



ecclesia

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

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BISHOP SMITH RECOUNTS HIS VISIT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIMA

‘A Church of profound spiritual wealth and enormous material need’

By Bishop Richard W. Smith

As many of our parishioners will be aware, the Diocese of Pembroke is in the process of establishing a “twinning” relationship with the Archdiocese of Lima, Peru. This initiative is in response to the call from Pope John Paul II, issued in his Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in America*, for dioceses of the North and the South in America to express the reality of their communion in Christ by joining together in relationships of mutual support. One of the auxiliary Bishops of Lima, Most Rev. José Antonio Eguren, has already visited our Diocese as the keynote speaker for the Mission Benefit Dinner held last September. In early January of this year, I was blessed with a visit to Lima and thus was able to see firsthand the reality of both their riches and their needs.

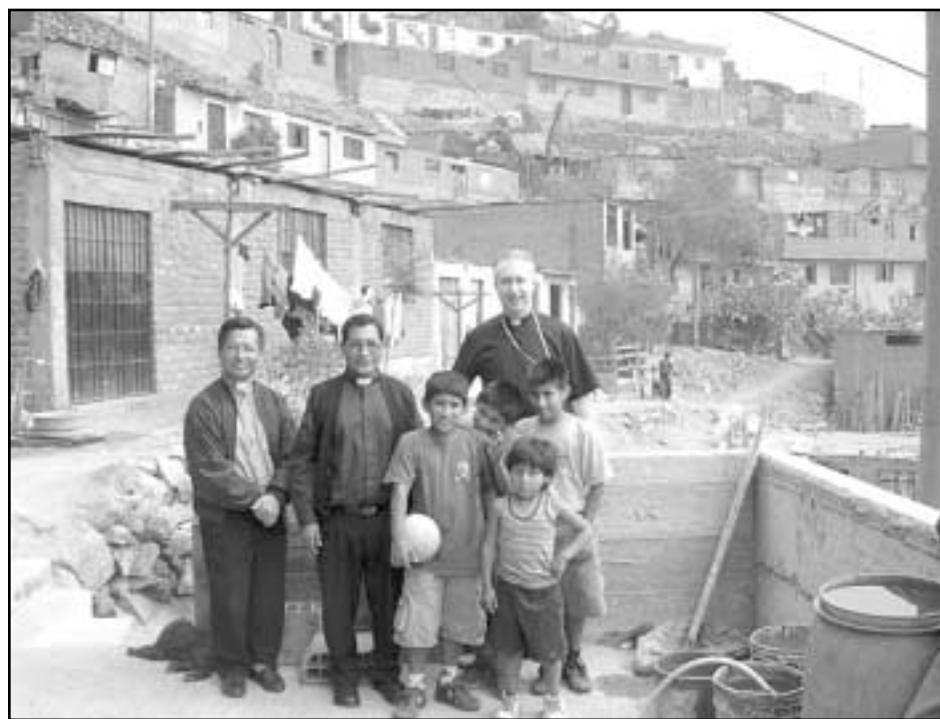
Founded in the sixteenth century, the Archdiocese of Lima is a Church of profound spiritual wealth and enormous material need.

It is the birthplace of saints — among them St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres — and home to countless poor.

Lima itself is a huge modern city, and the Archdiocese numbers three million faithful. Like many of the world’s large metropolises, Lima is a study in extreme

Some people are immensely rich, while there are many who have nothing.

contrast; there are some people who are immensely rich, while there are many who have nothing. I was particularly touched and edified to see the work which the Archdiocese is doing among the needy, in order to give them both help and hope.



Bishop Eguren took me to visit two parishes in the “shanty towns” surrounding Lima. It is difficult to capture in words the dreadful reality of the destitution in which thousands of families are living. I was taken to one “dwelling” in which a husband and wife lived with their three children, ranging in age from ten to five. Like thousands of other people, they had come from the country to the city in the hope of a better life and had established themselves on the outskirts of the city. In their particular case, they came to find for one of their sons some medical assistance that had been unavailable in the countryside. Their home is typical of the hundreds of dwellings found in the shanty town: it has no roof (it never rains in the desert city of Lima), its outer and inner walls are formed by pieces of plywood or corrugated steel placed side by side in the earth, and it has the bare ground as its floor. There is no electricity or running water. Inside, the mother had formed a fire on the ground with a couple of sticks, in order to cook the few vegetables she

had available for the day. That particular day of my visit to their home was the birthday of their little daughter, Jennie, aged five. She was hoping to get a banana.

In the midst of this suffering, the presence of the Church is a sign and an instrument of hope for the people. One of the shanty-town parishes I visited, Our Lady of the Rosary, includes the area called Manchay. There I witnessed a wonderful complex nearing completion: a beautiful Church for worship, a school for catechesis and for learning a trade, and a soup kitchen. There are also a human rights office, a pharmacy, a day-care centre for young children, a gathering place of respite for the elderly, and a shelter for women and children needing refuge from abusive family situations. The other parish I saw, Our Lady of the Way, is more recent in establishment and is thus only beginning to raise funds for projects similar to those already underway in Manchay. In both communities, the numbers are staggering.

Each parish has about 150,000 people, served by one priest and a few consecrated women. (By way of comparison, our entire Diocese has 65,000 Catholics.) The efforts of these dedicated men and women are truly heroic, and the manner in which the Lord is blessing their work is marvelous to see. Needless to say, they welcome our prayers and any material support that can be offered.

