

chas communiqué

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CHAS 2009 Convention: Circles of Care

The lovely northern city of Prince Albert was the location of the 66th Annual Convention, themed *Circles of Care: People Caring for People*. Held in the unique venue of St. Mary High School, more than 200 delegates from across the province enjoyed the energy and spirit of a Catholic educational facility.

Featured at the opening gathering were the Knights of Columbus Liturgical Dancers, a group comprised of Catholic students from Prince Albert. The handiwork of some St. Mary's students was also featured for silent auction throughout the convention. Used as table centers, this artwork (created by kids with mental and physical disabilities) was purchased by delegates with more than \$600 raised and returned to the art department of St. Mary's.



K of C Dancers

Our keynote speaker, Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie spoke on *The Wellness Circle: Twelve Spiritual Steps to Healthy Caring*. Using the 'twelve-step' model, Archbishop Lavoie brought profound teaching on the powerful energy of human emotion, and how each of us deepens our spirituality—and our ability to care for ourselves and others—on the basis of what we do with our pain.



Archbishop Lavoie

At the Banquet Awards Ceremony, the Moola-Freer Palliative Care Award was presented to Sylvia Keall, Palliative Care Coordinator for Five Hills Health Region. Receiving the Moola-Freer Scholarship, given for the advancement of palliative care education, was Corinne Sandstrom, Palliative Care Coordinator of the Sun Country Health Region.



Dr. and Mrs. Moola present award to Sylvia Keall (center)



Peter Martens presents to Elaine Exner

This year's recipient of the CHAS Mission Award was Elaine Exner, Spiritual Care Coordinator for St. Peter's Hospital in Melville. The Mission Award is established to honour an individual who exemplifies the mission of Catholic health care in the province.

Receiving an Honorary Membership to CHAS was James Schneider of Regina. Elected to the Board in 1998, James served in a variety of roles, including President from 2002—2004. He also served as our appointed representative on the Catholic Health Association of Canada board from 2005—2009.



James Schneider

Always a highlight of the convention is the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick Ceremony. Our special thanks goes to Bishop Thévenot for presiding and offering the homily; also, thanks to Bishop Bayda and Archbishop Lavoie for concelebrating.

The religious order chosen to receive a tribute was the Sisters of our Lady of the Cross. Four vignettes were woven throughout the convention highlighting the work and ministry of the Sisters in our province. CHAS offered each a card and small bouquet to honor their many years of service. Delegates enjoyed the concluding inspirational speaker, Dan Jelinski with his session *Stories are Good Medicine*.

We look forward to the 2010 Convention (October 25 & 26) in Saskatoon with the theme: *What is Our Tomorrow? Living the Compassion of Christ in Health Care*.



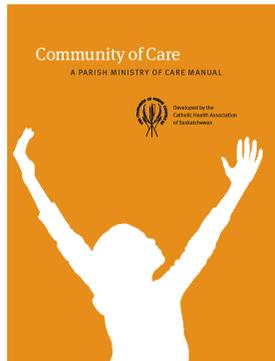
L to R: Sr. Marie Raiwet, Sr. Stella Clouthier, Sr. Alice LeClaire, Sr. Yvonne Raiwet, Sr. Therese Leclair



Dan Jelinski



Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual



As a completed work of a two-year project charter, the *Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual* was proudly launched at the 2009 Annual Convention. Building on the 1995 CHAC Citation Award winning manual *Parish Home Ministry of Care Basics*,

this manual brings current and extensive information on the philosophy and theology of Ministry of Care, models of ministry within a parish, development and training components of a Ministry of Care Program, and links to resources and a variety of associated ministries.

Project team members from across the province worked diligently to gather information, investigate resources, and solicit 'home-grown' quotes from those who have much experience with parish ministry of care. We offer a special thank-you to Archbishop

Daniel Bohan who, on behalf of the Bishops of Saskatchewan, heartily endorsed and recommended this work.

