

# chas communiqué

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## What Is Our Tomorrow? CHAS 2010 Convention

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual CHAS Convention was hosted in the familiar setting of the Delta Bessborough in Saskatoon from October 24 - 26, 2010. We were very pleased to attract more than 180 delegates from across the province, and grateful to receive strong financial sponsorship from our membership.

Our dynamic keynote speakers delivered sessions that built on the theme *What is Our Tomorrow? Living the Compassion of Christ*. Sr. Lynn Levo offered a pre-conference leadership session that addressed how to create a culture of collaboration in a Catholic facility, followed the next day by her keynote address that articulated 'Emotional Intelligence: The Compass that Guides Compassion.' A wealth of information, Sr. Lynn offered practical and insightful teaching on developing compassion.



Sr. Lynn Levo

Sr. Nuala Kenny, a familiar face to those in Catholic health, brought an energizing and engaging message regarding compassion in the 21st century, and how to link mission, ethics and social justice in this context. She highlighted the balance between the good of one versus the good of all.



Sr. Nuala Kenny

Throughout the convention, delegates listened to vignettes describing the work and ministry of a founding congregation in Catholic health in the province. Highlighted this year were the Sisters of Notre Dame d'Auvergne from Ponteix and Saskatoon. As a tribute to their



L to R: Sr. Marie-Paule Béliveau, Sr. Mariette April, Sr. Marguerite Dumont, Sr. Fernande Larose, Sr. Kathleen Bolton

many years of service and ministry, bouquets and thanks were offered at the Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

Also receiving recognition at the awards ceremony was this year's Mission Award recipient, Harvey Fox from Regina. Harvey enjoyed an extensive career leading in numerous Catholic health facilities and serving the Boards of both CHAS and the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan.



Brian Martin (R) presents Mission Award to Harvey Fox (L)

John and Florence Hoffort from Regina received Honorary Memberships for their many years of service to CHAS and their contribution in ministry of care at the parish level.



Sr. Anne Collins (L) offers citation and Honorary Membership to Florence and John Hoffart

Special thanks goes to the Redemptorist community in Saskatoon who came to celebrate the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick Ceremony to conclude our gathering. Thanks to Fr. Tony Bidgood for presiding and offering the homily.

A keepsake for convention delegates included a 2011 pocket calendar that highlighting the 14 Catholic facilities across the province. Each facility featured their mission statement, founding congregation, purpose and size, and staff/volunteer count. The print run on this calendar was extended to 4000+ copies to provide distribution to all the Catholic facilities' staff, board and volunteers.

Mark your calendars for October 24 - 25, 2011 when we will gather in Moose Jaw for our 68th Annual CHAS Convention!



## Annual 'Town-Hall' Meeting Outcomes



**Raphael Amato**  
facilitates town-hall  
format

Trying a new approach for an annual meeting, the CHAS membership engaged in a town-hall format to discuss and offer feedback on two key areas: how to fulfill current needs in the facilities and parishes, and how to strategically strengthen the linkages between them. Many practical ideas and thoughts were offered, providing the Board of Directors and staff with critical input that will help define the goals and work of the Association.

Common themes that emerged included: continued support and education on parish nursing, ways to educate front-line staff and parishioners, strategies to engage clergy, and ongoing education on topics such as advanced care directives, palliative care, mental health, ethics in health care and compassionate care. If you are interested in a copy of the full summary please contact the CHAS office at 655-5330 or email [cath.health@sasktel.net](mailto:cath.health@sasktel.net).

## Another Successful Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Now in its second year, our Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, held on October 26, 2010 (during the convention) enjoyed volunteer representatives from 10 of 13 Catholic facilities. These volunteers come as guests to the convention, thanks to the generous sponsorship offered by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. Kathi Lewis, Director of Volunteer Workforce Service Initiatives at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon was the emcee. Robin Mitchell,



currently the Executive Director of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation, was the guest speaker. Our honored 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.

