



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

The Flying Fathers—Playing and Praying for a Better World

This past February saw the latest incarnation of the famed Flying Fathers Hockey Club participate in a three-game charity tour. In our Diocese, the team played at the Pembroke Memorial Centre, followed by a second game at Centre de Loisirs des Draveurs, Fort-Coulonge. A third game was played in Parry Sound.

“The recent three-day mini-tour was an outstanding success,” said Father Patrick Blake, who first played with the Flying Fathers in 1965 and was an active player on the team for over 40 years.

“In each place where the team played there were enthusiastic fans, good entertainment and worthwhile causes.”

For the uninitiated, the Flying Fathers were first formed by a group of priests in North Bay in 1964 for the purpose of raising proceeds for a local charity. That single game would spark a phenomenon that saw the team tour extensively throughout North America, and even to Europe, entertaining packed arenas with their own brand of holy hilarity on the ice. The team shut down operations in 2009, though the team did play one game in Ennismore, Ontario in 2018.

There were four priests representing the Diocese of Pembroke on the team; Father Jim Beanish, Father Justin Bertrand, Father Michael Goring and Father Stephen Helferty.

As they did that very first game, proceeds were donated to charitable causes. The local games in our Diocese saw money raised for Marianhill and Miramichi retirement residences in Pembroke while proceeds from the Fort-Coulonge game were split between the local parish, *Paroisse St-Pierre*, and the local high school, *Ecole Secondaire Sieur-De-Coulonge*.

Fans were greatly entertained by a wide range of skits, pie-throwing antics and dubious penalty calling (ex. two minutes for committing a mortal sin). But it was also an opportunity for area priests to take their turn donning the hockey jersey of this unique sports club and become a part of Canadian hockey history.

For Father Goring, who when asked to describe what it was like strapping on the skates as a member of the Flying Fathers, responded with an enthusiastic ‘fun’.

“When I was young, I played outdoor hockey on the rinks, never played organized hockey,” said Father Goring.

Father Goring told of how his love of hockey followed him right to his years studying at the seminary and his time now as a priest.



Team photo taken in Fort Coulonge – Father Jim Beanish, back left, Father Stephen Helferty, fifth from left, middle row, Father Michael Goring far right, middle row, and Father Justin Bertrand front and centre!

“When I went to the seminary, we played hockey here and there. We had a game against the two seminaries; we called it the Rector’s Cup. We won a few Cups over the years. Once I was ordained, I got to play lunch time hockey in Pembroke. Then in Killaloe and Brudenell as pastor I ended up playing in the Barry’s Bay hockey league.”

For members of the Diocese who attended one of the recent games, it also provided a unique opportunity to see members of the clergy outside their parochial duties, having fun in a sport beloved by so many in this country.

“It is very important for members of any Diocese to see their priests participate in this kind of event,” said Father Patrick Blake, a former team member.

“It provides a different kind of image of the priest than people are accustomed to seeing. It brings joy and happiness to priest and fan alike. It brings to mind the

Flying Fathers’ Motto: ‘*Playing and Praying for a Better World.*’”

Father Goring was also happy to see so many people attend the games and see his fellow priests having a good time on the ice.

“I think it really was an opportunity for people to see some hockey and see that priests can get involved with that and have fun. It was a fun time for everyone.”

Father Grant Neville, another long time member of the team, was in attendance at the game in Pembroke. He joined the team in 1968 and played with the club for some 20 years.

“I watched the Flying Fathers when I was in the seminary,” recalled Father Neville. “We were let out to go see them play hockey in Oshawa. I was fascinated by their brand of hockey because they were really good hockey players. It was a tremendous feeling to be a part of that team.”

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Father R  l Ouellette is surprised with a pie in the face as he drops the puck for the opening face off in Fort-Coulonge.

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He told of the balancing act he maintained between playing for the team and upholding his duties as a parish priest.

“We were fortunate at that time because you had two or three priests in the parish at that time. There was always a priest there. So you could take your day off and go and play hockey and come back that night after travelling probably all night to play hockey. The pastors we were with encouraged us to play sports, and the people really enjoyed seeing priests playing sports and seeing them in a different light.”

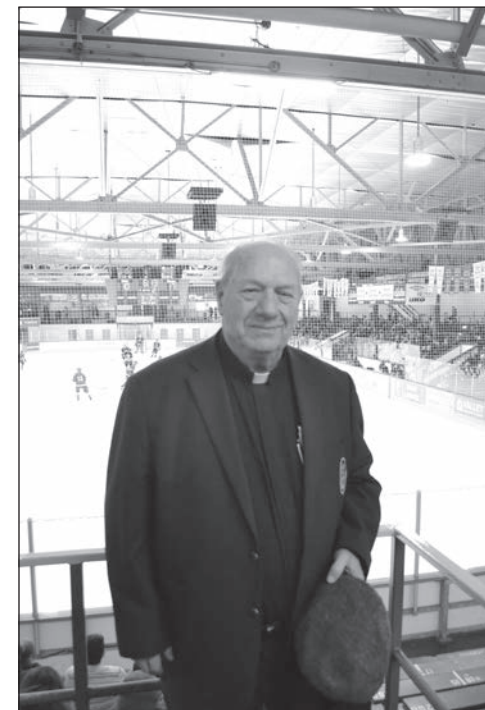
Father Bertrand, who plays hockey on a weekly basis during the season, shared his personal experience during the introductions at the Fort-Coulonge game, where members of his parish were in attendance.

“I remember when they were announcing all the players, then they announced my name and everyone started cheering. You could barely hear your own voice because the crowd was cheering so loud,” said Father Bertrand, who told of the joy he felt in seeing how the Flying Fathers brought so many of his parish community together.

“It was very heart warming to be there, to see all the parishioners and families; people who are at church on Sundays, people who are at church maybe only once a month, or who only come at Christmas and Easter. It was great to see the community come together like that and enjoy a good game of hockey.”



An on-ice ordination at the Pembroke game. Father Beanish looks on as the first goal scorer for the opposition is ‘ordained’.



Father Patrick Blake (left) and Father Grant Neville (right) were both on the Flying Fathers roster.

A warm welcome to our new financial administrator

Matt Schooley took over the position of Diocese of Pembroke Financial Administrator in mid-December 2018, following the retirement of former administrator Paul Morris.

Schooley, who has 16 years of experience as the financial controller for Herb Shaw & Sons, said he saw the position with the diocese as an opportunity that offered different challenges.

“Both positions are similar to the extent that you are dealing with a wide array of topics on a daily basis but, obviously, it is a different landscape. It has been a

real pleasure meeting and working with staff and clergy from across the Diocese.”

With several months under his belt, Schooley said he enjoys the work and has found that no two days are alike! “I see the position primarily as a support role. It has been different, but also very rewarding.”

Originally from Petawawa, he resides in Pembroke with his wife and two children aged 11 and 13. His hobbies include camping, boating, skiing and spending time with family.



Message from the Bishop

Extraordinary Missionary Month, October 2019

In the early summer of 1919, 100 years ago, the leaders of Western Europe and other countries of the world signed the peace treaty of Versailles. This treaty brought a formal end to the Great War which had been fought from 1914–18. Canadian historian Margaret MacMillan has written several award-winning studies on the origins of the war and workings of the Versailles treaty. A century later, the signs of this war are still evident.

As I celebrate Mass throughout our diocese, I frequently notice plaques near the front door of our local churches dedicated to those who participated and lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars. These memorials speak poignantly to the great suffering that the wars have brought. I often reflect that as a western society we have not given proper weight to the devastating effects that the wars of the 20th century have had on the lives of those who served and the effects these wars have had upon western society as a whole. The devastation of war has wounded and scarred society to its roots and in many ways our culture reflects the devastating effects of this evil.

One hundred years ago in the midst of the aftermath of this First World War, the Holy Father of the time, Pope Benedict XV, released a letter to the Church regarding the importance of the missionary witness of the Church. For many generations, the missionary activity had been intertwined with the colonial activity of many western countries with both positive and negative effects. The Peace Treaty of Versailles in June 1919 brought an era of colonial expansion in the 19th century to an end. The Holy Father recognized the need for the Church to renew its missionary evangelization free from the exploitative influences of some colonial administration.

Pope Francis has asked the Church to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of this letter with a period of prayer and reflection in October 2019. It will be called an Extraordinary Missionary Month. A primary motive to organize this celebration is to re-awaken the missionary zeal of the Church. Whenever this zeal is weakened, as it has in our time, the Church is asked to discern from within. As Pope John Paul II wrote, a crisis of evangelization or mission is always, at its heart, a crisis of faith. For this reason, Pope Francis has identified four dimensions both for our preparation and for the month of October itself.

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church: in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer.
2. Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world.
3. Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological.
4. Missionary charity.

There are two aspects I would like to call to mind as we prepare for this Extraordinary Missionary Month. The first is the example of the first missionaries to Canada. The Jesuit martyrs come to mind immediately for complete self-giving to the gospel of Jesus. They were followed by many women and men religious

who served Christ through a missionary vocation in the early development of the country. For me, the Ottawa River, which forms the geographical heart of our diocese, was the highway of those missionaries who moved into the interior of the country. With a little imagination, we can understand the river's dangers and challenges several centuries ago, and appreciate the struggle involved for these early missionaries.

The second aspect is the dedicated missionary work accepted and lived by the religious of our diocese. The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and the Sisters of St. Joseph have generously sent sisters for missionary and development work over the past decades. It is important to recognize the many members of our diocese who joined the Scarborough Foreign Missions and the *Société des Missions Étrangères*, as well as the generous missionary work of the Madonna House Apostolate. The Lord has provided wonderful witnesses of this missionary spirit from within our very families.

These are wonderful examples of the missionary impulse that takes place in the Church through the Holy Spirit. When we have a profound encounter with Christ that is matured and deepened over time, the Holy Spirit leads us out of ourselves to serve others in the vocations marked for us. This missionary vocation serves Christ and his Church in bringing the name and encounter of Christ to the world.

The Holy Father is asking us to prepare for this Extraordinary Missionary Month. Let us begin by seeking, renewing and deepening our personal encounter with Jesus Christ. This first dimension will lead us to the other dimensions which the Holy Father has identified for us.

My dear people, may these early reflections bring forth much grace for a worthy celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in our diocese.

