

Office Hours  
Fr. Millan Sajonas  
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Faith Formation  
Wednesday to Friday  
9:00 am-12:00 noon  
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**Family Faith Encounter** is organized by the Adult and Family Faith Formation Commission of the Diocese of Prince Albert. It is sponsored by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. It hopes to gather families to have a faith-filled experience through talks, activities, and music. The theme for this year's gathering is "Family Love: a vocation and a path to holiness." Featured speakers are Bishop Albert Thevenot, M. Afr. and Tim Staples from Catholic Answers (for more information go to [catholic.com](http://catholic.com)). Various performers will be present to give entertainment. **Location:** Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Laurent, Duck Lake. **When:** [June 12 \(Friday\) & 13 \(Saturday\) 2020](#). **Please register!** You can bring your camper to the site. Further details TBA. For more information contact Fr Millan Sajonas 306-763-5677 or email [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com)

**Suggested Materials:**

- (1) *Pocket Guide to Adoration* (Book) by Fr. Josh Johnson;
- (2) *Prayer Companion for Eucharistic Adoration* (Book) by UCCB;
- (3) *Beautiful Hope: Finding Hope Every Day in a Broken World* (Book) by Pope Francis, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, and others;
- (4) *The Wild Goose* (DVD) by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR.

**For more resources:** [padiocese.ca](http://padiocese.ca) or [bmjsajonas.com](http://bmjsajonas.com)

**Next issue's contents:**

Luke 11:5-13: The Parable of the Persistent Friend; Getting to know a parish in the diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

**Editors:**

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada), Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Fr. Maurice Fiolleau. (SK, Canada).

**Diocesan Family Faith Encounter 2020**

June 12 & 13, 2020

Organized by

the Adult & Family Faith Formation Commission

**Location:** Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes,  
St. Laurent, Duck Lake

**Theme:** Family Love: a vocation and a path to holiness  
**Speakers:** Bishop Albert Thévenot, M. Afr and Tim Staples

Fun Activities for families!

Enjoy music from various performers!

Faith-filled talks and activities!

Further information TBA

**Registration Fee:** \$50 (Family),  
\$20 (Individual), \$30 (Couple)

**Make the cheque to:** Diocese of Prince Albert

Send to: Fr. Millan Sajonas

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**ADULT & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION**

*Diocese of Prince Albert*

IMDVS February 2020

**Luke 14:12-14 The Parable of the Feast Invitations**

By Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

Jesus was invited to a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees. He was being watched closely. Yet at the same time, Jesus was observing them. One of Jesus' remarks made reference to the way his host had invited the guests. Jesus said to him not to invite friends, relatives, or rich neighbours who may be able return the favour. Instead, he said to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, that may not be able of repaying the favour. Surely, invitations can be given to anyone. They may be given to a close relation, an acquaintance, or a complete stranger. The Pharisee had the right to invite whomever he wanted for a meal in his house.

Proposing whom one should invite to one's house may sound demanding and intrusive to one's choice of houseguests. However, Jesus took again this opportunity to teach, as he had just justified healing a man with dropsy on the Sabbath, and as he admonished guests who were choosing places of honor at table. There is nothing wrong in inviting relatives, friends, or well-to-do neighbours to a meal, since invitations can be extended to anyone. There could also be a lot of reasons to invite relatives, friends, and neighbours such as birthdays, reunions, and gatherings of friends. Nevertheless, it is more meritorious to invite the marginalized, the disadvantaged, the poor, and underprivileged. To go beyond what is customary and ordinary when inviting people is to welcome those who have infirmities, and the insignificant in our society.

Hospitality takes a new level and a deeper meaning when the host receives someone who needs consolation and help. Blessed are they who give and do not count the cost. Blessed are they who give and do not expect something in return. Everyone becomes a neighbour. This is in contrast with the worldly standard of giving and taking. Hospitality becomes the sharing of gifts, a charitable deed. However, reward will surely come from God, who sees the intention and goodness of the heart. Welcoming others and being benevolent is truly being blessed here on earth, and its completion is in heaven.

**Reflection Questions**

1. What is your definition of hospitality?
2. Have you shared your blessings with others? In what way have you shared them?
3. Did you ever invite a stranger needing help, or afflicted with infirmity, for a meal? What was the circumstance of the invitation?
4. After sharing your blessings with others, what was your realization?
5. What did you feel after you shared your blessings with others, especially those who were less fortunate?

