



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

Reflecting and rejoicing in the Year of Faith

My dear Faithful of the Diocese,

On October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Benedict XVI led the Church into a celebration of a Year of Faith. The Year is intended to last throughout 2013 until November 24, the Feast of Christ the King.

The first thing that touches our heart is the fact that Pope Benedict is no longer the Bishop of Rome and that, with his renunciation, Pope Francis has been elected to lead and guide the Church in the coming years. There is a melancholy aspect to the fact that Benedict is no longer able to lead the Church through the year of faith, because the mystery of faith has been central to his entire priestly life, in his teaching, writing, preaching and pastoral care as Bishop. His historical decision to resign as Pope spoke to the reality that his frailty would no longer allow him to fulfill the responsibilities of pope. And now, with the election of Pope Francis, the Church moves forward under the care of God to reflect on the mystery of faith.

The election of Pope Francis was considered a great surprise. The joy of this surprise has also given to us a great consolation, the consolation of knowing more tangibly that this Church is God's Church. We do not control it. And God in his everlasting goodness has known what his Church, his beloved bride, truly needs. And often times and dare we say frequently, the very graces which the Lord's Church needs do not correspond to what we might think she needs. God has not abandoned his Church and he never will.

Over the past century, God has blessed us with remarkable bishops who have fulfilled the ministry of Peter. Many have been saintly and the Church has recognized this gift of sanctity through the canonization and beatification of three Popes in the last 100 years. Each has been unique, each has been chosen to bring unique gifts and a personal emphasis to the ministry. The feeble attempt to compare one as more fruitful than another is to sadly misjudge the providence of God and exalt our own frail capacities. Let us rejoice in this providential variety, in the same way that we thank God for the unique gifts of our bishops, pastors, religious, deacons and dedicated lay people, all unique and precious in the eyes of the Lord.

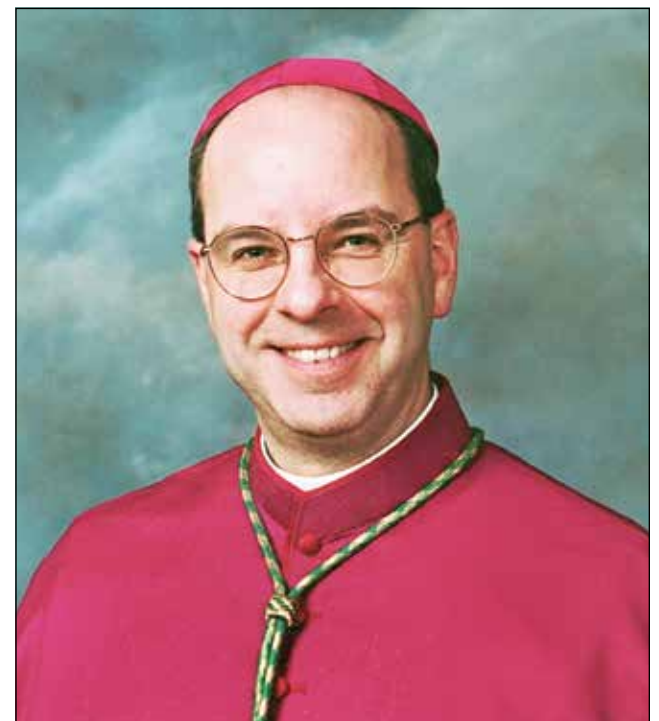
Let us keep Benedict in our prayers in these years of his retirement and let us pray for Pope Francis, as we do daily, that the Lord will continue to grant him the grace of good health and strength in his many difficult responsibilities.

In asking the Church to celebrate a Year of Faith, Benedict asked us to reflect on what he has called the crisis of faith. We could use other terms, but we all have a good experience of this reality. We witness many people, not only the young, for whom the basic questions of faith do not resonate. For many, this experience involves members of our own families and we know that, at times, this seeming disinterestedness to the faith results in serious misguided decisions in the moral life that lead to great unhappiness. Though our times are unique and our challenges are unique, the Church has suffered other periods in its history when the faith of the Church needed to be strengthened. Our response to this contemporary situation is the only means we have to address this matter. Always in such circumstances we are asked to live our faith more fully and with a clearer eye on the consequences of living our faith in a world which seems to be more and more blind to the religious mysteries.

Benedict's call for the Church to celebrate a Year of Faith has been truly providential. The Pope has invited us to reflect upon and purify the most fundamental action of the Church, in fact the most fundamental action of every human being. What does it mean to believe? Why do I believe? How do I respond to the insistence of the voices which demand that faith has no place in the public life of our communities? How do I respond to the fear in each of us to remain silent when the witness of our faith is asked?

Most fundamentally each one of us is asked to respond to the self-revelation of God. God in his goodness has decided to reveal his love, his very nature to humanity. What is the human response? Certainly it is not to qualify or correct the self-revelation of God, but to accept the fullness of this gift. My response is to answer as Mary teaches us. "Lord let it be done as you say." This is the profound simplicity of our response. This is our answer of faith.

During the Easter Season, the Church reflected on the Acts of the Apostles in the liturgy. Describing the first journey of St. Paul we read that "when Paul and Barnabas arrived at Antioch, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." (Acts 14.27) It is this text that Benedict chose for the title of his Letter for the Year of Faith and, more specifically, the expression "door of faith", porta fidei. This passage captures the joy of Paul and Barnabas as they return to Antioch after the first journey. But it also



captures the joy of the community where they were first called Christians as they learn of the great works of God and that he has opened the door of faith to the gentiles. How essential it is for each of us to recognize that it is God who opens the door of faith. As each of us responds to God's revelation of Himself and his desire that we share eternal life with him, it is the God who first speaks who also allows the door of faith to be opened.

If we are able to appreciate the work of God in bringing people to belief, we understand the importance of prayer as the fundamental human initiative that will open the door of faith in their life. Let us not simply appreciate the importance of prayer, but resolve to pray persistently in our time before the Blessed Sacrament, in our prayer of the Divine Office, in our rosary and above all through our intentions at the Mass. May God grant this grace to all people.

My dear brothers and sisters, the great tradition of our faith has been handed down to us. May we always strive to reflect more deeply on the gift of faith, always respect the act of faith of persons of all denominations and beliefs, and pray persistently that the culture in which we live may be transformed by the witness of believers who have been brought through the door of faith.

† **Michael Mulhall**
Bishop of Pembroke

Parish Profile

Most Holy Name of Jesus

A native son has returned to Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pembroke to encourage the faithful to take the lead in their church.

"I was born, raised and educated here, and I was ordained here, so I'm back in my home parish," says Father Peter Proulx.

"I'm back with my family; I'm back with my friends. When I look at the history of the parish, it's really interesting to see where the parish has gone in all those years."

Father Proulx was only just assigned to Holy Name in July of 2012. Previous to that, he served for 13 years at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Renfrew. In total, he has served thirty-six years in the priesthood.

Established in 1921 by Father Thomas Joseph Sloan, who also served as its first pastor, the church was originally called St. John the Baptist and was a fully bilingual parish. In due course, French services were transferred to the newly opened Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste. With that, Holy Name of Jesus became the permanent name of the church in 1941. It is one of four Catholic churches in the city of Pembroke.

Though situated in the west end, parish members do not exclusively reside in that part of the city.

"It is in the west end of Pembroke, and the majority of the people do come from the west end," explains Father Proulx. "But there are people who live in the east end or centre town, or even in the country, that choose to belong here because they feel at home here."

Father Proulx is keeping busy not only with his regular priestly duties, but also with other pressing matters involving the parish as a whole. Currently, an effort is underway to review the management of parish buildings.

"The Finance & Property Committee, right now, is doing an evaluation of all of the structures Holy Name has," said Father Proulx.

"There's a vast amount of buildings here. There's the church, there's this huge rectory, which we don't need, and then there's the parish hall. We're looking at what our resources are and how we're going to manage all of this more efficiently, but also looking for alternative uses. It's an organization that has been very diligent in getting a handle on all this."

Holy Name of Jesus has also seen the creation of Liturgy Committee that has taken on the initiative in becoming a crucial part of church life.

"A group of parishioners has come together to provide leadership in planning anything related to the sacramental life of the parish," explains Father Proulx.

"They're academically involved in real study of documents of the church that have to do with the liturgy. They just hosted a parish mission for four days here as a part of our Lenten celebration of the Year of Faith. This parish mission was led by Father Bill Burke, who is the Liturgy Director for the Canadian Bishops Conference in Ottawa. The theme of that was to look at reclaiming our baptism, and looking at the reality of where the church is at in the modern day. If we can begin to reclaim our baptism, those who will can then enliven the church. It was a very industrious effort, I was very proud of them for all they put into it. This is a group of parishioners with a strong, vested interest in wanting to see the parish become what it potentially can be."