+Michael Mulhall
Bishop of Pembroke

Near the time of printing this issue of Ecclesia, it was announced that Bishop Mulhall had been appointed Archbishop of Kingston. The installation took place on May 3, 2019. We assure him of our prayers as he begins this new ministry. There will be a more detailed report in the next issue of Ecclesia.



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Parish profile

St-Pierre Parish, Fort Coulonge

Throughout its evolution, one common thread that shines at St-Pierre Parish in Fort-Coulonge is the devotion of the parishioners in ensuring their faith community prospers. Rest assured, that continues to this very day.

It was in the winter of 1694-95 when the community that is now Fort-Coulonge was first established as a French trading post which eventually closed in 1855. It was taken over by the English in 1763 by the Hudson's Bay Company, then the North West Company in 1821. Most of the pioneer settlers of the area were attended to by missionaries who traversed the various remote settlements of that region.

It wasn't until February of 1872 that Bishop Joseph-Bruno Guigues of the Diocese of Bytown (Ottawa) instructed Father Guinguet of La Passe to build a chapel (including a cemetery) in Fort-Coulonge which was completed in 1876 on land donated by Mr. Patrick Davis. The chapel would remain a mission of La Passe parish until 1903 when Bishop Lorrain, at the urging of the local faithful, decreed that St-Pierre would become a parish. The first parish priest in Fort-Coulonge would be Father Anthime Renaud, who also oversaw the mission at Bois-Franc. He would supervise the construction of the presbytery, and remain at the parish for the next four years, succeeded by Father J.C. Dagenais who arrived from Griffith.

Father Dagenais would serve at St-Pierre Parish from 1907 until 1935. During this period, a parish hall was erected to serve as a place of worship while the old church was demolished. The cornerstone of the new church was blessed on July 23, 1923, with construction completed on July 1, 1924, with Bishop Thomas Patrick Ryan on hand to carry out the blessing.

The Grey Sisters of the Cross arrived in the parish in 1935, serving an invaluable role as teachers for many years to come, including the construction of École Youville, a secondary high school, in 1959. This building was added to École Poupore, a parish school built in 1951. A celebration was held in 1960 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Grey Sisters' arrival in Fort-Coulonge. It should also be noted that numerous girls from the parish would enter religious life during this period.

1965 would see the construction of a new parish hall. That year also saw the ordination of Monsignor Douglas Bridge, retired Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Pembroke. He would serve at the parish as chaplain and pastoral animator at l'École Polyvalente Sieur de Coulonge from 1971-1974, and return to the parish as the Pastor in 1984.

In 1968, the rectory was demolished and a new one constructed to accommodate four priests and a housekeeper. That same year, Manoir Sacré-Coeur, a home for the aged, was built. Under the supervision of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, it was large enough to accommodate 40 French-speaking residents of Pontiac County.

Today, St-Pierre Parish continues to prosper as seen by the robust number of volunteers who step up when they are needed, particularly when it comes to renovations.

"In Fort-Coulonge, we definitely rely on volunteers (from the parish) to do most of that renovation work in the first place," said Father Justin Bertrand, who has served at the parish for three years, starting from when he was assigned there as a deacon.



"We're very blessed in the parish to have several professionals who are retired or in semi-retirement and who are able to come and offer us a couple of hours here and there."

Like many of its sister parishes, the church at Fort-Coulonge has and will see various upgrades implemented.

"Right now, we're focused on several renovation projects," said Father Bertrand.

"One is getting better insulation into the walls of the church. We're looking at getting the front doors of the church replaced. We just finished changing some windows in the church, but there are still some other windows to look at. There's also flooring in the church to consider, there's painting to consider."

Helping to cover the costs of the renovations is an annual fundraising dinner hosted by the parish council.

"Our main fundraiser is the St. Valentine's Day supper which is held every year as close to St. Valentine's Day as we can get it. It's a sit-down formal dinner. We usually serve upwards of 200 to 220 people," said Father Bertrand.

A special dinner is also held to recognize the volunteers who play a crucial role in ensuring the St-Pierre Parish continues to thrive.

"Every year we have a Christmas dinner for all of the volunteers in the parish—that list is about 60 to 80 people long," said Father Bertrand.

"I don't think this parish would be nearly as vibrant as it is now if it weren't for the atmosphere of volunteerism."

With thanks to Father Joseph Legree, author of Lift Up Your Hearts.

Celebrating 100 years at Paroisse Ste-Thérèse, Temiscaming

This September will see the parishioners of Paroisse Ste-Thérèse gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of their parish.

"Our jubilee motto is '*Doing better what we already do well*,' said Father Fortunatus Rudakemwa.

According to Father Rudakemwa, the parish community will be quite busy in preparing various events to mark this momentous celebration. The parish financial and pastoral committees are overseeing the activities to commemorate the anniversary, which will begin as early as this May. This will include a musical show and a celebration of wedding anniversaries for parish members.

"First of all, we aim for spiritual growth by means of a manifold individual and community prayer," said Father Rudakemwa.

"Then we have planned ongoing education meetings for members of parish groups: readers, ministers of Eucharist, liturgy committee, and so on. We are thinking about a parish pilgrimage in the summer. There will be also fundraising activities throughout the year."

As early as 1836, Sulpician Fathers from Montreal visited the area at the request of Bishop Ignace Bourget (Bishop of Montreal) to conduct missionary work, providing the Sacraments to local aboriginal, French and Irish residents. However, it would not be until 1919 that Father E.A. Letang would become the first parish priest at Ste-Thérèse.

For life-long parish member Yolande Desjardins, the jubilee celebration holds a special place in her heart. A native of Témiscaming, many spiritual milestones took place in Ste-Thérèse.



"I was baptized, received my first communion, was confirmed and married (husband Vianney Dumas) in 1957, all this in Ste-Thérèse's church," said Mrs. Dumas who serves on the parish Financial Committee. For more information on the anniversary, please contact the parish at eglise.ste-therese@cablevision.qc.ca or call 819-627-3381.

Anniversaries

50th Anniversary – Father Grant Neville

May 24th of this year will mark the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Grant Neville to the priesthood.

Born and raised in Pembroke, Father Neville told *The Ecclesia* of how involved he was with the Church in his youth at his home parish of Most Holy Name of Jesus.

"In our time, everybody centered on the Church," said Father Neville.

"The church was the center of everything for youth. There were three-day (parish) bazaars that everyone was involved in. You had to be active in helping the parish to raise money. You were also serving at mass from a young age at grade school. You had to get up and serve mass at 7 or 7:30 in the morning."

That close relationship with the Church and his faith proved to have an important influence on Father Neville in leading him to serve God as a priest.

"I think there are so many things that touch your life along the way," said Father Neville.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph taught us; we were all taught by nuns. I think that relationship always had an impact because they had given up their lives to serve and to teach. We went on to high school which was the Christian Brothers who were also men you really looked up to. They were serving the Church, they were teachers, and made a tremendous impression. Then, of course, the faith of my parents because faith was really strong in the family. The example of your parents always had an impact on you as well."

He also made special mention of his one-time parish priest, Father Ken Bradley, as someone who made a lasting impression.

"He coached us in ball and hockey. To see the human side of the priesthood and also his commitment to the Church and his faith was really impressive. I got to

witness his priesthood in action," said Father Neville.

"I think all of those things touched your heart and you start to think 'Hey, maybe God is calling me to the priesthood too. Maybe that's what I should be thinking about and discern,'"

He would first enroll in St. Jerome's College in Kitchener-Waterloo to study Philosophy in 1961, then St. Augustine in Toronto to study Theology. He completed his studies in 1969 and was ordained that spring.

He made note of the fact that for his first year at St. Jerome's he studied Latin.

"At that time the mass was still in Latin, so you had to take an intensive Latin course and then your Philosophy and Theology," said Father Neville.

He first served at Our Lady of Mercy in Bancroft, followed by St. John Chrysostom in Arnprior/Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Braeside. He was then assigned to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River/Our Lady of the Snows in Stonecliffe, followed by St. Ann's in Cormac/Our Lady of the Angels in Brudenell. Holy Canadian Martyrs in Combermere/St. Francis de Sales in Latchford Bridge was his next posting, then completing his time as a parish priest at St. Andrews in Killaloe/Our Lady of the Angels in Brudenell.

"There are so many things," said Father Neville when asked what he savoured most about his time as a parish priest. "Celebrating the sacraments with the people, witnessing their faith, their lives, their struggles and being touched by their lives. A lot of times the people in the parish taught you lessons about life and faith. It really helped you to understand their journey."

He also shared of the enjoyment working with youth at the parish level in activities such as youth groups, retreats, dances, sport events and visiting the elderly and the sick.



"As a young priest starting off, it was our responsibility to work with youth," said Father Neville.

"In all of the parishes, working with youth was always a blessing. I found that rewarding."

Having retired five years ago, Father Neville still helps out with celebrating mass in the Diocese when he can.

More recently, he had the opportunity to witness a new generation of priests hit the ice as members of the Flying Fathers Hockey Club. It was his hope that those new members will have a positive influence on young people and perhaps inspire a select few to join God's team as a priest.

"It was very moving," said Father Neville, a former member of the team.

"They're trying to touch the lives and hearts of people like we did, to get involved not only doing some good for charity but to meet people in a different way through sport and touch the lives of other young people who might be thinking about the priesthood."

50th Anniversary – Father Brady McNamara

April 19 marked the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Brady McNamara to the priesthood.

Born and raised in Eganville, Father McNamara's path to serving God began early in his life as an altar server with his home parish, St. James the Less.

"I was very active as a young person as an altar server," said Father McNamara, explaining how altar servers were often called upon to serve Masses beyond the regular Sunday celebrations.

"In our day, we would have a benediction in the afternoon, and we would have to serve at Mass for any visiting priest. I lived that close to the church that I was on call whenever someone came along to say Mass."

That early devotion to the Church would prove to be a foundation upon which the thought of religious life was never far away

"It was always there in the back of my mind," said Father McNamara.

"It came to fruition in high school, choosing between priesthood and other vocations."

"His seminarian studies began at St. Jerome's College in Kitchener-Waterloo in 1961 where he first studied Latin, then focusing on Philosophy. He then moved to St. Augustine Seminary in Toronto for further

studies in Theology. As was the norm at that time, he was ordained at his home parish on April 19, 1969 by Bishop William J. Smith.

