

# PRAYING WITH INDIGENOUS CATHOLICS

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## GOD'S GLORY IN THE NORTH

One NET Missionary's encounter of hope despite pain in a community.

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## A BUMP ON THE ROAD

The Vogel's astonishing journey for the new Western Office.

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Elton & Imelda of Encounter 2 with a youth on an Encounter Day during their time in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

# THE HOPE IN THE NORTH

Your support this year is making an impact in the much needed area of ministry for Indigenous Catholics. It wasn't what they expected, but during their 2 week stretch in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, Brian, Tonya, Leigh, Elton and the 6 other NET missionaries of Encounter 2, experienced this same spirit of generosity from the Indigenous people in the North.

The team had been advised of how different their ministry would be, and that they may encounter youth who've dealt with abuse in their life or in the life of someone close to them, broken families, poor living situations, and even suicide. Brian recounted that "a lot of people talked about how tough it would be but it was different than what we expected." Leigh, from Dorchester, ON, explained, "for most of the retreats that we did, they chose to be there. They came on their own, not because of a school. They were interested in us, the talks, the skits, the dramas. For all the brokenness and stuff that were talked about they were very joyful."

The team discovered that the Indigenous peoples in the Keewatin-Le Pas Archdiocese were full of joy despite any difficulties and challenges that they faced. "Seeing their joy was so contagious. That spirit of joy was at all of our retreats," praised Elton.

It wasn't just the spirit of joy that they encountered from the Indigenous people,



*There's so much pain but no matter how much pain they've been through, there's so much faith in God that radiates from them. Their trust and acceptance of God's love was incredible.*

but also a spirit of generosity. "These people don't have a lot, in the material sense unlike the rest of Canada. They don't have big fancy TVs or the latest iPhone, but they are so giving and generous. Whatever that they had, they would share it with us," said Brian. "There was one Host Home who made us all bracelets with miraculous medals. It was just so beautiful. Everyone was just so giving. They don't have a lot but they give us all that they could," said Leigh.

The team came to realize that even though these communities have faced many hardships, their joy and generosity never wavered because of their faith in God. Tonya stated, "There's so much pain but no matter how much pain they've been through, there's so much faith in God that radiates from them. Their trust and acceptance of God's love was incredible."

Leigh described, "the violent shooting at the school [in La Loche, SK] affected the whole town. Canada wept for this town. Many surrounding towns held candle

light vigils, and people showed up to support the families and victims including Archbishop Murray and Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. Many of the retreatants, old and young were affected by this tragedy and truly appreciated the prayer time at the retreat."

"It's not what you say that really matters, it's how you say it. In all reality, I don't think they really remembered or listened to what we said but how we were saying it. How we were relating to them, really made them connect and open up to us," said Tonya.

NET has had the privilege to minister to Indigenous communities in the past, with an iNFUSE team serving a parish in Yellowknife in 2010-2012, and a Diocesan Team serving the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith in 2013-2014. Your support helps NET to continue to bring youth in the north, the opportunity to encounter Christ. 🇨🇦





**44** I went to talk with a young man sitting in a pew by himself. I introduced myself and he did the same. He was 22 years old and had two kids aged 4 and 2. I asked if he had any family at the retreat and he motioned to his aunt and younger cousin sitting in the pew ahead of him so we all said hello. I asked the man if he worked but he said no, "I just got out of jail so it's hard to find work." After just 2 minutes of talking he was willing to share this with me. He said he just got around with the wrong crowd but he wants to turn his life around so he can care for his kids. Then he told me his sister was killed in a school shooting about a year ago so Christmas was hard for him. His aunt then turned around and, with tears in her eyes, began to share with me the whole story of her personal experience with the shooting and her family's loss. I was shocked. All I could say was, "I'm sorry, I will pray for you." I have heard so many deeply painful stories here. Despite their suffering, it seemed the more pain a town had, the more community there was between the people. I have never experienced a place where people were so willing to help each other out and give away the little they had. The people were so thankful simply for our presence there. I believe God has worked deeply in some of the people here through our team.

- **SAM VAIL**  
(CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI) | ENCOUNTER 2



**44** Being able to do ministry in this diocese has been such a blessing. I was nervous during the time leading up to it because I am aware of the deep wounds the aboriginal community has faced in the past that still affect them today. However, I have experienced nothing but love, appreciation, and lots of affection. At the end of our retreats my teammates and I are always bombarded with hugs and selfies with the youth. Seeing their love and affection towards us validates our presence especially when it may feel like no one is engaged and we are not effective at all.

- **TERESA MERVAR**  
(TORONTO, ON) | ENCOUNTER 2



#### IT'S YOUR TURN.

Application for the 2017-2018 Mission year is now open. All young adults between the ages of 17-29 who are applying from Canada must attend a DSA (Do Something Amazing) Retreat.

What is a DSA Retreat? It is a 24 hour jam-packed retreat where you and other young adults from the nearby area that are interested in discerning a mission year with NET, will gather to hear some talks about NET, what a NET year looks like, grow in your faith, share in small groups, and encounter Christ in a deeper way than before.