One of the Liturgy Committee members is Lloyd Hill, a member of Holy Name of Jesus for 45 years.

"We've been going since the fall of last year, so it's a fairly young committee," says Hill. "What we're trying to do is to encourage a sense of community through the parish, especially in the liturgy. The liturgy consists of the mass, the music, the readers, the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist; everything that's going on, liturgy-wise."

Hill credits Father Proulx in his willingness to clarify and discuss any matters on which the committee is working.

"He's just so open that way. You ask him anything and he'll answer you," says Hill.

At nearby Holy Name Catholic School, the student body is also making its presence known within the church community.

"Our biggest role in the school is to create a relationship between the home, school and parish," explains Principal Amy Sicoli.

"Father Proulx and I have met a number of times throughout the year to sit down and say 'Okay, here's the vision we have for the parish and the school. How do we bring that together for the students and parents so that the same message is being sent?' We really want the kids at the school to recognize that the parish is our second home."

It is a reciprocal relationship that's being nurtured, with Father Proulx visiting the students in the school, and the student body attending and participating in mass at the church.



"Father Proulx has been fantastic with the kids," says Sicoli.

"He's very visible in the school. He has individual chats with the classes, which he really enjoys. He's been great to come over any time we have any activities or school fun events. It's nice for the kids to see him in that manner. We've been having school-wide masses where the students lead the mass in terms of doing the readings, bringing the offertory gifts, doing the Prayer of the Faithful, and we do the music."

"There's a very unique relationship between the school and church because the two buildings are virtually on the same block," says Father Proulx.

"We have one week-day mass on Wednesday at 9:45 a.m., so classes alternate and come to mass. We get a lot of involvement from our young people that way. I'm in the school usually two or three times a week. During the Lenten season, the teachers brought the students over so we could do The Way of the Cross during Lent, and introduce the young people to some of the liturgical traditions of the church. It's a very active parish-school relationship."

Weekend Masses at Holy Name of Jesus are celebrated Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9 a.m.



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Father Tardiff reflections

In life, the late Father R. Murray Tardiff was known for his unending reservoir of energy serving God's faithful. It was a passion that carried through until his passing at the Pembroke Regional Hospital on March 10, 2013.

"No matter what he was involved with, Father Tardiff was there one hundred per cent, right to his dying day," Monsignor Douglas Bridge tells *Ecclesia*. "The night before he went into the hospital, he was at Our Lady of Lourdes replacing Father (William) Kenney. He was just a dedicated man who loved people."

It was a love born in his devotion to share God's love with all who would embrace it. Father Tardiff was born and raised in Pembroke, where he was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1958. From that day forward, he would embrace his calling with a wellspring of vigour. For those who knew him best, it was obvious where such passion came from.

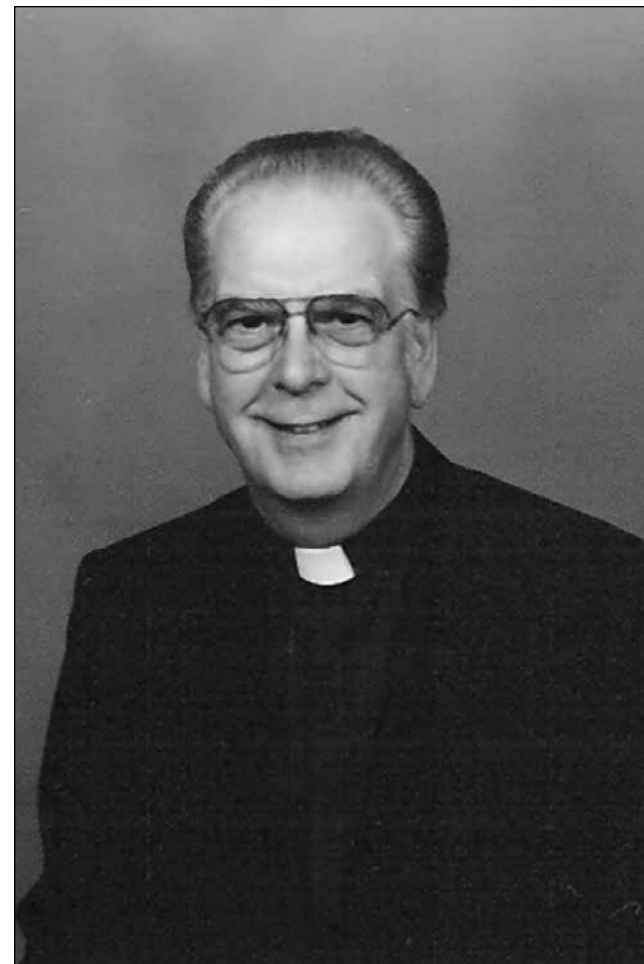
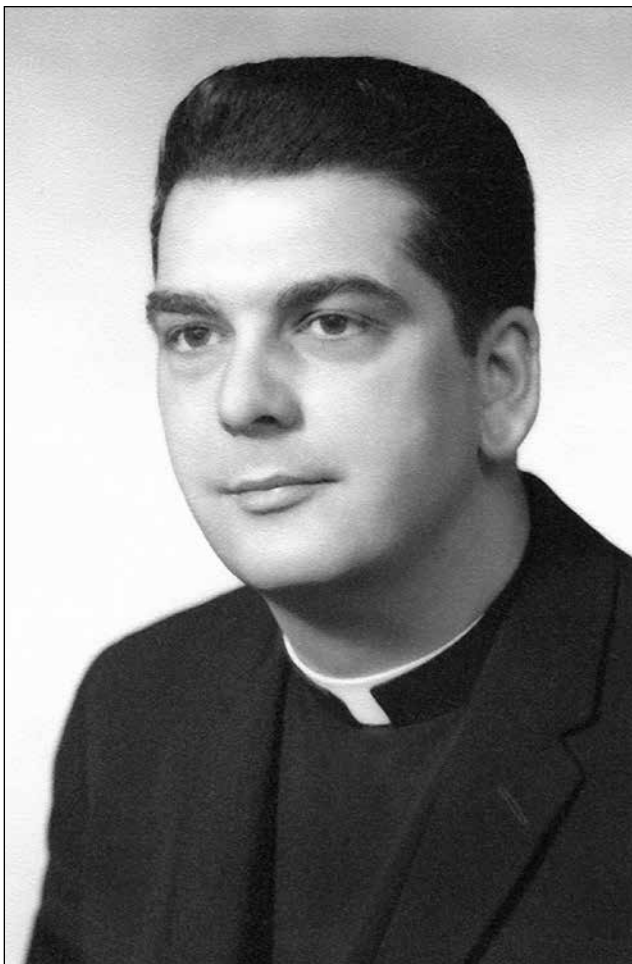
"The most obvious answer is the man's faith, the man's dedication to his vocation" says Monsignor Bridge, who knew Father Tardiff for more than 45 years. "He lived out that vocation in so many ways. He was a very talented person, and related to people well."

There was no shortage of avenues in which Father Tardiff served the people over 50 years of service. The early years saw him assigned to parishes throughout the Diocese, including Mattawa, Arnprior, Campbell's Bay, Renfrew, Lapasse and Westmeath.

"He met people where they were," says Monsignor Bridge. "In the parish context, he was an excellent pastor in the years he was serving in the parishes."

Beyond his duties as parish priest, Father Tardiff sought to better himself academically in acquiring a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) via the University of Ottawa. He would go on to establish the Diocese of Pembroke Catholic Social Services, the Office of the Lay Apostolate, and the Diocesan Vocation Association. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of the Renfrew County Children's Aid Society, the Pembroke Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and was the founding chairman of the Social Planning Council of the County of Renfrew.

January of 1971 saw Father Tardiff appointed to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, then with the Catholic Charities Council of Canada. It would begin a period where he served with various Catholic organizations outside of the Diocese, with the exception of one. From 1982 to 1987, he served as Director of Chaplaincy with Correctional Services of Canada, tasked with administering chaplaincy services to all faith groups in federal penitentiaries.



"He was committed to people under every circumstance," says Monsignor Bridge. "I think he thought he would be able to reach many underprivileged people who are incarcerated by being of service to the chaplains whose very particular calling is to be of help and assistance administering to the detainees."

In 2004, Father Tardiff officially retired from full-time parish ministry to reside in Pembroke. But as was typical of the man, retirement did not translate into a life of relaxation. For when parish priests were unable to carry out their duties due to absence or illness, Father Tardiff was there to fill the gap.