Going forward, Father McNamara would serve at a wide range of parishes throughout the Diocese. He first started out at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Renfrew, followed by St. Ann's in Cormac and Our Lady of the Angels in Brudenell, Our Lady of Perpetual Health in Braeside, Holy Name in Pembroke, Our Lady of Lourdes (also in Pembroke), St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew, then back to Our Lady of Fatima. He would conclude his duties as a diocesan priest at St. Michael's in Douglas, St. Pius V in Osceola and Sacred Heart in Cobden.

Throughout his years of service, it was sharing the sacraments with his parishioners that brought him the most satisfaction.

"The most fulfilling part was being with people and assisting people in the various stages of life, celebrating baptisms, first communion, marriage and the sacrament of death," said Father McNamara, making special mention of revisiting past parish members later in their spiritual lives.

"I started off in Renfrew in 1969, and I when I went back in 2011, I was marrying people that I had baptized



in 1969. It was just the overall fulfillment of being with and assisting people at various stages of their lives."

Father McNamara retired in 2017. However, he still celebrates Mass at Marianhill Home for the Aged and the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke. He mentioned that the joy he experienced in serving the faithful in years past continues to shine to this very day.

"From point A to Point B, the spiritual growth and life of a priest is the same from the time he is ordained to the time he finishes his work in this world. It is a continuous focus of assisting people at all stages of their spiritual journey."

50th Anniversary – Father Richard Lee Starks

May 17 this year will mark the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Richard Lee Starks to the priesthood.

The eldest of seven children, Father Starks was born and raised in Rochester, New York. He studied at St. Andrew's (high school and college) and St. Bernard School of Theology and Ministry, also in Rochester, with his studies focused on philosophy.

His journey to serving God in the priesthood began at an early age.

"It was not unusual to begin ordination-discernment at Grade 9 – and I was thoroughly convinced that my destiny was priestly service at that young age," said Father Starks.

"It never wavered frankly from 1956 even til the present. If 65 students began minor seminary with us, I estimate 13 were actually ordained. I often prayerfully asked the Lord: 'Why me, o Lord?' I was greatly influenced by the altruistic service-model and influence of three uncle-priests and three aunt-nuns."

God would ultimately lead him to Madonna House Apostolate in Combermere where he first served as a lay worker in 1964. It would be the start of 31 years of service there, eventually being ordained into priesthood for Madonna House in 1969. Prior to his ordination, he pursued additional studies at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton (theology).

"I was the first candidate to be ordained by Bishop Joseph Raymond Windle, after he was named as coadjutor of Pembroke," said Father Starks.

"That year of 1969 represented the first year entire ordination ceremonies were conducted in the

vernacular English. Previously, ceremonies were all Latin or partly Latin, partly English. Madonna House arranged to use the Combermere parish church of Canadian Martyrs for my actual ordaining within Madonna House as we had no chapel large enough for these special occasions, and Father Michael Hass was a most generous and supportive host-parish priest."

He would proceed to take on varied assignments with Madonna House, including a year pursuing a diploma at the Coady International Institute at Antigonish in Nova Scotia, specializing in the development of credit unions and cooperatives, to carrying out 10 years of service at the Madonna House soup kitchens in Edmonton and Regina.

Of special note was his eight years of service assisting in the constructing and cataloguing of the St. Sergius archives of Catherine Doherty, foundress of Madonna House Apostolate, along with other staff members.

"The collected correspondence, photos, speeches, and artifacts would become instructional for future generations being trained in the spirit and spirituality of Catherine Doherty; these sources would also be a gold mine of written text for multiple published books for years to come," said Father Starks, who worked closely with Doherty during those years.

"My most influential moment in these 50 years was sitting side by side with Catherine Doherty surrounded by her archival materials – and reminiscing about her history, her sense of church, her humble questioning whether this 'stuff' would be of any use to the future church. We must have done this three times a week for five or six years, until she no longer could. One of



her spiritual directors told me these moments were important preparing the foundress of Madonna House for her eventual peaceful death."

He also took on parochial duties in 1990, serving at various parishes throughout the Diocese, including Combermere/Latchford Bridge, Cormac/Brudenell, Douglas/Osceola / Cobden, Bancroft/Haliburton and Calabogie/Mt. St. Patrick/Griffith/Esmonde.

"I submitted my resignation from active ministries at age 75, as we ought, and have enjoyed assisting the area pastors as they needed – sometimes for liturgies, sometimes for administration, sometimes for fraternity or errands.

"This retirement phase distills our conviction that essentially we are ordained to confect the Eucharist, and to pray for the People of God. In retirement, there is not much to distract from these core privileges. I treasure the oft-quoted line attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: *'Preach the Gospel with your life, and if necessary use words.'*"

40th Anniversary – Father Bill Kenney

May 19, 2019, will mark the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Father Bill Kenney to the priesthood.

Born in Kingston, Ontario, Father Kenney is one of five children, raised in the village of Elgin located between Smith Falls and Kingston. He lived there until the age of seven when his family moved to Deep River, where his father was a teacher at St. Mary's Catholic school.

Throughout his youth, Father Kenney was quite involved with his faith, participating in youth group, folk choir, retreats and as an altar server. He would often attend daily mass with his father before school in the morning.

Thoughts of serving God in the priesthood began fairly early in his life.

"I began to think about it in late grade school and then became more serious later in high school," said Father Kenney.

"Father Gerald Buckley was the pastor for the years I was in grade school and high school and he was an inspiration for me in my priesthood along with the devotion of my parents to their faith. My final decision to enter the seminary was made in grade 13."

He studied at St. Peter's Seminary for seven years; three years Philosophy and four years Theology from 1972-1979. Father Kenney was ordained at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Deep River on May 19, 1979. He was ordained to the Diaconate the previous year at St. Columbkille Cathedral and spent six months at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Arnprior with Father Murray Tardiff, the pastor.

"I have had a very fulfilling priesthood," said Father Kenney when asked to reflect on life as a parish priest.

"The joy and peace I have found in serving and loving God's people has brought many graces and blessings into my life. Each parish has brought wonderful personal connections for me and many of them have continued after moving on to other assignments given to me by the Bishops I have served under."

Having endured various illnesses, Father Kenney told of the role God has played in seeing him through these challenges.

"Having many different health situations to deal with I am amazed at God's providence in giving me the

health I have had to serve His people. Each time some health problem arose there has been a solution that has allowed me to continue in God's service. A remarkable gift," said Father Kenney.

Of particular note in his time serving the Diocese of Pembroke was his tenure as chaplain at Bishop Smith Catholic High in Pembroke.

"When full funding came to the Catholic Schools, I was asked to consider the position for chaplain at Bishop Smith Catholic High School," said Father Kenney.

"I was very happily settled into St. John Chrysostom parish after coming from Holy Name parish in Pembroke. After prayer and speaking to Bishop Windle, I was asked to serve as chaplain and thus began six years of ministry in the high school."

"It was not an easy move as there were no guidelines to being chaplain in this new situation. However, with great encouragement from the teachers, board administration and with the guidance and support of Bob Tate, the principal, they were again very fulfilling years."

The role of school chaplain would see Father Kenney work with individual students in a period of their lives that could involve a wide range of social challenges.

"Getting to know the youth and their struggles gave me great insight in families, school struggles, social pressures and the many other pressures on young people as they sought to find their direction in life," said Father Kenney.

"I was grateful to be involved with them in their journey. It was a privilege to come to know many young people who in later years of my priesthood I would still have contact with. Many today are parents of families here at Our Lady of Lourdes."

He was 14 years into his priesthood when he concluded his ministry at Bishop Smith and was assigned to his home parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River to assist Father Jack Quinn. Father Kenney would remain there for 12 years where upon he moved to Our Lady of Lourdes, where he remains to this day as pastor.



"I have loved each assignment given to me by the Bishops and am grateful to them for allowing me to have such a fulfilling priesthood," said Father Kenney, telling of the great fulfillment he receives in assisting the faithful he serves and the many friendships he has made.

"I can think of no greater joy than having the privilege of being with so many people in their joys, their sorrows, and their struggles in their faith journey," said Father Kenney.

"The most fulfilling aspect of my priesthood is the wonderful relationships I have been able to have by bringing Christ's love to the families and individuals I have come to know in the past forty years. There are always struggles in any parish, but those times are very miniscule compared to the great joy of being a part of the faith journey of the people God has called me to love and serve."

"The gift of being a part of so many peoples' journey has given me the most fulfilling life I could have ever asked for. For this I am so grateful to God for having called me to this wonderful vocation."

25th Anniversary – Father Paul Burchat

September 10, 2019, will mark the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Father Paul Burchat to the priesthood.

Born in Toronto, Father Burchat's family moved to Barry's Bay, where his father was raised, at the start of his second year of high school.

"I was raised Catholic and went to parochial grade school in Toronto," said Father Burchat.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph taught us. I was also an altar boy until I finished grade 8, but did not continue after that."

When asked when he knew God was calling him to serve as a priest, his response was "The day I got ordained."

However, it was after his post-secondary years that the discernment process began.

"The call evolved over a period of years," said Father Burchat.

"I first heard it when I came back to the Church after being away during my university years. It persisted and

was reaffirmed along the stages of discernment. The longer I was in the seminary it seemed like I was on the right path and those responsible for my formation agreed that I should continue."

He first joined the Order of St. Camillus, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1982 and studied one year at Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.

"After that year, I entered the novitiate and left the Order six months into novitiate, returning to Canada. I then joined the formation program at Madonna House in 1984, taking my first promises in 1986. In 1990 I went to St. Augustine's seminary in Toronto for the next four years," said Father Burchat, expanding on his decision to join Madonna House Apostolate.

"I joined Madonna House because I always felt called to the priesthood as a religious priest living in community as opposed to being a diocesan priest serving in a parish. I also was attracted to the spirituality and charism of Madonna House."

Upon his ordination, he spent a brief period of time in our diocese, then serving at various Madonna House mission locations.

"I was stationed at the Cathedral in Pembroke for the first 1 1/2 years after being ordained," said Father Burchat.