## St. Theresa, Wakaw

“Wakaw,” meaning “Crooked Lake” was originally a small town with two little Catholic churches. Many of the settlers arrived in Wakaw after the coming of the railroad in 1910. They came from the old countries with their own language, culture, and religion. They built St. Stephen’s Church for the Hungarian people and St. Mary Church for the Germans and other nationalities. The first residing priest was Fr. Oscar Solymos who was instrumental in the building of the Hungarian Church.

In 1920, St. Mary’s Church burned down, and the members of the parish requested ecclesiastical authority to build a new one. This happened at the time of the death of Mgr. Pascal. Reverend Schmid, who had just been named Capitular Vicar of the diocese, until a new bishop was named, looked over the situation and decreed that the Roman Catholic population of Wakaw was too small to have two Catholic churches. A new Catholic parish was to be created; it would be named for St. Elizabeth, and all the Catholics of the area would belong to it. Neither Hungarian nor German, but English would be the main language used in the church. A new parish priest was appointed in the person of Father J. E. Quелlette.

In 1924, a newly ordained priest, Father Narcisse Burrell became the new pastor of St. Elizabeth. As a young man he had wanted to become a priest, but because of poor health, he had been refused by his bishop, Archbishop O’Leary of Edmonton. Almost in despair, he turned to Sister Theresa of Lisieux, whose reputation of holiness and powerful intercession was spreading throughout the world. Fr. Burrell made a promise to the young saintly nun, who had died merely 26 years before, that if he ever became a priest he would build a shrine in her honor. Shortly after Fr. Burrell’s appointment as pastor of Wakaw, work on a new church basement was started in the parish. On May 17, 1925, the canonization of St. Theresa of Lisieux was held in Rome. True to his promise to the “Little Flower,” Fr. Burrell organized the first pilgrimage to be held on that same day in honor of St. Theresa. The result was a magnificent triumph to the new saint. Three thousand pilgrims came to Wakaw to show their devotion to the “Little Flower,” Therese de Lisieux.

In 1927, the Sisters of Presentation opened a convent in Wakaw, assuming many responsibilities within the parish: they looked after the sanctuary and provided musical and choral training, which was much appreciated, for the various church services. They also taught school, catechism and music to local youngsters.

In 1949, the parish, with the financial help of the many pilgrims, was in a position to erect a new church on top of the basement built in 1925. Fr. Roger Jourdain was invited by Fr. N. Burrell to be the architect of the church, and supervisor of the construction. Father Leslie was the parish priest at the time. In 1961, a beautiful building, simple but pleasant and spacious, was finally blessed. This Church of St. Theresa at Wakaw is the repository of many symbols of the young saint. Parishioners and pilgrims can find the pilgrim statue of St. Theresa on one side of the church. On the opposite side is the reliquary. In it lies a statue of St. Theresa. Inside her right hand, which holds a red rose, is an authentic relic of the saint. Mural paintings over the main altar also depict scenes in the life of St. Theresa.

(Source: Lavigne, S. Kaleidoscope: Many Cultures – One Faith, St. Peter’s Press, Muenster, Saskatchewan, 1990, p. 161-164)

### Are you interested to join a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

There is a pilgrimage going to the Holy Land from January 12 to 20, 2021. It is organized by Fr. Millan Sajonas and Biyaheng Kapamilya sa Holy Land. The theme is **“A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: I rejoiced when I heard them say**

**‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’**”

For further details, visit [www.kapamilyaholyland.com](http://www.kapamilyaholyland.com) or <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> or call Fr. Millan at 306-763-5677/ email: [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com)

### Family Circles - Faith, Prayer, Life & Charity

The Adult Faith Formation Commission is organizing a diocesan-wide advancement of family faith formation. Family Circles Program is a Roman Catholic-based faith catechesis exploring the fundamentals of Catholicism and the promotion of devotions. It aims to connect families through prayers and family time activities. It also endeavors to unite families to concretize belief through charitable outreach.

Families interested in joining or knowing more about this initiative may contact the Adult Faith Formation Commission or email [bmjs1981@gmail.com](mailto:bmjs1981@gmail.com) or call 306-763-5677. In Prince Albert, we have started an hour of Adoration every Thursday night from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. Join us!