Front row, L to R: Ginny LaBelle (Volunteer, Estevan); Terrie Michaud (North Battleford); Frances Stang (Volunteer, St. Ann's Saskatoon); Eleanor Keller (Volunteer, Melville); Annette Calyniuk (Volunteer, St. Paul's Saskatoon); Therese Jelinski (Volunteer, Prince Albert); Fr. Raymond Carignan (Volunteer, Ponteix); Diane Kuzz (Volunteer, Macklin); Annette Hine (Volunteer, Esterhazy); Sr. Cecile Richard (Esterhazy); Irene Dokkebakken (Volunteer, Gravelbourg)

Back row, L to R: Normand Poirier (Estevan); Dora Brown (Volunteer, North Battleford); Rae Sveinbjornson (St. Ann's Saskatoon); Elaine Exner (Melville); Jean Morrison (St. Paul's Saskatoon); Brian Martin (Prince Albert); Roxanne Stringer (Ponteix); Fenton Yeo (Macklin); John Kelly (Gravelbourg).

## CHAS Board and Staff for 2010 - 2011



**We are pleased to introduce our 2010-11 CHAS Board and Staff:**

Back row, L to R: Brian Zimmer (newly elected, Saskatoon); Peter Martens (Secretary/Treasurer, Saskatoon); Chris Boychuk (Vice-Chair, Saskatoon); Brian Martin (Chair, PA); Fenton Yeo (Past-Chair, Macklin); Bert Yakichuk (Regina).

Middle Row: Trish Holst (Executive Assistant), Bonnie Thiele Hunt (newly elected, Regina); Shirley McNeil (Saskatoon).

Front Row: Colleen Loewen (Administrative Assistant); Sandra Kary (Executive Director)

Absent from photo are: Fr. Berry Bauche (Weyburn); Bishop Don Bolen (Bishop's Rep); Joy Mendel (Ethicist); Scott Irwin (CHMS Participant/Observer).

## Compassionate Healers Mass Now in its 5th Year

In the fall of 2006, CHAS initiated the hosting of a health care mass in the Saskatoon Diocese. The following year, the Prince Albert Diocese and Regina Archdiocese gladly joined this invitation, hosting their own celebrations intended for the benefit and intentions of medical personnel, health care workers and administrators, parish nurses, men and women religious in health care ministry and ministry of care volunteers in parishes across the province.

Thank-you to all who served and celebrated the Compassionate Healers Masses across the province. The Prince Albert Diocese held its Mass on September 11, 2010 at St. Joseph's Parish where Bishop Thévenot was the celebrant and homilist. The Saskatoon Diocese hosted its Mass on September 29, 2010 at Holy Family Parish with Bishop Don Bolen as the celebrant and homilist. At that time, Bishop Don also received an Honorary Membership to CHAS, which is customary for any new Saskatchewan Bishop. The Archdiocese of Regina hosted its Mass on October 19th, at the Holy Rosary Cathedral with Archbishop Daniel Bohan as the celebrant and homilist.



Bishop Don Bolen receiving Honorary Membership to CHAS from ED, Sandra Kary

## Deacon Bob Williston Moves to Full-Time Parish Ministry



Deacon Bob, best known across the land as a Redemptorist missionary and a singer/songwriter, joined the CHAS team in September 2008 in a new role as part-time Mission Educator for CHAS. Since that time, our Association has been truly blessed by his heart, passion and vision. One of his primary efforts was the development and promotion of a revised *Community of Care: A Parish Ministry of Care Manual*. Bob's rich understanding of parish life and service evidenced itself in the pages of this work, and brought it to life as he travelled the province leading training workshops. Among many other endeavours, his work with the Compassionate Healers Masses, Mission Week, and Convention filled a great deal of his time.

Earlier this year, Bob's role with the Redemptorists came to an end, and the opportunity to minister as a Pastoral Associate at Holy Family Church in Saskatoon quickly presented itself. Parish ministry quickly became a full-time venture, and it became clear that he couldn't retain a part-time commitment to CHAS in addition.

Sadly, we must say farewell to Deacon Bob as a part of our staff team. Although we will miss him dearly, we will look forward to his contribution as a committed CHAS member and volunteer on the upcoming Convention Project Team. Thank-you, Bob, our heartfelt blessings and prayers are with you as you continue to minister to those in your care.

## Welcome to Colleen Loewen



"When you grow up you are going to be a Dairy Farmers wife!" was a line I typically heard as I was growing up. Looking back, growing up on our dairy farm and having to milk cows had its benefits, but as a teenager I couldn't get away fast enough. And I did, at age 19; I was married to Larry and have not stopped moving since. Now I look back and I am extremely thankful for my roots, my spiritual background and hard work ethic. They have become very valuable to me. Proverbs 3:5, 6 says "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." This path has blessed me with three children and taken me to

Bolivia as a missionary for 10 years. Now back in Canada, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work for CHAS as a part-time Administrative Assistant, and I hope and pray that I can be a blessing and a valuable part of the team.