Dates and locations will be announced on our social media (@netcanada) and on our website: [dsa.netcanada.ca](http://dsa.netcanada.ca).

Request an application today at [dsa.netcanada.ca](http://dsa.netcanada.ca)

OR

Contact Julia & Francis, your NET Canada Recruiters ([recruit@netcanada.ca](mailto:recruit@netcanada.ca))!



## ARCHDIOCESE OF KEEWATIN-LE PAS



Covers over  
**430,000KMs** of  
Saskatchewan, Alberta  
& Northwestern Ontario

**84%**

of Catholics are of the  
Métis, or First Nations  
of Cree, OjiCree, Dene

1 of the 6 **Mission Diocese**  
of Canada until January of  
2016 when the Holy See  
announced that Pope  
Francis transferred  
the mission dioceses to the  
common law of the Church.

### WHAT IS A MISSION DIOCESE?

A mission diocese is a place where the Catholic Church is emerging, and even thriving, but the financial resources are scarce. A mission diocese is often limited in terms of infrastructure, Catholic educational institutions, professional opportunities, and philanthropic opportunities.

### WHAT DOES THE JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENT MEAN FOR CANADA?

With the transfer of the remaining dioceses in the North to the common law of the Church, their six Bishops, with the help of all the Bishops and the Catholic faithful of Canada, are now fully responsible for the pastoral life of each of their diocesan Churches. We as Canadian Catholics are now even more responsible for the sustainment & growth of these Northern diocese.

Because of your support, NET Canada can respond to this call.

\*according to the Diocesan Statistics for the Archdiocese of Keewatin Le Pas as of December 2011.



The Vogel's have one last Mass celebrated by Archbishop Prendergast (not pictured here) & Archbishop Gervais



*Your support has helped expand our permanent presence across Canada. but it didn't go exactly as we thought. As God reminds us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways..."*

Have you ever prepared for something for months, down to every detail, and have it fall apart before your eyes?

The plan seemed simple: Leave Ottawa on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and arrive in Chilliwack, BC on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Why? A Western Office was no longer a hope, it was in the Lord's plans.

Sometimes things don't always go according to plan, however, especially when it's ambitious and involves 8 children ages 1-15. But Joe Vogel, NET Canada's Executive Director, was ready to tackle it head on as he could no longer ignore that a Western Office was where the Lord was calling him. With his wife Laura and 8 kids, they said yes to leading the way, and undertook the task of uprooting their life in Ottawa and move to Vancouver so NET Canada's Western Office could become a reality. "The Lord said 'Go'," Joe says. A simple but profound command. "[Go] in scripture is very missionary at heart and rings deeply in the church: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19). These are Jesus' last words to us and truly is the Christian quest. Once I connected this concept, there was no mistake why 'Go'



*Even though the plans that we make don't always unfold how we want it to, God has a bigger plan in mind.*

was on my heart...It's on the heart of the Church."

After months of preparation, the departure date arrived. Their 15-passenger van filled with the 10 Vogels hitched a trailer larger than you've ever seen before and departed for the West Coast. They forged down the highway through Ottawa, and before they could even wave goodbye to their beloved home of 14 years, it happened.

37 KMs into their 4000+KM journey, the transmission blew out. "Smoke, fumes and all, in the heart of Ottawa, during the 5 o'clock rush hour," Joe says recalling the accident. Definitely not the plan, but a blessing in disguise. Their first two days of their journey would have them go through the winding roads and sparsely populated Northern Ontario where the towns are 100KMs or more apart from one another. If their transmission gave out at any point later, the Vogels may have been stranded on the side of the Trans-Canada Highway in the middle of nowhere.

Even though the plans that we make don't always unfold how we want it to, God has a bigger plan in mind. For the

next seven days, the Vogels stayed with Associate Director, Garth Pereira, and his family as they made Plan B.

A week later, Joe took the van on a test drive with its new transmission and the alternator broke. But the Vogels had God on their side and nothing would stop the biggest expansion of NET Canada since its founding in 1994. Finally, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, they left without a hitch (figuratively speaking, of course).

They made their way through the wide province they've called home, through the three prairie provinces, and as they approached the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, they crossed the threshold of their new home province of British Columbia. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Vogels arrived in their new home. The 3 other Western staff members and their family had already arrived, waiting to greet the road-worn family on their long journey.

If the Vogels have learned anything through this experience, is that God always has a plan and even though in the moment it may not seem like it, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). The Vogels answered the call to herald the new Western Office so that NET Canada can invite thousands of more youth to encounter Christ. When we answer God's call for our lives, He will always make a way and will never give up on us.



We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.  
- Romans 8:28



Seeing friends of NET & the Sleeping Giant in Thunder Bay, ON

NOV 3

37KMs into their journey, the transmission blew in the Vogels' van on Highway 417.



Vogels safely arrive at new home in Chilliwack, BC

NOV 17

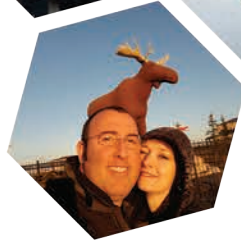


NOV 13

Vogels say goodbye to Ontario, their home for the last 14 years.