"He was the go-to guy who always said 'Yes,'" says Monsignor Bridge. "In the last few years, we'd say 'Slow down, Murray. You've got to start taking it easy.' He was 80 years old and still going strong. He had energy galore. One of his favourite words was 'availability.' He wanted to be available to the brothers, he would say, to be of help to anyone that was away for a weekend or wanted help with an evening mass. Every time he answered his call to be available, he would say 'Yes.' It was always of great joy for him to be of service. That is a great inspiration to me and many others, I'm sure."

Father Tardiff also served as chaplain for the past eight years with the Knights of Columbus Bishop N.Z. Lorrain (No. 1531) Pembroke Council.

"As chaplain, Father Murray (Tardiff) always encouraged us to be strong in our Catholic faith and to be Catholic gentlemen," recalls Council Grand Knight Jack Schreder from his address that was read at a special memorial service held by the Knights of Columbus.

"We were to be examples of this in our community and, no question, he was the example for us to follow. He enjoyed immensely being part of the charitable work of the Knights and the fellowship and camaraderie it offered."

Father Tardiff, a 4th Degree member of the Bishop Smith Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, was instrumental in the formation of the men's choir in January of 2012.

"Since then, the group has become known as the Singing Knights," says Schreder. "He was a part of it from the beginning. He enjoyed singing, and had a lovely voice. This past November, he sat with the rest of the choir on a hay wagon—our float in the Santa Claus Parade—as we sang Christmas carols up Pembroke Street. We actually won a trophy for the most enthusiastic float. He was big part of that."

Schreder recalls with fondness how Father Tardiff tried to fit in with the rest of the choir members on one particular occasion.

"We sang at Marianhill before Christmas, and the Knights of Columbus bought red ties for all the choir group," tells Schreder. "Of course, he had the collar on. So we hung a red tie on him for the singing at Marianhill. We have a beautiful picture of him with the red tie over the collar. He was just one of the guys."

"He was totally dedicated to his role as chaplain with the Knights of Columbus," says Monsignor Bridge. "He was of great service to the men in that organization in leading them spiritually through their commitment as Catholic Knights of Columbus."

Among those who knew him well, there will be no shortage of anecdotes that will be shared on the life of Father Tardiff. For Monsignor Bridge, it was his friend's outward expression of unbridled adoration to Jesus Christ that stands out the most.

"A famous expression of his was 'Thank you, Jesus,'" recalled Bridge. "He would finish his meal and say 'Thank you, Jesus.' We'd have a good encounter, or watch a great movie, and he would say, 'Thank you, Jesus.' He was very grateful to the Lord for what he had."

Father Coulas 50th anniversary

Father Mervin P. Coulas will be celebrating his 50th anniversary in service to God and people as priest this year. A native of Barry's Bay, it was in his youth at St. Hedwig's that Father Coulas would ultimately begin his religious journey.

"I was involved with the parish as an altar server," recalls Father Coulas. "Throughout that time I saw the good work priests did, so I developed an interest. When it came time to make a decision—to go on to the seminary—I decided to go and give it a try. The seminary was very strict during those years. We were trained to be monks rather than pastors in parishes in those days. When it came to make the final decision, I was ready to answer the call and said 'yes'."

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1963, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend William J. Smith at St. Hedwig Church. From there, Father Coulas would go on to serve the faithful in the following parishes: Our Lady of Mercy in Bancroft and St. Anthony Padua in Haliburton in 1963, St. James in Eganville and Nativity of Mary in Golden Lake from 1963 to 1968, St. Matthew's in Madawaska in 1968 (also served as Religious Education Director at Madawaska Valley High School in Barry's Bay), St. Hedwig's in Barry's Bay from 1968 to 1969, Our Lady of Lourdes in Pembroke in 1969, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River from 1969 to 1970, St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew in 1970 until 1973, Holy Name of Jesus in Pembroke from 1973 until 1974, Our Lady of Angels in Brudenell from 1974 until 1978, St. Casimir in Round Lake from 1978 until 1987, Our Lady of Fatima in Renfrew from 1987 until 1999. He also served as chaplain at Bishop Smith Catholic School in Pembroke from 1974 until 1980. For the last 12 years, he has served at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Barry's Bay as administrator.

In addition to his obligations as parish priest, Father Coulas served as Vocation Director of the Diocese of Pembroke for 25 years, retiring from the position in 1999. In this capacity, he was responsible for overseeing the admittance of applicants to the priesthood and to promote all vocations in the diocese.

"You're responsible for encouraging vocations and supporting the ones attending the seminary" explains Father Coulas. "As Vocation Director, I would visit the seminaries every year, sometimes twice a year, where I would meet with candidate students from the diocese.

I would give them encouragement and listen to their concerns. We were getting quite a number of candidates at that time, sometimes 14 or 15 at a time in the seminary. Some of them didn't go on, but most of them did and went on to serve in the diocese over the years. It was an interesting ministry and most rewarding to be given."

Like many of his fellow priests, Father Coulas has had the opportunity to visit Vatican City in Rome on more than one occasion, including a period of study in canon law at the Urbaniana in 1983.

"I was doing some courses over there for four months," says Father Coulas. "I'm a canon lawyer; I received my JCL (Juris Canonici Licentia—Licentiate of Canon from St. Paul's, Ottawa) and MCL (Master of Canon Law at Ottawa University). I also visited Rome on holidays. A good many times I had the privilege to celebrate mass with the Holy Father, Blessed Pope John Paul II, in his private chapel—the last being in 2003 for my 40th. I met him a number of times. You really learned to appreciate the work he was doing: seeing him at prayer and celebrating mass you experienced holiness in action."

In addition to studying canon law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, Father Coulas also studied at Laurentian University, successfully acquiring a BA in Humanities in 1972. His interest in supporting Catholic education would inevitably lead him to serve as a board member with the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board from 1985 to 1997.

"I was interested in Catholic education," says Father Coulas in explaining his reasons for serving on the board. "It was an interesting 12 years. I was involved in a lot of different committees, like finance, property and special education. I was chairman for some of those."

During his time as an assistant at St. Xavier's in Renfrew, Father Coulas helped establish the MacKay Manor, a centre dedicated to providing assistance to those struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

"There were problems all over the county at that time," Father Coulas recalls of the need for such a facility to assist residents with substance abuse issues. "I was appointed to Victoria Hospital Board (1971–1975) and while on the board we were asked to send a representative to a meeting to discuss the possibility of providing such a centre for the Renfrew County. I was asked by the board to be that representative."



"The assembled representatives from the county, after much discussion, felt that there was a need. As a result they began looking for a building in Pembroke. Everywhere they went they met up with a stumbling block from people who didn't want such a centre in their area. Being the Renfrew representative, I suggested that they look elsewhere and I suggested Renfrew. We looked at a number of sites and finally found one at the McCann Building—the home of the former Minister of Finance in Ottawa. This centre has been going for over 40 years and has helped many with their problems in the county and beyond. I always said if it helped one person it was worth all the effort that was put into bringing it about."

Family, fellow priests, friends and parishioners from across the diocese will have an opportunity to salute Father Coulas this June. Appropriately, the celebration will be held in his hometown, the very place where he answered the call to serve God.

"On the second of June we'll be having a celebration here at St. Lawrence O'Toole," says Father Coulas. "Many people from different parishes will be attending."

Formation Sessions for Parish Catechists Planned for September 2013

By Jason Dedo

It has now been four years since the *Policy for the Sacramental Initiation of Children in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pembroke (Pentecost 2009)* was promulgated by Bishop Michael Mulhall. For some parishes in the Pembroke, Renfrew and Barry's Bay zones of the diocese, this policy would have resulted in a change in the way the sacramental initiation process for children was organized and implemented.

The policy calls for a parish-based process for sacramental catechesis rather than a Catholic school-based model, which had been the norm in many

parishes for some time. In the Mattawa and Pontiac zones of the diocese, the sacramental initiation process has been parish-based for many years now.

In directing all parishes to move to a parish-based process, Bishop Mulhall, through the diocesan policy, wanted to ensure that the initiation process more clearly resembled the vision of the Church as expressed in the Church's *General Directory for Catechesis*.

The importance of the ongoing formation of parish catechists is outlined in the *General Directory for Catechesis* and is also of consequence to our diocese. To help with the ongoing formation of parish catechists, the Office of Faith Formation of the diocese is planning

another catechist formation session on Saturday, September 21, at the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish Annex in Pembroke.

All parish catechists involved in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, the sacramental initiation of children, children's catechetical processes and family formation processes are invited to attend this session. Pastors, administrators, deacons and pastoral assistants are also welcome to attend.