The next step in the establishment of our twinning arrangement is to form a diocesan committee dedicated to the development of our relationship with the Archdiocese of Lima.

Although there is much material need among the people there, it is nevertheless also true that they can be of great assistance to us in our journey of faith. We can learn a great deal from both their rich spiritual heritage and their remarkable apostolic initiatives of evangelization in the culture generally and among the young and the poor in particular.

Of course, this new initiative of outreach to the Church in Lima does not mean an end to the various missionary endeavours which our people have supported historically in other areas of Peru, in the Dominican Republic or elsewhere.

For more photos from Peru, turn to page 10

Unfortunately, I had insufficient time to visit either the mission in Chincha Alta, run by our own Sisters of St. Joseph, or the parish in Chincha Baja assisted by Jim and Alicia Keogh. I shall do so in the course of a future visit. The Diocese has offered support to these two communities for some time now and will continue to do so.

(Continued on page two)

Profound spiritual wealth

(Continued from page one)

The Archbishop of Lima, Cardinal Juan-Luis Cipriani, asked me to convey to all parishioners of the Diocese of Pembroke his sincere thanks for the assistance we have already given.

Above all, he asks us to pray for them. There is nothing more powerful or hopeful, he says, than communion among the people of God.

Archbishop of Peru expresses thanks to Diocese

(Bishop R.W. Smith received the following letter after he sent the Diocesan donation of \$20,000 to Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne)

Lima, November 25, 2003

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith Bishop of Pembroke

Dear Bishop Smith:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of October 27th with the enclosed donation, that, on behalf of the people of your Diocese, you are giving us as a token of solidarity with the needs of my Archdiocese.

Let me express our deepest gratitude for this generous gift that would be of great help in order to develop several pastoral and social programs in Lima. Please give my thanks to all the people who had made possible this generous contribution.

I will also like to thank you for the wonderful initiative you had some months ago, in the spirit of the Holy Father's call, to strengthen the communion between the Churches of North and South America.

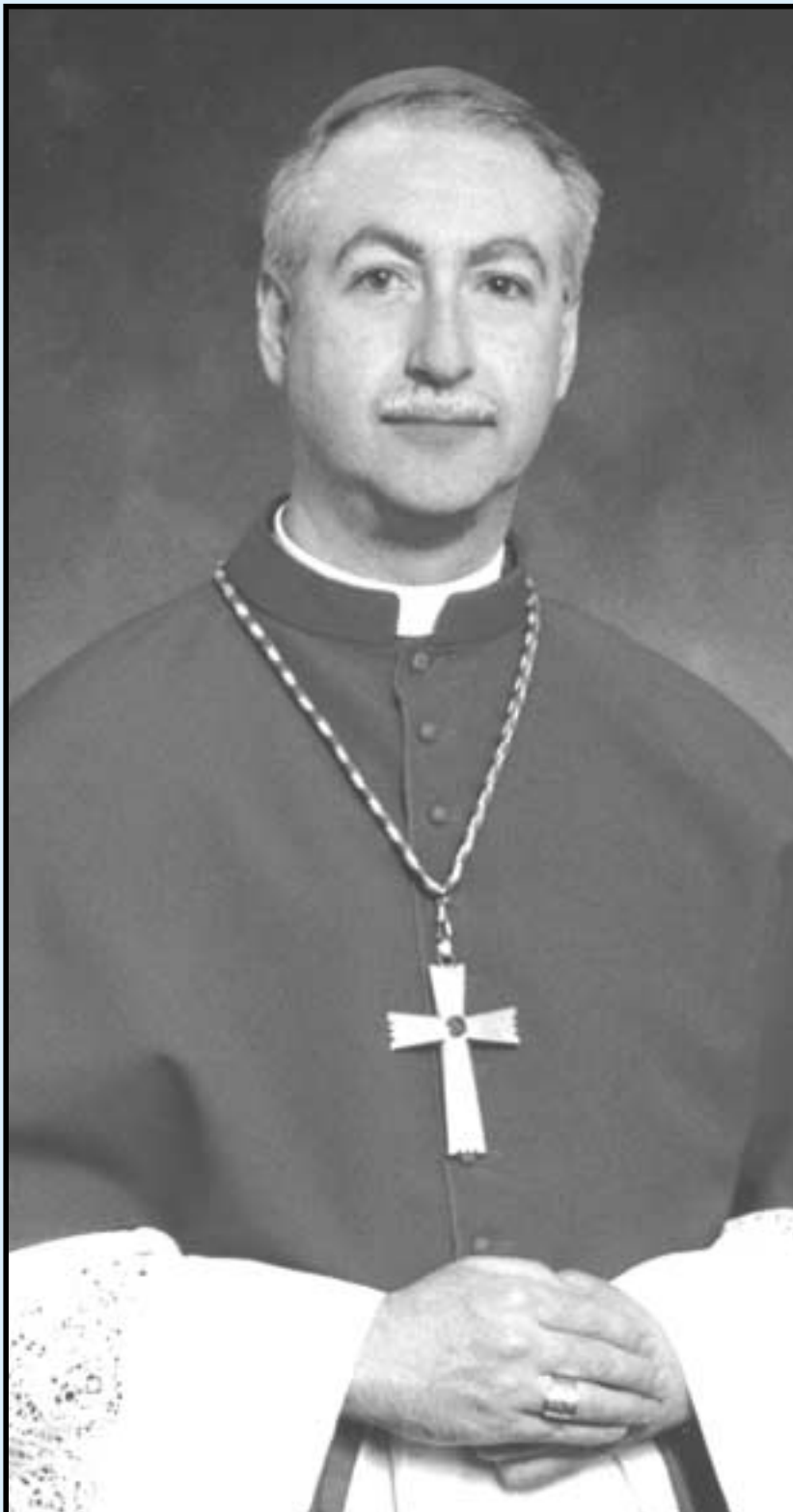
I am convinced the Lord will bless us abundantly with many good things if we commit ourselves with all our heart to this project.

