



1 May 2017

Dear Fathers, Pastoral Assistants and Parishioners,

### **Funeral for Jeannette Beland**

You may recall that Jeannette Beland passed away in St. Paul AB on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, they had a Mass for her in St. Paul, with the intention of having a Mass at a later date in McLennan with the burial of her cremated remains. Her daughter-in-law sent word recently that this funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral in McLennan on Saturday 20 May 2017, at 2:00 pm.

Jeannette was a very devoted and much-loved member of the chancery office staff in McLennan for many years. She worked in the finance office and the archives. She helped many of our priests as they arrived from other countries to get set up here in Canada. I know that many of us will want to be present and join in praying for her, in gratitude for many years of service to our archdiocese.

### **Summer Youth Camp**

Jocelyne Garant, our archdiocesan youth ministry coordinator, tells me that plans are well under way for our summer youth camps for 2017. Counsellors have been lined up. A cook is in place. Jocelyne has distributed posters to all of our parishes.

This will be the fourth summer that we run these camps. They have now been put under the patronage of our archdiocesan patron, St. Martin of Tours. Camp St. Martin takes place at Camp Artaban on Lac Cardinal, north of Grimshaw. We are grateful to some generous donors who annually help us keep the cost to campers reasonable. There are three camp sessions being offered this year: for Senior High students, Junior High, and grades 4-6.

If you haven't seen the poster in your parish church, check out the youth ministry website at [www.archgmyouth.com](http://www.archgmyouth.com)

### **March for Life 2017**

I will be taking part in the annual March for Life on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton. This begins with a Mass in St. Joseph Basilica at 10:00 a.m. The march forms at Churchill Square, proceeds to the Legislature Building where there are some speeches, and then returns to Churchill Square for some final messages.

It is always edifying to see the turnout for such events. I am encouraged each year to meet people from our archdiocese (and some formerly from our archdiocese) at the March. Each year on the same day there is a national March on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. These expressions of support for life almost never make it to the news networks, despite the impressive number of marchers. The general public might therefore fail to realize the

numbers of people who show their support for life, and their disapproval of such practices as abortion and physician assisted suicide. This is “good news”; it would seem that what sells newspapers is bad news.

Edmonton is far enough away for us that there-in-the-morning and back-in-the-evening is a sacrifice. But for those persons and causes that we truly care about, we do it all the time.

### **Father Jean-Cornelis Nkuanga**

Since my previous letter, Father Jean-Cornelis has arrived in our archdiocese from the Diocese of Boma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Father Jean is presently taking driving lessons, as well as improving his facility in the English language. He is providing Sunday Mass in St-Isidore for the time being. His permanent assignment will be announced at a later date.

### **Father Cyril Joseph**

As you know, Father Cyril has been laid up now for several months with a nasty infection in his foot. This has necessitated several medical interventions, but recently they found the correct antibiotic and treatment, which is leading now to a rapid recovery. We expect him to return to active ministry in Peace River sometime during the summer.

### **Did You Know ...**

... that while the Catholic population in our diocese has increased over the years, the number of priests and Sisters has decreased? The following statistics are available on-line:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cath.</u>	<u>Total Pop.</u>	<u>Dio. Priests</u>	<u>Rel. Priests</u>	<u>Cath./ Priest</u>	<u>Sisters</u>
1950	24,673	50,000	8	62	352	222
1968	32,983	88,344	7	57	515	205
2000	42,675	108,926	6	18	1,778	23
2013	55,152	145,811	17	8	2,206	12

Dio. Priests are priests who are incardinated either in this Archdiocese, or in another diocese and are on loan to this Archdiocese.

Rel. Priests are priests who belong to religious congregations, such as the Oblates and the Redemptorists. These are not incardinated in this Archdiocese, and therefore can be transferred according to the needs of their religious congregation.

Cath./Priest is the ratio of how many Catholics are served by each priest.

Sisters all belong to their religious congregation (such as the Sisters of Providence or the Sisters of Holy Cross), and are thus transferred according to the needs and commitments of their respective religious community.



Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan