New Caribbean Cardinal
Archbishop Emeritus
Kelvin Felix
2013 ended dramatically for many persons when on the morning of Christmas Eve, torrential rains caused by a trough system passing through Caribbean, descended on the southwest of the island causing flooding, landslides, and damage to roads, property, homes and vehicles. By the grace of God no lives were lost in Dominica, but sadly many were lost on our sister islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent. We pray for the souls of those lost and we extend sympathy to their families.

Many have questions as to why this is happened, Why these changes is the weather patterns? Why so much destruction and why so many deaths? But in 1 Thessalonians 5: 2-3 we read, “You know the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people feel secure and at peace, the disaster will suddenly come upon them as the birth pangs of a woman in labour, and they will not escape.” These are the signs of the times. No one knows when a disaster may strike, an earthquake, a storm, a landslide, a volcano, a tsunami, an accident or the loss of a family member. So we must remain alert, prepare ourselves physically and mentally as best we can and especially prepare our souls because we cannot prevent disasters, they are inevitable.

In Scripture we read “…Watch at all times and pray, that you may be able to escape all that is going to happen and to stand before the son of Man.” Luke 21:36.

Let us, as the New Year begins, renew our commitment to God so that not only will we have resolutions to lose weight, exercise, eat right, increase our savings, join a group, spend more time with family, but among all these resolutions we may also choose to commit to a closer relationship with God, deepen our faith and love one another so that whatever may come our way we may be ready.
We began our Synod Implementation Plan with the enthronement of the Bible in all Churches in the Diocese and encouraged the practice of Lectio Divina as a means of increasing our knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and how they speak to us personally and collectively, so as to be better ready for the New Evangelization being promoted by the Church Universal.

The Solemnity of Christ the King this last year coinciding with the end of the Year of Faith. The Year opened on October 11th 2012 by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. His was a call to the Universal Catholic Community to rekindle the lost enthusiasm required for the continued practice of the Faith. The Holy Father emphasized the need for Clergy, Religious and Faithful alike to “rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the Word of God which is faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, offered as assistance for his disciples.”

During this pastoral year we will continue our focus on the Holy Scriptures as the primary tool for the New Evangelization. At its Annual Plenary Meeting held in Guadeloupe in April last year, the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference took the decision to promote in all the Antilles Bishops. Obviously, this means that the Bible has to become the basis of all pastoral plans and activities in the region. Thankfully for us in the Diocese of Roseau, our Pastoral focus has been in congruence with the present thrust of the Antilles Bishops. Obviously, we need to do more to get our faithful more steeped in the knowledge and living of the Gospel message.

In response to the requests of the Bishops of the Antilles, a training workshop on Bible Animation of all Pastoral Life, was held in St. Lucia from December 9 - 12, 2013, for participants from the four Diocese which comprise the Province of Castries; namely, St. John’s-Basseterre, Roseau, St. George’s in Grenada and Castries. Five participants, including the Bishop represented the Diocese of Roseau at that workshop. A similar planning workshop for delegates from all the Diocese of the Antilles will be held in Trinidad later this month to chart the way forward for such Biblical Animation in the region. On the Diocesan level two weekend workshops (January 18th & February 1st, 2014, are organized for Clergy, Religious, and representatives of all the parishes in the Diocese, to be familiarized with that evangelical thrust.

Therefore, I encourage all parishes, schools, all church groups, families and others, to intensify their practice of Lectio Divina in particular and other forms of studying and praying the Scriptures, in general, so as to become more imbued with the Word of God. We need to nourish ourselves for the New Evangelization ahead.

We have also learnt of the intention of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops next year, from October 5 – 19, on the theme: Pastoral Challenges of the family in the context of evangelization. In so doing the Holy Father is seeking to address the prime locus of any form of evangelization in the Church—the family. So we pray for the success of that Synod.

In conclusion, let me remind you that the Pastoral theme for this coming Liturgical year is: Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28). Let us work together to build God’s Church, as “Disciples on Mission: Gifted and Called!”

D ear sisters and brothers in Christ, you will recall that we convened our Diocesan Synod in October of 2010 under the theme: Disciples on Mission: Gifted and Called. The subsequent Synod Implementation Plan was launched on the 1st Sunday of Advent the following year (November 27th, 2011). At the time we set for ourselves ten-year plan, broken in three segments of three years. In the first segment, corresponding to the first three years, we focus on the Word of God (i.e. Evangelization). In the first year of that segment (November 2011 – November 2012) we focused on the sub-theme: “Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). In the second year 2012 - 2013, we focused on the sub-theme: “Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ” (St. Jerome). This third year we wish to focus on the sub-theme: Go and Make Disciples, as mandated by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew (ch. 28). The rationale being, after we have fed ourselves on the word of God what we are required to do is to evangelize.

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“IGNORANCE OF SCRIPTURES IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST”
The Diocese of Roseau welcomes two Nigerian Fathers: Bartholomew Adamu and John-Mark Ogu. They arrived on our shores on November 14, 2013 to help alleviate our present shortage of personnel for ministerial and pastoral service in the Diocese.

The two Fathers hail from the Diocese of Minna in Nigeria. We are very grateful to their bishop, the Most Reverend Martin Uzoukwu, who is a classmate of Msgr. Eustace Thomas. They were students in Rome.

After a month of orientation into the Diocese, Fr. Bartholomew is now assigned as Parish Priest to St. Theresa’s Parish in Salisbury while Fr. John-Mark is assigned to St. Peter’s Parish in Colihaut. We wish them joy and success in their ministry among us.

We also welcome the return of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny which had closed pastoral operations in the Diocese since 2009. We are pleased to have with us Sr. Grace Ramlakhan, SJC and Sr. Jaya Marie Fernandez, SJC. They are to be based in the parish of St. John-St. Lewis, Portsmouth, and will be engaged with the ministry of CARE of the Elderly, the Catholic Schools and the parish.

We wish them a fruitful ministry among us and pray God’s abundant blessings upon them.

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New Caribbean Cardinal - Archbishop Emeritus Kelvin Felix

The Diocese of Roseau is extremely happy to receive the news of the naming of Archbishop Emeritus Kelvin Felix as Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. He is among 19 Catholic prelates from around the world who were elevated to the office by Pope Francis.

The announcement was made by the Holy Father during the Angelus at the Vatican on Sunday, January 12, 2014. In his announcement, the pope stated that the new Cardinals “represent the deep ecclesiastical relationship between the Church of Rome and the other Churches throughout the world.”

- Archbishop Kelvin Felix was born in Dominica on February 15, 1933.
- He was ordained a priest on April 8, 1956 at the age of 23.
- On July 17, 1981 he was appointed archbishop of Castries and ordained archbishop on April 5, 1981.
- He retired on February 15, 2008.
- As Archbishop of Castries, he was the Metropolitan of the Province which comprises the Archdiocese of Castries in St. Lucia, St. George’s in Grenada, Roseau in Dominica and St. John’s-Basses in Antigua and St. Kitts.
- He has also served on various Vatican committees, including the Pontifical Council for Family Life, the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, Cor Unum and the Synodal Council for America.
- Since his retirement as archbishop, Archbishop Felix moved back to Dominica where he has been helping out in various parishes and served as parish Priest of St. Patrick, Grand Bay and St. Mark in Soufriere.

The consistory, that it, the ceremony at which the cardinal are formally instated, will be held in Rome on February 22, 2014.

cont’d on page 15
Tell us a little about yourself and your role in the Church in your parish?

I am Cynthia Serrant, single with no children. I am a Lay Associate in Pastoral Care, member of the choir, flower arranger, lector, a member of the Legion of Mary, former catechist, instructor of parents and godparents in preparation of baptism. I have been deeply involved in the Church for more than forty years.

How did you start your services for the church?

As a young girl I attended Mass on a regular basis and I can recall going to Mass in the early morning at 5:30 a.m. with my neighbour and relatives and then there was that desire to deepen my relationship with the Lord and so I started getting involved with the Church. I can recall Fr. Huysmans and Sr. Elza giving instructions for people who were interested. It was like an adult education program. We met once a month on Saturday. It was a three-year course. But even after this program was finished I continued with other programs. I also attended the catechetical institute in St. Lucia in the summer for three consecutive years. It was really deep and I really enjoyed the sessions.

Over the years have there been any special moments, things that have deepened your faith or touched you that you might want to share with us?

I can recall attending a conference in Trinidad. And from the time I left the Canefield Airport, I saw a vision of the Blessed Mary of Perpetual Help in front of the plane. I thought to myself what does that mean. I saw the vision of our Blessed Mother, it was raining a lot but eventually we landed safely.

And I had another experience during the Charismatic Conference. I was before the Blessed Sacrament for a long while kneeling down and then all of a sudden I saw a cross, a blue cross forming on the monstrance and after the cross, I just saw a vision of the risen Lord. So all this helped me to deepen my faith.

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The Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus - Part III

Political upheavals in France impacted the life and ministry of the Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus; it was providential! The anti-religious laws imposed by the State, forced the sisters out of their schools and teaching and challenged their religious identity. By 1902, seventy-seven schools managed by the sisters were closed. Sisters who remained in France had to remove their habits and begin to wear secular clothes. Some were forced into exile. In faith, others set out on mission to serve God’s people in foreign lands.

Attentive to the calls of the Church to serve in lands far beyond the shores of France, the Congregation responded generously. Its first overseas mission was in Natal, Africa in 1897; seven sisters sailed to Natal in response to a call from the Church in Africa. Their mission in Natal was short lived; the sisters returned to France and opened in Africa years later. From 1902 onwards, sisters were sent on mission, giving birth to the Congregation in Belgium, England United States of America and Canada. From 1953, they were sent to Africa, South America and the Antilles (Caribbean). In unknown lands, the sisters faced significant challenges.

Courageously, trusting in God’s providence, the sisters faced the challenges and uncertainties of the mission. The means of communication with France was limited and difficult. Harsh winters and hot summers affected the sisters. They struggled with cultural differences and language barriers but remained hopeful.

In 1902, on their arrival in New York, two French sisters, Mother Marie Ste. Elisabeth and Sr. Marie Sainte Zenaide, wrote: “How painful it is to arrive in a country where you have no home, where not a soul in the world is waiting for you or thinking of you!... But hope is our guide...”

“This is to live in hope: to be born again with each succeeding day, hear the insistent call...and go!” (Living Tradition)
I am Margaret Augustine, a member of the Soufriere Roman Catholic Church, in the Parish of St. Mark.

Being born and raised into the Catholic faith, I have over the years been involved in several church ministries. It has been part of my way of maintaining closeness with the church. My late mother Dorothy Abraham was my great inspiration, and my deepest interest was church decorating. For years, going in search of a variety of plants and flowers to blend in with the celebration of different occasions at church, was my delight.

By 2002, I succeeded my mother, and followed her method of collecting plants and flowers to decorate the church for various feasts and occasions. I then realized that God has blessed me with this particular talent, namely, the decorative ideas, how to place and arrange the flowers at the entrance of the church, beneath the choir left, and at the chapel altars. It all came naturally to me. I always take two steps backwards and view/ admire the arrangements before concluding that the task is finished. It felt as though the flowers smiled right back at me. Then I would add the finishing touches.

My love for flowers continued to flourish and I value the church decorating ministry even more, when I hear the remarks “Job well done Margaret, lovely arrangements, the church is so beautiful”.

My only formal training was a two-day workshop conducted by a Japanese group years ago. I continue to enhance my gift through my ministry in the church.

I recognize the importance of recruiting and training a group of young aspirants who can benefit from time-tested techniques while including the new artistic expressions for the glory of God and the delight of those who come to worship.

The ministry is rewarding in itself as it helps one to see and appreciate the beauty of creation in flowers and plants.

Dear Interested:

The reason a Bishop preaches while seated is because of the chair. The chair of a Bishop at his cathedral is a special symbol of the Bishop. This chair, the “cathedra,” is what gives the cathedral its name. A cathedral is the place where the cathedra is permanently located.

Cathedra means “chair” in Latin and “seat” in Greek (kathedra). You can spot the cathedra because it usually has the coat of arms of the diocese and the Bishop near it. Only the Bishop is allowed to sit in the cathedra because this chair is the sign of the Bishop’s office and the unity among all the parishes in the diocese. If the Bishop is not present and another priest presides at Mass in the cathedral, he must sit in a different chair.

From the cathedra (or in Latin, “ex cathedra”), the Bishop exercises the three primary responsibilities of his office: “The office of Bishop as teacher, sanctifier, and pastor of his Church shines forth most clearly in a liturgy that he celebrates with his people” (Ceremonial of Bishops, 11).

This doesn’t mean that the Bishop can’t teach, bless, and lead from anywhere else. But the cathedra is a primary symbol of his office and of his responsibility to the diocese. From the cathedra, the Bishop teaches, presides at prayer, and stands as the leader of all the faithful in the diocese. And because the liturgy is the source and summit of the Church’s activity and power, the people of the diocese gathered around their Bishop at his chair is a powerful sign of the presence of Christ.

The Bishop at his chair is also a sign of the Church’s unity because the Bishop is our connection to all the other dioceses around the world and to the first among Bishops, the Pope. The Pope is the Bishop of the Diocese of Rome, and he too has a cathedra in a church called the Cathedral Basilica of Saint John Lateran.

When the Bishop is seated at the cathedra, especially when he is preaching, he is fully exercising his office, especially the role of teaching:

The Bishop as herald of the faith leads new followers to Christ. As their authentic teacher, that is, one invested with the authority of Christ, he proclaims to the people entrusted to him the truths of faith they are to believe and to live by. Under the light of the Holy Spirit the Bishop explains the teachings of faith, bringing forth from the treasurehouse of revelation new things and old. He works to make faith yield its harvest and, like the good shepherd, he is vigilant in protecting his people from the threat of error. (Ceremonial of Bishops, 15)

The Ceremonial (the Church’s guidebook for any liturgical celebration with a Bishop) then states that “the office of preaching is proper to the Bishop, so that other ordained ministers fulfill this office only in his name,” and “unless he decides that some other way is preferable, the Bishop should preach while seated at the chair, wearing the miter and holding the pastoral staff” (17).

The Bishop, and through him all the priests and deacons of a diocese, are special signs of Christ. So when we look at the Bishop at his chair, we see Christ who is our Teacher, High Priest, and Good Shepherd.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ben
**I Believe....**

“Jesus Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary”

Why did Jesus receive from John the “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3)? To inaugurate his public life and to anticipate the “Baptism” of his death, he who was without sin accepted to be numbered among sinners. He was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). The Father proclaimed him to be “his beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17) and the Spirit descended upon him. The baptism of Jesus is a prefiguring of our baptism. (535-537, 565*)

What do we learn from the temptations of Jesus in the desert? The temptations of Jesus in the desert recapitulate the temptation of Adam in Paradise and the temptations of Israel in the desert. Satan tempts Jesus in regard to his obedience to the mission given him by the Father. Christ, the new Adam, resists and his victory proclaims that of his passion which is the supreme obedience of his filial love. The Church unites herself to this mystery in a special way in the liturgical season of Lent. (538-540, 566)

Why did Jesus manifest the Kingdom by means of signs and miracles? Jesus accompanied his words with signs and miracles to bear witness to the fact that the Kingdom is present in him, the Messiah. Although he healed some people, he did not come to abolish all evils here below but rather to free us especially from the slavery of sin. The driving out of demons proclaimed that his cross would be victorious over “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31). (547-550, 567)

What is the meaning of the Transfiguration? Above all the Transfiguration shows forth the Trinity: “the Father in the voice, the Son in the man Jesus, the Spirit in the shining cloud” (Saint Thomas Aquinas). Speaking with Moses and Elijah about his “departure” (Luke 9:31), Jesus reveals that his glory comes by way of the cross and he anticipates his resurrection and his glorious coming “which will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body” (Philippians 3:21). (554-556, 568) “You were transfigured on the mountain and your disciples, as much as they were capable of it, beheld your glory, O Christ our God, so that when they should see you crucified they would understand that your passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that you truly are the splendor of the Father.” cont’d on page 10

**Liturgy Update: The Eucharist and Unity**

At our Diocesan celebration of the Solemnity of The Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe (November 24, 2013), The Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, in his feature address and in his homily stressed very much the importance of unity among us.

If we are a Eucharistic people, and this is what we are; what does the Eucharist teach us about unity? The Eucharistic Prayer – the Prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification - leads to the Communion Rite, our sharing in the Eucharistic meal. This sharing expresses communion and unity not only with the Lord but also with all who gather around the Lord’s Table. St. Paul expresses this in his letter to the Corinthians. He writes: “The blessing cup which we bless is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ; and the loaf of bread which we break is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? And as there is one loaf, so we, although there are many of us are one single body, for we all share in the one loaf” (1 Cor 10:16-17).

St. Augustine in his Easter Sunday Sermon on “The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table,” teaches that same lesson to the newly initiated members of his community: “You see the Apostle says, ‘we being many are one loaf, one body. That’s how he explained the sacrament of the Lord’s Table; one loaf, one body, is what we all are, many though we are. In this loaf of bread you are given clearly to understand how much you should love unity” (St. Augustine, Sermon 227).

Concerning the bread for celebrating the Eucharist, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal teaches: The meaning of the sign demands that the material for the Eucharistic celebration truly have the appearance of food. It is therefore expedient that the Eucharistic bread, even though unleavened and baked in the traditional shape, be made in such a way that the priest at Mass with a congregation is able in practice to break it into parts for distribution to at least some of the faithful. Small hosts are, however, in no way ruled out when the number of those receiving Holy Communion or other pastoral needs require it. The action of the fraction or the breaking of the bread, which gave its name to the Eucharist in apostolic times, will bring out more clearly the force and importance of the sign of unity of all in the one bread, and of the sign of charity by the fact that one bread is distributed among the brothers and sisters (General Instruction of the Roman Missal §321).

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Unity. It is the sacrament that brings us together in unity. It must never divide us. The Corinthian community had its own divisions. St. Paul writes to cont’d on page 10

“IGNORANCE OF SCRIPTURES IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST”
The new initiative of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) of making the Word of God central to all pastoral life (ABP) reinforces our synod recommendations and invites us to deepen our love and understanding of Sacred Scripture. In the next few weeks delegates from every parish of the diocese together with their parish priests will meet with the bishop for two workshops on this new initiative.

The four delegates who attended the recent meeting in St. Lucia, viz. Miss Noeliva Le Blanc, Sr. Lorraine Royer, ICM, Fr. Brancker John, and Msgr. William John-Lewis will present the philosophy that undergirds ABP and offer practical suggestions for its implementation in our parishes. We will begin with a review of all that we have already done as a diocese in the promotion of the Word of God as part of our synod implementation, and marry the process of ABP with ongoing post-synodal implementation process.

We are fortunate that we have already given extensive coverage to the foundational documents dealing with the Word of God, in particular, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum, and the final document on the Synod of bishops on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church dealing with the Voice of the Word, the Face of the Word, the House of the Word and the Roads of the Word. Through various exercises we hope to re-emphasize the importance of being open to new ideas as a way of continuing to mature in the faith, and especially the non-negotiable imperative of collaboration in ministry.

We will conclude by inviting each parish to plan the way forward recognizing that Sacred Scripture is the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and entrusted to the Church for the salvation of all, and that biblical animation of all pastoral life is called to be an encounter with the fullness of truth and its transcendent meanings, an encounter with life in the Spirit and the path to unity, and the joyful proclamation of the encounter with the Lord, the path to conversion and solidarity.

2013 Annual General Reunion on 8th of December took place at Coulibistrie, a station under St. Theresa Parish, Diocese of Roseau, Dominica.

The first part of the activity started at 10:00 a.m. with the rosary led by Sr. Lucy, which was followed by the Holy Mass celebrated by the then Parish Priest Fr. Joe at 10:30 a.m.

The priest, at the beginning of the Mass welcomed the legionaries present in a special way, and in his homily gave words of encouragement to the legionaries. He ended with a prayer asking God for revival and growth of legionary groups in the country. Immediately after Mass, catena was recited which was led by the vice president of the Comitium, Sr. Vinna Royer.

This was preceded with a welcome remark by Sr. Elvina John, the president of the parish praesidium, Our Lady of Grace. Then the Curia president, Sr. Jeanete Carriere gave the opening address stressing on the need for legionaries to evangelize Our Mother Mary. And the Comitium president, Sr. Edmay Caprice Bleau also presented an address which stressed the need for increased effort, zeal and commitment by legionaries and for them to be acquainted with the content of the legion hand book.

Next was the interactive section of the program where participants were paired for interaction with each other. The entertainment section which followed, showcased fun and amusement in the form of songs, testimony, prayer, motivational words, drama, etc. by different praesidia. Intertwined with the entertainment was the introduction of pairs.

Dining and wining was the last part of the program which took place preceding the closing remarks, vote of thanks, and closing prayer. Then peaceful departure of participants ensued.

This year’s celebration was a great success; graced with multitude of people, comprising legionaries and non-legionaries. All members of the executives -- Sr. Edmay Caprice Bleau (president), Sr. Vinna Royer (vice president), Sr. Florence Itodo (secretary), and Sr. Sonia Christian (treasurer) -- were in attendance. The correspondence officer, Sr. Gloria Bardouille was also present.
In a book published in 1844 we find the first mention of “a small church” in Portsmouth or Grand Anse. This small church was described in the ECCLESIASTICAL BULLETIN of ROSEAU as “altogether insufficient to accommodate the faithful; and besides it was too low and of too humble an appearance.”

When French Priest Hyacinth Guillet was appointed Parish Priest of Portsmouth in March 1855, he “decided at once to build a new church” By making this personal ambitious decision, Fr. Guillet set the Parish of Portsmouth on a course which led to a very painful period in the history of the parish and culminated in his own tragic death in 1864 and a huge parish debt. “It was decided to break down the walls already constructed” as the size of the proposed church building was too large and ambitious, or according to Bishop Poirier “too fancy”.

The church, which was destroyed by the earthquake of 21st November 2004 and its 20,000 aftershocks, was to all accounts the work of Father Gustave Berthomé of the Congregation of the Sons of Mary immaculate (FMI). It was completed by 1896.

We read in the ECCLESIASTICAL BULLETIN of ROSEAU that nothing daunted French Father Berthomé: “no sooner was the presbytery finished than he set to work on the church. He raised the whole roof, added four feet to the church walls and inserted on each side above the windows 6 stained glass medallions representing the twelve Apostles. In 1896 he also built a new sanctuary... he put new flooring, made a new set of pews and had the whole church painted and decorated.”

Father Bethomé was also instrumental in getting Mr. Frederic Magloire to donate three beautiful marble altars, which became the pride of Portsmouth. Mr. Magloire had just returned from Panama where he might have been part of the first attempt to dig the Panama Canal. This was done by the French and had a workforce of about 20,000 men, the majority being from the West Indies.

The design and make of these altars are clearly French. In front of the High Altar he constructed a “labyrinth”, modelled on a French pattern, on the floor with parquet made of various pieces of timber taken from the forest of Dominica. He also imported a new “harmonium”. I have written full-length articles on each of these “treasures of Portsmouth” on bernardlauw.wordpress.com.

A new ceiling and roof was installed by Rev. Father J. M Bourget FMI between 1910 and 1918. He also prepared the stone to construct a new bell tower which was renovated at a later date.

As this old roof and ceiling were completely termite eaten and rotten, a new roof and ceiling were installed, by contractor Mr. Sebastian Royer in 1989, when Fr. Reginald La Fleur was parish priest. Sr. Gisella Braekmans ICM took the initiative to tile the sanctuary and processional aisle. After this was completed, Fr. Lafleur ordered brand new coubaril pews, which remain with us to this day.

Under the next parish priest, Fr. Charles Martin, the steeple was replaced with a steel framed one. Four brand new stained glass windows were donated by a Canadian group of Dominicans under the leadership of Euphemie Douglas in 1994. They were installed just before the earthquake of 2004 but luckily they were salvaged and will be installed in the new church, presently under construction.

THE RENOVATION OF THE OUR LADY OF FAIR HAVEN CATHEDRAL

HOW CAN YOU HELP

• Put a little something extra in collection every month, envelope it and label it ‘Cathedral Roof Renovation’.
• Arrange for a standing order or direct debit from your bank account monthly to any of the renovation accounts listed below.
• Pay online by adding the appropriate account number to your pay bill facility with your local bank.

In order to facilitate the process, the Diocese has opened accounts at the under-mentioned institutions.

NAME | ACCOUNT NUMBER
---|---
The National Bank of Dominica | 100060310
The First Caribbean Int. Bank | 106965624
Bank of Nova Scotia | 8932
The Royal Bank of Canada | 7284409
National Co-operative Credit Union | 0000300400

All contributions will be most welcome.
Veronique Henderson Celebrates 100  
By Zandra Phillips

Veronique Henderson (better known as Nurse Henderson) celebrated her 100th birthday on December 4th, 2013. She resides at 42 King's Lane, but a reception was held at the home of her daughter, Zandra Phillips at St Aroment to celebrate her birthday.

Veronique was born on December 4th, 1913 in Grand Bay, but spent most of her life in Roseau. The last of nine children of J.B. Henderson and his wife Marie Sainte Henderson nee Fontaine of Bagatelle.

She joined the nursing profession in 1936 and worked at the old General Hospital in Roseau as a midwife and general nurse. She also worked at Portsmouth Hospital and later at both Grand Bay Health Centre and the Roseau Health Centre.

In 1948 she was sent to Guyana (then British Guyana) for training as a Public Health nurse and was successful in all her exams, but on her return to Dominica had difficulty getting back into the service so for a while she went into private practice and delivered babies at people’s homes and also gave general nursing care to many.

She was later reinstated into the Public Service as a Health Nurse at the Roseau Health Centre and also worked at the Grand Bay Health Centre and again at the Roseau health Centre until her retirement in 1973.

Veronique is a devout Roman Catholic and believes that her love of God, and her practice of following a healthy diet which she spent her life lecturing others to do are responsible for her long life. At the moment she enjoys fairly good health, but is a little hard of hearing. She has one daughter, two grandsons, five great grand children and fostered a number of children.

She was elated and honoured to be visited by His Excellency President Charles Savarin and Mrs Savarin on her birthday. She also received a visit from Hon Gloria Shillingford, Minister of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs. Nurse Roach, President of the Dominica Nurses Association and Nurse Sorhaindo, who shared her birthday were present to congratulate her on her special birthday.

Dominica Council on Ageing sent a representative, but later that day she was surprised as her relatives and close friends including a number of priests and other distinguished guests continued the celebration. The highlight of the day was a scripture reading, which she did without glasses even though she had not seen it in advance.

She was entertained and thoroughly amused everyone, as it took four generations to blow out the 100 candles and cut the cake. The beautiful cake was made by her daughter and decorated by Mrs. Alix Boyd-Knights.

I Believe....  
Cont’d from page 07

(Byzantine Liturgy)

How did the messianic entrance into Jerusalem come about?
At the established time Jesus chose to go up to Jerusalem to suffer his passion and death, and to rise from the dead. As the Messiah King who shows forth the coming of the Kingdom, he entered into his city mounted on a donkey. He was acclaimed by the little children whose shout of joyful praise is taken up in the Sanctus of the Eucharistic liturgy: “Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna [save us]!” (Matthew 21:9). The liturgy of the Church opens Holy Week by celebrating this entry into Jerusalem. (557-560, 569-570) *Excerpt from the Compendium Catechism of the Catholic Church, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Liturgy Update: The Eucharist and Unity  
Cont’d from page 07

them: “When you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you” (1 Cor 11:18). The community had a whole meal as part of their celebration of the Eucharist. St. Paul writes: “When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord’s Supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk... Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!” (1 Cor 11:20-22). Perhaps it is because of abuses such as this that the Eucharist became limited to the sharing of the consecrated bread and wine only. These are the real elements of the Eucharistic celebration.

We are no different from the Corinthian community with its own divisions. We, too, have our division in the parish, in the diocese, in our nation and in the world. One writer poses this very challenging question: “How is it possible that societies calling themselves Christian can offer the Eucharist weekly for years without improving the relationships among persons in it? Is the Eucharist not the Sacrament of Unity?” Yes, indeed! The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Unity. The Eucharist challenges us to seek unity and to be in unity with each other. Otherwise, as St. Paul makes quite clear, it is not the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist, that we are eating.

Sister Lorraine Royer, ICM
Our Catholic Community

Magazine

Budding Writers & Photographers Workshops Are Here Again...

Budding Writers Workshop: Saturday 25th January 2014 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center

Budding Photographers Workshop: Saturday 15th February 2014 at the Roseau Presbytery Meeting Room both from 9:00 a.m.

Call our office at 448-2837 or visit us for registration & details

Register Now!!!!!
**North Western Vicariate Choir Festival**

held at the Colihaut Catholic Church on December 15th 2013.

**Our Lady of Health Parish**

**Christmas Breakfast** on December 22nd 2013 at Castle Bruce

**St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Packages for the Elderly** was distributed on December 24th 2013

**Christmas Revival** held at each chapel of the parish from December 17-20 2013

**One Day Pilgrimage** to all the chapels in the parish on December 14th 2013

**Christmas Story Play & Extravaganza**

**Our Lady of La Soie Parish**

**Christmas Story Play & Extravaganza** on December 15th 2013 at the Woodfordhill chapel

**Christmas Mass for the Sick & Elderly** on December 4th 2013 at the Wesley Church
What a night of remembrance, as the Parish of St. Francis Xavier held its festive candle-light Christmas banquet. It all happened on Friday December 20th at the Jones Beaupierre Primary school at LaPlaine.

The event was organised by the Parish coordinating team, headed by the president of the Finance Committee, Miss Marilyn Allan who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this event.

We the patrons were treated to a sumptuous meal served by the La Plaine Youth Group while the playing of Christmas carols gladdened our hearts. The ambience was breathtaking and welcoming, thanks to Mr. Anthony Paul, an interior decorator and the decorating team of LaPlaine. Mr. Paul willingly shared his treasure and talent with the Southeast and we will be forever grateful.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the five church committees of the parish. The Morne Jaune Church Committee captured the Euphrasia Hypolite Fund Raising Award for the year 2013. Mr. Hypolite, her husband, made the presentation. This award will be presented annually in her memory.

In addition, Father Favalier, on behalf of Father Guiste and Father Louis, expressed his gratitude to the organisers and reminded us of the reason for the Christmas season.

The organisers did a stupendous job and we eagerly await another event.