"Other than that and my time in the seminary, I have been stationed at our houses in Combermere, Regina, twice in our house in Whitehorse in the Yukon and now here in Edmonton for the last 3 1/2 years."

Father Burchat told of the great joy he receives in shepherding people towards all that God has to offer.

"I would say that after celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, I get a lot of satisfaction working with people individually and seeing them grow in their spiritual life and drawing closer to God," said Father Burchat.

25th Anniversary – Father Francis Boland

August 15th of 2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Father Francis Boland to the priesthood.

Father Boland was born on July 25th, 1933 in Arvida, Quebec, in the Diocese of Chicoutimi. In his youth, he was an active member of the church.

“My early Catholic faith life included Sunday Mass, altar server and whatever involvement the Catholic School initiated according to the Liturgical Season,” said Father Boland in an interview with The Ecclesia.

Unlike some of his peers who pursued their religious studies in their post-secondary years, Father Boland would answer God’s call much later in life.

“From 19 years of age to my 47th year I lived a non-faith secular life,” said Father Boland.

“That came to an end with the collapse of my marriage in 1979 and my exiting the work place one year later. There followed a two year pilgrimage of searching, which led to a return to the Catholic Church after a 30 year absence. The call to vocation and priesthood occurred during that pilgrimage time.”

That journey would eventually lead him to the Madonna House Apostolate in Combermere.

“In 1982 after six months as a guest and then two years as an Applicant, I made my promises of poverty, chastity and obedience on December 8, 1984 and became a lay member of Madonna House,” said Father Boland.

“Then I served at our Mission Houses in Edmonton and the Yukon for three years. After a year and a half back here in Combermere, I began my studies in September 1989 with the Toronto Oratorians for the first year and then four years at St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto. I was ordained by Bishop Brendan O’Brien at Canadian Martyrs Parish, Combermere on August 15, 1994 for ministry with Madonna House.”

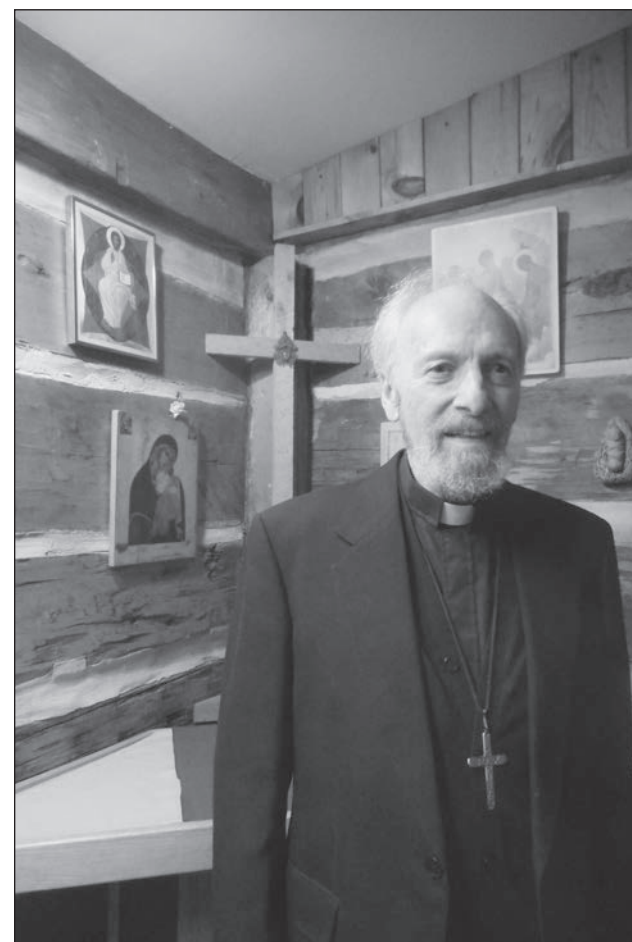
In the years that followed, Father Boland served both the faith community at Madonna House and in the Diocese of Pembroke.

“I have served here in Madonna House Combermere since ordination except for a few months in England the year following ordination,” said Father Boland.

“In addition to my ministry in Madonna House, as is our priestly practice, I assisted local parishes with the celebration of weekend masses as required. Also included was some parish mission and retreat presence in other Dioceses.”

Now, looking forward to his 86th birthday, his life is primarily encompassed by solitude and prayer, in which the joy of Our Lord still prevails.

“The most fulfilling aspect of my Priesthood has been the ever increasing appreciation of the mystery and infinite vastness of the love, mercy and grace of God flowing and abiding in the lives of His people.”



10th Anniversary – Deacon Bob Farmer

May 9, 2019, will mark the 10th anniversary of the ordination of Deacon Bob Farmer to the diaconate.

Born in Hull, Quebec, Deacon Bob moved to Ottawa at the age of 2. Raised in the nation’s capital, he was active as an altar server.

“As a young boy, I was an altar server at the cathedral (Notre Dame Basilica) in Ottawa,” said Deacon Bob in an interview with The Ecclesia.

“Later I was in charge of a group of 12-15 servers, assigning them to serve at masses where there were as many as seven daily Masses celebrated simultaneously.”

Deacon Bob would eventually move to Quyon in 1987, commuting to Ottawa where he worked as a municipal employee until his retirement in 1995.

“In longer than 30 years in Quyon I have always served the church (St. Mary Parish) in any capacity, including parish council committees, physical work like church clean-up and a great deal of painting in the rectory, sacristy and church,” said Deacon Bob.

“I organized adult servers for funerals and later trained men to serve at Sunday Mass. I serve at every weekday mass, am a reader and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Daily I read scripture and do morning and evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours.”

Deacon Bob told of his first experience of seeing a deacon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

“I saw a man that I knew to be married, dressed as a deacon and assisting the priest at the altar,” said Deacon Bob.

“During the celebration, at the Doxology of the Mass, the deacon held up the chalice with the Blood of Christ while the priest raised the Host, the Body of Christ. I felt deeply touched.”

Years later, he had the opportunity to meet Deacon Bob MacDonald of Barry’s Bay who would play a major role in motivating Deacon Bob to join the diaconate.

“I met Deacon Bob MacDonald at a Priest for Life Conference about 2001, then again a year later at a one-day men’s retreat where he was the main speaker,” said Deacon Bob.

“Later when I was president of Pontiac Pro-Vie / Pro-Life I invited him to be our speaker at our annual general meeting. He inspired me by his example, his comportment, assisting the priest at mass and his homilies.”

Accompanied by his wife, Carmel, Deacon Bob began to attend the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation program in Pembroke.

“I pursued my diaconate formation in the Archdiocese of Ottawa at the Diocesan Center for four years and this was supplemented by workshops organized by the Pembroke Diocese. I began in September 2005 and finished in May 2009.”

Upon his ordination, Deacon Bob, who is fully bilingual, would assume a wide range of duties at three parishes: St. Mary’s in Quyon, St-Edwards in Bristol and St-François d’Assise in Lac-des-Loups.

“My duties were liturgical in nature, serving at weekday and Sunday Masses, doing catechetical formation of children/parents for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation,” said Deacon Bob.

“I also presided at baptisms, weddings, and funerals/burials. As a community outreach, I have been engaged in volunteer work in palliative care at Shawville Hospital for 12 years. For the past two years I have



visited shut-ins, bringing them Holy Communion on a monthly basis. What I enjoyed most was assisting the priest at the altar, visiting the shut-ins and the weekly palliative care ministries.”

Deacon Bob noted that being involved in supportive roles within the church proved crucial in the discernment process, something he advocated others should pursue who are interested in becoming a deacon, in addition to having a spiritual director.

“For anyone discerning a vocation to the diaconate I would recommend that they first get involved as an adult altar server to become familiar with the sanctuary and sacristy and also to serve as reader.”

10th Anniversary – Deacon Robert Wilson

May 9, 2019, will mark the 10th anniversary of the ordination of Deacon Robert Wilson to the diaconate.

Born and raised in Ottawa, the father of six had an extensive career in the television broadcasting field, first joining the CBC in 1957. In due course, he would become an executive producer at CTV Ottawa.

“During this time I had stops as a producer/director in Toronto, Vancouver and Ottawa,” said Deacon Wilson.

“Throughout this time I had the privilege of producing and being involved in a variety of TV productions, including news, entertainment and spiritual programming. The latter experience, coupled with my Catholic upbringing, brought me to a stage in life where I recognized the shallowness and futility of many aspects of my life,”

It was at this crossroads of his life that Deacon Wilson chose to elevate his relationship with God.

“One night, while driving along a lonely stretch of road I encountered the truth of my life, while praying for guidance. The climax of my prayer resulted in my promise to God that I would turn my life over to becoming a ‘beacon’ representing my Creator in whatever way I could. In my promise to God that I would turn my life over to becoming a ‘beacon’, little did I know that my Creator had other plans, and the ‘b’ in beacon was to become a ‘D’ in Deacon.”

This would lead him to St. Maurice Parish in Ottawa where he would meet Father Galen Bank.

“Father Galen Bank came into my life as I began to seek out a priest to confess the sins of my past and to confer with as how best to begin renewal in these areas,” said Deacon Wilson.

“I was looking for a Church to attend mass on a weekday morning and drove by St. Maurice Parish, entering there and only to be overcome with the serenity and peace that glowed from all attending that mass. It became obvious to me that the priest on the altar was a major influence, and that priest was Father Bank.”

“In my life, Father Bank became a witness to Christ (*We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witness - HEBREWS 12:1*), as he met with me on numerous occasions in what turned out to be very influential and inspiring sessions. Upon hearing my story in our initial meeting, Father Bank looked at me and said, ‘You didn’t get here by yourself’. From that moment on I began to realize that I was on a path.”

Having resided in Otter Lake since 1994, Deacon Wilson also consulted with Father Réal Ouellette of St-Charles Borromeo in Otter Lake. Both he and his wife, Margaret, would eventually enroll in a faith course sponsored by the Diocese of Pembroke.