More information about this formation session will be available in the coming months from parish offices and the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation.

Father Pelton 50th anniversary

Ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1963, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend William J. Smith, Father Robert D. Pelton will be celebrating his years of service to God and the Roman Catholic Church with members of Madonna House Apostolate in Combermere.

Raised as a Protestant in his native Cleveland, Ohio, Father Pelton began his journey to serve in the priesthood while studying English at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. It began via a simple question posed to him that motivated Pelton to seek out clarity on the divine existence of God.

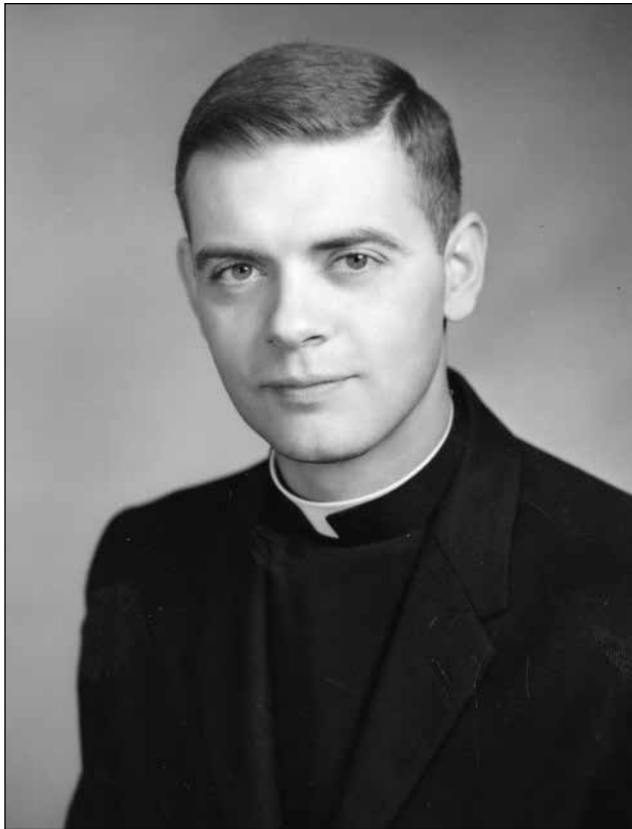
“People would ask me, ‘Did God really create the Earth in seven days?’” recalls Father Pelton. “I didn’t really have any in-depth instruction; I had normal knowledge of Christianity. I think, for a while, I decided that I was agnostic, but I didn’t consider myself an atheist. But then, through a long journey, I eventually decided that yes, it certainly did make sense that God did exist. I came to the conclusion that I did believe in Jesus Christ. But then what? Was I going to go back to being a Protestant? Maybe I should be a Catholic? More and more I was moving in the direction of the Catholic Church. I recognized that if I was really going to believe in Christ, how could I not belong to the church that goes back to the time of Christ.”

His path to becoming a Roman Catholic would lead him to Madonna House.

“I had a couple of good friends who had heard about Madonna House,” says Father Pelton. “These friends had visited and were profoundly affected. So, I decided that I would go there for Holy Week (the last week of Lent) during Easter in 1956. When I arrived, it was really like coming home. The next day after I arrived, I had a talk with Catherine Doherty (foundress of Madonna House). I told her my story, and she looked at me and said, ‘Well, when will you become a Catholic and make a profession of faith? You can’t keep God waiting?’ I was received into the church on Holy Saturday and received my first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil mass.”

Conversion to the Roman Catholic faith was not all that was in store for the new convert at that time. It was during a conversation with a couple of members of Madonna House that Father Pelton made a bold declaration.

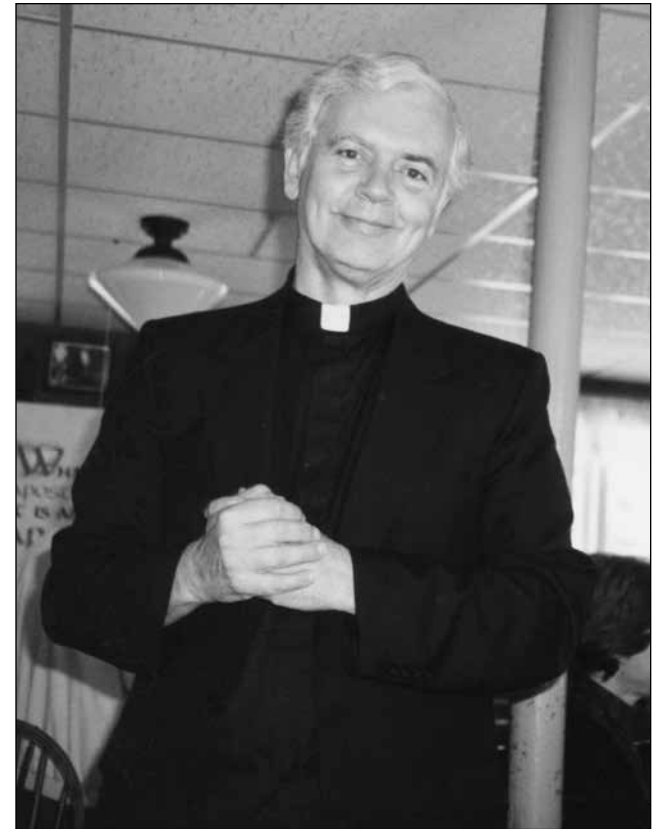
“All of a sudden I turned to them and said, ‘I think God wants me to join Madonna House and become a



priest,” says Father Pelton. “I had a clear awareness that you can’t be a Christian part-time. If you’re going to be a Christian, you’re totally a Christian. For me, this meant priesthood.”

He would return to Combermere that summer for discernment, having completed his studies at Yale. With the support of Doherty and Father John Callahan, the co-founder and first general director of Madonna House Priests, it was decided that Father Pelton would study Latin and philosophy at St. Jerome’s University in Waterloo, Ontario. Further studies in theology were pursued at St. Mary’s seminary in Baltimore, followed by his ordination shortly after.

Beyond assisting in a part-time capacity at St. Andrew’s Parish in Killaloe, Father Pelton would see most of his early years studying abroad. He journeyed abroad to study briefly in Rome, then pursuing further education at McGill University in Montreal. He taught in Washington, D.C., then moved on to the University of Chicago where he acquired a Doctorate in History and Religion. Summers were spent at Combermere, or at a Madonna House sister mission in Canada or the United States.



In 1975, Father Pelton adopted a life of hermitage via the philosophy of poustinia (the Russian word for desert) founded by Doherty. It emphasizes communion with God through silence, solitude and prayer.

“I really felt strongly that it was God’s will that I do this,” says Father Pelton. “It was three days in a hermitage and four days with the community. I lived this poustinia life for nine years. Living that kind of life, with that focus on prayer, certainly deepened my relationship with Christ. It focused me on the Lord’s concern for what was happening in the world and many individuals. That has stayed with me.”

This period of quiet devotion to prayer ended with the passing of Father Callahan in 1984. Father Pelton was then elected to the position of Director General of Priests of Madonna House. He would hold that title for the next 20 years.

“It’s like being a religious superior,” explains Father Pelton. “You are responsible for these other priests; that is to see that they are well in mind, body and spirit. You’re responsible for their assignments, and are also responsible for the formation of new priests who would join Madonna House. You also work with the Directors of Lay Men and Lay Women to determine the course of Madonna House, to see that we are growing and doing what the Lord wants us to do.”

Having resigned from the position in 2004, Father Pelton has reverted to a life instilled with prayer and reflection, along with leading spiritual instruction both at Madonna House and at missions and retreats outside of the community. However, he will take some time out of his schedule to celebrate his ordination anniversary and the life he has lived in the service of God.

“We had a celebration on the Feast of Pentecost just to simplify things,” says Father Pelton. “During May, all the directors of our houses from all around the world come to Combermere. We spend three weeks discussing the Apostolate. We wanted to have the celebration while these directors were here. The whole of Madonna House couldn’t come to celebrate my jubilee, but at least one representative from the whole Apostolate was here.”

75th Anniversary of the Pilgrimage to St. Ann’s Shrine, Cormac

Father Eugene O’Reilly will be the pilgrimage leader this year

Father O’Reilly has spoken at the pilgrimage in past years and is enjoyed by many for his wit and wisdom. The dates for the Triduum of Masses in preparation for pilgrimage Sunday are: July 25, 26, and 27. The Triduum Sunday Mass is July 28, with Mass at 11 a.m., and a Mass for healing at 2 p.m. (including anointing with St. Ann’s Oil).

