

## **THE RUNNING OF THE SILVER ROSE IN THE BATTLEFORDS**

JUNE 6 & 7, 2010

The Silver Rose was received by the District 15, Knights of Columbus, on Monday, June 6 at 9:00 am. In the Battlefords, we decided to involve the six Catholic Schools. A special prayer service, adapted to the level of the students, was prepared by Yvonne Loehndorf, Religious Coordinator for the Light of Christ Catholic School Division. A video depicting the miracle of the roses, when Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, was prepared and narrated by Denis and Connie Carignan, and Lloyd Bechman.

The “Run of the Silver Rose” began at 9:15 am on Highway 40, west of the town of Battleford. Sixteen students from St. Vital School, escorted by Constable Warige, ran the Rose down Main Street in Battleford and into St. Vital School where a Prayer Service was held. The News Optimist was present. Also present were District Deputy Paul Bruynooghe, State Advocate Denis Carignan, and Sir Knight Leo Wieggers (dressed in Fourth Degree Regalia).

After the prayer celebration at St. Vital School, the Rose was taken to a location on the highway to North Battleford where it was presented to members of the John Paul II Collegiate track team. Escorted by the RCMP Constable, the Rose was run into North Battleford. Traffic was stopped on 100 Street as the Rose was carried by the runners down the middle of the street.

After the prayer service at John Paul II Collegiate, the Rose was carried to Ecole Monseigneur Blaise Morand by three of their students accompanied by their principal, Theo Masich. After their prayer service, the Rose was presented to students and the principal of Holy Family School who ran it over to Holy Family School where a prayer service was held. The Rose was then taken to Notre Dame Church for the evening celebration at 7:00 pm. Approximately 60 people attended the prayer service. The Rose was carried into the Church and placed on a decorated table, adorned with the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe by three Fourth Degree Knights, Gil Bellavance, Maurille Corbeil, and Leo Wieggers. Father Gerard Legaspi led the prayer service. The video of the Miracle of the Roses and the song “Our Lady of Guadalupe sung by Molly Chesna” were shown. At the close of the prayer service, all in attendance came forward to make a prayer and/or pay homage to Our Lady and to admire the Silver Rose.

The next morning, the Rose was taken to Notre Dame School for their prayer service led by the teaching staff. It was then run towards St. Mary’s School by three students accompanied by Principal Dave Sarenco. En route, students from St. Mary’s School met the Rose and, along with Vice Principal Michelle Sarenco, carried the Rose into their gym where the entire school population awaited its arrival. Board member Adrienne Welter was present for the celebration. At the conclusion of the celebration, all the students passed in front of the Rose and had the opportunity to admire it and to give homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Silver Rose was then taken to Shellbrook by District Deputy Paul Bruynooghe accompanied by his wife Dorothy.

In total, over 1200 students from six Catholic Schools in the Battlefords were involved in the running of the Rose and the prayer celebrations.

District Deputy, Paul Bruynooghe and State Advocate Denis Carignan were present at for all the runs and prayer celebrations.

We are grateful for the assistance and cooperation that we received from the following:

- The RCMP, Sergeant Rob Lutzko and Constable Warige
- The News Optimist, Becky Doidge
- Religious coordinator for the Catholic Schools, Yvonne Loehndorf
- The administrators and staffs of the six Catholic Schools
- Father Gerard Legaspi
- Fourth Degree Knights from Dr. Uhrich Assembly, Leo Wieggers, Gil Bellavance, and Maurille Corbeil
- District Deputy for District 15, Paul Bruynooghe
- State Advocate, Denis Carignan
- Connie Carignan and Lloyd Bechman for providing the dialog for the video
- Mathew Conley for formatting the video of “Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Miracle of the Roses”