I had been informed by my Auxiliary Bishop, Most Reverend Jose Antonio Eguren, that you will visit us next January. I am looking forward to meeting you personally. Be sure we are keeping you and your dear Diocese in our prayers.

May the blessings of Our Savior be with you at the holy season of Advent we are just about to start.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+*Juanluis Card.
Cipriani Thorne*
Archbishop of Lima and Primate of Peru



*You are invited to gather with our Bishop to celebrate the **Chrism Mass***

*on Monday, April 5, 2004
at 7:30 p.m. at
St. Columbkille Cathedral in
Pembroke*

*The Bishop will bless the oils to be
used in
Baptism - Confirmation
Holy Orders
The Sacrament of the Sick*

Students from Bishop Smith High School bring medical supplies to Dominican Republic



A group of twenty-one students and staff from Bishop Smith Catholic High and from St Joseph's High School have just returned from an exciting week in Yamasa, a town in the Dominican Republic. Although we did spend time in the capital, Santo Domingo, where we toured the oldest Cathedral in the New World, visited the tourist spots and spent a few hours at a beach, that stop was not the highlight of our journey. Our purpose for making this trip was to live with the people, become part of their lives and to have them become a part of ours.

Our Group was very pleased to be able to bring much needed medical supplies to the clinic run by the Grey Sisters. Many local doctors and pharmacies had donated supplies and medicine to us.

A friend in the military arranged for us to receive cases of latex gloves and

tongue depressors which were requested by Nurse Carmen at the clinic.

This year we also became involved with Health Partners International, a group of medical professionals who sponsor kits of medicine and medical supplies to be distributed to doctors who work with the poor in developing countries. Thanks to generous donations and to our fund-raising, we were able to bring down close to thirty thousand dollars' worth of these much-needed kits. Dr. Friedman and Carmen were very moved as we sang Feliz Navidad, (Merry Christmas in Spanish) while they excitedly opened each box. Many lives will be saved and we were humbled to be a part of it.

Also, we were able to personally deliver a Friendship Kit to poor families we visited with. These kits were purchased with the money that we had raised and were filled with life-saving food items.

It was a real eye-opening experience for us to spend time with the very needy recipients of this food.

As we walked the mud paths of the Barrios (slums), we were again humbled and moved by the living conditions and by the people we met. Some of us met Candido, a thirteen-year-old boy who had been run over by a truck. We will never forget him, lying on a mattress outside a shack. The teachers with us said he was a very good student but could no longer go to school because of his injuries.

He loved to read but as he had no books he lay there reading a phone book. We also learned that he needed to go to the capital for treatment but had no money. After the visit, we gathered some of our own things and sent him a package with books, a picture one of us had drawn and a toy basketball net and ball because

we had found out that he loves basketball. We spoke to Carmen and asked her to see that he gets the help he needs.

Our Dominican Republic Experience groups meet all year long to prepare for this journey. The students selected for the trip must make it through a strenuous process and must be dedicated to social justice. Each year we have many, many applications but are able to take only fifteen students. Many others choose to be involved here at home with fund-raising. We collect money for Friendship Kits all year and would be pleased if more people would become involved by donating \$20.00 or more. To help out you can contact either of the high school Chaplains, or the Grey Sisters.

Thanks to the generosity of our classmates, friends and others, plus money from our fund-raising efforts, we were able to leave behind thousands of dollars to assist the needy. Each person in our group is thankful for the opportunity to be part of this life-changing and life-giving experience.



Screening in Faith for Responsible Ministry

In order to provide the highest level of safety and security to everyone involved in parish ministry, the Diocese of Pembroke has developed a screening policy that applies to all staff and volunteers serving the Diocese. Implementation on this process named "Screening in Faith for Responsible Ministry" commenced in January 2004.

Each parish in the Diocese was requested by Bishop R. W. Smith to establish a Volunteer Screening Committee which would receive appropriate training, resources and support in the implementation of this initiative. To date, workshops under the leadership of

Rita McBean and Rev. K. Brennan have been held in the Pembroke and Renfrew Zones. Additional workshops are scheduled for Barry's Bay, Mattawa and Pontiac Zones. The screening process described in the resource manual "Screening in Faith for Responsible Ministry" assures that the most suitable match is made between the volunteers, staff and the ministry. Screening measures are developed in order to minimize risks to persons receiving assistance as well as to those serving in the parish ministry.

It is important to note that it is the nature of the ministry and the risks involved that dictates the need for

screening, not the character of those involved in the ministry.

This process is a permanent feature of this diocese and follows closely those developed in other Ontario dioceses.

Bishop Smith is grateful to the many volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to the programs and ministries offered in the parishes. On behalf of all in the Diocese, he offers particular thanks to Fr. Ric Starks who gave countless hours to the development of our policy manual.

A Lenten Message from Pope John Paul II

Excerpts

*taken from www.vatican.ca
Brothers and Sisters!*

The evocative rite of the imposition of ashes marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent, when the Liturgy once more calls the faithful to radical conversion and trust in God's mercy.