St. Mark’s Parish

Christmas Social for the Elderly on December 15th 2013 at the Caribantic in Scottshead

St. Ann & St. Paul’s Parish

Senior Citizens Christmas Annual Treat on December 22nd 2013 at the St. Martin de Porres Event Center
**Christian Leadership:**
**Rethinking our Mission as Catholic Schools and Christian Teachers**

*By Norris Prevost*

“**Good Teacher, What must I do to inherit Eternal Life**”. Mark 10: 17

As the New Year begins, SOS Christian Leadership Team, welcomes and congratulates the newly elected Executive of The Dominica Association of Catholic Teachers, (DACT), under the Presidency of Brother Egbert JnoBaptiste, of the Community High School. SOS Team is particularly impressed with the Leadership step taken by the New Executive, in making the enhancement of their own Leadership, a priority. Their decision to include The SOS Christian Leadership, Training Program as an integral part of their Executive meetings, is a model that the Executives of other organizations should follow, especially those Organizations, whether voluntary or non-voluntary, whose Executives find that they are overloaded, stressed out, and vexed at their membership, because all the work of the organization, is left to them. In many cases, even the other Executive Members are leaving everything for the President to do.

Being elected to a Leadership position, by itself, does not automatically make one a leader. God has given each of us the gift of Leadership. By electing us, our peers are recognizing our gifts, and calling on us to grow and improve our gifts and to use our improved gifts to help them to grow and improve their own. **Yes, that’s what Leaders are called to do. To identify, recruit, train new leaders and mould them into Teams, in order to build organizations.**

*Seeds of Success* will teach you how to identify your most important goals, determine your priorities, become a better family member, and communicate more effectively.

DACT, through its Past President, Ms Annette Austrie, DACAMEN, Catholic Youth Secretariat, all collaborated with His Lordship Bishop Malzaire, in getting the SOS Christian Leadership Program, introduced into our Diocese. On behalf of Our SOS Leadership Team therefore, I exhort our teachers, sports teachers, coaches and sports organizers, to recognize their leadership responsibilities and to go for the imperishable prize. As teachers, we exhort you to recognize that you are Christian leaders. As such, your mission should be: **“To develop Christian leaders.”**

**Goals vs Mission**

For many of you, this mission might not seem to be correct. You might be more inclined to think of your mission as: “Getting students to attain ‘A’ grades in reading and mathematics.”

Certainly, excellent achievements in Academics are important goals that teachers should set, and aim to achieve. However, for Catholic Schools and Christian Teachers, these goals, should be within the greater mission to which we are called, which is: **“To develop Christian Leaders.”**

Says one of our career teachers “As teachers, we are leaders. A truly effective leader develops other leaders. Christian Leaders that we can trust, Christian Leaders that will serve community with integrity.”

To do this, one must work continuously on improving God’s given personal Gift of Leadership. Why not try SOS Christian Leadership Training Program. Contact DACT Pres.: 2770653 eggiebape@hotmail.com or Norris Prevost: 2753420 norris.prevost@gmail.com.

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**Harris Paint Supports Dominica Catholic Radio**

*Bishop Gabriel Malzaire receives a donation of 25 gallons of paint from Harris Paint for the painting of the Radio Station roof on December 20th 2013*

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**Profile: Cynthia Serrant**

Cont’d from page 05

As a Lay Associate, what are some of the things that you do in the parish?

When the priest is unable to go to Mero, I go and sometimes I go to Belles. It has been a very good experience for me. I can remember the very first time I did it, I was a bit scared but now I have gotten accustomed and I have gotten boldness.

Are there any challenges that you face as a Lay Associate?

Sometimes I encounter difficulty in preparing for ministry. I usually pray before I start and when I get the introduction I am guided by the Holy Spirit and I pray to ask Jesus to guide me and then I open the book and I get exactly what I want from him. I also go on the computer to get some more ideas and then I put it together.

If someone wanted to be a Lay Associate, what would be your advice to them?

The person has to be very deep in the faith and call on the assistance of the Holy Spirit for guidance.
The 6th December 2013, was the evening many Catholics and well-wishers looked forward to — dining under carefully lit and beautifully decorated tents, set up on the grounds between the Bishop’s House and the Cathedral presbytery. This setting charmed those who could not resist participating in the pre-Christmas dinner organised by the Dean and the Cathedral Fundraising Committee. Many were impressed by the youth and the few adults who formed a ground of honour between the Chancery and the tents. They were smartly dressed in black and white. Their charming smiles and warm welcome created a perfect setting for all diners. To add to the ambiance, the sound of Christmas carols permeated the air. From the word go, one felt the warmth and grandeur of the evening. “We are in for a real treat”, whispered a few.

At 7:30 p.m., His Excellency Charles Savarin and Mrs. Savarin, His Excellency Elidu Williams and Mrs. Williams, together with His Lordship Bishop Gabriel Malzaire, Fr. Charles Martin, Dean of the Cathedral, and a few special guests walked in to occupy their seats at the head table. All stood as the National Anthem was played.

Mr. Raymond Lawrence, the Master of Ceremonies welcomed us all to a night of peace, love and harmony in Christ. He encouraged all to enjoy the meal, and to participate in singing carols at the appropriate time. His Lordship, Bishop Gabriel Malzaire led us in prayer. He started with a carol followed by prayers before meals. The sound of Christmas carols continued softly. It was a pleasure to hear diners humming, waiting to be served.

Service was at its best. Young and more mature were pleasant and prompt. Special assistance was given to the elderly who preferred to be served. In quick time, friends and family together were able to enjoy the sumptuous and tasty buffet.

Our Master of Ceremonies and Msgr. William John-Lewis kept the diners entertained. No one thought of leaving before all carols were sung. Msgr. John-Lewis invited His Excellency Charles Savarin, His Lordship Bishop Gabriel Malzaire and Msgr. Eustace Thomas to be the three kings for the singing of the well-known Christmas carol, “We three kings of Orient are.” They graciously accepted. Msgr. John-Lewis assisted His Excellency Charles Savarin. All were delighted to hear the three.

Thirty-two door prizes contributed by gracious donors were distributed by the reigning Miss Dominica, charming Miss Leslassa Shillingford-Armour. Remember, she represented Dominica at the Miss World Competition. She made her family and Dominica proud.

The singing of Christmas carols continued, animated by Msgr. John-Lewis until Fr. Charles Martin gave the vote of thanks. He expressed his appreciation for the presence of their Excellencies and their wives for gracing us with their presence. This gesture will always be remembered. He also thanked our three “Kings” for spending quality time with us, and also for accepting their role as kings. What would the pre-Christmas dinner have been without them? Father could not resist singing out Mrs. Sybil Baron, who in spite of ill health, was able with her team to arrange this marvellous occasion. He also thanked and praised all who were present, all who participated in the preparation and its execution. He used the opportunity to pray for God’s blessing on each and everyone on the scene and behind the scene. May God continue to shower His blessings on us all.

Indeed, it was a treat! What a beautiful evening! Fr. Martin, the Cathedral Fundraising Committee and I wish all a Happy New Year!

One of the functions of the Cardinals of the Catholic Church is to elect a new Pontiff. However, as he is over 80, Archbishop Felix will not be eligible to vote for a new pope.

We congratulate Archbishop Emeritus Kelvin Felix for the great honour bestowed on him by the Holy Father. It is no doubt an indication of his selfless dedication to the Church and the high esteem in which he is held by Holy See. We, too, in the Diocese share in that honour.