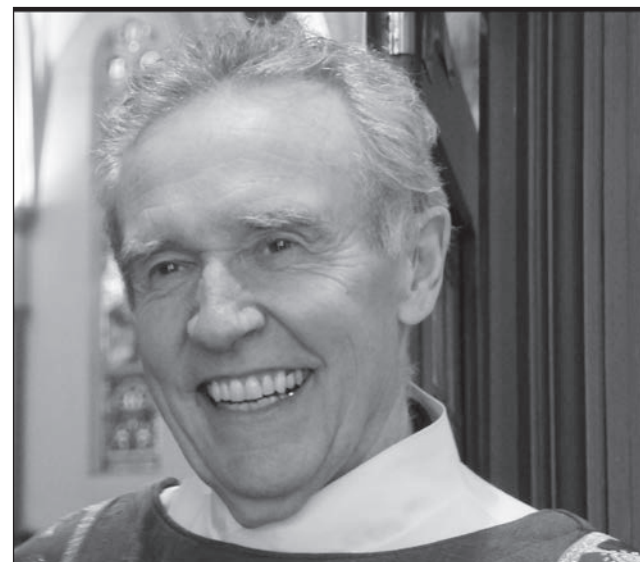
“Following a two year faith course at the Diocesan level it became crystal clear to me that my next step should be making application for diaconate studies,” said Deacon Wilson, who was ordained into the diaconate on May 9th of 2009.

“Having been accepted as an applicant in the Pembroke Diocese, both Margaret and I began a four year course being presented in the Ottawa Diocese. Leading up to my ordination, I had been assisting as a lay person at St-Charles Borromeo and this is where the Bishop assigned me as a Deacon.”

“This included involvement in the Catechesis program for children, which I enjoyed very much. Additionally I took a palliative care course and began to volunteer my services at the Shawville Hospital’s palliative care ward. It is interesting to note that during this time my wife and I also operated two senior’s homes in Shawville and Campbell’s Bay. Laterally, while at St-Charles Borromeo parish I was asked by the bishop to take on the duties of financial administrator of the parish.”

The array of diaconate duties at the parish only brought joy to Deacon Wilson, a confirmation of the fulfillment he receives in serving God in this role.

“The great joy of my diaconate life has been serving at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,” said Deacon Wilson.



“A close second to this would be my hospital ministry, where becoming close to the sick, to the vulnerable and the infirm, I have learned volumes about the human condition, as applied to this life we all lead.”

Deacon Wilson would remain at St. Charles Borromeo until 2014 when both he and his wife relocated to Victoria, B.C., the following year.

“I am presently carrying out my diaconate duties in the Diocese of Victoria, including assisting as a Deacon at St. Patrick’s Parish in Oak Bay and hospital ministry at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, here in Victoria, as well as providing the Liturgy of The Word at three seniors’ residences,” said Deacon Wilson.

“My ministry has served me well, and I can only hope and pray that I, in turn, have been able to give something back to all I have encountered.”

He also co-authored a book entitled ‘The Spirit Challenge’.

“This book was co-written with Sister Marie McArdle (now retired and living in Pembroke) and was written to reach out and inspire both practicing Christians and those Children of God, who have concentrated their life’s focus on a physical and intellectual level and all but ignored getting in touch with their spiritual beings,” said Deacon Wilson.

Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi



Please join us for the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Eucharist with Procession to follow with Hymns, Adoration and Final Benediction.

Sunday, June 23, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

St. Columbkille’s Cathedral

188 Renfrew St., Pembroke, ON

For more information, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at (613) 732-7933 ext. 206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokediocese.com at the Diocese of Pembroke

Retirement

Monsignor Douglas Bridge

April 12 marked official retirement for Monsignor Douglas Bridge, who, in May, 2015, celebrated his 50th ordination anniversary.

Reflecting on his years of service, Monsignor Bridge shared what has meant the most to him.

“During my 54 years of pastoral service in the diocese, in the parishes of Chapeau and its missions of Nichabau, Desjardinsville, Waltham, in Temiscaming, in Fort-Coulonge and its mission of Davidson, in Pembroke at the *Paroisse Saint-Jean-Baptiste* and in the Chancery Office, what comes to mind is the privilege of getting to know the people, getting to love them and then, after a determined term, moving to another parish with its wonderful people and particular challenges. I guess I’m an itinerant at heart!”

Monsignor acknowledged the privilege of being with people in times of sorrow and mourning on the occasion of the death of a loved one and in times of great joy on the occasion of a marriage or of the baptism of a child. Added to those privileged occurrences was living with and experiencing their day-to-day lives with their families in their community.

“My greatest joy and satisfaction was being with and working with God’s people on a daily basis. In my new life as a retired priest that is what I miss the most.”

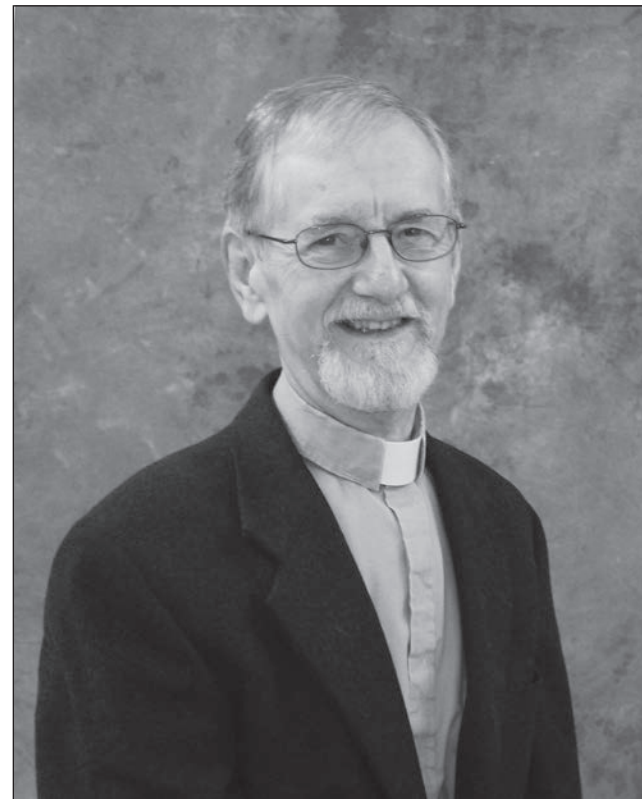
Longtime friend and brother priest Father Bill

Kenney often travelled and vacationed with Monsignor Bridge and stated, “He has always had a great love for the people he served and found great joy in people. To be with Msgr. Bridge walking anywhere you must be ready to stop and have a chat with the many people who knew him in his parish ministry.”

Looking back at those who had a great influence on him personally and his vocation, Monsignor said, “Father Maurice Gaudreault, during his years as curate in my home parish of Fort-Coulonge when I was a teenager, had a great influence. Later, after my preparation for the priesthood at the Seminaries in Toronto and Montreal, as a young priest, I served in the Chapeau and area parishes of which Msgr. D.J. Harrington was the pastor. His dedication, his love of and concern for his people and especially the poor and the sick were great examples for me when I needed it the most, right at the beginning of my ministry.”

Monsignor Bridge has been in semi-retirement since 2008, serving the Bishop in the role of Vicar General on a part-time basis due to health problems.

In retirement he said, “I will try to be of service in any way that my health will permit me. I am presently living at the rectory of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Pembroke and I plan to stay there as long as the Pastor and Curate will put up with me!”



According to Father Kenney, he is most welcome to stay. “Over the past eleven years Our Lady of Lourdes rectory has been his residence and our friendship has grown. He is a trusted friend as well as a brother priest.”

“His love for God, his priesthood and his service to God’s people have been an inspiration to me and I wish him the fullness of God’s blessing in his well-deserved retirement.”

International Priests

The Diocese is blessed to have several members of the clergy who come from various locations from around the globe. The Ecclesia will be publishing a series of introductory articles on these priests for our readers to learn about.

In this edition, Father Casmir Muobike agreed to tell our readers a little bit about himself.

Born and raised in the community of Ezinifite in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria, Father Muobike was raised in a devout Roman Catholic family that encouraged him to be active within the Church.

“My parents are very devout Catholics who nurtured me in the Catholic faith,” said Father Muobike.

“Hence, from my childhood, I was a member of Block Rosary Crusade. After my First Holy Communion when I was eight, I enrolled in the Altar Boys Association. Encouraged by my Dad, who was the President of the Lay Readers Association [Lectors] of my parish, I joined the group as a lector.”

It was very early in his life that he first deliberated serving God in the priesthood.

“The thought of becoming a priest started before I had my First Holy Communion,” said Father Muobike, who received both inspiration and support from members of the clergy in his parish.

“I was inspired by some of our parish priests in their solemn celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy, especially the Holy Mass. As altar servers, sometimes we accompanied our parish priests to visit the sick and in blessing of homes. We received such tremendous

support and encouragement from our priests that a couple of us entered the minor seminary to begin our discernment.

In the course of his formation, Father Muobike attended St. Dominic Savio Seminary (minor), Akpu in Anambra State, Nigeria from 1984–1987, then studied at St. John Bosco Seminary (minor), Isuaniocha in Anambra State, Nigeria from 1988–1990.

“With the completion of pastoral years and then noviciate in the Congregation of Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy, I proceeded to study Philosophy at Seat of Wisdom Major Seminary, Owerri in Imo State, Nigeria (1994–1998),” said Father Muobike.

“As part of our formation, after my Philosophy I was asked by my Superior General to teach in our noviciate for my pastoral year before proceeding to study Theology (1998–1999). Thereafter, I was sent to Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu, Nigeria for Theology, (1999–2003).

He was ordained into the priesthood on July 12, 2003, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Umule-Ohuhu in Abia State, Nigeria. His first assignment was to St. Jean Baptiste Parish in Mindjil, Diocese of Yagoua, located in Cameroun (aka Republic of Cameroon) from 2003–2006. It was shortly thereafter that the opportunity to serve God in Canada was presented.

“By the request of the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta, for priests, I was asked by my Superior General to come to Canada to help. I arrived in Canada on February 13, 2007, and served in the Diocese of St. Paul from then to December 2017.”



Father Muobike now serves at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Bancroft and St. Anthony Mission in Haliburton. Though far from his home, Father Muobike continues to savour the opportunity to serve God’s people in our part of the world.

“It has been an amazing experience working here in Canada. I enjoy the love and hospitality of my parishioners,” said Father Muobike.

“Their spirit of service and generous availability to help is very much edifying. My parish is my true family in Canada. Together, we joyfully make this pilgrim journey, supporting and encouraging one another, praying for one another.”

