhovany Alegria**

**Date and place of birth:** July 30, 1979 – El Salvador

**Seminary level:** First year of Theology at St. Joseph Seminary

### **Story of discernment to the priesthood:**

I was born in the city of San Marcos, El Salvador. I am now 32 years of age. I am the second of three brothers and come from a very poor family. We have always been taught the values of unity, respect, obedience, and above all, love of God.

I am especially grateful to my grandmother, Gricelda Gomez Alegria, for teaching me to following God's ways. I studied Social Sciences at the National University of El Salvador, and then worked for the parish of San Pedro Nonualco, where I started my life as an active layman.

I have always liked to connect with young people and to read at Mass, as well as helping in the various ministries where there is a need. I am very happy that God has called me to serve and to contribute to the building of his Kingdom.

I travelled to the United States in 2005 in order to improve the family economic situation. But the desire to serve God was always present in me, though I admit I did not want to give much importance to it. But in the end, the encounter with Jesus was more noticeable.

I became more involved with the needs of the parish of San Rafael in Springdale, which further increased my desire to surrender to God. It has not been easy. Leaving everything for the love of God is a daily struggle. I have to renew my personal desire and freedom for his love.

I studied two years at the Seminary of Monterrey, Mexico; I owe this to Sister Gisela Rivera, who has supported me greatly; Father Juan Antonio and Msgr. Scott Friend, whom I consider friends and parish brothers, also helped me a great deal. Now it is my turn to say "yes" to the Lord, and to completely abandon myself in his arms, embracing the cross at all times.

During my studies at the Seminary of Monterrey, specifically in the middle of the second year, I received a visit from Monsignor Scott Friend, the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Little Rock. At this time, he informed me that the process of legalizing my status in the United States was complicated and would extend for a very long period. So there would be no chance of returning to the United States. Bishop John Taylor made the decision to seek another diocese to help me continue my vocation to the priesthood. They contacted Bishop Albert Thevenot, Bishop of Prince Albert Diocese, and explained my situation. When Bishop Albert Thevenot went to Mexico City for the Religious Conference, he visited me at the Seminary and invited me to spend some time with him in the Diocese.

I came to Canada two years ago to visit and to experience life in the diocese: that is when my decision to serve this diocese was made. The Bishop was very kindly opened the doors of his diocese to me so that I could continue my studies to the priesthood. I am grateful to God for all the blessings received, especially for opening the door of the Diocese of Prince Albert.

After a few months, I went back to El Salvador and visited my family while my student visa request was being processed. The Diocese of Prince Albert applied for me to the Dominican University College in Ottawa, and I have been accepted to continue my studies in Philosophy. During the first summer I assisted the Bishop in all activities of the Diocese, especially Confirmation. It was a wonderful experience. I was learning a lot with Bishop Albert about the activities in the diocese. The truth is I am very happy to help.

My dear friends, to follow Christ, the Good Shepherd, is the best decision you can make. And if you are unsure, do not worry; it is a risk in the hands of God. Remember, it is the hope of the world to produce authentic priests, willing to give their lives for others in the name of Jesus Christ. Following Christ is not just for those who have received a special call to serve God in Consecrated Life or in the Priesthood ... following Jesus is for me, for you and for all.

Let us pray the Blessed Virgin Mary, model of every vocation, to help us find our true vocation. Lord grant us Priests; Lord give us many priests; Lord give us many and holy priests."

**Summer address:**

(From May to August):  
Box 296 1415 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1  
(306) 922 – 4747

**Seminary address:**

(from September to April)  
St. Joseph Seminary  
9828 – 84 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T6A 0B2

## Vocation Commission Members

**Father Matthew Nguyen**- Director of Diocesan Vocations and Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Prince Albert ([mnguyen@sasktel.net](mailto:mnguyen@sasktel.net))

**Lorel Trumier**- Chairperson of Vocation Commission

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**Warren Dungen**- Member of Vocation Commission and Director of Prince Albert Diocesan Youth Ministry ([youth.cecr@sasktel.net](mailto:youth.cecr@sasktel.net))

**Sr. Janna Tumbach, p.m.** - Member of Vocation Commission and Sister of Presentation of Mary in Prince Albert

([jannatumbach@hotmail.com](mailto:jannatumbach@hotmail.com))

**Nicole Banadyga**- Member of Vocation Commission and teacher at Holy Cross School in Prince Albert ([nbanadyga@cec.pacsd6.sk.ca](mailto:nbanadyga@cec.pacsd6.sk.ca) or [nbanadyga@sasktel.net](mailto:nbanadyga@sasktel.net))

**Dave Dorosh**- Member of Vocation Commission and Treasurer ([d.dorosh@sasktel.net](mailto:d.dorosh@sasktel.net))

**Dennis Mercer**- Member of Vocation Commission ([d.mercer@locsd.ca](mailto:d.mercer@locsd.ca))

**Fr. Nick Ferreras**- Member of Vocation Commission and Chaplain at Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert ([ferrerasnp@csc.scc.gc.ca](mailto:ferrerasnp@csc.scc.gc.ca) or [nickferreras@yahoo.com](mailto:nickferreras@yahoo.com))

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**Fr. Millan Sajonas**- Member of Vocation Commission and Pastor of Notre Dame des Victoires (Victoire), Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Big River) and St. Jean Baptiste in Debden

([b\\_m\\_j\\_sajonas@live.com](mailto:b_m_j_sajonas@live.com))

**Fr. Travis Myrheim**- Member of Vocation Commission, Pastor of St. Michael and Chaplain at St. Mary High School in Prince Albert ([friar\\_tuc@hotmail.com](mailto:friar_tuc@hotmail.com))

**Fr. DJ Vu**- Member of Vocation Commission, Pastor of Elkrige Church (Elkrige), St. Joseph (Candle Lake), St. Mary, (Christopher Lake), St. James (Albertville) and co-Chaplain at Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert ([yudungdm@yahoo.com](mailto:yudungdm@yahoo.com))