

## Religion

# Nitassinan walkers welcomed

By JIM RYAN

October 14  
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in O.T.  
Matthew 22: 1-4

### Freedom for Nitassinan First

"I have heard, and I believe it to be true, that pregnant women have aborted because of the flyovers. I have also heard that birds have dropped their eggs while in flight, and that foxes have eaten their litters when the planes are flying.

I have seen for myself that the caribou have changed their migration patterns and that they are calving in different spots because of the flights.

I have also seen the pollution left by the planes in the water, and the trees burned by the low-flying planes."

This was better than watching the Peter Mansbridge Show. Even better than listening to a Barbara Frum interview.

On Tuesday evening, Ken Hancock, from the Alliance for Non-Violent Action, introduced the walkers for Nitassinan to a sizeable circle of Georgetown residents in the St. John's church hall on Guelph Street.

Hancock had led many such peace walks in the past, and he will meet in Ottawa along with

other walkers from Halifax and Windsor on November 10, to attempt to convince the Canadian government to hear the cry of the people of Nitassinan.

Their cries have been drowned out by the screaming of NATO bombers that are overflying the homeland of the Innu.

For the walkers, the issues are twofold: militarization, and native claims for sovereignty.

But on Tuesday evening we didn't hear a lot of information about military build-up or details about the nature of the sovereignty sought by the Innu.

We talked more about spirituality. That is, what it means to be human.

We didn't talk about what it means to be human in an Innu way, or a Mohawk way, or a Western way, but in a way open to us all.

The stories told by Penote Ben Michel, the Innu leader quoted at the beginning of this column, all dealt with one image: bringing forth a new life. There isn't a more universal sign of hope than a pregnant woman.

Through his stories Penote Ben Michel brought into question the violence that lies at the heart of our culture.

He affirmed his belief that true

life can only come out of gentleness and non-violence.

But it's not easy.

"When we see a pregnant woman being pushed around and beaten by the military police when we are engaging in a non-violent action at the air field, it's hard. It's hard to take that."

Michel also refused to be patronized. "Don't tell me I'm wise. Don't talk about my dignity. I find that patronizing."

The walkers for Nitassinan demanded that we see them as people. They are acting; we can act.

We aren't ready for the marriage feast of tomorrow's gospel reading, but we can prepare ourselves.

We might even begin by turning off the Peter Mansbridge Show and asking questions for ourselves.

Dates to remember: Nov. 10 in Ottawa - Solidarity for Sovereignty Rally.

Nov. 13 - Blockade of Defense Department in Ottawa and Indian Affairs Department in Hull.

Write: Tom Siddon and Bill McNight, c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.

Phone: Department of Defense (613) 995-8082. Department of Indian Affairs (613) 995-4988.

# Pastoral care program introduced at hospital

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will have a clergyman on call 24 hours a day, five days a week to meet the spiritual needs of the hospital's patients and staff members starting Oct. 29, confirmed Mariene Quackenbush, the hospital's Assistant Executive Director, Patient and Resident Care.

The Pastoral Care Program will also service the residents of the Bennett Health Care Centre located next to the hospital, said Ms. Quackenbush.

Although the hospital has had an informal pastoral program previously in which patients could request to see a clergyman, Ms. Quackenbush said the hospital decided a formal program was needed. "It's another way of bringing the community into the hospital, she explained.

Fifteen local chaplains have

volunteered to participate in the program. Working on a rotational schedule the clergymen equipped with a beeper, will be on 24-hour emergency call, said Ms. Quackenbush. There will also be a clergyman who will make daily rounds throughout the hospital visiting patients and providing services when requested.

The services will be non-denominational. Those patients wanting a service performed in a certain faith can request the clergyman on duty to make the necessary arrangements, said Ms. Quackenbush.

Ms. Quackenbush oversees the program but Reverend Nancy Knox of St. John's United Church in Georgetown is the liaison person between the hospital, Bennett Health Care Centre and the chaplains.

Chaplains would be necessary in an emergency situation, ex-

plained Ms. Quackenbush, if for example someone arrived at the emergency ward but couldn't be saved. In this case the family might want someone to help them deal with the tragedy she said. As well, in a disaster situation the clergyman on duty would be called in, she added.

The clergyman on call is also there for staff members who may need spiritual support from time to time, said Ms. Quackenbush.

Although the pastoral service starts Oct. 29 the hospital will hold a day-long orientation session for the chaplains Oct. 30. During the morning Ms. Quackenbush will tour the hospital with the chaplains. In the afternoon Reverend Colin Smith, from the Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga will speak to the clergymen about the role of pastoral care in a hospital.



