

REGINA ARCHDIOCESE CWL REPORT

by Elaine Wintonyk, CWL Archdiocesan Communications Chairperson



Exploring the history of creation, risks of teen sexual activity, Resolution regarding Chrysotile Asbestos and 250 voices strong singing the praises of God. These were all part of the 87th Annual CWL Diocesan Convention held in Swift Current Apr 25th and 26th, at Christ the Redeemer Church. The convention was hosted by Our Lady of the Fields Regional Council with 244 registrants representing 43 councils. In attendance were several notable CWL women: Velma Harasen – National President-Elect; Gerri Holmes-Provincial President; National and Provincial Past Presidents – Vivian Bosch and Jean Mahoney. Also in attendance were the following Past Diocesan Presidents: Lottie Wihak; Jeanne Procknow, Phyllis Kennedy, Mildred Young, Sonia Fullawka, Marlene Schnell, Marlene Hoffert, Louise Dennehy, Marilyn Girodat, Alice Phaneuf, and Thelma Verret. Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father John Weckend presided at the opening Eucharist, with Father Lorne Crozan, the Vicar-General, presiding at the closing Eucharist.

A resolution presented by Jeanne Procknow was passed on *banning the export of Chrysotile Asbestos and having it listed as a hazardous product*. It will be presented to the Provincial Convention in June in Saskatoon. The standing committees presented their reports which gave an indication of the wide range of CWL concerns.



Sister Judy Schactel

The guest speakers for the convention were: Sister Judy Schactel whose presentation, *Reclaiming the Sacredness of Creation*, was a three part video exploring the corruption of God's plan for the earth and how Man is beginning to rebel against that corruption; Shawna Sparrow, Provincial Teen-Aid Coordinator and Teen-Aid classroom teacher,

gave a power point presentation on the problems associated with the high rate of teen sexual activities and the issues that are addressed when a Teen-Aid teacher visits a classroom with the chastity message.

The members left the convention with a renewed commitment to living out the theme *Women of Peace and Hope*.

St-Jean-Baptiste Retreat

The St-Jean-Baptiste Parish was honored with the visit of Mgr. Thévenot for a retreat. Mgr. Thévenot drew from his vast experience to emulate what it is to be a christian in today's society. There were many discussions undertaken during our retreat with him and it was a very enriching experience. Mgr. Thévenot was also a guest at the Monseigneur de Laval School where he spoke to the children about his personal experiences working with the less fortunate, both here and abroad and the lasting impressions he was left with. Throughout his retreat, which covered a day and one evening, he helped us to believe what we can strive to achieve.

NASH LECTURE

by Frank Flegel

Using his experience of growing up in what was British Guyana and the 2006 film *Children of God*, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey (Monty) Williams S.J. took a packed audience in Riffel Auditorium, Campion College University of Regina on a spiritual journey.



Dr. Monty Williams S.J.

Williams was this year's speaker in the Nash Lecture series established to honour the memory of Rev. Dr. Peter Nash, S.J., first president of Campion College at the U. of R.. Williams, a former professor at Campion, now lectures at Regis College, Toronto and around the world. He titled his lecture *The Incarnation and the stories we live by*.

Williams used and gave examples of what he called Closed, Broken and Open Myths of living and began with his experience of growing up in British Guyana. "I knew all about England but nothing about Guyana. I was supposed to be a little Englishman but looking in the mirror destroyed that myth," he joked. Closed and Broken myths were similar in that they were supposed to provide some security but they use violence and power to control. He showed several violent clips from the movie. People were shocked.

The film takes place in 2027. The human race is facing extinction. Natural human fertility is gone, there hasn't been a live birth in 18 years. A young girl is mysteriously pregnant. Theo, and his wife are trying to shepherd this girl to safety. She eventually gives birth, with Theo present and the two, with the newborn are shown on a boat, waiting for a ship to take them to safety. Theo has been shot and dies just as the boat arrives. "Theo moves from a closed myth, to a broken myth to an open myth," said Williams. "The incarnation offers a different way of dealing with broken myths," he said and suggested the Open Myth looks for gaps in closed and broken myths and allows the future to bear in on the present and the past. "Open myth people live in a relationship with God. It is a relationship with the Divine."

LA PAROISSE ST-JEAN-BAPTISTE RETRAITE

par Heather Burns & Michel Thibaudeau

La paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste a reçu Monseigneur Albert Thévenot du diocèse de Prince Albert en novembre passé, lors d'une retraite d'une journée et une soirée. Monseigneur Thévenot a parlé de ses expériences et a communiqué ce qu'est être chrétien aujourd'hui. Il nous a aussi tendu l'oreille et nous a permis de partager nos expériences et échanger des idées. Ce fut une expérience très enrichissante. Il a aussi rendu visite à l'école Monseigneur de Laval où il a partagé ses expériences avec les jeunes qui l'ont reçu chaleureusement. Monseigneur Thévenot a passé plusieurs années parmi les plus démunis, chez nous et ailleurs, et a su les comprendre. Il a évoqué la volonté d'être meilleur et ce fut un honneur de le côtoyer.