## What's New in Catholic Health World Day of the Sick

### CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR NEW INNOVATIVE CATHOLIC LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY IN SASKATOON by Francis Maza and Andrea Ledding

The walls of the new Catholic long-term care facility known as Samaritan Place are rising. The 100-suite model of “resident-responsive” accommodation, service and care is scheduled to open in early 2012.

Samaritan Place, a \$27 million project of Amicus Health Care Inc. and the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan is located in Saskatoon’s Stonebridge neighbourhood. It is described as an innovative pilot project that will be dedicated to supporting residents’ “joy of life.” Twenty of the Samaritan Place units will allow couples to remain together while 24 units will serve individuals with dementia.

A sod-turning for the facility was held August 5 and construction is well underway. The building’s foundation along with roughing in of utilities are complete, pouring of concrete slabs was 80 per cent finished at the end of October and framing of walls has started. Mechanical and electrical trades are also at work.

Amicus Health Care Inc. recently announced the appointment of Juanita Tremeer as executive director of Samaritan Place. A registered nurse with over 25 years of experience in the Saskatoon Health Region, Juanita Tremeer has served as a patient advocate for those requiring both acute and long term care and has led efforts to develop and promote patient rights within the system.

In her most recent role as a Continuing Care and Seniors’ Health Associate, Tremeer championed resident-centred models of care and developed a new quality framework for long-term service delivery within the Saskatoon Health Region.

Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan (CHMS) created a wholly-owned subsidiary, Amicus Health Care Inc., to govern and operate Samaritan Place. The vision of the facility is to provide a home setting rather than an institution, with space for gardening and community building, and to develop a vibrant spiritual and religious care program. The new facility will provide Level 3 and Level 4 long term care, and includes 56 individual living units, 24 designated for clients with dementia, and 20 units for pairings where one requires a higher level of care than their spouse/family member.

“Samaritan Place and its model of resident-responsive accommodation is a gospel-inspired and hope-filled initiative, promising to bring excellent health care and a wide range of services to its residents,” said Bishop Donald Bolen, who led the gathering in prayer and consecrated the ground with a blessing during the ground breaking ceremony in August.

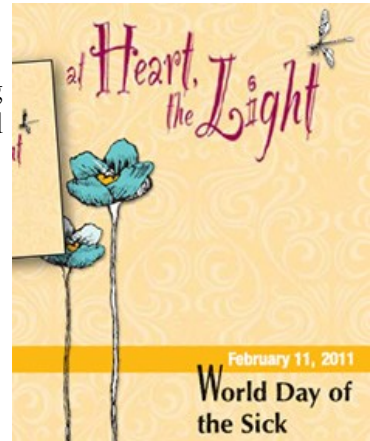
“I’m most grateful to the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan and the Amicus Health Care Board for their work in guiding this project.”

For further information about Samaritan Place, contact Amicus interim CEO Brenda FitzGerald at [b.fitzgerald@amicushealthcare.ca](mailto:b.fitzgerald@amicushealthcare.ca)

February 11, 2011 is a time to reflect on the Christian meaning of suffering and recall God’s health-giving presence; we are reminded that God often heals and restores life in unexpected ways.

World Day of the Sick is also meant to recognize the importance of those who care for the sick and elderly, whether in a health care facility or at home.

We encourage you to contact your local parish or Catholic health facility for celebration initiatives. On this day, take time to reach out with an act of kindness toward someone facing illness.



### Palliative Care Highlighted

On November 9, 2010, a round-table discussion was hosted at St. Paul’s Hospital for the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate



Care. Moderated by Sandra Kary from CHAS, invited representatives from various provincial advocacy groups and health regions offered recommendations on four primary areas of concern—palliative and long term care, elder abuse, suicide prevention and persons with disabilities.

Members of Parliament Kelly Block and Rob Clarke were in attendance to receive recommendations on these key areas. The mandate of the parliamentary committee is to engage in public consultation from across Canada to form the basis of a major report detailing the state of palliative and compassionate care in Canada and prescribing certain consensus policy remedies supportable by all parties. The anticipated release date of this report is the Spring of 2011.