This year's theme - "*Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.*" (Mt.18.5) - invites us to reflect on the condition of children. Today, Jesus continues to call them to Himself and to set them as an example to all those who wish to be His disciples. Jesus' words call upon us to see how children are treated in our families, in civil society, and in the Church. They are also an incentive to rediscover the simplicity and trust which believers must cultivate in imitation of the Son of God, who shared the lot of the little ones and the poor.

Jesus had a particular love for children because of "their simplicity, their joy of life, their spontaneity, and their faith-filled with wonder.

For this reason he wishes the community to open its arms and its heart to them, even as he did: "*Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.*" (Mt.18.5) Alongside children Jesus sets the "very least of the brethren:" the suffering, the needy, the hungry and thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. In welcoming them and loving them, or in treating them with indifference and contempt, we show our attitude towards Him, for it is in them that He is particularly present. . . .

Many believers strive faithfully to follow these teachings of the Lord. Here I would mention parents who willingly take on the responsibility of a large family, mothers and fathers who, rather than considering success in their profession and career as the highest value, make every effort to pass on to their children those human and religious values that give true meaning to life.

With great admiration I also think of all those committed to caring for underprivileged children, those who alleviate the sufferings of children and their families, resulting from war and violence, inadequate food and water, forced immigration and the many forms of injustice present in the world.

Together with such great generosity, however, a word must be said about the selfishness of those who do not "receive" children. There are young people who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults: sexual abuse, forced prostitution, involvement in the sale and use of drugs, children forced to work or enlisted for combat; young children scarred forever by the breakup of the family; little ones caught up in the obscene trafficking of organs and persons. What, too, of the tragedy of AIDS and its devastating consequences in Africa?...

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us set out with trust on our Lenten journey, sustained by fervent prayer, penance and concern for those in need. In particular, may this Lent be a time of ever-greater concern for the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole, for the future of humanity.



Ecumenical Way of the Cross

Good Friday at 11:00 a.m. April 9, 2004

At Moncion Grocers, Pembroke Mart, 425 Pembroke St. East

***Scripture readings and prayer at various community institutions
and churches throughout the city***

This pilgrimage will last about 2 ½ hours

***A Hunger Meal will be held
in the Most Holy Name of Jesus parish hall.
284 Trafalgar Rd., Pembroke, ON***

There will be an offering for the poor

***Bus transportation from Holy Name to Moncion Grocers
at the end of the pilgrimage, courtesy of Valley Transportation***

Bishop celebrates Pro-Life Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Editor's Note: *This is the text of the homily preached by Bishop Smith at the Pro-Life Mass celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2003, at St. Columbkille's Cathedral.*

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb." Tonight's Gospel passage recalls the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, which took place just after Mary had conceived the Saviour in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth is herself with child, who "leaps for joy" at Mary's greeting of her kinswoman. Even from his mother's womb, John the Baptist, chosen to be the precursor of the Messiah, heralds the dawn of salvation. The joy of redemption in Christ, Son of God and son of Mary, is first proclaimed by an unborn child.

Tonight the people of God gather to pray for the protection of all human life. We do so on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Queen and Patroness of America, North and South. On the occasion of his visit to that holy place in 1999, the Holy Father established that all of America would celebrate December 12th as a liturgical feast in honour of the Virgin of Guadalupe. To her maternal and loving care, Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life. Accordingly, in union with our brothers and sisters in all the countries of America, we entreat the intercession of Our Lady for all whose lives are at risk.

In the first place, we pray for an end to abortion. There is no greater evil afflicting our society. The death of thousands of innocent children each year fills our hearts with a profound sadness and shame, that is only deepened by the indifference and even pride with which many of our fellow citizens respond to this tragic situation. The direct and willful destruction of innocent



human life through abortion is the most blatant example of what the pope has long called the culture of death, which is so prevalent in our day.

There are other instances of the culture of death that call us to pray to Our Lady and to speak out for life. The restorative promise of stem cells is leading many to carry out this research on human embryos, a process that destroys human life at its very inception. As human life nears the end of its earthly journey, or is marked by suf-

fering or handicap, voices are increasingly raised in support of euthanasia. We are also witnesses to attacks on the dignity of human life through poverty and homelessness, violence and abuse, hatred and racism, war and terror.

In the midst of this culture of death, we Christians must proclaim the Gospel of life. God loves each and every human life He has created. This love endows each man, woman and child with an inalienable dignity. The love of God has been perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection brings freedom from sin and the gift of new life. The saving power of God's love in Christ was first foretold by the ancient prophets, such as Zechariah, who, as we heard in the first reading, spoke God's promise to dwell in the midst of his people. It was later heralded by John the Baptist, even from his mother's womb. Now the responsibility to evangelize, to proclaim the good news of life, is entrusted to the Church. We must not tire of being a pro-life people. Discouraging results, lack of support, or widespread indifference must never dissuade us. Our hope-filled resolve stems not from our own strength, but from the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord and Head of the Church, always present with us. He has conquered the power of death by his own dying and rising, and has sent the Holy Spirit as the power to renew the hearts of all people. We rely as well on the power of Mary's prayer. Throughout the continent, we honour her as the Mother and Evangelizer of America.