When asked how he first heard the news and how he felt, he said: “I first heard the news on Sunday afternoon just after my Mass and Catechism at the parish church. I came to my office to collect a book for the catechist teachers and I heard the phone ringing. I got a call from St. Lucia from the Monastery in Coubaril. They were very excited so I said, “What is going on?” and they said “You have been appointed to be a Cardinal” and I did not believe it because I never expected that. When I heard the excitement, the shouts and laughter I began to believe it. But I really did not expect it at all because I am a retired bishop. Those bishops who are the ordinary of dioceses may have had an idea that they were looking in the region for a Cardinal, but I was not aware of that. So I was surprised and right away I was loaded with calls. I could not move from the desk from 12:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The phone did not stop at all. It just kept on ringing so I had my lunch at my desk in my office. People are still calling because they were several that could not get through on that day. People called from England, Rome, Canada, America and all parts of the Caribbean.”

Our Catholic Community Magazine is extremely pleased with our new Caribbean Cardinal who is from the Diocese of Roseau. We pray that God continues to guide and protect Archbishop Emeritus Felix and to help him to persevere in his additional ministry for the Church.

His Lordship, Bishop Gabriel Malzaire invites persons who are able and willing to be part of a delegation to accompany Archbishop Emeritus Kelvin to the consistory in Rome on February 22, 2014. Anyone who is interested should contact the Bishop’s office as soon as possible.
Jean Lawrence-Mathurin wrote in her popular Christmas song, “Chonjé toute moun ki fè nou kontan...toute sa mwe ka di’w say kultè nou. Chonjé sa, pa oubliye.” - “Remember those who made us feel happy..... All I am saying, that’s our culture, remember, don’t forget.” The Sixth Form Sisserou Singers see music not as a pastime but as a tool for sharing love and joy with people. It is a medium to heal and care.

The Christmas tree, gifts, decorations and lights set the mood for Christmas. But for many of us, our fondest memories of Christmas are best captured in the nostalgic singing of favourite songs, and the music of the season. The Sixth Form Singers understands the wonders and power that music has and how it can heal and comfort people. On December 15th, the 35 strong group under the direction of ‘Aunty’ Pearle Christian, brought this very same comfort to many ill and shut-in Dominicans across the island.

Our day began at the Mount Carmel Home in Morne Daniel. After about six renditions of traditional carols such as ‘Away in a Manger’, ‘God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen and even ‘Jesus is Born’ by Jamaican Noel Dexter, the choir went on to greet and spend a short time talking with the residents. We then stopped at the Mahaut Senior Citizens Home to bring some Christmas joy to the residents there. The journey continued to the CHANCES home for abandoned youth in Jimmit. A short stop in the village of Coulibistrie was also eventful and exciting. While our audience were few in numbers, they were most appreciative. The Portsmouth Home for the Aged was our final stop on the west coast. They too were appreciative of the wonderful and cheerful songs as they clapped and sang. One lady in particular felt she could get up and dance.

Calibishie had become a little ritual stop for the SFSS after the tour. Before we could ourselves retire, we had to share some songs with the villagers infront of A & A Low price centre, great supporters of the choir. It seemed that the crowd grew every year, and this year was no different. We used the opportunity to pay tribute to the recently deceased International Hero, Nelson Mandela with an African Medley.

We pray that our audiences are always blessed by the songs we sing.
EVENTS

JANUARY

- 11th: Diocesan Youth Commission Day of Planning & Reflection from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 25th: Our Catholic Community Magazine Budding Writers Workshop at the Pastoral Center from 9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 3rd: Memorial of St. Blaise - Blessing of throats
- 11th: 23rd World Day of Prayer for the Sick
- 14th: Valentine’s Day
- 15th: Our Catholic Community Magazine Budding Photographers Workshop at the Roseau Presbytery Meeting Room from 9:00 a.m.
- 23rd: Special Collection - Peter the Apostle

FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES

JANUARY

- 14th: Memorial of the Blessed Peter Donders - Patron of Belles
- 19th: Memorial of the Miraculous Infant Jesus - Patron of Dublanc
- 31st: Memorial of St. John Bosco - Patron of Lower Penville

FEBRUARY

- 2nd: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - Patron of Cochrane
- 11th: Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes - Patron of Soufriere

Prayer Corner

Prayer for a Blessing in the New Year

O sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our prayers on behalf of our holy Father the Pope, our Bishops, our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech Thee, during this year, the whole Catholic Church; convert heretics and unbelievers; soften the hearts of sinners so that they may return to Thy friendship; give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world; pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any; assist the poor and the sick; have pity on the souls of those whom last year has taken from us; and do Thou be merciful to those who during this year will be summoned before Thy judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations and carried on by Thy assistance, so that all our prayers and works, having been begun in Thee, may likewise be ended through Thee. Amen.

https://www.catholic.org/clife/prayers

NOTICE BOARD

Legion of Mary

2000th Meeting Anniversary Celebration

Come celebrate with us!!

For Wednesday January 22nd 2014, Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium in Soufriere invites all Legionaries and friends to join for the celebration of the 2000th meeting at the St. Mark’s Church. The Parish Priest and Spiritual Director of the Praesidium Archbishop Kelvin Felix will be presiding at the Holy Mass. We would appreciate your presence.

THE DIOCESAN RETREAT CENTRE AT ROSALIE

Close to the ocean and the Rosalie River

Is open to all groups: Church related groups and others - and can welcome as many as 35 participants.

Available for retreats, workshops, seminars, etc.

For one day or more.

Meals are provided.

For information and reservation, contact Fr. Michel Favalier, FMI
Tel: 446 1414 Cel: 245 9630 or e-mail: favalier@hotmail.com

Send us your parish events & notices
Call us at 448 2837 or email us at newspaper@dioceseofroseau.org
A Three-day Encounter on Biblical Animation of all Pastoral Life (ABP)

By Sr. Lorraine Royer

On December 10-12, 2013 the four bishops of the Province of Castries, Archbishop Robert Rivas of the Archdiocese of Castries, and Bishops Gabriel Malzaire of the Diocese of Roseau, Kenneth Richards of the Diocese of St. John’s-Basseterre and Vincent Darius of the Diocese of Grenada and 72 participants experienced a three-day encounter on Biblical Animation of All Pastoral Life (ABP). The encounter was held at the Benedictine monastery in Castries, St. Lucia.

Biblical Animation of all Pastoral Life is a response to the priority set by the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) at their Annual Plenary Meeting (APM) in April this year to make the Word of God, central to their commitment to the New Evangelization of the region. And too give priority to the study, meditation and mission flowing from the Bible.

Major Church Documents on the Word of God, namely, Dei Verbum, the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation; Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini; and Pope Francis’ recent Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium The Joy of the Gospel added richness to the encounter. Lectio Divina, guidelines for ABP pastoral activities, Bible based liturgies and the enthronement of the Bible during the three-day encounter, team building games and group and individual prayer in Encounter with God’s word also enriched the experience.

The three-day Biblical encounter facilitated by Msgr. Mike Stewart, Vicar General of the Kingstown diocese; Maria Diaz-James, CELAM’s Caribbean ABP representative; and Deacon Mike James AEC General Secretary concluded with the presentation of diocesan plan outlines for Biblical Animation of all Pastoral Life in the four dioceses of the Province.

The objectives for our Diocese of Roseau are as follows:
1. A greater consciousness and appreciation of Sacred Scripture
2. To arrive at a common vision of Bible-based pastoral life for the Diocese.
3. All ministries to emanate from Sacred Scripture
4. Encourage Bible Study and continued practice of Lectio Divina

January 18 and February 1 are dates scheduled for the initiation of the Clergy, Religious and parish delegates into Biblical Animation of All Pastoral Life.
**Response of Church to Child Abuse**

_AEC sets zero tolerance on any and all forms of sexual abuse of minors by Priests, Deacons or Religious in all dioceses of the Region_

The Antilles Episcopal Conference has promulgated the Revised Common Norms for Diocesan Policies dealing with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons in which the AEC Bishops make unequivocally as their own the position of Pope John Paul II that “there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young.” Bishops will also see to it that applicable civil law on the reporting of abuse of minors by clerics or by religious and lay persons in theemploy of ecclesiastical institutions to designated authorities is to be scrupulously followed.