Father Tait—40th anniversary

Family, fellow priests, friends and parishioners gathered recently at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lapasse to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Father Patrick J. Tait. The event was organized by members of both Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Grace Mission in Westmeath where Father Tait currently serves the faithful of both churches.

“The church was jam-packed,” recalls Father Tait. “There were people from all the parishes that I had been in. It was just great. You feel a little bit ancient because you baptized some of these people, then you marry them and baptize their children.”

It was on May 12, 1973, that Father Tait was ordained to the priesthood by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Raymond Windle at St. Anne’s Parish, Rapides-des-Joachims, QC (closed). It was at St. Anne’s where Father Tait heard the call to serve God as a priest.

“Really, that desire was always there,” recalls Father Tait. “That attraction was there since I started serving mass (as an altar server) when I was about eight years old.”

He attended the University of St. Jerome’s College (now St. Jerome’s University) in Waterloo, Ontario, to study philosophy.

“It was a challenge,” says Father Tait upon reflecting on his early years of study under the Resurrectionist Fathers. “The Council (Second Vatican) had happened, but the changes hadn’t been implemented. It was the old style of seminary formation where you were almost cut off completely from the world.”

Following his time at St. Jerome’s, Father Tait began his studies in theology at St. Peter’s Seminary in London, ON.

“By that time, it was not quite as restrictive,” says Father Tait. “We were more involved with visiting hospitals and getting out of the seminary.”

Father Tait first served at St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew.

“You’re very excited, because it’s something new,” says Father Tait on his first assignment at St. Xavier’s. “In our day, we were out as deacons just for three months before you were ordained. Nowadays, they (seminarians) are out and about in the parish for a year. You were eager and excited to live out the life you prepared for.”

He served at St. Francis from 1973 to 1980. From there, he was assigned to St. Alphonsus in Chapeau, QC, from 1980 to 1982, followed by his tenure at St. Charles Borromée in Otter Lake, QC, from 1982 to 1994. From 1994 until 2012, he was assigned to St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke. He currently serves as parish priest for both Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Our Lady of Grace Mission.

During his time in Otter Lake, Father Tait saw the rebuilding of the parish church after a fire had destroyed the previous structure. It was a time when the parish community had to quickly adjust to new accommodations while they awaited the rebuilding of the new church.

“It was an old building and it was completely demolished,” says Father Tait. “We took funerals and weddings to Campbell’s Bay (St. John the Evangelist Parish), and we said mass in the basement of the priest house during the weekdays, because the house was not burned. Weekend mass was held at the school auditorium. We started (rebuilding) in August and were in the church by Christmas. It wasn’t perfectly completed, but it was useable.”

Aside from attending to his parish duties, Father Tait also had the opportunity to visit the Vatican in Rome on several occasions. On his first visit in 1978, he recalls how the simple act of striding into St. Peter’s Square brought forth strong feelings from within.

“It was very emotional,” says Father Tait. “It was a mixture of awe and happiness, having seen it so often in pictures and on TV and then finally being there.”



The next day we went to the Angelus, when the Holy Father performs the Angelus from the window of his apartment. Again, you’re just overwhelmed. There’s no other way to describe it.”

He would return again in 1983 for the Holy Year, then in 1990 for the canonization of Saint Marie-Marguerite d’Youville. He was also there in 2007 when both Archbishop Brendan O’Brien and Archbishop Richard William Smith received their pallium from Pope Benedict XVI.

“It (pallium) is the vestment Archbishops receive after they have been named Archbishop by the Pope on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on the 29th of June,” explained Father Tait. “At that point we didn’t have a Bishop, so I was elected as administrator of the diocese. Because of that, I got to meet the Pope.”

Reflecting on his years in the priesthood, Father Tait shares his view on the key to successfully overseeing parish life.

“First of all, you have to do a lot of praying,” says Father Tait. “Secondly, get to know your people and get them involved in all aspects of parish life.”

Catholic Women’s League examines a pressing issue for our youth

It’s in our schools, our communities and our evening newscasts, and there is increasing awareness and education around the issue of bullying amongst our youth.

The guest speaker at the Diocese of Pembroke CWL Convention, Laura Demont from the Phoenix Centre for Children and Families in Pembroke, addressed this very important topic in a very unique way... by presenting a Friends and Neighbours Club (FAN Club) puppet play.

The FAN Club shows are designed to respond to social problems facing children 2 to 10 years old by increasing children’s awareness of those social issues, teaching problem-solving skills, increasing self-esteem and self-awareness, and increasing awareness of others and their ability to empathize and sympathize.

In addition to bullying, more than 30 scripts have been developed by professionals for the puppet performances to address the issues facing children in an “entertaining and non-threatening” way.

“We presented our play about bullying at the convention, but we also cover many other topics such as family violence, substance abuse, healthy living, vandalism, friendship and respect, and more,” says

Demont, adding that the FAN Club created a CD of children’s songs to complement the scripts, and also has a website with activities for children.

Demont told conference participants that in the past year, the puppet plays have been performed for almost 3,000 children in Renfrew County. “We perform the plays at conferences, school activities and other special functions to get our messages and lessons out to children,” says Demont, adding that the plays are entertaining and informative for adults as well.

The play performed at the May 25 convention at Our Lady of Sorrows in Petawawa was well received by members of the CWL.

“As CWL members, we are called to ‘make a difference’ by advocating, promoting awareness and responding to social issues,” notes Diocese of Pembroke CWL President Donna Provost. “The presentation gave us a clearer understanding of the bullying situations occurring with our children and youth.”

“It was a pleasure to perform at the CWL convention,” says Demont. “I know these women are actively involved with our youth and in our schools and can assist in spreading our message.”



Other speakers at the convention included Provincial CWL President Marlene Pavletic with a PowerPoint presentation on her experiences in Honduras, and Bishop Michael Mulhall.

St. Anthony of Padua

By Jason Dedo

On June 13, the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Anthony of Padua. Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 and was given the name Ferdinand at baptism. At the age of 15, he joined the order of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine. What followed for Ferdinand were several years of intense study and biblical scholarship.

In 1220, the bodies of the first Franciscan martyrs were brought from Morocco to be buried in his church. Inspired by their martyrdom and example of faith, Ferdinand decided to join the Franciscan Order in 1221 and chose the name of Anthony.

Anthony longed to be a missionary, but illness prevented this desire. Instead, Anthony was sent to Portugal, but during this voyage, he was shipwrecked on the island of Sicily. Eventually, Anthony was pressed into filling in for a speaker who failed to appear and emerged from this experience as a great orator. In the time that followed, the news of Anthony's gift at preaching spread, and a demand grew for his preaching

abilities. He travelled throughout Italy and France and it is said that he drew tremendous crowds wherever he preached.

He died on June 13, 1231, at the age of 36 after suffering illness and exhaustion and was held in such high regard that he was canonized within the year. St. Anthony was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

St. Anthony is best known for his help in finding lost or misplaced objects. He is also a patron of travellers and sailors. To explain the origins of Anthony's patronage for finding lost items, a legend exists that, long after Anthony's death, his old prayer book was kept as a treasured relic, and one day it disappeared. Many people prayed for help in finding the lost prayer book. A Franciscan novice is said to have found it and returned it—he later admitted that he had “borrowed” the book and returned it after receiving a vision of an angry Anthony.

St. Anthony is the patron of the mission church in Haliburton, which is located in the southwestern corner of the Barry's Bay Zone of the Diocese of Pembroke. St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us!



The Vision of Saint Anthony of Padua, oil on canvas painting by Giovanni Battista Pittoni, c. 1730

The Celebration is Over—Now What?

By Jason Dedo

For many families, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation and the weeks leading up to these celebrations can be times of great excitement and joy. Celebrations of baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist are times of rejoicing not only for the candidates and families involved, but also for the faith communities in which the sacraments are being celebrated.

For the faith community, the sacraments of initiation are significant experiences as these processes call candidates into full membership in the Church and the faith community. What parish does not rejoice when a new member is baptized or when a church is filled with candidates, their families and friends for these sacramental celebrations?

Several years ago I was at a First Communion Mass and the priest in his homily shared with the assembly that he hoped the first communion for the children that day wouldn't be their last communion. I have also heard it said many times that confirmation is not meant to be “graduation from the Church.” Unfortunately, for many people, this is the case. There could be numerous reasons why families are disconnected from or lukewarm with parish life in general and the Sunday Eucharist in particular. Addressing these challenges is often not an easy task for parishes.

There are a few things, I believe, that are helpful in inviting families to continue actively participating in the life of the worshipping community once the sacraments have been celebrated.