Saint Profile

Saint Oscar Romero: August 15, 1917–March 24, 1980

His given name was Oscar Arnulfo Romero. He was born on August 15, 1917, in a small community in northeast El Salvador called Ciudad Barrios. His family was not rich, but was considerably better off than most, especially the peasant farmers (Campesinos) who had no land. His father was a postmaster and a telegraph operator and Oscar enjoyed helping his father deliver telegrams. At a young age he developed a talent as a craftsman making tables, chairs and doors. His father wanted him to be a carpenter, but Oscar felt he had a greater calling from God, as his faith was very important to him. At the age of 14 he began studying in the seminary in the nearby city of San Miguel. He then went to Rome to continue his studies, and stayed there during World War II. He was ordained to the Priesthood at the age of 25 in 1942.

Father Romero became well known for his gifted homilies. He also did a lot of parish and pastoral work, visiting prisons, organizing and presenting at Catechism classes. He also worked with others in the Church to provide assistance for those in need, especially with food for those who were less fortunate. His kindness won a great admiration from the Salvadoran people.

Father Romero then became the secretary of the Diocese of San Miguel, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Diocese. He was later appointed secretary for the Bishops Conference in El Salvador and, on June 21, 1974, he was named Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de Maria by Pope Paul VI. A few years later, moved by his love and dedication to the people and the love of God, this very same Pope made him Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977.

Three weeks after his appointment as Archbishop, Oscar Romero was traumatized by the murder of his good friend Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, a gifted priest and one who fought for the rights of the poor. Five more priests were assassinated in the Archdiocese of San Salvador during Archbishop Romero's years as its shepherd. The Archbishop felt the need to speak out and demanded that he needed assistance to guarantee his people had access to the basic needs of life and their rights be supported. He shared this message globally about people in his country who went missing or who were killed. In 1979 he visited the Vatican and presented the Pope with seven detailed reports of murder, torture and kidnapping throughout El Salvador. In that year the number of people being killed rose to more than 3,000 per month. Archbishop Romero continued to offer his people faith and hope. One of the ways he did this was through the airwaves.

Every Sunday Archbishop Romero's homilies were broadcasted by radio. The night before his tragic death, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador said on the radio: "I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is given by a man. The law of God that says 'Do not kill!' should prevail... It is the time now that

you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin... Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, and I command you! In the name of God: Cease the repression!"

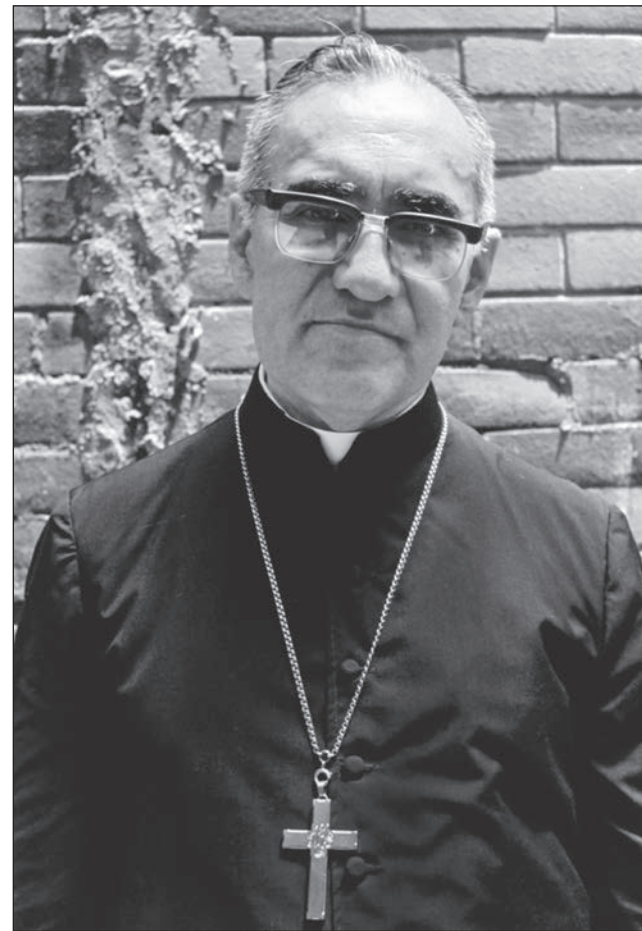
In this address, Archbishop Romero had powerfully upheld the Gospel but, unfortunately, it cost him his life. The following evening, on March 24, 1980, while celebrating the Holy Mass in the Chapel of Divine Providence Hospital, he was shot by a paid assassin and died. Before his assassination, Archbishop Romero stated, "As a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection. If I am killed, I shall rise in the Salvadoran people." His words are still chanted today, "They can kill me, but they will never kill justice."

The people of San Salvador were devastated by the Archbishop's death. On March 30, 1980, Archbishop Romero's funeral was celebrated in the plaza outside the Cathedral and drew an estimated 250,000 mourners. During the celebration of the Funeral Rite the terrorist army fired into the crowd at Romero's people. Forty died and hundreds were injured. Archbishop Romero was laid to rest in the Cathedral crypt beneath the sanctuary and soon drew thousands of visitors each year. On February 3, 2015, two years after his election as Pontiff, Pope Francis authorized a decree recognizing Oscar Romero as a martyr for the faith. His beatification took place in San Salvador on May 23, 2015. He said "Romero was Archbishop during a time of great political crisis in El Salvador and outraged at seeing the violence against the weak and the killing of priests and catechists, felt the need to assume an attitude of fortitude."

In order to be able to be lifted to Sainthood a miracle does become necessary. The recognition of a miracle through Oscar Romero's intercession was, therefore, the final hurdle to be cleared before canonization. It came through Mrs. Cecilia Maribel Flores de Rivas. A 34-year-old pregnant Salvadoran woman, she was diagnosed as fatally ill, yet she not only gave birth safely, but had a speedy, complete and lasting recovery following prayers by her family and her church community seeking Blessed Oscar Romero's intercession.

With this miracle Pope Francis announced the decision on May 19, 2018, during a meeting with Cardinals based in Rome to canonize Archbishop Romero with Pope Paul VI, the very one who made him Bishop and Archbishop. Four others who were Blessed: two Italian Diocesan priests, Francesco Spinelli and Vincenzo Romano, and two nuns, Maria Caterina Kasper and Nazaria Ignazia di Santa Teresa di Gesu, both of whom founded institutes for women religious, were canonized.

On October 14, 2018, in St. Peter's Square a beautiful celebration of the Holy Mass was celebrated with some 70 thousand faithful present, including a handful of presidents and 5,000 Salvadoran pilgrims who came to Rome to honour a man who is considered a hero by so many Latin Americans.



Now, like the Salvadorian people who prayed for Archbishop Romero to intercede for them, we can also call upon our newest Saint to assist us in our prayers of intercession for our daily needs, and we can say Saint Oscar Romero Pray for us as we pray this beautiful novena prayer.

NOVENA TO SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

(Bishop & Martyr)

Repeat the following Novena prayer every day for nine consecutive days.

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you through the intercession of your Saint and Martyr, Oscar Romero.

Your grace has made him a living example of your justice and compassion.

He came to know that to all who come to you for your help, you show your compassion and healing power. You are closest to us when we are weakest and most in need of your help.

You ask us to be close to each other, especially the poorest, as Oscar was. I ask you now to listen to my prayer during this Novena, and grant what I ask.

(Short period of silence to present your Novena intention, said inwardly to Jesus...)

If what I ask is not for my own or others' good, grant me always what is best, that I may build your kingdom of love in our world.

Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Benemerenti Medals presented at St. Alphonsus

This past December, surrounded by family, friends and fellow parishioners, three life-long members of St-Alphonsus Parish in Chapeau—Bert Collin, Henri Sallafranque and Jérôme Sallafranque—were awarded the Benemerenti Medal in recognition of their devotion to their community, faith and parish.

“Bert, Henri and Jérôme, please accept my appreciation and my thanks for your exemplary involvement,” wrote Bishop Michael Mulhall in a letter to the recipients read by Monsignor Douglas Bridge who acted as the Bishop’s representative at the Sunday morning service.

“May your example inspire others to follow in your footsteps.”

Translated from Latin as ‘a medal received by the well deserved’, this honour is exclusive to the Roman Catholic faith, awarded by the Vatican via the Pope’s representative in Ottawa. Displayed on the medal is the Greek cross depicting Christ with his hand raised in blessing. The left arm of the cross shows the tiara and crossed keys that symbolize the papacy, while on the right arm of the cross is the coat of arms of Pope Francis. The medal is attached to a yellow and white ribbon, the official colors of the papacy.

It was Father Tim Moyle, parish priest at St. Alphonsus, who approached Bishop Mulhall to request that the three parish members be recognized for their contributions.

“The three recipients received the award for their respective lifetime of work done for their church and the greater community at large,” said Father Moyle.

“Between serving on municipal councils in every position from councilor to mayor, being founding members of important service clubs and local institutions such as our local Caisse Populaire, arena, and community hall, and fulfilling many offices within their parish and the diocese at large, they richly earned this papal honour.”

Bishop Mulhall also wrote individual letters to each recipient, noting the array of initiatives and roles all three have taken on over the years.

About the recipients

Bert Collin has served on the Pastoral and Finance Councils, overseeing all of the bookkeeping for 25 years (having only retired from that position in 2017). He acted as a lay administrator at the parish when the resident pastor was away. He has also served on the Diocesan Building and Finance Committee (during the reign of Bishop Richard Smith), served two terms on the Chapeau Municipal Council as mayor, and is a founding member of the Chapeau and District Lions’ Club.

Henri Sallafranque is an active member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, with he and his wife, Joan, receiving ‘Family of the Year’ honours on two occasions. He is also a founding member of the Chapeau and District Lions’ Club, the Young at Heart Club for senior citizens and the Harrington Community Hall committee. He has donated countless hours in preparing the annual parish supper and maintaining both the cemetery and parish buildings.

Jérôme Sallafranque is a founding member of the local Young at Heart Club for senior citizens, has served on the Oversight Committee of the local Harrington



From left to right: Jérôme Sallafranque, Bert Collin and Henry Sallafranque. In the back row from left to right: Monsignor Douglas Bridge and Father Tim Moyle.