The revised Norms were unanimously approved by the AEC Bishops on 18 April 2013 at the Annual meeting in Guadeloupe and approved by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on 3 July 2014 and by Decree of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples to apply to all dioceses of the AEC on 18 November 2013.

It is clear that our present Holy Father, like his predecessors, is taking this matter very seriously and has announced his intention to set up a special committee to address this issue.

These Revised Common Norms inform and guide all Diocesan Protocols regarding sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons. The revised law, while attempting to be pastoral in its approach, seeks to recognize and define the rights and obligations of all concerned, including the victim and accused. The following can be noted:

- **a.** There is a zero tolerance on any and all forms of sexual abuse of minors.
- **b.** Children must be protected – programs of education and prevention, in some instances in conjunction with what is already being done at the national level, are highly encouraged.
- **c.** Formation programs for priests, deacons and religious must reflect a genuine and authentic expression and appreciation of chastity and celibacy. Also must include programs that foster awareness and protective environments for children.
- **d.** These crimes are prosecuted not only by canon law but also civil law and cooperation with the civil authorities is of utmost importance. “The bishop must see to it that the statutes of civil law regarding the reporting of such crimes to the designated authority are scrupulously followed in every case of sexual abuse of a minor. Moreover, this principle is applicable not only to cases of sexual abuse of minors by clerics but also to all such cases which involve religious or lay persons who are in the employ of ecclesiastical institutions.”
- **e.** The law clearly defines a minor as one who is below the age of eighteen years as well as “a person who habitually lacks the use of reason.”
- **f.** Sexual abuse of a minor is expanded to include also “the acquisition, possession, or distribution by a cleric of pornographic images of minors under the age of fourteen, for purposes of sexual gratification, by whatever means or using whatever technology”.
- **g.** The Criminal action for the crime of sexual abuse of a minor “is extinguished by prescription after twenty years, with due regard to the right of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to derogate from prescription in individual cases” and the prescription in a case of sexual abuse of a minor begins to run from the day on which the minor against whom the crime was perpetrated “completes the eighteenth year of age”.
- **h.** While taking each and every allegation seriously care must also be taken in the preliminary investigation to respect and protect the dignity and good name of all parties. Further, the rights of both the alleged victim and accused must be safeguarded at all times during the process. Special assistance must be made available to both the alleged victim and the accused.

These Revised Common Norms inform and guide all Diocesan Protocols regarding sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons. They enjoin on every Bishop to be responsible for the common good of the faithful entrusted to his care, especially the children and vulnerable young persons. And the law calls on every Bishop to respond effectively, responsibly and compassionately to the violation of the young people’s physical integrity, emotional and psychological health and human dignity.

AEC Common Norms were originally approved and promulgated on the 23rd of April, 2007 becoming particular law for all the dioceses of the Conference. However, in view of the notable developments in law and jurisprudence related to this matter during the past decade, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith invited all Conferences of Bishops around the world in 2011 to revise their norms in light of the changes in the legislation.

The revised AEC Norms are available on line at http://aecrc.org/wp/revised-common-norms-2013/
**Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel**

On 24 November this year, the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, in conclusion to the Year of Faith, Pope Francis published the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (‘The Joy of the Gospel’) that followed up the Synod of Bishops held in Rome in 2012 on ‘The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.’

*Evangelii Gaudium* is a long document. Yet it is easy to follow, and its central message, about how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in His Body the Church naturally drives us out joyfully to evangelise others, is direct. It is a classic expression of Pope Francis’ thought, style and preaching as seen in his daily homilies at Mass, his speeches and audiences.

The exhortation has five chapters. In Chapter One, the Holy Father begins with the Church and how we need to transpose everything into a missionary key, going beyond our comfort zones to take the Good News of Christ joyfully to the peripheries. He next discusses the crisis of community in the modern world, brought about in part by trickle-down economics and consumer culture, which generates individualism and indifference. In Chapter Three, he explores certain aspects of evangelisation, such as the need to inculturate the Gospel and the role of preaching. Chapter Four is about the social dimension of the Church’s mission, especially her preferential option for the poor - “I want a Church that is poor for the poor” (198) - and the need to build peace, justice and fraternity. The Holy Father concludes the exhortation with a brief chapter on the spirituality of being a missionary disciple.

Here is a summary of the main features of Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*:

- **With a mix of conversational style and formal papal magisterial language, Pope Francis sets forth a vision for giving the entire Church, at every level, a missionary thrust; he anticipates some objections and confusion, but asks everyone to give it a try.**
- **He calls for renewal and rethinking the way every person and every institution – from the Pope and the Roman Curia down to the parish and its parishioners – live their faith and focus their energies.**
- **The Pope recognises the Church must be realistic about the challenges individuals and the world pose to belief today, but – as a Jesuit – he encourages an Ignatian reading of the situation, looking for the people, places and trends where God is present. The practice should lead to greater consolation, joy and courage in sharing the Gospel.**
- **Pope Francis sees the Christian life as being based on knowing and experiencing God’s love, mercy and salvation offered to all through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Evangelisation programmes and catechesis must be designed to help people return to that basic knowledge and experience and help them understand church teaching in light of God having revealing himself as loving and merciful.**
- **He apologetically spends a long section of the document talking about the importance of homilies as the one opportunity each week most priests have to encourage Catholics to live the faith. He provides detailed suggestions on reading the biblical texts for the Mass, writing the homily and delivering it.**
- **The Pope recognises that some church teachings and positions on modern issues are confusing to many people, especially outside the church. He affirms Church teaching that women cannot be priests since Jesus chose only men as his apostles, but he also says women must be involved more in Church decision making. He also insists that the defense of the life of the unborn flows from the conviction that every life is sacred, and is a position that will not change.**
- **Pope Francis says that the heart of the Christian moral message is love for one another, which must motivate Christians to share the Gospel, help the poor and work for social justice.**
- **He warns of “spiritual worldliness” which leads apparently good Catholics to be concerned almost exclusively with power or appearances or judging others rather than recognizing their own sin and reaching out to others with the same mercy God offers them.**
- **The Pope highlights Mary not only as a model of faith and fidelity, but as a strong woman and mother who shared many of the joys and sorrows facing people today and, therefore, understands the challenges they face.**

**Pope Francis - Time’s “Person of the Year”**

He spoke out against frivolous spending by the Church

The average set of cardinal’s clothes costs as much as $20,000. In October, Pope Francis urged officials to dress more modestly and to not squander such money. In the same month, he ordered a German bishop to explain how he had spent $3 million on a marble courtyard.

He denounced the judgement of homosexuals

Pope Francis has stated several times that the Church has no right to interfere spiritually in the lives of gays and lesbians. Though Francis maintained the right of the Church to express opinions on homosexuality, he believed that Christians should not judge or ridicule. This led to The Advocate, a gay rights magazine, naming Francis the ‘single most influential person of 2013 on the lives of LGBT people.’

He held a major ceremony at the chapel of a youth prison

In March, the Pope held a major Holy Week service at Casal del Marmo jail for minors, rather than the Vatican. During the service, the pope washed and kissed the feet of 12 young offenders to commemorate Jesus’ gesture of humility towards his apostles on the night before he died. During the service, he broke tradition by washing the feet of women and Muslims.

cont’d on page 22
Martin’s Love for Mary

Martin had a very great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He prayed fervently to her, carrying one Rosary around his neck and another at his side so in free moments he would finger the beads.

His devotion to Mary was rewarded with visions of her and she taught him to love God more. He loved Mary as his dearest Mother, for he knew that in this way he could be more like Jesus.

When the Spaniards celebrated the national holiday, Martin covered Mary’s altar with flowers, which he often had in the monastery chapel. He often prayed before her picture in his monastery cell.