Her wondrous appearance to Saint Juan Diego, recalled by today's feast, was an important moment in the evangelization of America, as it led many indigenous people to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our continent today is in need of a new evangelization, a renewed proclamation of the Gospel of life. Let us not fail to implore her intercession that the Gospel will find new and deep roots in our country and will bear fruit in universal respect for the dignity of human life.

And speaking of our country, it is perhaps providential that the date of this liturgical feast coincides with the first day of our new federal government. Recent experience has been a cause of

deep concern for the Church and for many other citizens, such as, for example, the abiding indifference toward the plight of the unborn, the less than complete protection of the embryo in recent legislation, and the efforts in both Parliament and the courts to redefine marriage.

Tonight we pray for our new government leaders, asking that, through Mary's intercession, they might in all ways work to protect human life

and to safeguard marriage and the family as the secure environment for its healthy development.

In our striving to proclaim the Gospel and to speak out in defense of life, we have no better role model than the Holy Father himself. From the beginning of his pontificate, he has been a powerful voice lifted up in joyful proclamation of salvation in Christ and in passionate defense of the dignity of the human person. In honour of his twenty-fifth anniversary, celebrated in October of this year, the Diocese of Pembroke will henceforth set aside December 12th, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as the annual diocesan day of prayer for the success of all pro-life activity.



Before concluding, I take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks, in the name of the Church as well as my own, to all here present who have committed yourselves to the cause of life. At times it is a lonely struggle. Thank you for your perseverance and dedication. Mary's

appearance to Juan Diego gave clear witness to both God's concern for the poor and vulnerable and His proximity to them. This assures us that our work to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially the unborn, will ultimately, by the power of God's victorious grace, meet with success. It is appropriate tonight to conclude this homily with a prayer to Mary, the Virgin of Guadalupe. I invite you to unite your hearts to mine as I pray in the name of us all the prayer we have been offering as a novena in preparation for this feast.

*O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick
killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.*

*Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.*

Amen.

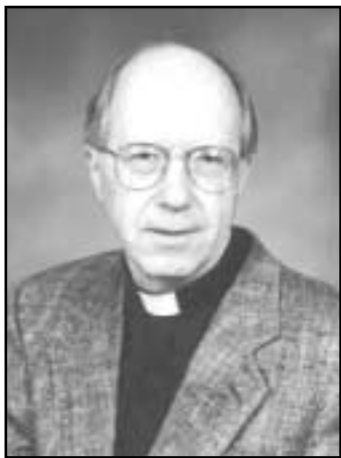
(Taken from the conclusion of Evangelium Vitae)

OBITUARY

Priest of the Diocese of Pembroke Reverend (Lawrence) Merlyn Ethier

Parish Priest of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville, Ontario and Chairman of the Council of Priests for the Diocese of Pembroke. At North Bay General Hospital on Tuesday February 17, 2004, at the age of 64 years following a brief illness.

Father Ethier was born in Westmeath, Ontario on November 25, 1939, the son of the late Lawrence Ethier & Louise Chevrier. His life was greatly enriched as a son of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, LaPasse, Ontario and through the education he received at R.R.#1 Westmeath, LaPasse and St. Columba's High School, Pembroke. Loving brother of Alda (George Sniderhan) London, Ont., Dillon (late Doreen) Shelburne, Ont., Denzil (Mona) LaPasse, Carl (Marjorie) Toronto, Arlene (Victor Lacroix) Pembroke, Gwen Devine, Nepean, Philip (Dawna) Mississauga and Melvin (Debbie) Kanata. Uncle of many nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces as well as many cousins. Nephew of Mrs. Ida McGuire, Pembroke and Rose Chevrier, Ottawa. Following



secondary school graduation, he entered St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario, in training for the diocesan priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1965 by Most Reverend William J. Smith at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, LaPasse.

Following ordination to the priesthood Father Ethier generously and selflessly served as assistant at Saint Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau, Paroisse St-Pierre, Fort-Coulonge and St. Theresa Parish, Temiscaming. Early in his priestly career he began studies in summer programs at Laurentian University, Sudbury & St. Paul University, Ottawa in the field of catechetics. Fr. Ethier also served as assistant at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Renfrew and eventually as assistant at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Renfrew. It was at this time that he began a long and distinguished career of service at St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew where he was a teacher, chaplain and friend to many over a span of 19 years. Father Ethier is remembered as a faithful and dedicated priest who supported and guid-

ed not only many hundreds of students but also the staff of the high school. His service and leadership was evident and appreciated during many challenging years when the high school had yet to receive full funding. Father Ethier also served as a dedicated spiritual leader to the Catholic Prayer group in Renfrew and to the Charismatic Prayer Group of the Diocese of Pembroke.

Father Ethier was pastor of St. James Parish, Portage-du-Fort, and of St. Elizabeth Parish, Vinton. He undertook studies at St. Paul University and completed a Master's degree in Theology, St. Paul University, Ottawa. He served as parish priest of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Campbell's Bay, Quebec, Immaculate Conception Parish, Bryson and Saint

Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville where he faithfully served up to the time of his illness last Fall. He was also chaplain to the Knights of Columbus Council #6664, Corbeil, Ontario. Well loved and respected by his brother priests, Father Ethier served them not only as Chairman

of the Council of Priests, but also as Director of the Ministry to Priests Program and a member of the Clergy Fund board of directors. He lay in state at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Astorville, on Thursday February 19 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm and from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Friday February 20 beginning at 9:30am until the Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection with Most Reverend Richard W. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke at 10:30am with and for his parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Astorville. Solemn translation followed the liturgy to St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke where he was waked on Friday from 7:00pm - 9:00pm and on Saturday February 21 from 9:00am until the Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection with Most Rev. Richard W. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke, at 10:30am. Spring interment at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, LaPasse. In memoriam donations to St. Thomas Aquinas Church Fund, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery Memorial Fund or The Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated.