First of all, it is important to recognize the significance of the period immediately following the celebration of the sacraments. This period, known as the mystagogical period, is the fourth stage of the initiation process of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. The model of all catechesis and initiation is the baptismal catechumenate (GDC #s 59, 90). In essence, this means that all catechesis and initiation processes (including that of children) should be modelled on the way the Church approaches the initiation of adults as described in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

The period of mystagogy is significant because it is during this post-celebration time that the newly initiated are invited to reflect on their experience of the sacrament and are helped to become incorporated into the full life of the Christian community. Ideally, parish catechetical teams should devote some catechetical time to children and families to achieve these goals after the sacraments have been celebrated.

As the People of God, we never want to give the mistaken impression that once the sacraments have been celebrated candidates and families are “done” and nothing more is expected of them. For those of us engaged in parish and Eucharistic life, the celebrations of the sacraments of initiation are only the beginning of an active faith journey that is life-long.

At my parish of St. Pius V in Osceola, there is a wonderful tradition of Catholic Women's League members becoming “prayer buddies” for First Communion candidates. The CWL member writes three letters to her prayer buddy. The first letter is received some weeks before the celebration, the second the week before the celebration and the last some time after the celebration. In the letters, the CWL members introduce themselves, share their joy and that of the parish for these children as they prepare for, celebrate and reflect on their first Eucharist.

From a catechetical perspective, this initiative is very effective in many ways. First, the CWL prayer buddy ministry gives members the opportunity to journey with and support candidates through prayer as they approach the Eucharistic table and beyond. The *General Directory for Catechesis* outlines the importance of all members of the faith community having responsibility for the formation and initiation of candidates for the sacraments (GDC # 220). Second, the practice aims at building relationships between parishioners and families who previously may not have known each other. Third, parishioners who are involved as prayer buddies are more aware of the candidates and their families and are, thus, more able to be welcoming, inviting and supportive to young families. Fourth, the CWL prayer buddies share with the first communicants that they will continue to pray for them after the sacrament has been celebrated.

Over the years, I have witnessed the excitement of several children at my parish, including my own, who look forward not only to their First Communion, but also to the opportunity to join the ministry of altar serving once this sacrament is celebrated. This is one ministry in which children can more actively participate in the Eucharistic celebration. There is no reason why children cannot be trained as gift bearers, collectors, greeters and members of the music ministry. As well as these ministries, young people should be invited to consider serving as lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. The more children and youth are engaged with the liturgy, the more their experience will be one of full, active and conscious participation (*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, #14).

After the sacraments are celebrated, it is important for parishes to invite children, youth and young families to be involved in other parish ministries and activities such as visiting the sick, parish suppers, youth groups, family formation, hospitality, outreach ministries, fundraising, prayer groups and many others.

There are often no easy answers and many challenges involved with helping families continue an active relationship with the parish community that is centred around the Eucharistic table. Perhaps the best approach is the one modelled by the greatest Teacher who ever lived. Like Him, we invite fellow travellers to share in our faith journey and, as we travel together, to model our love for them, for the Church, for our communities of faith and for our God.

Peru work experience 2013

youth

in the diocese



The Peru work experience for our youth has come and gone, and was a very enriching experience for all involved. It began on February 6 with a long bus trip from the Lima airport to Chincha Alta, which provided a good view of the houses and landscape (ocean, mountains and desert). Lunch was followed by shopping for supplies and a tour of the surrounding districts.

"We had a long bus ride to Chincha, but saw so many amazing sites. It went from cement and dirt roads to grassy meadows, all the way to sand mountains with amazing glimpses of the Pacific Ocean. One of the prettiest things I have seen in a long time. The day went by so quickly even though so many things were accomplished. We met our hosts, they are super nice and I am starting to be able to pick up what they are saying. We ate a delicious lunch, and after were sent off to roam the village. So many statues and old buildings are around and it was so much fun to explore them." —Sabrynna

Over the ensuing days, the youth worked very hard on projects such as tearing down, rebuilding and varnishing the bamboo woven roofs and walls of one family's home.

"The group was all eager and willing to do what is necessary to help out. I, for one, was honoured and felt a sense of humility to basically give love and hope to a family as we helped them restart their lives." —Michael

"As the hot Chincha Alta sun beat down relentlessly on our sweaty brows, Michael Ricardo and I nailed in the last bamboo sheet, completing the first wall of the Levano Peña family's new home. After we had spent most of the morning tearing down the old damp and musty house, the completion of the North wall came with a sense of pride. Pride not only in our own handiwork and perseverance, but also pride in the new beginning we offered to this family." —Jordan

While the youth worked, they talked to members of the family, with the help of a translator.

"My favourite part of today was trying to talk to the family (with a lot of help from a translator). So with the fact of the translator helping my language handicap, I liked the mutual smiling going on between the family members and I. It is cool how the smile can be a mutual sign of warmth, affection, and love between anyone—no matter if you can speak the same language or not." —Angela

The group helped to repair the SET schools, which were built after the earthquake of 2007, and get them ready for the new school year. They are nursery schools for children from three months to three years old. Some of the participants also took a family shopping with money received from their Canadian sponsors.

"Today we went to daycare places and cleaned them up. The first one we went to we moved everything out of the room and swept the floor. We couldn't start to paint that daycare

because the roof still needed to be fixed, so we moved to the next one and we all painted the walls an orange colour. After we came back for lunch we headed back out to finish our job. These two kids also came out to help us and the little boy got covered in paint, he was so cute." —Kristin

"This morning Sydney and I set out with Jimmy and Charo (our translators) as well as Milly (a friend) to visit a family and take them shopping with Christmas and birthday money from their sponsor families in Canada. This family had six children ranging in age from 3 to 17 and just so happens to be the family I am staying with next week. ... Everyone was really excited to go shopping and the little ones couldn't help but run around the stalls looking at everything. I had a great time just watching their faces light up as they found the perfect toy or the perfect outfit that they didn't want to let go of." —Marissa

While there, participants attended a children's mass. Though the readings and gospels were in Spanish, the children of the choir had printed English versions of the readings and the songs so their Canadian guests could follow along. At the end of the mass, the youth handed out balloons and Canadian pins.

"Today we had a relaxed day. We went to Mass and got to meet all the scholarship children and teens. We handed out balloons and pins. The Mass was so lively and there was lots of fun up-beat music. Later we went swimming at a public pool, which was a lot of fun. We had lots of time to talk and get to know one another better. Each day I like being here more I cannot believe it is already Sunday. I also got to see the family that we took shopping yesterday for gifts at Mass and most of the children were wearing their outfits, they looked so cute." —Sydney

On an excursion down the coast to Pisco and Paracas, the group saw a banana plantation, fields of cotton, olive trees and asparagus along with some natural vegetation in the desert—irrigated by water from the mountains. A boat trip gave participants the opportunity to see sea lions and other wildlife on the Ballestas Islands and swim in the Pacific Ocean.

"Today was such an exciting day! So many things happened I don't even know where to begin. The best part of the day was definitely our boat ride. We went to visit many different tourist attractions in Peru. My favourite was the sea lions and penguins found on what was deemed the little Galapagos of Peru. There were so many sea lions on the island, it was incredible." —Sabrynna

On day seven, the group climbed aboard pick-up trucks to deliver food baskets they had prepared to 12 families. It was an emotional day, seeing the dire needs of the families for basic necessities, and realizing how much is taken for granted at home.

"Today we divided into two groups, each group went to six houses to deliver the food baskets which we had put together the night before. While at these families' homes we asked them a few questions about their family and their needs. One of the families the group visited was the Laurente Huasasquiche family. Some of the needs were kids' clothes, improvement on the house, and other building material. The families were all thankful that we went to see them and give them food." —Kayla

The youth began their live-in experiences with Peruvian families on day eight. The families welcomed the youth with open arms, so that even those who were a little nervous about staying with strangers who spoke a different language ended up enjoying their stay.

"I spent the last two nights with the Choques Cespedes family. There are six in the family and I had an awesome time, I wish I could have stayed longer. It was a little challenging because I do not know Spanish and they do not know any English, but we still managed to communicate and I am glad I smile lots because they at least knew I was happy staying with them ... Today we handed out beds, buckets and a table to families who needed them. It is nice to receive so many smiles from all the people we are helping. I am very happy that I decided to be part of this trip even though it was more or less a last-minute decision. I never thought that something like a toothbrush would make somebody so happy, but here it really does." —Sydney

All too soon, on day 11, the group said goodbye and headed back to Lima where they enjoyed and reluctantly, at first, took part in a show of cultural dances. A tour the next morning included sites such as the parliament buildings, Rose of Lima Church, Santo Domingo Church and St. Francis Church, as well as some shopping, a tour to the top of San Cristobal and a visit to Fountain Park.

