

Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert

Prince Albert DIOCESE de Prince Albert
 Vocations Commission des Vocations



Go, and make disciples of all nations.
 Allez! De toutes les nations faites des disciples.
 Matthew 28:19

Fr. Jim Kaptein
Vocations Director

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Congratulations to Fr. Kendrick Beler who was ordained a priest, July 11. Starting on August 7, 2018 Fr. Kendrick will serve as pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Goodsoil, Sacred Heart Parish in Loon Lake, Loon Lake First Nation and St. Antoninus Parish in Pierceland.



Much has changed since the last Vocations Newsletter. Deacon Kendrick Beler was ordained on July 11 and is now serving in St. Boniface, Goodsoil and area. Barry Tkachuk has completed his academic studies and is interning at Sacred Heart Cathedral. We are planning for his ordination to the transitional diaconate for January 28, 2019, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Vocations Commission would like to congratulate Fr. Kendrick in his new ministry, and wish God's blessing on Barry, as he enters a new era in his ministry.

Remember Vocations in your will

Did you know that it costs about \$30,000 a year to educate a seminarian? Have you considered adding the line: "I bequeath to the Prince Albert Diocesan Vocations Fund the sum of \$_____ (specific amount) or _____% (a percentage) of the residue of my estate, to be used for preparing young men for priesthood." This will insure that the diocese has the resources to serve future generations. Please share your intention to support the diocese with your family. Your bequest is a witness to them of the importance of your faith in your life, and sharing this information will assist them in honoring



Deanery One Clergy/Religious Appreciation Evening
Submitted by Beverly Robin

On September 14, 2018 “The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross” Clergy, Religious and about 145 parishioners from the parishes, in Deanery #1, gathered for a celebratory evening in honor of the clergy and consecrated life. The evening began with Mass with the Most Rev. Bishop Albert Thévenot as celebrant, with Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand, Clergy, Deacons and seminarians concelebrating. The ambiance was one of love and joy. Various youth of the deanery participated in all the liturgical ministries with exception of music, a few St. Joseph Choir members joined together to create a grace filled celebration.

Bishop Thevenot’s homily spoke of the reason we wear a cross; of the significance and its importance “The day Christ died on the cross, he gave us the greatest gift, LOVE. As priests and sisters, we totally give our lives to Christ, unconditionally. That’s the hard part. Total dedication. The day that we start looking for something for ourselves we have the lost the gift of love, it’s pure selfishness. When we feel we are loved by others, love gives us freedom. The cross reminds us, if you want freedom, GIVE; receive freely, give freely. Believe in the cross. The cross is a symbol of our faith, our love and our hope.”

The celebration continued in the parish hall beautifully decorated with posters from last year’s vocation poster contest, tables decorated with amazing origami flowers created by seminarian Joseph Heiu. Everyone enjoyed fellowship and a delicious catered supper. The evening of gratitude continued with a short presentation by Fr. Jim Kaptein, Diocesan Vocation Director. He shared a few stories and then made a small request to those attending the banquet, “Don’t just prepare your children to become adults, prepare them to be disciples, teach them what it means to be a disciple, encourage them to pursue a religious vocation...look forward to the day when you can buy a new dress, or buy a new suit and say, “That’s my son, that’s my daughter. You will be glad you did.”

Each of the clergy, deacons, seminarian and religious were introduced with a short pictorial power point presentation with a tribute of appreciation filled with attributes describing him or her which was shared by Master of Ceremonies, Mitch Holash. Clergy and religious were presented with a gift of a spiritual bouquet sealed with a hug of appreciation.

It was a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all.

It is with deepest gratitude that we honor and thank our clergy and religious for their unconditional dedication and service to God, to the parishioners of Deanery #1, in the Diocese of Prince Albert and beyond. Our lives will be ever blessed. Thank you!



The Life of a Wife of a Deacon
by Linda Rudachyk

Never in a million years did I ever have think that I would become a Clergy Wife? My husband, Deacon Greg Bobbitt was a lawyer, when I, a young Social Worker, married him. We are blessed with two daughters and now, two grandchildren. We lived a very blessed life in Weyburn, very active in all aspects of our community and, of course our church. After much discernment, we left our beloved community of Weyburn and moved to Rosthern, to retire and slow down. We don't plan our lives! God does!

When the letter from Bishop Albert arrived, calling for men interested in becoming Deacons, both Greg and I knew his call from God had arrived. We entered the Discernment Process, the application process...both of us, and then the Training Process. I attended over half of the training sessions...as much as I could, and learned and enjoyed! We still have a child at home in high school and that makes a huge difference!

The reality of being a wife of a Deacon is this: I am who I am! I have changed nothing! I support my husband in his service, as I always have, and I myself continue to serve many people and organizations of all kinds. My role in the parish remains the same.

Has my status as a Deacon's wife changed me? Not a chance! With my professional background, I continue to assist folks in whatever way they need. Probably the most enjoyable aspect of being Mrs. Deacon, has been the relationships with the Bishop, Vicar General, the priests of the diocese, the Deacons and their wives! I have totally enjoyed religious and social celebrations with them, and knowing them as people!

Greg is the Director of Ecumenism for the Diocese. Ecumenism is his passion and is a passion of mine. He is chair of the strong local Ministerial Association. In our community, he is asked to give homilies and speeches at churches, schools and various functions and especially in the Mennonite churches. I try attending with him, and folks do see us serving as a couple.