Eucharistic Congress will be held in Guadalajara Mexico

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of Christians from countries throughout the world on the subject of the presence of Christ in the sign of the bread in the Eucharist. Its purpose is to "make ever better known loved and served Our Lord Jesus Christ in His Eucharistic Mystery, as the center of the life of the church and its mission for the salvation of the world."

Eucharistic Congresses have existed in the church since 1881. They were begun by a French Catholic laywoman, Emile-Marie Tamisier, and consisted of gatherings of persons who wished to express their faith in the Real Presence of Jesus.

Every four years our Holy Father calls a Eucharistic Congress to take place in some area of the five continents of the world and suggests a special theme relevant to fostering better understanding of the Eucharist and Real Presence.

This year's Congress will be held in Mexico, Oct. 10 to 17, 2004. Its theme is "The Eucharist, Light and Life of a New Millennium." It is hoped that the next Eucharistic Conference will take place in Quebec City in the year 2008.

It is our hope that some from our diocese

will respond to the call from our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Materials have been provided to inform people in our parishes. It is a privilege for me to be the Diocesan Contact with the Canadian

Catholic Conference of Bishops to prepare for this Congress.

Although many of us will not be able to attend, we certainly can join together with those who will, by accepting this special time of grace to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist and Eucharistic adoration in the life of the Church and on the great graces it brings us in living the Christian life.

As we prepare for this 48th Eucharistic Congress, to be held in October, we are asking our parishes to have a Holy Hour somewhere in the Diocese each week, to pray and to reflect on the Eucharist and on the Congress theme. May this Congress be for all our parishes and for you, the people of God, a time to manifest faith,

deepen faith and share faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the living bread -the Eucharist.

Diocesan Contact
Rev. Mervin Coulas, J.C.L.



The Diocese of Pembroke has a great new website.

www.diocesepembroke.ca

LIFE TEEN continues to lead teens closer to Christ

Guided by the prayerful direction and enthusiasm of Fr. O'Malley at Our Lady of Sorrows in Petawawa, the LIFE TEEN ministry for grade 9-12 continues to thrive. The youth are drawn into the celebration of the mass by taking ownership of it.

The youth at the LIFE TEEN mass (6pm Sunday evenings) take an active role in the liturgy by providing hospitality, lecturing, gift bearing and serving at the altar. After Mass, an evening of fun, faith, friends and food are shared until 9 pm.

The winter schedule from January to March consists of some interesting and challenging topics. In the month of January, LIFE TEEN covered an evening on the importance of prayer in our lives, the issue of the Occult (How to respond as Catholics?) and an evening of winter games and activities.

Upcoming, we are starting a series of evenings on GOD THE FATHER, with some issue nights such as Divorce and How far is too far?

Some of the social nights coming up are The game of life and Mass and a Movie night. For a detailed schedule please call Yvette Bourque at 687-4764.

Over the Christmas break, a group of youth from LIFE TEEN spent an afternoon at the Salvation Army, sorting food donations in order to get them out to needy families before Christmas Day. This was a nice way to serve the community and help bring to mind what Christmas is really about.

More recently on the P.A. Day, Jan. 30, youth also enjoyed an afternoon together



Above: Cast and crew members for Mystery Dinner Theatre at LIFE TEEN

on skis at the cross country ski trails at base Petawawa.

On February 7 a bus load from LIFE TEEN went to Ottawa for the day to take in the festivities of Winterlude and the Youth fest, presented by the Companions of the Cross, NET Canada and CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach).

It was an incredible evening of skits, song, adoration and a talk on "The Dating Game or Christian Courtship?" and "Celibacy for Those Called to Love with an Undivided Heart." This is our second year in attendance and we plan to go again next year as well.

Plans are underway for LIFE TEEN to prepare and present a second year performance of the Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday at a parish in Pembroke. Further details to be announced.

Plans are also underway for a fourth annual summer youth conference. This year plans are being made to attend the Lasting Treasures Catholic Youth conference at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario. This will be a 3 day conference followed by a day at Canada's Wonderland outside of Toronto. Dates and details to be announced.

For more information on the LIFE TEEN ministry and activities at Our Lady of Sorrows in Petawawa, please contact Yvette Bourque, (Youth minister) 687-4764

THE EDGE

The EDGE ministry for grade 6, 7 and 8's continues as well, at Our Lady of Sorrows in Petawawa. With a strong group of adult leaders, youth are learning deeper aspects of their faith in fun and experiential ways in a safe and loving environ-

ment. The EDGE runs on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.

Upcoming EDGE nights will focus on the person of Jesus, along with a social night. The next session begins February 10 and ends March 30th. Please contact Co-ordinator Theresa Clouthier at 687-4688 or the parish office at 687-4764 for details.

Some activities that the EDGE participants were able to take part in during the Fall Session were decorating outdoor Christmas trees on Petawawa Blvd. for the town of Petawawa, making and presenting Christmas cards to the Grey Sisters at the Grey Sisters Mother House in Pembroke and wrapping bags full of gifts for needy children, donated at the O.P.P station.