Although this manual is primarily focused towards a Parish program, those who are facility-based will find a wealth of information for their volunteers and spiritual care providers.

In order to promote this valuable resource, information and training sessions are currently being coordinated through the CHAS office for parishes interested in developing or re-invigorating their Ministry of Care Program. CHAS is also working in partnership with Diocesan offices across the province to ensure that this opportunity and resource is made available to all who are interested.

CHAS is also very pleased to announce that we are working with Novalis Publishing to develop a national edition of this manual that will be promoted to parishes across Canada. The anticipated launch of this national edition will be at the upcoming CHAC Convention, April 30—May 2, 2010 in Toronto.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast



Catholic facilities from across Saskatchewan were invited to choose a volunteer representative to attend the CHAS 2009 Annual Convention as special guests. At the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast held on Tuesday, October 27th, volunteers were seated at a head table and recognized for not only their personal work, but also for the efforts of all the volunteers they represent. At the conclusion of the

program, each volunteer came forward to receive a thank-you card and small gift which was presented to them by their facility leader.

Thank-you to all those in the facilities that worked to make this event happen, and thank you to ALL the volunteers in the facilities who continually invest in caring and supporting those who are in need.

Back row, L to R: Brian Martin (PA), Henry Siwak (Volunteer, PA), Maxine Tomy (Volunteer, St. Paul's Hospital), Fenton Yeo (Macklin), Rick Schindel (MJ), Elaine Exner (Melville), Terrie Michaud (NB), John Kelly (Gravelbourg)

Front row, L to R: Sr. Cecile Richard (Esterhazy), Annette Hine (Volunteer, Esterhazy), Jean Morrison (St. Paul's Hospital), Sr. Donata Rolheiser (Volunteer, Macklin), Leanne Facca (Volunteer, MJ), Wilmarie Sastaunik (Volunteer, Melville), Jean Schwan (Volunteer, NB), Sr. Margo Hamel (Volunteer, Gravelbourg)

Compassionate Healers Mass

In collaboration with Archbishop Daniel Bohan, the name of the White Mass was changed to the Compassionate Healers Mass to better reflect the intent of the gathering and the example of our compassionate, healing Christ.

St. Mary's Parish in Saskatoon hosted the Saskatoon Diocesan celebration on September 16th. This was held in conjunction with their 90th Anniversary celebrations. Fr. Tony Bidgood presided, Bishop Brian Bayda provided the homily.

Mont St. Joseph Home in Prince Albert invited CHAS to join in their annual Giving and Receiving Celebration, an ecumenical service which featured the elders of their home blessing those who serve and give care. This celebration was held on September 23rd with Bishop Albert Thévenot presiding at a Liturgy of the Word.

Holy Rosary Cathedral hosted the Regina Diocesan celebration on November 5th. Archbishop Daniel Bohan was the presider and homilist.

Thank-you to all who organized and celebrated these events across our province. Initiated in 2006, this celebration continues to provide a time to gather and commission those involved in Catholic health in our facilities and communities.

Commissioning of CHAS Board & Staff



A commissioning ceremony of the 2009-2010 Board of Directors and staff was held at the CHAS Convention on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Bishop Albert Thévenot led the commissioning.

From L to R: Bob Williston, Joy Mendel, Sandra Kary, Trish Holst, Fenton Yeo (President), Bert Yakichuk (Past President), Corey Miller, Peter Martens (Secretary-Treasurer), Brian Martin (Vice-President), Chris Boychuk, Marie Dietrich-Leurer, Ed Hoffart. Absent from photo are: Fr. Gerry Bauche, Fr. Jim Kaptein, Shirley McNeil, Scott Irwin (CHMS Participant/Observer).

Bill C-384 Physician Assisted Suicide

Earlier this fall, the CHAS office sent a letter to each of our thirteen federal MPs in Saskatchewan regarding our opposition to a proposed bill (C-384) which would legalize physician-assisted suicide in Canada.