The Blessed Virgin appeared to him and talked with him.

Martin felt a son’s love for the Mother of God. She was close to him during his life and especially at his death.
The Changing Face of the Diocesan Youth Ministry
By Mahalia Paul

Youth Ministry in the Diocese is getting a facelift, with a number of new initiatives. For the last seventeen years, the Diocesan Youth Secretariat has planned and organized numerous programmes and activities for youth on parish and diocesan levels. In response to our last Synod, the Diocesan Pastoral Council has been reviewing and evaluating the structure of the various Secretariats and Commissions within the Diocese of Roseau. In an effort to strengthen and implement our vision for Youth Ministry, the Youth Secretariat has been restructured to form a Diocesan Youth Commission (DYC). The new Youth Commission is composed of individuals appointed by the Bishop of Roseau and commissioned for a period of 3 years at a time. The role of the Commission is to:

1. Assist in developing long-range diocesan responses to the needs of youth.
2. Provide a forum to share ideas and programmes.
3. Endorse programmes of interest and benefit to those involved in youth ministry in the diocese.
4. Approve policies, which impact youth ministry.
5. Liaise with other commissions within the diocese.
6. Ensure representation of youth on the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC).
7. Implement the vision for ministry for youth and young adults.
8. Ensure that youth activities are in harmony with the diocesan pastoral plan.
9. Advocate for youth at the diocesan level.
10. Facilitate communication between the Diocesan Youth Commission and the AEC Youth Commission.

Members of the new Diocesan Youth Commission are: Mrs. Mahalia Paul - The Coordinator of Diocesan Youth Ministry (Chairperson), Fr. Brancker John - Chaplain for Youth, Mr. Wallace Williams - Deputy Chairperson, Ms. Kimone Joseph- Recording Secretary, Mr. Webster Marie, Mr. Kereem Ferrol, Ms. Ivo Jno Baptiste, Mr. Davis Letang, Sr. Bernadette Peter.

To assist in implementing the plans of the Youth Commission, a Diocesan Youth Ministry Team, composed of volunteers, youth leaders and past Youth Secretariat members has been formed. Any youth or adult who is interested in offering their time or talent on the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team is welcome to join.

One of the first initiatives of the Diocesan Youth Commission is the formation of the Dominica Catholic Youth Movement. The Dominica Catholic Youth Movement (DCYM) will encompass all registered Catholic and affiliated youth groups in the Diocese of Roseau. It will allow for greater opportunities for fellowship and networking and improved communication. The Diocesan Youth Office will coordinate leadership training, special programming and support for registered youth groups. The DCYM will not replace the Parish Youth Ministry Programmes. It will be an additional resource to what may already be in place in many parishes and a welcome help for those parishes that may have weaker youth ministry programmes. The DCYM will focus primarily on building and supporting youth groups within the parish setting. An important aspect of the DCYM is the request that all youth groups include an adult advisor. Youth groups, who currently do not have an adult advisor, will be assisted by the Diocesan Youth Office in identifying a suitable person. Four members of the DCYM will be elected to serve on the Diocesan Youth Commission.

The Diocesan Youth Commission is now on a drive to register all Catholic youth groups across the Diocese. One registration form is to be completed by all youth group leaders. Forms may be completed electronically on the Diocesan Website or may be picked up at the Diocesan Youth Office or Parish Offices. A competition is being launched to design a logo for the Dominica Catholic Youth Movement under the theme “Youth Empowered for Discipleship and Service”. The deadline for receipt of entries is March 17, 2014. A cash prize will be offered and the winner will be announced at the annual Diocesan Youth Rally. More details are available on the Diocesan website (www.dioceseofroseau.org).

The Diocesan Youth Commission wishes to thank all those who have served in youth ministry over the years and we look forward to your continued service and support as we launch our nets further into the deep.

Pope Francis - Time’s “Person of the Year”
Cont’d from page 05

He personally called and consoled a victim of rape.
A 44-year-old Argentinean woman, raped by a local policeman, was one of thousands to write a letter to Pope Francis in 2013. The woman was surprised when she later received a phone call from Francis himself – who consoled the woman and told her, “You are not alone.”

He snuck out of the Vatican to feed the homeless.
More recently, it has been discovered that Pope Francis regularly leaves the Vatican at night to feed the homeless. Dressed as an ordinary priest, he joins Archbishop Konrad Krajewski to feed the poor of Rome.

He auctioned his motorcycle to benefit the homeless.
In October, Francis donated his own Harley Davidson motorcycle to fund a hostel and soup kitchen in Rome.

He fought child abuse.
The Catholic Church has been rocked in recent years by allegations and admissions of child abuse by members of the Church. Pope Francis became the first Pope to take effective action against such atrocities. He amended Vatican law to make sexual abuse of children a crime, and he also established a committee to fight abuse.

He spoke out against the Church’s ‘obsession’ with abortion, gay marriage and contraception.
In a voice of reason, Francis shocked the Catholic world when he stated that the Church was an unhealthy obsession with abortion, gay marriage, and contraception. He criticized the Church for putting dogma before love, and for prioritizing moral doctrines over serving the poor and marginalized.

He invited homeless men to his birthday meal.
On December 17, Pope Francis invited a group of homeless men and their dog into the Vatican to share his birthday meal along with his staff. The Pope had decided that he wanted a small birthday event, which would do some good, rather than a large and expensive event.
There is no better time than the present to be reminded of what Christmas truly means. People have seemed to lose the ‘Christ’ in Christmas as it has become commercialized and centered around people’s selfish needs. How then have the members of the Cathedral Young Catholic Christians (CYCC) recognized Christ during this Christmas season despite all the negative distractions? The month of December started with a Senior Citizens Social for members of the Cathedral Chapel. Most of the seniors who attended were very much involved in Church life when they were younger and some of them are still involved today. Members of CYCC treated the seniors with singing, dancing and light refreshments. A special performance by the Waitukubuli Intermediate Dancers greeted the seniors as the day’s activity progressed. The event continued with sharing by seniors on how they use to spend their Christmas, reminding the youth present of the importance of family, togetherness, serving the poor and more importantly the eager anticipation of attending midnight Mass. The members of the group enjoyed the precious time spent with the seniors of their church and look forward to another such activity for the coming year.

Christmas would not be the same for CYCC if the annual participation of gift packaging was not done. A few members assisted the St. Vincent De Paul Society with the annual Christmas packages which are usually distributed to the less fortunate in the Diocese. The gifts delivered to them remind us of the Maggi who brought gifts to the Christ child. Recognizing ‘Christ’ in Christmas this year brings us a step closer to receiving salvation as young people within the Church. The CYCC members concluded the year with our annual Christmas Dinner celebrated in the mists of our Parish Priest, Fr. Charles Martin who continues to give as much support to the youth as possible. The members joined in singing carols and played fun games. It was truly a memorable moment.

As we climaxed the month of preparation, we also begin the New Year with much joy and compassion. The members of the Cathedral Young Catholic Christians (CYCC) wish to take this moment to thank God for the activities undertaken in 2013. Special thanks are also extended to Mr. & Mrs. Jeffers Paul, Miss. Kerri-Anne Remie, Mrs. Josephine Dublin, Mrs. Kalene Richards, Parish Priest and Youth of the St. John & Lewis Parish and the parishioners of the Parish of Our Lady of Fair Haven Chapel who have contributed to the development of the group in one way or another. On behalf of the members of CYCC, we pray that God grant you His grace, wisdom and peace for 2014. The group looks forward to a more productive year filled with serving as Christ have served.

Happy New Year!!!!!
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For registration and Information Contact: Your Parish Priest, Your DACAMEN Branch
Or Bro. Norris Prevost 275 3420, Email: norris.prevost@gmail.com