Service is an important aspect of living the Catholic faith and we try to incorporate that fact in our activities, so that we don't just talk about service, we give the youth opportunities to do service work.

FAMILY FORMATION begins at Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa!

Families will have the opportunity to grow together in their faith with an awesome program established in the U.S. Children, kindergarten to grade 6, and their parents will learn solid Catholic truth and teachings from adult facilitators and then will take home simple lessons, activities, stories etc. to continue learning and teaching the faith at home, together as a family.

For information about the program or to start one in your own parish, please call Coordinator Peggy Dunne 687-7158 or parish office at 687-4764.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2004

A Message from Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Bishop of Pembroke

"My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). These words of Jesus Christ form the theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Though first spoken by the Lord more than 2000 years ago, they address a desire which is ever new in the human heart: the yearning for peace. In our day people everywhere, citizens of a world marked by war and violence, are one in their hunger for real and lasting peace. While some may despair of ever finding it, the Church of Christ proclaims with confidence that such peace is possible. The words of Jesus not only give voice to the human

desire for peace; they also point to the source of its fulfillment: "My peace I give to you." True peace is the gift of Jesus Christ. Apart from him, human effort alone will not achieve the peace we seek. Only by following the teaching of Christ, only by an obedient listening to His instruction, will the world come to know the peace it seeks. This truth helps us to focus our prayer this week. We must pray that the teaching of Christ will be heard and followed, so that there will be peace.

Indeed, only prayer can bring about this obedient listening to Christ, because the teaching of our Lord is not easy. The doctrine of the Gospel and of the entire Christian tradition with respect to peace was stated very succinctly by Pope John Paul II two years ago in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Peace: there can be no peace without justice; and there can be no justice without forgiveness. As long as right order in relations among people and nations is absent, as long as there are inequities in our world, as long as people fail to accord one another the respect and love demanded by their dignity as human beings created in the image and likeness of God, there will be no true and lasting peace. True peace is grounded in justice, in

the right and good ordering of our relations with one another. Where that right and just order is lacking, it cannot be restored without forgiveness. In other words, the journey to peace is inseparable from the work of reconciliation. Peace demands unity.

Hence we appreciate the vital importance of this time of prayer together as Christians. We cannot pray for peace without at the same time praying for unity. In the midst of a fragmented world, the Church is called to be both the sign and the instrument of a real and lasting unity among people, a unity fashioned by the death and resurrection of Christ and maintained by the agency of the Holy Spirit. Yet since peace is the fruit of unity, our separation from one another in the Church of Christ weakens our credibility as instruments of peace.

Prayer together renews us in hope. Through prayer we open our hearts to the transforming power of Christ's mercy. May our common prayer this week bear fruit in a renewed conversion to Christ and a return to one another. May the followers of Jesus Christ soon be one again, so that the peace for which the Lord offered his life may be a reality in our day.

Thirsting for Justice is three-year D&P theme

Development and Peace invites us to reflect on this three-year Share Lent theme: "Thirsting for Justice," which is linked to our education theme "Water: Life before Profit!" God has created our world rich in resources. Prime among them is water, the source of all life.

little, we are called to express our solidarity in whatever way we can with the children, women and men of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

They are already working for a better life



In a statement prepared in October 2003, the Social Affairs Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops commented on the importance of water to all Creation: "Without water everything dies... Water is the life-blood of the planet, and maintains an intricate and delicately balanced circulation system that has evolved for more than four billion years. Water not only serves the common good, but is part of the common good . . . (Para.9)

for themselves and their families. Our solidarity, and our own commitment to justice, can help them share in God's favour, in his living water.

It has been the tradition of the Diocese that 75 percent of our Diocesan Share Lent collection is given to Development and Peace and 25 percent is given to our Mission Appeals.

Yet more than one billion people, the majority of them living in Asia, Africa and Latin America, do not have access to adequate clean water.

The theme "Thirsting for Justice" is about not only the thirst of our brothers and sisters for water, but also for an equitable distribution of the abundant goods of the earth. People also thirst for literacy, education, health care, and even the right to vote.

In 2003, the Diocese of Pembroke Share Lent total was \$158,540. In order to meet the ever growing needs of our overseas programs Development and Peace is hoping to increase the 2004 campaign total by 10%. The per-capita donation from our diocese has always been one of the highest in the country. Last year it averaged \$2.41. Thank you so much.

In a world where so many people have so



The Most Rev. Richard W. Smith, Bishop of Pembroke, ordained Denis Lemieux to the diaconate on Saturday, February 21, 2004, at St. Mary's Chapel, Madonna House, Combermere. Denis was born in Trois Rivières, Quebec, on August 12, 1966, and grew up in Alexandria, Ontario. He joined the Madonna House community as a consecrated layman in 1991, making his final promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience in 1998. Before entering St. Augustine's Seminary to begin his theological studies, Denis served as editor of the Madonna House newspaper, Restoration, for a number of years, and also was director of the Madonna House schola (choir) for a time.



St. Joseph's High School Students Celebrate Mass in Arnprior

As a school community with students from no fewer than 6 local parish communities, we are always looking for ways to connect with our parishes. One means of doing so is gathering with a parish when we have a school Mass. Many of our students hail from St. John Chrysostom Parish in Arnprior and with this fact in mind, on Wednesday, Dec. 3, the school travelled to St. John Chrysostom Parish to celebrate Eucharist. Mass started at approximately 9:30. St. Joseph's High School students were joined by Grade 8 students from the parish elementary school for the liturgy. As part of the St. Joseph's High School commitment to make a difference in our communities the students brought donations of food which was forwarded to the Arnprior Food Bank. We extend a sincere thanks to Fr. Dobec and the entire St. John's Chrysostom Parish for hosting this event.

