

## 65th Annual Convention on a Weekend!

**W**e're going to give it a try - a weekend convention! In keeping with the theme ***Bridging Healing Communities*** our desire is to broaden our approach, engaging not only our facility members, but parishes and the public in the important ministry of Catholic health care. By hosting it on a weekend, we hope this opportunity will attract the larger faith community that identifies with the healing ministry of Jesus.

Opening our Convention as the ***Public Lecturist*** will be ***Patrick Lenon***, a representative of ***L'Arche Canada***. L'Arche is an international organization of faith-based communities that creates homes and day programs with people who have developmental disabilities. Entitled '***Relationship: At the Heart of Everything***', Patrick's session will speak to seeing the caregiving relationship as more than simply a service opportunity, but a place where our listening and engagement can bring about the most profound inner transformation.

We are thrilled to bring back ***Megan McKenna*** as our ***Keynote Speaker***. Many of you may have heard Megan (her last Convention presentation was in 2000), and know that she is a dynamic storyteller, gifted with the ability to bring Scriptures to life and transformation to our hearts. In her session entitled '***I Am Compassionate: Linking God's Love with Loving our Neighbour***', Megan will expound on imaginative ways to bridge God's description of Himself as compassionate with His greatest commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves.

New this year will be break-out sessions called ***Healing Communities of Practice***. These sessions are designed to introduce you to organizations and ministries in our province that, even with very different mandates, all serve to bring wholeness to the body, mind and spirit of individuals in need. As each presenter answers the question, "***How does your ministry/organization bring healing to our community?***" we hope that this time will provide inspiration and a bridging to their purpose, passion and programs. Featured presenters include: Linda Chamagne from the Bridge on 20th, Saskatoon; Wyndham Thiessen from L'Arche Saskatoon; Molly Barber from Catholic Services Society, Regina, and Michel Thibault speaking on Parish Nursing Ministry: A Parishioner's Perspective.

We'll be wrapping up the convention with an inspirational Sunday, featuring ***Serge leClerc*** who will share his experiences in founding and directing ***Teen Challenge Saskatchewan***, the province's only long-term residential addictions recovery center. And to close, we will celebrate the ***Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick Sacrament*** with presider and homilist, ***Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie***.

The Convention will be held in Saskatoon at the Delta Bessborough with the Public Lecture as the kick-off event beginning at 7:00 pm, Friday, October 24.

For more information, please contact CHAS as (306) 655-5330 or visit us at [www.chassk.ca](http://www.chassk.ca).



## 2008 CHAS Mission Week....Season!

**K**nowing that Fr. Mark Miller would be leaving CHAS this fall, it seemed most appropriate to capitalize on the opportunity to have him do a final presentation to all of the member facilities in the province. Accompanied by Bob Williston, who led in song, and Sandra Kary and Trish Holst who provided administrative support, the 2008 Mission Team set out to tour the province with the theme - *Heart at Work? Creating Yourself as a Caregiver*. With most of our session



Fr. Mark Miller presents to one of many groups across the province

dates booked from April 21 - 25, a spring snow-storm hit early in this week, requiring rescheduling that really turned our Mission Week into Mission Season!

At the final tally, we made it to eleven of our thirteen Catholic facilities—as well as Circle Drive



Bob Williston performing - *Heart at Work* - a song he wrote specifically for the 2008 Mission Week

Special Care Home, one of our Associate members in Saskatoon—delivering this presentation to well over 350 people!

Fr. Mark's presentation offered three questions often cited in the field of health care ethics. The first

being, "What's the right thing to do in treatment?," seconded by "Who gets to make the decision?" and focusing more on the third, "Who am I as a caregiver?" His exhortation spoke to intentionally cultivating listening skills in order to build relationship with those whom we serve. This ability, although it must come from the heart, can be learned from the mentors around us that are often easily identified as 'good caregivers.'

Fr. Mark also spoke on the elements of generosity and justice in caregiving. Justice speaks to giving equal time and care to those in our charge. Generosity asks us to 'go the extra mile' for an individual that may be in greater need. Balancing these two elements, with ears that listen, and hearts that care, often creates 'good caregivers.'

Thanks and farewell wishes for Fr. Mark were received in each facility that we visited. A noteworthy tribute was offered by Mary Anne Veroba, Director of Resident and Patient Care, in conclusion of our



L to R: Bob Williston, Mary Ann Veroba, Fr. Mark Miller, Normand Poirier

session at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan. "Fr. Mark, you have taught us many things: that we need to forgive ourselves for not being perfect; that nothing is black and white—the things in our life are full of colour, that it's okay to talk about very serious, even grave things, and still keep a sense of humour; and that our spirit can be one that hears all the voices—especially the voices that are not talking."

That about sums it all up.

## New Mission Educator for CHAS



Deacon Bob Williston is a familiar face to many CHAS members, especially those who are faithful convention attendees. When we heard that Bob may have the opportunity to contribute more to CHAS than just volunteer hours, we jumped at the chance to bring him on board.