Special recognition was also made to the spouses of the three recipients. From left to right: Jacqueline Collin, Françoise Sallafranque (wife of Jérôme Sallafranque) and Joan Sallafranque (wife of Henri Sallafranque).

Community Hall and shared his expertise on the parish and finance councils at St. Alphonsus. In recent times, he oversaw the restoration and repair program at St. Alphonsus, which included the construction of a new church entrance and office complex. He was further involved in a three-year construction effort of the main church building, interacting with both architects and government representatives. He also chaired the Diocesan Building and Property Committee, which oversees renovations and repairs throughout the Diocese of Pembroke. Jérôme was a member of the Knights of Columbus since the 1960s and Mayor of Allumette Island from 1985–1999 as well as a councillor of the town from 2005–2009. He was also instrumental

in the initiation of the construction of a fire hall for the Island and has been involved in countless other endeavours over the years.

“One of the benefits of having served as a priest in Chapeau off and on for the past 25 years (once as curate and twice as pastor) has been a long-term view of what each of these men as offered, as well as seeing the fruits of their labors come to benefit citizens in every corner of the community,” said Father Moyle, reflecting on the achievements of all three recipients.

“This is why I consider it such a great honour to have been able to put their names forward to Bishop Mulhall as worthy candidates for this prestigious papal award.”

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph closes infirmary

The first Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke was the original farmhouse on the 147-acre O'Kelly property along the Ottawa River. Bishop Patrick Thomas Ryan bought the property, had the house renovated and an addition built for the Novitiate, and then signed the deed over to the Sisters in May 1924.

Thirty years later, the centre block of the current Motherhouse was built on the original property and opened to the Sisters in December 1953. In 1962, the east wing was added, and in 1966–1967, more than 50 years ago, the west wing infirmary was built.

The Sisters have cared for many people in the infirmary over the years, providing a place for those who were in need while they were ill or who had nowhere else to go.

"We've been taking care of lay people and some priests, usually temporarily, whenever we had room and somebody asked or needed a space," said Sister Lucille Germain, CSJ Pembroke Local Leader.

However, as with many older buildings, the Motherhouse does not meet higher safety standards put in place after lethal fires in Ontario care homes.

Pembroke Fire Chief Dan Herback explained that because the Motherhouse had what is termed "vulnerable occupancy," similar to hospitals and long-term care homes, it was required to meet the new standards. The Sisters had two options. "They could bring the building up to standards and continue to operate as they were, or they could change the type of occupants," said Herback.

The most common standard that needs to be met in the case of vulnerable occupancy is an automatic sprinkler system, which is a very costly undertaking. So, the Sisters made the difficult decision to close the infirmary, thereby changing the occupancy and complying with code.

As of the end of April, all those who could not self-evacuate had to find a new place to go.



The Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse on Pembroke Street West.

Photo courtesy of The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

The four remaining Visitation Sisters also vacated their space in the Motherhouse, moving to Ottawa with the Daughters of Wisdom.

But for now, at least, the Sisters of St. Joseph will continue to reside in the Motherhouse confirmed Sr. Lucille. "We really don't know what the future will look like, but there are no immediate plans for the building."

The Sisters of St. Joseph will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in the Diocese of Pembroke in 2021!

Quebec Pilgrimage 2018

On August 28, 2018, I joined a three-day Pilgrimage tour to Our Lady of the Cape in Trois-Rivières, Sainte-Anne-de-Baupré, east of Quebec City, and St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal accompanied by Fr. Réal Ouellette and Fr. Justin Bertrand of *Paroisse St-Pierre* in Fort-Coulonge, spiritual directors, and some 44 or 45 pilgrims.

We had pick-ups in Pembroke, Fort-Coulonge, Bryson, Quyon, and Gatineau. We had a rest stop in Buckingham and a lunch break in Rosemère before arriving at Our Lady of the Cape at Trois-Rivières. There, we had the Rosary and Mass in the little shrine. We also had some time for individual touring of the shrine and the gift shop. After leaving the shrine we had supper at *Buffet des continents* in Trois-Rivières, an excellent choice.

Following supper, we departed for Ste-Anne-de-Baupré and arrived there around 8:15 pm. We had the rest of the evening on our own, after checking in to the Quality Inn Suites.

On Wednesday, August 29, we had the morning for individual prayer, adoration, touring, etc., at Ste-Anne-de-Baupré. At 1:00 pm, we had a guided tour of the Basilica in French or English. Following the tour, we had free time for Confessions, Mass or individual pursuits. At 3:15 pm, Fr. Ouellette led the Way of the Cross in French in the lower Chapel, due to weather

conditions. At 4:00 pm, Fr. Bertrand led the Way of the Cross in English on the Hillside.

In the evening, we had the Rosary, Saint Anne's Mass, and the Candlelight Procession in the main Basilica. These were bilingual.

Following breakfast on Thursday, August 30, we departed for Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montréal. We stopped at Repentigny for lunch and arrived at the Oratory in early afternoon. We had about an hour and a quarter to tour the site before departing for home with a stop in Gatineau for supper.

The tour was extremely well planned and organized, with equal amounts of organized and free time. It was most evident that a great deal of time and preparation had been given to the planning of the pilgrimage. The bus, stops, breaks, meal stops, and accommodations were excellent. A huge thank you to Fr. Ouellette and Fr. Bertrand for an excellent pilgrimage tour. They plan to repeat it on August 20–22, 2019.

I found the pilgrimage tour a relaxing, informative, and spiritual experience. I really enjoyed the amount of time we had at Sainte-Anne-de-Baupré for prayer, devotion, mass, touring, etc., and I look forward to repeating the experience next year.

**Elwood Fitzpatrick,
Pembroke**

Paschal Mystery

*Followers of Jesus
we are
carrying our cross
the broken people
forgotten
poor
in ourselves.*

*In the Risen Christ
we are
made whole
remembered
enriched
in God.*

Fr. Michael Smith

The Church as Missionary

By Fr. Michael Smith

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

“But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? [...] So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.”

-Rom. 10:14-15, 17

“Missionary.” What thoughts and feelings come to mind when you hear the word?

For some, the word missionary evokes visions of living in a far-off, exotic place, in harsh conditions but with a brave and heroic spirit, proclaiming Christ where he is not yet known. For centuries, this admittedly romantic ideal has inspired many young people to consider a missionary vocation.

For others, especially many First Nations people, the word ‘missionary’ evokes very different thoughts and feelings: the mistakes of the past, the frequent failure to recognize how God is already at work in the culture of other nations, the confusion of being Christian with being of European culture.

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Theme: BELONG

“See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called children of God.” 1 John 3:1

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Must be entering Gr. 9–12 in fall of 2019 or just graduating from grade 12 in 2019.

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Deposit of \$150 required to secure your place. Also, include cheque for final payment of \$140 to be postdated no later than May 29

Please inquire about fundraising ideas if needed

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 29, 2019

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Then again, missionaries today tell us that being a missionary means being present to others, learning their culture, seeing how God is present there, fostering a meeting-point between that culture and an explicit faith in Christ, and helping people to speak up for themselves and for greater justice in their milieu.

We are all missionaries

The word ‘missionary’ comes from the Latin ‘mittere’, which means, “to send”. A missionary is someone who has been sent forth. We are all missionaries, and the Church is missionary in its very nature. The original “mission” is the Father’s sending his Son into the world. As the Father sent the Son, and as the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit, so does the Son send the Church into the world. (cf. Second Vatican Council, *Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity* [Ad gentes], no 2. Go to Google and type “ad gentes english” or “ad gentes français”, etc.)

Two kinds of missionary

There is more than one kind of missionary. The first is the kind with which we are most familiar: a group of people from a local Church is sent forth to another region or country, where the Gospel has not yet been proclaimed, or where the Church’s meagre resources require help from abroad. For centuries, Europeans and those of European descent ventured forth to the far-flung regions of the world to proclaim the Gospel. Today, it is those regions that are sending forth missionaries. Europe and North America are mission territory today. We are now the ones receiving missionaries from abroad. This is a great gift for us, and it is also a sign that the vitality of the Church in any given region has an ebb and flow; there are cycles of growth and decline.

There is another kind of missionary. This kind does not travel to another country, but rather serves as missionary within one’s family and among one’s friends and co-workers. We are all called to be this kind of missionary. Introducing people to Jesus Christ is the responsibility of every one of us without exception.

But how? It usually does not involve many words, at least not at first. Rather, in the normal relationships of family, work, and friendship, we make Christ known by being Christ-like: by being charitable and unselfish, by treating people fairly, and by being truthful. Then, when the time is right and when a relationship has been built up, we put into practice the words of 1 Peter 3: 15-16: “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”

There are times and places where no words are possible. This is true in times of persecution, but also in environments of aggressive hostility. The Second Vatican Council has this to say about these circumstances: “[The Church] knows what it means to make beginnings and to advance step by step in the work by which she strives to make God’s plan a reality. In fact, there are times when, after a happy beginning, she must lament another setback, or is at least detained in a certain state of partial and insufficient fulfillment. As for the [people], groups, and [nations] concerned, only by degrees does she touch and pervade them, and thus take them up into full catholicity. [...] Besides, circumstances are sometimes such that, for the time being, there is no possibility of expounding the Gospel directly and forthwith. Then, of course, missionaries can and must at least bear witness to Christ by charity and by works of mercy, with all patience, prudence and great confidence. Thus, they will prepare the way for the Lord and make Him somehow present.” (*Ad gentes*, no. 6)

When the time does come to speak, however, we must do so with boldness but also with gentleness. It is no easy task to discern what to say and when, but the Holy Spirit guides our discernment, both individually and collectively.

In case anyone is still nervous about the whole idea of being a missionary, fearing that it is an imposition on others, Vatican II has these words of reassurance: “The Church strictly forbids forcing anyone to embrace the Faith, or alluring or enticing people by worrisome wiles. By the same token, she also strongly insists on this right, that no one be frightened away from the Faith by unjust vexations on the part of others.” (*Ad gentes*, no. 13)

Faith, then, is a gift. Each person has the right to be free to come to faith. The faith must also be presented in a way that respects the freedom and dignity of those who are hearing the Gospel.

Presenting the faith, introducing Jesus Christ to others, modelling Christ-like behaviour: this is the calling of every baptized person. This is what it means to be a missionary right where we are.