Day 13 was the flight back to Canada, though many youth were perfectly willing to stay longer.

The eight youth participating in this experience were: Michael Do, Kristin and Kayla Mulvihill, Sabrynna Provost, Angela Richmond, Jordan Vandergragt, Marissa Mantha and Sydney Merrill. The youth were accompanied by Yvonne Sklepowicz, Grace Richmond and Chris Cole along with Sr. Pauline Coulterman.

To sum up the trip in a short phrase, in the words of the Peruvian people ... **Muchísimo Gracias por todo!** (A big thank you).

Full daily reports by the youth and their companions and photos can be accessed at: <http://pembrokedioceseyouthperu2013.blogspot.ca/>

Our thanks to Bill Richmond.



Grade 11 student, Sydney Bourque, of C.S.C. Jeanne-Lajoie was awarded “Most Catholic Role Model” for her school during Catholic Education week May 6–10. Presenting the award is Mrs. Denise Gauthier, teacher and Pastoral Animator.

High School Retreat



The annual high school retreat was held in February 2013 at C.S.C. Jeanne-Lajoie High School with more than 100 participants.

National March for Life 2013

Many participants from the Diocese of Pembroke, including Bishop Mulhall and students from Bishop Smith and St. Joseph's Catholic High Schools, travelled by bus to Ottawa on May 9 for the 16th annual gathering of the pro-life movement on Parliament Hill. The theme this year was “Stop female genocide”. Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight from the Knights of Columbus, and Jim Hughes, National President of Campaign Life Coalition, were among the pro-life Members of Parliament and religious leaders who spoke to more than 20,000 attendees, which included many youth. The speeches were followed by a March through downtown Ottawa.

Local religious Sisters get involved in Youth Ministry

Sisters Suzanne-Christine and Sister Catherine of the Sisters of the Visitation, located at the Sisters of St. Joseph Mother House in Pembroke, had the opportunity to participate in the last Diocesan high school retreat at C.S.C. Jeanne-Lajoie High School this past February. After making this important connection with many youth at the retreat, they have been inspired to offer organized gatherings for youth on Friday evenings at their convent, approximately every three weeks. All youth (French and English) are invited to contact Sister Suzanne-Christine Proulx, Superior, with your e-mail address to facilitate communication of event details.

Contact information: 613-735-0395; cell: 613-717-0471; or email: vsmottawa@gmail.com

Profile: Jody Shaddick—Youth Ministry, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deep River

Being a volunteer involved in the parish community comes naturally to Jody Shaddick. His mother set an example for him to follow, being heavily involved in her parish and the Catholic Women's League (CWL).

Shaddick has been involved in youth ministry for the past eight years, beginning during his college years in North Bay, Ontario. He recalls, “When I first attended a youth Mass in North Bay as a parishioner while in college, I went to a Life Teen meeting afterwards and really enjoyed it.”

Upon speaking with leaders he was told that the program was meant for teens, and he would be welcome to join as a volunteer rather than a participant—and that is how it all began.

Shaddick says that Monsignor David Tramontini and Father Peter Moher (then pastor at St. Peter the Apostle) were instrumental in spearheading the youth ministry.

“They took us under their wings and gave us a lot of leeway,” he notes of their leadership, adding that they were willing to try new things to make the youth program work. Shaddick also credits the NET team with doing a good job to engage youth.

For the past four-and-a-half years, Shaddick has been one of the adult leaders of the Edge group in Deep River. The number of “Edger” participants ranges from 8–10 to 25–30 at regular meetings, depending on the time of year and competing activities. The kick-off retreat in September, after a summer break, often has as many as 45 participants.

Each meeting, held on Friday evenings, begins with a game that everyone can join as they arrive, which serves as an icebreaker. An opening prayer is followed by a skit that touches on the topic of the night, followed by a teaching talk by one of the adult

leaders (there are five). Topics such as Catechesis or Lent are alternated with issues youth may be facing in life such as peer pressure, or divorce of parents and how to approach these matters from a Catholic view. One member of a core group of about 10 EDGE leaders will present a testimonial on the issue, if available, and then the meeting transitions into smaller groups with teen leaders for discussion. The end of the evening may include gathering in the church for prayer, or Stations of the Cross in Lent, or with music—Shaddick plays the guitar.

Once again Shaddick points towards the support of the parish when speaking of the success of the program.

“Our priests are definitely supportive. Father Terry Sirosky has been a big supporter since arriving at Our Lady of Good Counsel and Father Kerry Brennan, former parish priest, was, too. He spent a whole night with the youth to help them understand when the Mass changed,” says Shaddick.

Overall parish support is strong and both the CWL and Knights of Columbus (KofC) support the group with donations of food or funds. Combined activities with the KofC Squires include bowling, and service nights such as food or bottle drives.

Efforts are being made to grow community support by being more visible in church and in the community.

“Activities such as car washes, the youth choir, and having teens make announcements after Mass all help to show parishioners there is an active youth organization,” says Shaddick.

Before becoming involved with youth in his college years, Shaddick had some experience running a playground program as a high school job.

“I really enjoy working with youth—it's a lot of genuine fun,” he says.

A Day of Reflection for Catholic Men

A Day of Reflection for Catholic Men entitled: “Year of Faith—Men of Faith”, sponsored by Arnprior Knights of Columbus Council 2082, was held in the St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall in Arnprior on Saturday, March 9. The day was open to all Catholic men of the Diocese and was directed by the Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke.

Bishop Mulhall began by asking the attendees to reflect on where they were and what they were doing during 1962, the year the Second Vatican Council commenced. During this Year of Faith we are also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Vatican II.

During the retreat, Bishop Mulhall used the lessons brought out in St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, reinforced by several passages from the Gospels, as the framework for his pastoral guidance for Catholic men during this Year of Faith. He reflected on eight themes: the power of prayer, guilt and sin, the need for repentance, the Gospels and the Word of Christ, the need for faith, God’s love for humanity, self-sacrifice and the dignity of women.

The retreat ended with Bishop Mulhall presiding at the 4:30 p.m. Mass at St. John Chrysostom Church, with Fourth Degree Knights from the Canadian Martyrs Assembly 1597 providing an honour guard.

About 50 Catholic men from throughout the Diocese of Pembroke participated in the retreat.



Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph: Deepening our Spiritual Practice

The spirit and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph is integral to the life of an associate of this highly esteemed order whose charism we share. This gift of the Spirit informs us of our Oneness with all of God’s creation, setting our hearts aflame with a call to inclusive, active love that draws us ever deeper into relationship with the Divine.

On Saturday, February 23, 2013, about 40 associates and sisters gathered at the St. Joseph Motherhouse with Rosemary O’Toole, csj, from the Upper Room Home of Prayer in Ottawa. In her generous response to an invitation to facilitate the process of deepening our spiritual practice of sharing “The State of Our Hearts”, Rosemary made it a day of abundant grace for all of us. This way of deep listening, referred to as “*the manifestation of the heart*”, based on the writings of Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille SJ, is an ongoing spiritual practice for the sisters and, through our shared experiences, for the associates. It has been handed down as an intentional way of living and recognizing the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In our monthly small associate circle meetings we follow this spiritual practice by listening to each other’s stories, receiving them and holding them with respect, love and compassion. Through sharing our hearts we grow deeper in relationship with ourselves, others, God and all of creation, expanding in consciousness of the Holy Spirit moving us ever towards “the more”. Rosemary suggests that this practice of sharing hearts, where we recognize a human struggle we are experiencing and its opposing strength, is like a two-step dance movement where we learn to balance our Medaillan spirituality of “*self-emptying*” with being “*filled with God*.”

The love we share, as Rosemary reminded us, is “*Love energy*” already within us and at the heart of the cosmos, as the source of unity and creativity that keeps us connected and awakened, and transforms us and our world. In this way of being in relationship we open up to the “*mystical energy*” that makes possible relating from our hearts with “*the great love of God that will start to make all things new within us, around us and beyond us*”.

From the moment of gathering prayer, a passage from Judy Cannato’s *Field of Compassion* and a *Lectio Divina*, from Thomas Merton’s *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, this “*Love energy*” filled our sacred space and our hearts with a desire to know the practice of sharing hearts more deeply, that we may be more present, attentive and patient in our sharing. We gathered around a huge circular table adorned with a beautiful white tablecloth and a large pillar candle at the centre, the light of Christ, and surrounded by our small individual lights reminding us that we are “*Beams of Love*”, as depicted in the Mary Southard, csj, print of the same name, and prominently displayed for our contemplation throughout the day. Rosemary

led us in a stirring ritual using a ball of golden coloured yarn, passing it around the circle, weaving it around our hands making us “one” while all voices joined in chanting *Ubi Caritas*. In conclusion, each of us received the small piece of the yarn we were holding to wrap around our wrists or fingers as a visual reminder of how God weaves “*lavish grace*” into our lives and how all life is interconnected through God’s great love.