“Catholic health care opposes the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide on the grounds that they undermine the dignity of the human person by: weakening respect for the fundamental right to life; denigrating the process of dying; and rejecting the communal dimension of the person.” (September 2009 Advocacy Alert, CHAC).

Bill C-384 received its first hour of debate on October 2, 2009. Although Government Bills are affected by the current prorogation of government, Private Members bills such as this one will continue once Parliament resumes. The Bill's second hour of debate is anticipated by March 15, 2010, with a vote shortly thereafter. For more information regarding the Catholic health perspective on this bill please visit www.chac.ca. Please contact your local Member of Parliament for updates regarding the progression of the bill.

What's New with our Members

A Farewell Liturgy was celebrated on September 3, 2009 for **Bishop Albert LeGatt** at St. Patrick's Church in Saskatoon.

Congratulations to Foyer St. Joseph Nursing Home in Ponteix as they celebrated their 50th Anniversary on October 2, 2009.

Work is underway to restore **St. Joseph's Park in Macklin** and dedicate it to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth who have served this community for 87 years. This project, estimated at \$70,000, is anticipating a June 30, 2010 completion date.

A November 26, 2009 Appreciation Event for **Les and Irene Dubé** included the presentation of a **papal blessing**. The Dubés were honored for their support and generous contributions towards Catholic health care, diocesan institutions and humanitarian services.

Congratulations and best wishes to CHAS members who also received papal recognition: **André Moquin** of Gravelbourg and **James Schneider** and **John Hoffort** of Regina, becoming Knights of the Order of St. Gregory the Great; and **Jean Mahony** of Regina, awarded Dame Commander of St. Gregory the Great.

Congratulations to **Monsignor Donald Bolen** of Regina who on December 21, 2009 was announced as the **next Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon**. We eagerly anticipate your shepherding and leadership.

A New Year's Resolution for Caregivers

As a caregiver, I know that in order to care for others I:

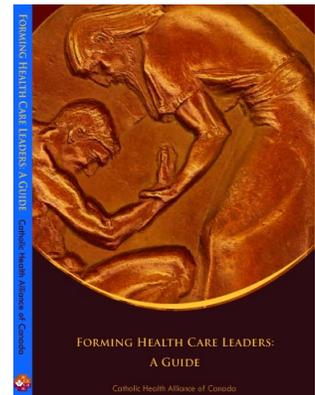
*Must feel cared for,
Need a power source,
Must have proper nutrition, rest and exercise,
Must learn how to be gentle with myself,
Need support and encouragement,
Must set limits and respect boundaries,
Need to laugh and play.*

-caring without wearing, Carol Travilla

CHAC Highlights

Farewell and best wishes to James Roche, President & CEO of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC), who announced his resignation effective the end of February 2010. James served the CHAC in a variety of roles for more than 16 years. His commitment and leadership in Catholic health care has been exemplary, and we wish him much success in his future endeavors.

Check out this new publication - **Forming Health Care Leaders: A Guide** which outlines and explains the themes that are essential for the formation of leaders for the kind of health care that strives to achieve the highest ideals of human dignity and fulfillment. For more information please visit www.chac.ca.



CHAC Annual Convention, April 30 - May 2, 2010, Toronto, ON. This year's theme is *Health Care Trends and Transformations*. Keynote speakers include: Dianne Doyle, Jim Carroll and Sr. Carol Keehan, DC and Dr. Myles Sheehan, SJ. Also presenting will be Bob Williston and Sandra Kary highlighting our new resource tool *Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual*.

World Day of the Sick



Pope John Paul II instituted World Day of the Sick on May 13, 1992, setting aside February 11, Feast of our Lady of Lourdes, for its annual celebration. On this day, the ill are encouraged to

reflect on the Christian meaning of suffering. The occasion also provides an opportunity for those involved in health care to recall the roots of their healing mission. Please contact your local parish or Catholic health facility for celebration initiatives.