Our Lady of Assumption

## Marian Hour of Prayer

As part of an international "Marian Hour of Prayer" program, Knights of Columbus Council 6026, Georgetown, will sponsor a public prayer service this Friday, to be held at Holy Cross Church, 224 Maple Avenue, Georgetown, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

This year's prayer service will honour the Blessed Virgin Mary by her title "Our Lady of the Assumption," and will centre on an Icon depicting Mary as she is assumed body and soul into Heaven.

As the symbol of the Marian Hour program, a copy of this icon will be present at each of the thousands of services being conducted this year and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Councils in Canada, The United States, Mexico and the Philippines.

George Miehme, Grand Knight of our local Council, expressed the Council's support of this international campaign: "Through this programme, the people of Georgetown can add their voices, in prayer, to those from around the world." The Icon will be at

Holy Cross Church during October 17, 18 and 19 for individual's prayer time.

In choosing to honour Mary, the Mother of God, by this title, one of Her many titles, the Knights of Columbus, as emphasized by Virgil C. Deschant, International Supreme Knight, reinforces the message that: "the body has profound moral meaning, because human beings are souls and bodies." This message is particularly pertinent as Knights will pray for such "bodily" concerns as Pro-Life and Family Values. Other Knights of Columbus concerns are - Religious Vocations, Public Morality and Catholic Education.

This tribute to The Blessed Virgin Mary, is the sixth year-long "Marian Hour of Prayer" program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic, fraternal, family service organization of 1.5 million members worldwide. The five previous programs were attended by more than 7.7 million participants, at nearly 37,000 prayer services.

# Renowned organist to visit

The Dutch organist Herman Van Vliet is planning to come to the U.S.A. and Canada in November and will perform at the First Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton on Dec. 8 at 8:00 p.m. and the final recital of the 1990 North American Organ Recital Tour by Herman Van Vliet will be given at the Maranatha Can. Ref. Church in Fergus on Dec. 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Herman Van Vliet is not only an excellent organist, he also has a very large repertoire. He plays well-known works of Bach, Handel, Widor, as well as music by Louis Lefebury-Wely, Henri Daller, and Maurice Ravel. As a student of Hollands best-known organist Feike Asma (1912-1984) he also remains faithful to his teacher in performing not only the great master-works, but also the fine choral-pretudes of for example Jan Zwart (1877-1937) who has become the father of 20th century Dutch organ music. Herman has performed all over in Europe and was awarded for his contributions to French organ culture by the Societe Academique des Arts, Sciences et Lettres' in Paris (1983). He has declined many invitations to come to North America, and his sponsor (Church, Music and Records of Neerlandia, Alberta) is justly proud to be able to present him in North America.

Before coming to Ontario, Herman will perform a number of recitals, including a concert with the B.C. Boys choir on November 14 at the Ryerson United Church in Vancouver, B.C.

In September of this year he was appointed as organist of the St. Joris Church of Amersfoort, with the famous Naber Organ of 1845. In October of this year, three recitals are planned with exclusively music of Cesar Franck in commemoration of Franck's death one-hundred years ago.

In 1941 Herman Van Vliet was born in the green heart of Holland's urban Centre. Evan as an elementary schoolboy, Herman's interest was drawn to the organ and its music. The direction of his professional studies was to be determined by the results achieved in his organ lessons, taken with Wim Van der Panne.

Herman attended the Utrecht Conservatory, and received his diploma in solo organ performance in 1965, completing his studies with Stoffel Van Viegen and Cor Kee. Concurrently, as the result of several well received recitals throughout the region, he was appointed as organist of the Dutch Reformed Church in Bodegraven on April 1, 1961.

During this time Herman studied interpretation with Feike Asma

and Cor Kee. He delved deeper into the organ-culture and developed into a well versed interpreter of organ works. In addition to the 19th century organ literature, Herman developed a deep and lasting interest in the French symphonic organ compositions of Guilmant, Widor, Vierne, and Dupre. This was the reason he took part in the International Master Classes for Music in Zurich for several years, where Jean Guillou was his last mentor. Until recently, Herman was organist in both the Michael Church in Oudewater and the Petrus Church in Woerden.

Chorale improvisation is especially close to Herman: he has created a number of his own choral compositions and performs a wide repertoire of other choral-based works. Two volumes with fantasies on Psalms and Hymns have been published and are being sold well in North America also. He has made many recordings - three of them released on Compact Disc.

Herman enjoys the sense of discovery afforded by long lost or forgotten compositions or composers. An example is a recording issued by Herman with mainly unpublished works of Johannes Gjsbertus Bastiaans (1812-1875).



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