Our time with Rosemary unfolded in reflection, contemplation, prayer, affirmations, song, questions interspersed with teachings, time for deep listening in our small circles and casual conversation over breaking bread. As the day progressed we grew in understanding of what sharing the heart can become. We grew in awareness that this practice is always initiated by the Divine. We quietly moved into the safe space within our small groups, sharing what we had learned about “*ease and candour, gentleness and loving speech, being mindful of ourselves and others*”, knowing that as we listen deeply to each other’s stories we grow and become whole.

Rosemary’s teaching and the wisdom of the large circle established the foundation for the deep intimate sharing within our small groups. In these sacred spaces, where deep listening is done with empathy and non-judgement, we took time to pray and contemplate, becoming aware of the Holy Spirit at work within us and the group, enabling us to express our interior struggles and graced moments. We learned that a springboard to discerning the process can begin with a word (darkness/faith) that expresses a core spiritual experience to help us tell our story of a struggle in some vulnerable area or gratitude for growth in grace. We learned that by opening ever more to the process we will be emptied of the wounded self and receive the grace of being filled with God’s great love.

At the end of the day we took our leave with immense gratitude for Rosemary’s generous ministry, fervor, creativity and joyful presence. She has inspired us and equipped us with resources to enhance and deepen our practice of relating from our hearts. She has renewed in us an appreciation for our spiritual practice of sharing “**The State of Our Hearts**”, which we will eagerly take to our small monthly associate gatherings.

This day our lives have been endowed with peace, love, joy, unity and wisdom, knowing that God “*is filling us with Great Love, making us able to bear the Beams of Love and able to radiate that compassion to others*.”

Submitted by the Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, Pembroke neighbourhood. (Adapted in part from Sharing of Hearts by Rosemary O’Toole, csj)

Parish suppers 2013

Sunday, May 26

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Braeside, ON**

*Barbecued chicken
Rainbow draw, 50/50*

2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$13.00; Children 6–12: \$5.00;

Under 6: free

Take-out available

Sunday, June 9

St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON

*Hot Roast Beef Dinner
Fresh Home Baking*

Take-Out & Delivery available

Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;

Under 5: free

11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday, June 15/Sunday, June 16

St. Peter's, Fort Coulonge, QC

*Supper—Sea Pie & Baked Beans
Many new games available*

Hot dogs and fries available on the grounds

St. Peter's Parish Hall

Adult: \$13.00; 12 & under: \$4.00

Meal starts at 4 p.m.

**le 15 juin, samedi/le 16 juin, dimanche
Paroisse St-Pierre, Fort-Coulonge, QC**

Souper—Sea Pie et fèves au lard

Beaucoup des jeux

Salle paroissiale

Adultes: 13,00 \$;

enfants moins de 12 ans: 4,00 \$

Repas servi à partir de 16h00

Sunday, July 14

**St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay,
ON**

Roast Beef and Pork

Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Beans,

Salad, & Desserts

Take-out available.

Wheelchair accessible.

Adults: \$12.00; Children 4–12: \$6;

3 & under: free

Starting at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Bonfield Church Picnic

Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full

Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies

Adults: \$11.00

Games: 1 p.m.–6 p.m.

Meal: 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

le 28 juillet, dimanche

Sainte-Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield

SeaPie; Fèves au lard; repas complet;

tartes assorties faites à la maison,

Adultes: 11,00 \$

Jeux: 13h00 à 18h00

Repas: 15h30 à 18h00

Sunday, August 4

St. Martin of Tours, Whitney, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean

Supper. Country-style home cooking

Take-out meals available. Games for

all the family. Raffle tickets. Canteen.

Religious articles. Flea market opens

at 11:00 a.m. Canteen and Religious

articles at 1:00 p.m.

St. Martin's Parish Hall

Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;

Five and under: free

Sunday, August 11

St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON

Supper & Bazaar

Turkey, Ham, Stuffed Pork, Homemade

Beans,

Salads and Desserts

Adults: \$12.00; Children 4–12: \$5.00

1:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 11

St-Thomas D'Aquin, Astorville, ON

Annual parish picnic from 1:30 p.m. to

6:00 p.m.

Serving our famous Canadian supper of

sea pie, homemade beans, coleslaw,

homemade raspberry, blueberry, and

and lemon pies.

Games, music, and ticket draw

At East Ferris Community Centre,

Astorville, ON

Supper starts at 3:30 p.m., take-out

begins at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 18

Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON

Turkey Supper

Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets,

Kid's Table. Air Conditioned—Take-out

available—Wheelchair accessible

Westmeath Community Centre

Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$6.00,

4 & under: free

12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 18

St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay, ON

613-759-2243/1236

Turkey Supper

Entertainment, Raffle Draw at 6:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

Precious Blood, Calabogie, ON

Gigantic garage sale and barbecue

Bakery & Games

Live musical entertainment 1–4 p.m.—

free admission, ample parking

Parish Grounds,

504 Mill St., Calabogie

10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON

Roast Turkey, Ham & Baked Beans

and all the Trimmings

Adults: \$12.00; Children: \$6.00

Served from 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

St. Ignatius, Maynooth, ON

Parish Supper and Bazaar

Turkey, Ham and Beans

Bingo, Crafts and Draws

Adults: \$12.00

Children 10 and under: \$5.00

12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Mass at noon

Sunday, September 1

St. Mary's, Wilno, ON

Chicken Supper

Home-Cooked Meal

Plates served from 1 p.m.

Adults: \$12.00;

Children under 12: \$5.00

17325 Highway 60, Wilno

Mass at noon

Sunday, September 8

St. John the Evangelist,

Campbell's Bay, QC

Turkey and Ham Supper

Adults: \$13.00; Children \$5.00

3 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 8

Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON

Ham & Roast Beef, Homemade salads,

baked beans and pies

Raffle Tickets, Silent Auction, Bingo,

Yard Sale, Children's games

Take-out meals available

Our Lady of Mercy School Gym

Adults: \$12.00;

Children under 12: \$5.00

Children under 5: Free

11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 15

St. Mary's, Quyon, QC

Roast Beef Supper

Adults: \$12.00;

Children 10 & under: \$6.00

Lion's Club Hall, Quyon

3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 15

St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON

Turkey and Ham Supper

Adults: \$12.00/Children \$5.00

11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Le 15 septembre

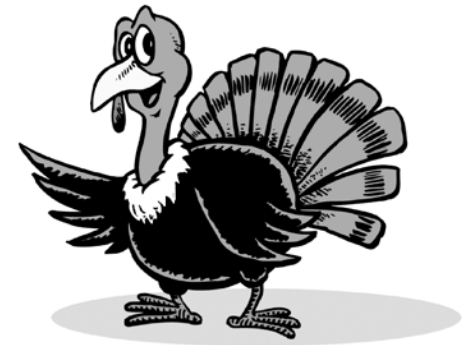
Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste,

Pembroke, ON

Repas à la dinde et au jambon

Adultes: 12,00 \$; enfants: 5,00 \$

11h30–19h00



Sunday, September 22

**St. Columbkille Cathedral,
Pembroke, ON**

Annual Roast Beef, Ham &

Bean Dinner

Adults: \$12.00;

Children under 12: \$5.00

11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 29

St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC

Turkey Supper with all the Trimmings

Adults: \$12.00;

Children 10 and under: \$5.00

Chapeau Arena: 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, September 29

St. Patrick's, Mount St. Patrick, ON

Turkey, Ham and Beans

Bingo, games, crafts and white

elephant. Musical entertainment

Adults: \$12.00; Children \$5.00

1 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday Mass at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 13

St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON

Roast Beef & Bean Supper

Take-out available.

Handicapped accessible.

Crafts, Bingo, Draws, Great Food.

Everyone welcome!

Adults: \$12.00; Children under 12:

\$5.00;

Under 5: free

Commencing at 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 20

St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON

Annual Harvest Festival and

Hot Roast Beef Supper

Crafts and draws

Adults: \$13; Children: \$6; under 6 free

Following 10:30 Mass until 6 p.m.

Parish Hall

Sunday, November 3

St. Matthew the Apostle,

Madawaska, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean

Supper – Raffle Tickets

Adults: \$12.00;

Children under 10: \$5.00;

3 & under: free

Community Hall, Madawaska

12 noon–6 p.m.