



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications
Phone: 306-242-1500; Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Trinity parishes celebrate 35 years of shared faith, life and ministry



Bishop Albert LeGatt and Fr. Marc Mireau were honoured during the celebration of 35 years of collaboration by the Trinity parishes at Prud'homme, Vonda and St. Denis.

The Trinity parishes northeast of Saskatoon recently gathered to celebrate 35 years of shared life.

In an Aug. 23 program celebrating the collaboration among the three parishes, representatives of the parish communities of Prud'homme, Vonda and St. Denis also honoured Priest-Moderator Rev. Marc Mireau for 10 years of service to the Trinity region, and bid farewell to Bishop Albert LeGatt, recently appointed archbishop of St. Boniface, Manitoba. Former pastors and religious sisters who have served in the area were also recognized, with several in attendance for the Mass, program and supper.

Louise Bussiere, who along with Bernard Hamoline serves as Parish Life Director of the Trinity parishes, reflected on the history of the area and the

establishment of the parishes of Sts. Donatien and Rogatien, St. Phillippe de Neri, and St. Denis.

In 1974, with the three parishes now served by one pastor, the Trinity was formed under the leadership of Rev. Bernard de Margerie with the blessing of Bishop James Mahoney, beginning a new era of closer collaboration, described Bussiere.

"I myself recall the early days of the Trinity. We were three parishes, with three unique personalities, each parish striving to maintain its own identity. Over time, a love and appreciation for each other began to emerge," she said, noting that the now-closed area parishes of St. Laszlo and Queen of Peace also "add to the cultural and spiritual richness that we now embrace."

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“We now strive to be family, working together, supporting each other, and our leaders. We come together more freely, more joyfully, to celebrate our Catholic faith, to educate our children in that faith and to deepen our own



relationships with our saviour,” Bussiere added, describing areas of collaboration, including catechism programs, youth groups, listening centres, Familia meetings and the joint choir which led music for the Mass held to celebrate the Trinity anniversary.

Trinity parishioner Garth Wruck expressed appreciation for the leadership and ministry of Bishop Albert LeGatt during the Sunday afternoon program.

“It is not an easy feat in a world that continually tells us that we as Catholics are wrong in our beliefs and practices, but you have remained firm in the truth and I want you to know how important that is for the faithful of any diocese and how much we in the Trinity appreciate your commitment to the faith,” Wruck said, also thanking the bishop for respecting the unique nature of the Trinity parishes, especially in regards to the Francophone culture and spirituality.

“On behalf of the youth of the Trinity we want to offer you our gratitude for your support of our



initiatives and activities over the past years. The fruit is abundant among the youth of the diocese seen in the number of young people discerning or entering vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and young people and young families choosing to live as holy committed Catholics. Bishop Albert your prayers and support have been fundamental,” Wruck said.

Garth Wruck expressed appreciation to Bishop Albert LeGatt on behalf of the Trinity parishes.

Francis Denis, a Trinity

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parishioner who is beginning studies at St. Joseph's seminary in Edmonton this fall, thanked Rev. Marc Mireau for his 10 years of service as Priest-Moderator of the Trinity parishes.

"Since Fr. Marc has joined our community, there have been 83 baptisms, 22 weddings and 79 funerals ... not to mention the countless people he has introduced to the other sacraments," Denis said. "This demonstrates that there are a lot of families that Abbé Marc has affected. He has brought God into our lives at the most important moments."

Denis also noted Mireau's love of travel, and how he connected with young people at World Youth Day in Toronto. He noted that a contingent of 53 young people from the Trinity region attended World Youth Day in Germany in 2005, the largest Canadian group to attend. "That's no small feat for three small parishes."

Brian Florizone spoke on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, and Jean Paul Hounjet, chair of the parish council in Prud'homme expressed appreciation to former priests who have served the Trinity parishes, including Rev. Denis Phaneuf, Rev. Bernard de Margerie, Rev. Michel Bedard, Rev. Emile April and Rev. Gaston Masse. He also thanked Les Filles de la Providence who served in the area.



"We owe much to the founding priests of our parishes and to Les Filles de Providence. These men and women accompanied our pioneers to this land, sacrificing much to bring the faith of our Church in this area," Hounjet said. He noted that Pope Benedict XVI has declared this the Year of the Priest and shared a reflection by St. Jean Vianney about the importance of the priest's role.

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Roseline Hounjet, parish council chair at St. Denis, made a presentation to Denis as he leaves for the seminary. “Francis we are very excited about your response to God’s call. You are an inspiration to the rest of us, not only to listen more carefully to what God is guiding us to do, but also that we must put God’s guidance into motion and act on his call,” she said.

The afternoon program ended with a prayer for a small rural parish, written by Hamoline.

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