A letter from the Bishop

Editor's note: The following letter was issued by the Bishop in preparation for Marriage Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Dear Faithful People in Christ,

Together with other Christian communities of the province, the Bishops of Ontario have agreed to have a special celebration of marriage in the week of February 8-15, 2004, with Sunday, February 15, 2004, designated as Marriage Sunday. Accordingly, I have directed that marriage Sunday be celebrated in all parishes of the Diocese of Pembroke, both in Ontario and in Quebec. The purpose of this special event is to remind ourselves of the importance of both the sacrament of marriage and the family for the formation of children and the common good of our society.

During this time I invite all parishioners to reflect prayerfully on the truth of marriage as a gift from God and on its importance as the basic building block of a healthy society. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to share your thoughts with your Member of Parliament. Offer thanks to God for the witness to the beauty of marriage offered by so many husbands and wives and their children in this Diocese.

Together with all of our priests, I take this opportunity personally to thank the married couples of our parishes. Christ has called you to be for the world a sign of His faithful love. Fidelity to your vocation calls for deep faith, loving self-sacrifice and, above all, trusting reliance on the providence of God. Be assured of our prayerful support and accompaniment.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Richard W. Smith
Bishop of Pembroke

A fond farewell to Carl Hetu

Long time animator for Development and Peace, Mr. Carl Hetu of Gatineau, presented his final Share Lent workshop on Saturday February 7th at Holy Name of Jesus annex in Pembroke. Representatives from twelve parishes, along with friends, gathered to say goodbye to Carl who has accepted the position of National Secretary for Canada, with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (cnewa.org). For the next six months Carl will be visiting Ethiopia, Egypt, Israel and India, as well as CNEWA offices in Rome and in

New York City. Carl Hetu encouraged D&P supporters from the Pembroke Diocese to continue to work for global justice by animating their own parishes and religious communities. "Canadian Catholics need to know how their support for Development and Peace is changing lives in the Global South," Hetu told workshop participants. "When people give money to Share Lent, the funds directly improve living and working conditions for the poorest of the poor in seventy countries. This is work that is rooted in the gospel! We need to make

people aware of North-South issues. What are the causes of poverty? Development and Peace supports human rights, community development and humanitarian aid. We are linked to a world-wide network of Catholic development organizations. When a disaster happens emergency aid is available. Our overseas partners are there, ready to respond. This is good."

Carl Hetu said he would miss the many friends he has made among the clergy and laity of the

Pembroke Diocese. In a letter read at the workshop, Most Reverend Richard W. Smith, Bishop of the Pembroke Diocese, wrote: "Your commitment to the poor through your untiring dedication to the work of Development and Peace has been inspiring to me personally, and a wonderful example to the people of the Diocese of Pembroke. Thank you for all that you have contributed to our local efforts to raise awareness of the needs of the vulnerable in our world and to respond generously to them. I wish you the very best as you undertake this exciting endeavour. May the Lord bless you with peace and joy as you serve Him and His Church in your new ministry."



Pastoral Planning - Mattawa Zone

“Lord, you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my Sheep”

John 21:17

On November 15, 2003, the first Pastoral Planning meeting for our zone was held in Bonfield. Change was necessitated sooner than anticipated due to the sudden and serious illness of Father Merlyn Ethier, who was unable to continue ministering to the parishes of Astorville and Corbeil. Three priests are now left to serve seven churches in our zone.

The clergy in Mattawa formulated a temporary Sunday Mass schedule for the parishes of Astorville, Bonfield, Corbeil and Mattawa. We were committed to ensuring sacramental celebration in these parishes.

To this end, the parishes of Astorville, Bonfield, and Mattawa each cancelled one Mass in each of these parishes. Henceforth, Mass would be celebrated in French in three afore-mentioned parishes and also in Corbeil. Mass would be celebrated in English in Corbeil and Mattawa for Anglophone parishioners of our zone.

Father McElligott would celebrate Mass in Astorville, Bonfield and Corbeil. Father Cain would celebrate Mass twice in Mattawa and once in Corbeil. The parishioners of Astorville found the change particularly difficult because they had lost the service of their beloved and resi-

dential pastor. Subsequent to suggesting this temporary Mass schedule, the Parish Council and parishioners of Bonfield opted for a bi-lingual Mass celebration instead of one uniquely French.

The finalized schedule was printed and presented to the four parishes in question so all would be aware of the times and the language of the celebrations in each parish. The pastoral planning was a success because the clergy and laity were willing to adapt to the changes occasioned by a critical shortage of priestly celebrants. The adjustment was further facilitated by the generous ministry of the three deacons in

our zone.

All of us had already been sensitized to forthcoming changes. We were alerted by the Pastoral Planning initiatives already undertaken at the request of Bishop Smith.

We can attest with gratitude and happy hearts that these new pastoral initiatives reached a beneficial conclusion, due to the collaboration and the co-operation of the clergy and the faithful of our zone. These initiatives were to receive the approval and blessing of our Bishop, who thanked us most sincerely for a job well done!

The Diocese of Pembroke and the Archdiocese of Lima manifesting communion in Christ



Le Diocèse de Pembroke et l'Archidiocèse de Lima manifestent leur communion dans le Christ