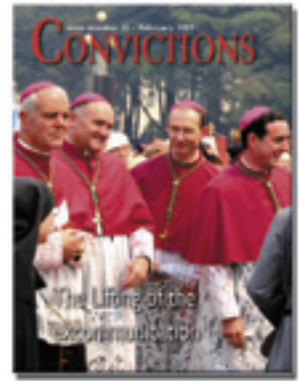




Coast to Coast

News and photos from the Canadian district activities !!!



CONVICTIONS nr 15

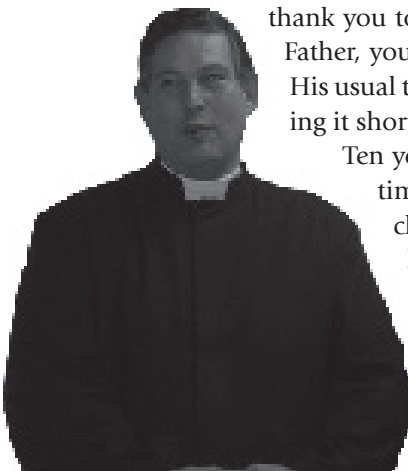
Father Ockerse ten years in Rocky Mountain House

On October 5th, 2008, the parishes from Rocky Mountain House, Sundre and Edmonton gathered together in a small hall outside of Rocky to wish Father Ockerse well and to congratulate him on his tenth year as our parish Priest. The laughter and food flowed as we all gathered with loved ones, family and friends to talk and tell stories of our experiences with Father.

The Potluck was organized by Erin Fillinger, a very energetic young lady who also runs the choir and helps with the preparations of the children's First Communions. Erin made the phone calls asking the parishioners to help gather rosaries for Father. At the dinner Father Ockerse was presented with a card of 2700



rosaries. The life of a parish priest is not an easy one as he must listen and help us all in our spiritual and non-spiritual lives. I know these rosaries will go a long way to help him help us all. Father sat down and was extremely grateful by all the generosity given to him and was generous in turn by keeping his thank you to a few minutes. For those of you who do not know Father, you may not know how long he can keep a topic going. His usual time is about 45 minutes, so we all thank him for keeping it short.



Ten years are a long time in the eyes of our parish. In this time we have grown by leaps and bounds. Our small church is slowly breaking at the seams as the large families get larger and the young people get married and bring in new people. Father has gone a long way to help organize fun activities for all and help bee's to do work on our old church. I don't know where I would be without his constant encouragement and his usual "Just keep plodding on".

(Lee Patenaude)

First Communion Rocky Mountain House



Here are some pictures of the four First Communicants. They are Caitlin and Sarah and the boys are Brian and Jeremiah.



Father Ockerse was pleased to pose with the four children after Mass Christmas day and gave a nice sermon on the benefits of First Communion.

St. Stephen's Guild Tubing Party

Wholesome recreation is necessary for the spiritual formation of every child. If an element of challenge is added, all the better. When Father Wegner brought the members of the St. Stephen's Guild together for a "tubing party," on a ski resort north of Barrie, Ontario, the element of challenge was present in full force...it was raining!

For those readers who are new to "tubing," the requirements are: a large rubber inner-tube, a snow-covered hill, and gravity. Add a bit of moisture for slickness, and you have a fast ride with much enjoyment ahead of you!



Such was the experience of the St. Stephen's Guild that December afternoon. The only concern was in trying to get back to the top as fast as possible for another thrilling descent. Some went down solo, while others linked themselves in large groups numbering as many as twelve! Providence blessed the day with warm weather, and a large window in the downpour for nearly the entire time of our visit.

After a reluctant departure, the group retired to the lodge for supper where a healthy appetite, built by hours of outdoor activity, was satisfied. What a success!

(Father Dominic May)

Axis and Allies in Welwyn: The event, on December 23–24, was open to the boys and girls of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel who were over 12. 14 people over two days including Fr. Girouard and supervisor Mr. Gerald O'Reilly participated in the tournament. The turnout was fantastic, and those who never played the game before were introduced to an incredible strategy game, and those who have already played the previous version of the game were thrilled to play the new and improved Anniversary Edition. Axis & Allies was purchased by the parish so that the parishioners will be able to play the game together on a regular basis.





In Dryden (Ont.) Father Rusak blesses Mr. and Mrs. Zapatelli. They celebrate their jubilee of marriage: 60 years! We congratulate and thank them so much for the rare example of fidelity they are giving us.



On December 21st, 2008, the parishioners of Langley (BC) welcomed Father Wegner. Father Wegner was visiting Western Canada for the first time.

Last Page:

- Axis and Allies in Welwyn.
- St. Stephen's Guild Tubing Party
- Two of our courageous teachers of the Holy Family School in Québec.
- In Saskatoon (SK), on Dec. 14th, Father Girouard administered the Sacrament of Baptism to Jenaya Marie Myers, fourth child of Wesley and Candace.
- First Communion in Rocky Mountain House
- Father May's engagements on December 8th.
- St. Stephen's Guild Calgary: Enrollment ceremony on December 26. Communion of the servers and group photo.

Sister Maria Barbara

On November 23, 2008, Rev. Fr. Niklaus Pfluger, First Assistant of the Society of Saint Pius X, gave the habit to two young women in our chapel of Monthey, Switzerland. One of these is Barbara Rose, now Sister Maria Barbara, from Oakville, Ontario. After their postulancy, they were found worthy to receive the habit of the Oblate Sisters of the Society and to be accepted to the Novitiate.

Fr. Pfluger cited the epistle of the day and explained in his sermon that which was essential in human life, namely, to grow in the knowledge of God and His holy will, to live worthy of God, and to become rich in good works. The perfect man must give himself entirely to God. We ask the question: "Why is it so difficult for modern man to follow this divine calling?" And yet this call is addressed to each one, of course in different ways. The reason for our difficulties is found in a false idea of God. Many of us picture God as an officer who only asks for the accom-

plishment of certain duties. He is not for everyone the God who deserves to be loved with all of our strength and with all of our heart. He is not the God who asks everything from us. What is more, we have our distinctive ideas of life, our own plans and expectations. We try to realize them without taking into account the will of God and that which He wants us to do.



In the parable ten virgins waited for the bridegroom, as was their duty, but five were foolish and were not ready when he arrived. Man will only be ready at the right moment when he is ready at every moment, when he is entirely directed towards God and when God has become the only reason for his life. It is disastrous to immerse ourselves in many activities and to lose the essential plan. Despite the fact that we await the arrival of the bridegroom, we do not approach the wedding feast. The parable of the talents shows us what we must do to be ready at the decisive moment. For one thing, we see that it is not

important if we possess one, two or five talents, but that we employ the talents that God has given us, each one as he has received them.

Finally, Fr. Pfluger described the dispositions of the soul that aspires for holiness. First of all, they are docility, abandonment and unreserved open-mindedness, as we find in the apostles. Next there is enthusiasm for Christ and for imitating His life. These two first dispositions are crowned by humility, shown by Saint Theresa of Lisieux in her way of spiritual childhood.