Bob has invested many years in ministry with the Redemptorist Mission team, and will continue to fulfill 12 missions a year with them. His remaining time will be spent fulfilling the mission needs of the Association - both to the member facilities and member parishes who are eager to have more education and training.

Welcome, Bob! We know that your gifts of teaching, preaching and music will help us grow the vision of Catholic health care ministry in the province. (And a welcome to Joan too - we know you two are a pretty tight team!)

## Projects on the Table

As you may already know, the decision was made this year to collapse the CHAS committee structure and adopt a project charter structure. The intent behind this was to move from committees which were largely advisory, to working groups that could engage in a more tangible project with a start and finish timeline.

We're happy to report that the project charter structure is working well, and there is a renewed enthusiasm among Board members, volunteers and staff to see the fruit of their labour and anticipate its impact.

The three 'projects on the table' are: the 2008 Convention, Video Production of Fr. Mark Miller's Presentations, and the Parish Ministry of Care Program Revisions.

Nearing completion, *Ethics for the Journey*, includes four sessions by Fr. Mark Miller which focus on exploring foundational teachings for faith-based health care as well as the ministry of care in our parish communities. Watch for more details regarding the launch of these DVDs/CDs at the 2008 Convention!

Building on the first manual established in 1995, this revised *Parish Ministry of Care Manual* will expand on various ministry models, our baptismal call to serve Christ and others, liturgical ministry of care, needs of those being visited, training for Ministers of Care, and care for Ministers of Care. Watch for the launch of this great resource tool at the 2009 Convention!



## [www.chassk.ca](http://www.chassk.ca)

The site has been 'under construction' for some time... but we're excited to announce that come July 15th, we will be 'open for business' again! An exciting new feature is our new on-line library listing. All our books and resources have been catalogued - ready for you to view and borrow! Give us a call and we can arrange access to whatever materials you'd like to use.

## What's New in our Facilities

**The 96th Anniversary of St. Elizabeth's Hospital** was commemorated at the Annual Assembly of the Catholic Health Association of Canada on May 2, 2008 in Quebec City. Dianne Doyle, Chair of the CHAC Board, presented a plaque and congratulatory wishes to Fenton Yeo, who received this award on behalf of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. With consideration that the hospital is no longer a Catholic facility, the CHAC wanted to acknowledge this milestone and celebrate the dedication and values that sustain Catholic health ministry in Canada.



**Farewell Wishes to Sr. Carmen Marquis** who, after nearly 30 years of service to St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, has now moved to Youville Auxiliary Hospital in St. Albert, AB. Sr. Carmen was the last Grey Nun to have served at St. Paul's, and she will be dearly missed.

**Farewell Wishes to Sr. Therese Vachon and Sr. Florence Caners** who have left St. Joseph's Hospital/Foyer d'Youville this spring. They were the last Grey Nuns in the community of Gravelbourg, and they too, will be greatly missed.

**Macklin hosted its 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament** on Friday, June 13, 2008. The day was filled with lots of 'lucky' shots - especially for Mr. Felix Feser (shown below), who has attended all six tournaments. Approximately \$13,000 was raised for



the Macklin & District Health Foundation. The Foundation supports St. Joseph's Health Centre,

Macklin Home Care, Macklin Ambulance, Villa Marie and Macklin Medical Clinic.

## CHAC Highlights

**400 Years: Full of Spirit, Full of Life; A Story of generosity and faith. Always engaged, Always passionate** was the theme for the 2008 Convention held in Quebec City, QC from May 2 - 4. It was a most fitting location to celebrate 400 years of Catholic health care ministry in what is considered the cradle of civilization in North America. Surrounded by historically significant sites, it was easy to appreciate our roots and be inspired by our rich legacy to envision the future.

### **Congratulations to the 2008 Performance Citation Award Winner:**

#### **Rev. Michael Prieur**

As a specialist in bioethics for over 35 years, Fr. Prieur is a consultant to St. Joseph's Health Care in London, the Canadian Catholic Bishops, and the CHAC. He has also played a central role in the preparation and on-going revisions of the Health Care Ethics Guide developed in 1991, revised in 2000, and now undergoing its second revision. The Performance Citation Award is the highest distinction in Canada for Catholic Health Care.



**Available in our CHAS Library:** 2008 Convention DVD sessions of Fr. Gerald Arbuckle (*Health care: Crafting Catholic Identity in Postmodern Canada*) and Sr. Sue Mosteller (*Professionalism with Passion*) are available at CHAS. Call the CHAS office at (306) 655-5330 if you are interested in borrowing them.

### **Heading west to Vancouver, April 24 - 26, 2009**

The CHAC Convention now heads west, to be hosted in the wonderful city of Vancouver. The theme will be ***Ethics Matter: Creating an Ethical Culture in Health Care***. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Margaret Somerville, who has an extensive national and international publishing and speaking record, and regularly consults to a wide variety of bodies including governments and NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations). Also featured as the Communities of Practice Guest Speaker will be Dr. David Kuhl who is well known across Canada for his work and passion regarding end of life issues.