



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

*Joy in Christ*  
**100** Jubilee  
1912-2012

## Jubilee 100 Biography Project

### **Biography of John and Colleen LaPerle**

Submitted by Good Shepherd Parish, Edmonton

In 1974 our family lived on a farm at that time on the outskirts of Edmonton. It was exciting to learn, as our family developed, that a new parish was being proposed for West Edmonton and the pastor was our former CYO chaplain from St. Andrews, Rev. Fr. Jack Hamilton. Consequently we attended Mass at St. Justin's school in the gymnasium and as numbers grew, were later very excited to be moved into the auditorium at St. Benedict's school which served as our chapel. Throughout this, were the discussions for building a new church and we felt the name Good Shepherd was an inspirational choice. We remember discussing the location of the rectory and expenses such as its furnishings. There was brainstorming on the subject of the accompanying church parking lot. Building costs, design and materials also occupied our attention, serving the desire that the church be as flexible and inclusive as could be constructed, for the speculative future.

John was asked to be in charge of the ushers and Colleen participated as a member of the Baptism ministry. Various fundraisers were suggested and we recall enjoying a dinner auction as being a highlight since it was the first time we had needed a babysitter. We remember canvassing for pledges and being pressed into service at Mass by Sr. Maureen when a need arose. Driving to Mass we were able to observe the development of West Edmonton as new roads being built for developed areas shortened our travel time.

We became involved with various ministries most often by request, and were pleased to be of service in this way. John attended KC meetings and Colleen was happy to be a card carrying member of the CWL. Our children became altar servers, and with the strong support of Sr. Maureen we were moved by the experience of being Eucharistic ministers. Colleen was an adult altar server, and John helped on one occasion learning how to be a heavenly duster. We were also marriage encounter participants. Presently Colleen is renewing her interest in the CWL and John is very happy to be a member of the Seniors Social Club.

With the shepherding of our parish, family members experienced all the sacraments with the exception of Holy Orders. Lapsed Catholics from both sides of the family were brought back into the fold and in one instance, John successfully sponsored an RCIA candidate. The Good Shepherd has been privy to our joys and sorrows for 34 consecutive years, and His image has occupied different areas of our home at various times. While celebrating the contribution of our parish to the 100th Jubilee of the Archdiocese, we are grateful to those who have gone before and gifted us by example in faith, hope and love. We believe our Good Shepherd will continue to bless His organic flock in Good Shepherd Parish so that our future parishioners will be able to meet all the challenges that changes initiate.