NOV 9

Transmission was fixed but then the alternator broke.



(Left) Supper prepared by the Sisters of the Child Jesus in Coquitlam, BC | (Right) Joe & his oldest son, Jonathan, with NET Canada founder James Mikulasik in Kamloops, BC | (Bottom) Joe and his wife Laura in Mosse Jaw, SK

# iNFUSE

is NET's parish ministry. It is a method that is *customizable* for every parish that uses it. A NET parish team has 6-8 of our missionaries per team. The team goes into a parish community for the entire NET year and creates a foundation for youth ministry in that parish. iNFUSE accomplishes this by forming disciples, introducing youth to the person of Jesus, and giving them the tools to live out their faith in the world around them.

## IN EVERY PARISH WE GO TO OUR AIM IS TO:

1. Develop a hospitable environment for youth.
2. Foster the spiritual and sacramental growth of young people.
3. Draw youth to participate in the life and mission of the parish community.
4. Form leaders in youth ministry.
5. Provide a link between school, family and parish communities.

**Christ The Redeemer**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

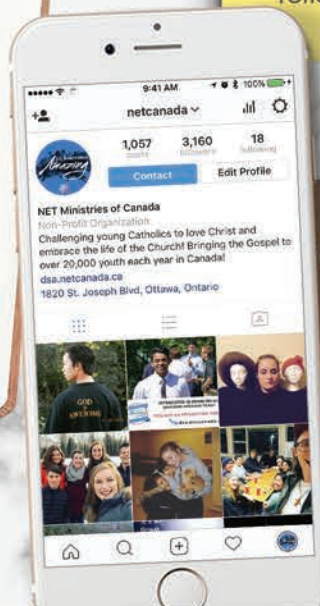
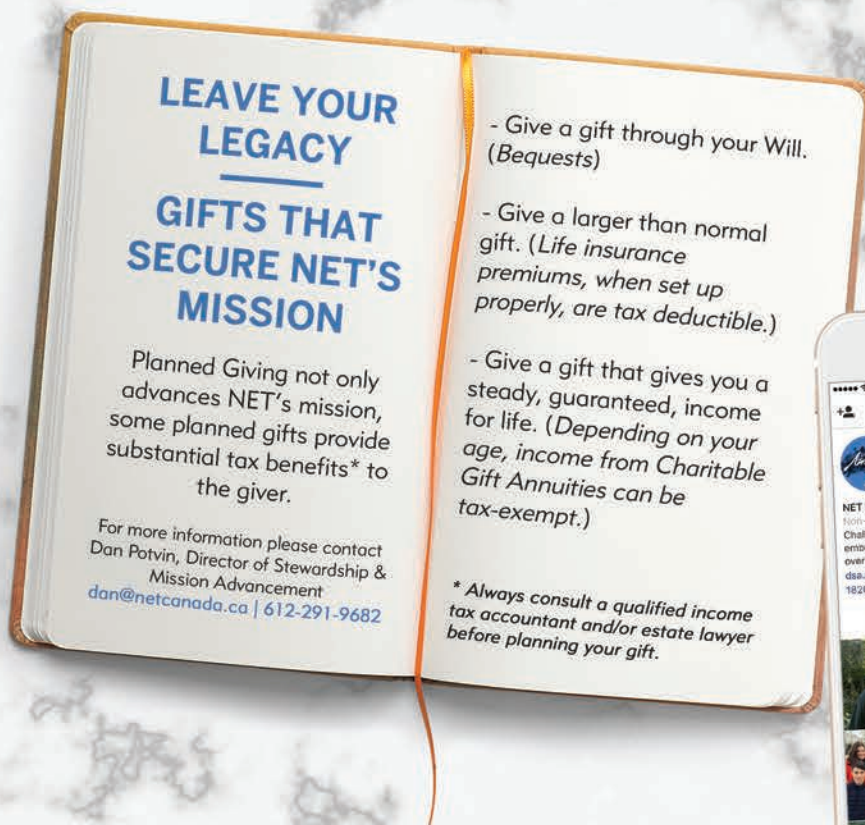


I was overjoyed by the team's willingness to go out during the lunch hour to minister to our students and start building a relationship with them. The buzz this week was so positive and the kids were already asking me when the team was coming back and when they get to see them in their classes.

- A TEACHER FROM  
CHRIST THE REDEEMER SCHOOL BOARD

Want an iNFUSE team at your parish? Contact [sarah@netcanada.ca](mailto:sarah@netcanada.ca)





**I WANT TO HELP RENEW THE FAITH OF CATHOLIC YOUTH!**

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 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Send me information on bequests/investment gifts  
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 (Pour contacter NET Canada veuillez appeler au 1.514.891.3900)

**STEP 1:** ☐ Monthly gift (starting ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> or ☐ 15<sup>th</sup>) OR ☐ One-time gift  
 (Check one)

**STEP 2:** ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 OR ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Amount)

**STEP 3:** ☐ Cheque payable to NET Canada  
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