One negative reality is that the life of a Deacon, like Greg who is a "keener", can be all consuming! At times, it has become more than a full time job. I am a strong person, and I will not let him forget the words of Bishop Albert and Father Michael Averyt, "Family must come first!" Needless to say, we have encountered conflict on this, and have had to work hard to compromise and find balance.

I am proud of my husband, Deacon Greg, and our family is proud of Dad, and Deacon Gido! I know he is serving our parish, the Diocese, our community, the Penitentiary Healing Lodge, and many individuals with his Ministry!

Vocations in a time of scandal

Vocations are a gift that God gives individuals for the church and the world. Life is a wonderful journey of discovering our gifts and giving them back through service. We can learn our vocation through prayer, our family, and especially through the example or mentorship of a priest, religious brother or sister, or a married couple.

Many people are asking the question, why would I choose a vocation to the priesthood in the wake of the sexual abuse scandals and the mishandling of these cases by the hierarchy of the church? This is not only evident in religious vocations, we see less couples choosing to get married, and more divorces, leaving fewer examples of holy and healthy married lives.

The answer is that, although some marriages and priests fail, Vocations are still a gift, a way in which God calls us to true happiness. Now, more than ever, a vocation to the priesthood is a radical choice, a way in which we can be part of the solution. Seminaries are getting much better at discerning whether a seminarian truly has a call from God.

In the end, vocation is a commitment: to God, the church, and the world. And commitment is the greatest sign of love!

Fr. Travis Myrheim

A deacon responds after one and a half years into ministry
by Deacon Brian Anthony McLane, St. Eugene Parish, Nipawin, SK

I have a strength I never had before. An assurance and a boldness, too, perhaps. Add to that: I feel I am in the place where I am meant to be.

Those were my initial responses (to myself) to a request from Vocations Director, Fr. Jim Kaptein, who asked me to write an article, for the Fall Vocations Newsletter, on what is it like to be a deacon after 1.5 years post ordination.

My response is the same. I do have a strength I never had before, although I am doing many of the things I did before my ordination. Things like taking communion to people in hospital and nursing homes, visiting home-bound parishioners, writing to prisoners on death row, mentoring young people, taking part with other denominations in ecumenical events like community choir, community evenings of praise and song, ministerial gatherings, Good Friday observances, invitations to speak to men's breakfast gatherings ie. the United Church (and explaining the role of a Roman Catholic deacon), and, other community interactions like involvement in the Nipawin Heritage Society, or, working during the summer months as a gate attendant welcoming people into our beautiful Nipawin Region Park.

Then, there are the church things. Things like liturgy meetings, composing Prayers of the Faithful for weekend liturgies, participation in week day masses, preaching homilies, choir practice, RCIA, deanery meetings, diocesan gatherings like DPC meetings, diaconate meetings, diaconate retreats, clergy study days, and Forming Intentional Disciples' gatherings. Deacons' main priorities are serving at the altar, word and charity. Deacons can preside at funeral liturgies, witness marriages, preside at baptisms, and Liturgies of the Word with Communion, and impart blessings on articles of faith and homes. Add to this the minutes taking. I get a lot of that. After all I am a journalist – "Brian, would you please record the minutes?" (After 50 years of recording/writing words, I need a break ...Plueeeeee!) Those words are all about what being a deacon is all about: S-E-R-V-I-C-E.

All this activity comes at a cost. Often after such experiences, I am reminded of how our Lord felt after he cured someone – utter exhaustion – and, at the same time, utter joyfulness, and a sense that this (encounter) was meant to be.

On my ordination card I had printed the following words from 1 Peter 4:10 – "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Those words are all about what being a deacon is all about: S-E-R-V-I-C-E. That service, in the communities in which we live and serve, can include a number of ministries.

My brother deacon, Mike Hardwicke, and myself, have embarked on a most recent adventure. The impetus comes from our Bishop Albert Thévenot, who encourages us to "go outside our church walls." We call it "deacons on tap." We don our clerical collars and visit a local bar. The encounters are amazing! Ask us about them when next we meet!

Pray for Vocations

In the past we asked different deanery's to pray for different individuals. As there has been a change we would ask that:

* Please have people forward any cards to their respective parishes.

Deanery 1 pray for:

*Ron Johnson (Darlene)
Aspirant in Permanent Diaconate Program
c/o St. Agatha Parish
Box 488
Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0
Birthday – January 20

Deanery 2 to continue praying for:

Trung Hieu Do (Prefers to be called Joseph)
Seminarist for Diocese
St. Peter's Seminary
1040 Waterloo St,
London, ON N6A 3Y1
Birthday January 31

Deanery 3 to continue praying for:

Tai Le - Seminarist for Diocese
2nd year of Bachelor of Theology Program
c/o St. Joseph Seminary
9828 84th Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6A 0B2
Birthday July 5th

Deanery 4 to continue praying for:

Barry Tkachuk - Seminarist Intern at Sacred Heart Cathedral
1401 – 4th Avenue East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1
Birthday June 7

Deanery 5 to pray for:

*Gary Bell
Aspirant in
Permanent Diaconate Program
c/o Our Lady of Peace Parish
504 – 3rd Ave East
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1H5
Birthday - April 3

Deanery 6 to pray for:

*William (Bill) Thibeault (Lorraine)
Aspirant in
Permanent Diaconate Program
c/o Our Lady of Peace Parish
504 – 3rd Ave East
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1H5
Birthday - July 16