For further reading

St. John Paul II, Encyclical *Redemptoris missio*, on the permanent validity of the Church’s missionary mandate (1990). Available online at www.vatican.va.

Christian Unity event

Arctic-like temperatures did little to deter area Christians from packing Festival Hall to near capacity in February for the second annual Funny In A GOoD Way (FIAGW) show.

Lead organizer Michael Gulliver of Golden Lake explained what led to the birth of the show that featured comedy, music and worship.

“The concept started a few years ago when my wife and I attended a multi-day conference in Orlando, Florida, and during the conference we had the experience of seeing some Christian comedians,” said Gulliver.

“We were both really touched by the event and how people came together and laughed a joyous laugh. There were people there from all over the U.S., and even a few like us from outside of the U.S., and everyone was laughing at good clean humour. It was great to see and for some reason it really affected me. I could see how laughter was a universal language and a great tool to bring people together.”

“As we came home from the event I truly believe that God laid on my heart the idea of ‘Funny in a GOoD Way’. I couldn’t get this out of my head.”

The idea of hosting a similar event here in the Upper Ottawa Valley remained dormant until Gulliver joined with some local musicians and formed the local contemporary Christian band GATE47.

“I shared the idea with them. The next thing you know we are incorporating a non-profit organization, booking Festival Hall for an event to launch the week of prayer for Christian Unity,” said Gulliver.

“The event for unity just seemed like the logical place to launch the concept. My wife and I are so blessed to be surrounded by people who have the same vision of unity in Christ. We also had some fantastic help from Rick Wharton from Festival Hall and some great support from some really amazing people.”

The first event saw more than 500 tickets sold, with proceeds to the tune of \$3,000 raised for The Grind in Pembroke. Located in downtown Pembroke, it is a non-profit, inter-denominational organization that hosts a coffee shop, provides emergency shelter for those in need and funds year-round youth programs.

“The feedback from first event was amazing. The hall was filled with the spirit and I think we can safely say that many there felt the ‘Joy of the Lord’ which was our main focus,” said Gulliver.

“The main focus of FIAGW is to create events that offer up unity among the community, offer up good clean fun and celebrate the joy of the Lord. Along the way, we like to select an organization or two that can use some help and try and raise some money and awareness for them as well.”

Proceeds from this year’s event were distributed to the Petawawa Pantry Food Bank, The Salvation Army (Pembroke) community lunch program, Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Pembroke St. Columbkille Conference soup kitchen, and St. Joseph’s Food Bank.

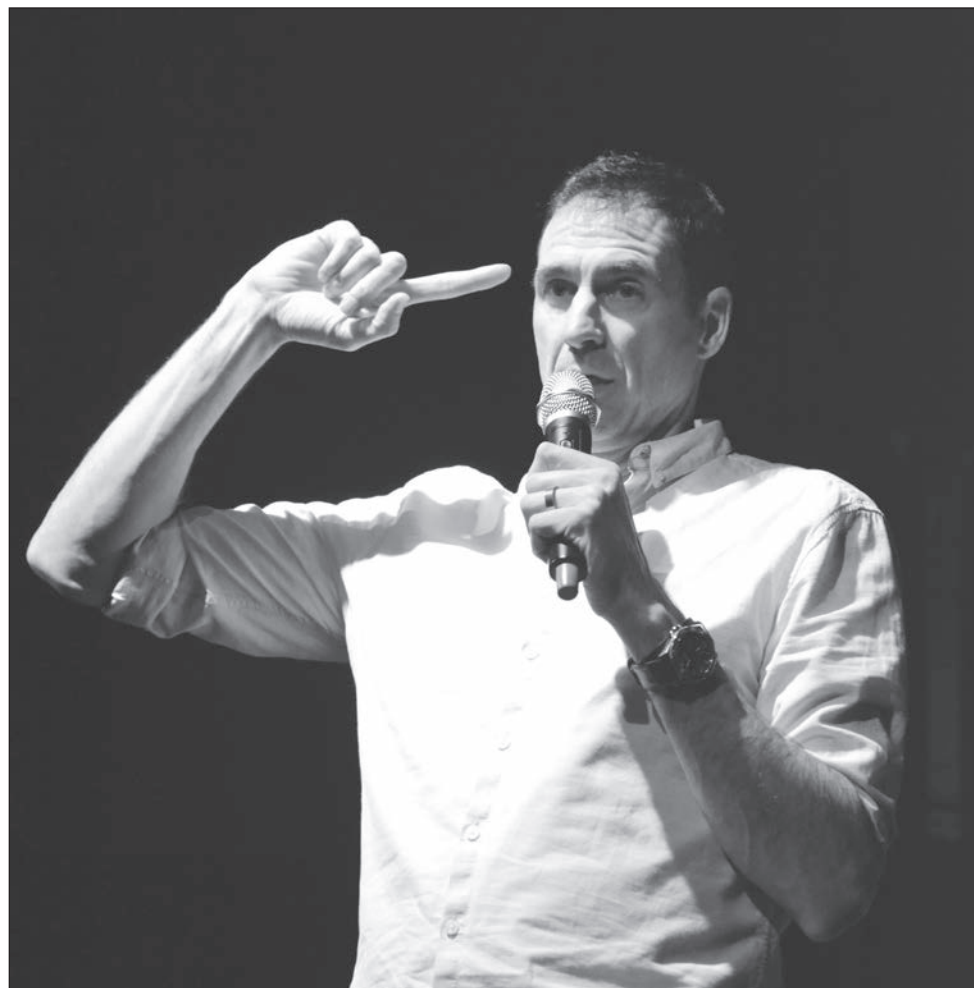
Attendees at this year’s show were treated with an opening performance by the Canadian Military Wives Choir of Petawawa, followed by a comedy skit entitled Ministerial Mirth. The laughs continued compliments of western Canadian stand-up comic Leland Klassen, followed by a lively performance by GATE47.

But the abundance of live entertainment would not be possible without the board of directors at FIAGW and the volunteers who step up to bring this about.

“The FIAGW board is hands on and most members also double as band members of GATE47, so the crew does an amazing amount of work,” said Gulliver.

“The board is made up of a total of six people, so everyone is front and centre. The actual hours put into the event are crazy, but we’re all in love with service for the Lord, unity and contemporary praise, so it really doesn’t seem like work. Over and above the board we have had some major technical help from a huge supporter named Nicole Simon. We’ve also had a number of other volunteers help on the day of the event and they include emcees, stage set up, sound, lights, reception etc.”

For more information on future events, please visit www.funnyinagoodway.ca



The Who, What, and Why of “Walk the Opeongo Line”

To set out on a journey like this—67km of walking, camping, praying, etc.—you may need some good reasons. A strong sense of adventure isn't enough to make everyone fill out the registration form. So, for those of you asking, “Is this pilgrimage really for me?”, you will, hopefully, find your answer here.

Who? Wittingly or unwittingly we are all pilgrims. We each have a spiritual destination to which we are headed. For those who embrace the pilgrimage the road on which we walk is difficult, but God offers all that is necessary to reach the destination. For those who have not set their sights on a destination, the road is wide and easily traveled, but the destination is undesirable. If you want to take the narrow path that leads to heaven, then the disciplines of the pilgrimage are for you.

Everyone who wants to go to heaven must choose to walk the road that leads to heaven. One need not walk the Opeongo Line in order to reach heaven. This pilgrimage is a microcosm or symbol of the real pilgrimage that leads to heaven. It is for those who are physically able and have a desire for spiritual growth. You do not need to be a great athlete or even a mediocre athlete, you just need to be willing and able to persevere through 67kms of walking over 3 days, which includes fatigue, heat, camping, rain, bugs, and whatever else may come your way. A 6-year-old and a 78-year-old have both completed the entirety of the walk, but that doesn't mean it's easy. There have also been teenagers and young adults who quit after a day because of their lack of physical preparedness. Know yourself. Prepare yourself.

What? As alluded to in the previous section, a pilgrimage is a spiritual journey. In his essay, *The Idea of a Pilgrimage*, Hillaire Belloc describes pilgrimage in this way, “A pilgrimage is, of course, an expedition to some venerated place to which a vivid memory of sacred things experienced, or a long and wonderful history of human experience in divine matters, or a personal attraction affecting the soul impels one. This is, I say, its essence.” This idea of a pilgrimage leaves the door open to variations.



The cloistered nun meditating intently on images of Calvary places herself at the feet of Jesus, next to Mary, and so, despite what one might assume, she is able to journey thousands of kilometers without leaving her cell and make her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Whether the journey is on foot or bicycle, by car or bus, or even just in one's imagination it can participate in what it means to be a pilgrimage. We must simply set out on the road to which God calls us.

Walk the Opeongo Line is an ascetical type of pilgrimage. It is not the *most* ascetical type, but it does impose various challenges. Our pilgrims are not obliged to go barefoot garbed in sackcloth and ashes or to climb the steps of the churches on their knees, though, they could if they want to. The distance, weather, bugs, perhaps other pilgrims, and various other things are all crosses that we willingly take up as we walk to St. Ann's. Perhaps, for some, the prayer disciplines will be challenging: attending a Latin Mass, singing or reciting the Rosary, adoration, confession, and attending daily Mass are all moments in which we encounter God's greatness and our own weakness. There are many moments during this pilgrimage in which we will recognize our weaknesses, and in those moments, we should remember the words of St. Paul, “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12:10).

Why? This is the most important of the questions. St. Thomas Aquinas, speaking about man's last end, says, “Although the end be last in the order of execution, yet it is first in the order of the agent's intention” (I-II, Q. 1, a. 1 <<http://www.newadvent.org/summa/2001.htm>>). Unless we have a reason to set out on the pilgrimage, we won't even begin. It's easy to stay home, to make excuses, and to be busy with the things of the world. However, if we want to take ‘the road less travelled’ and the ‘narrow path’, we must be willing to set aside time and energy for the things of the Lord. An ascetical pilgrimage is a traditional and proven way to allow God to show you the path to heaven.

In the great pilgrimage that is the Christian life, the end is to know, love, and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him forever in heaven (cf. *Baltimore Catechism*, 1). God, through Christ and His Church, has given us everything necessary to achieve that end. This little pilgrimage is a concentrated dose of Christ and His Church. Over the course of four days we experience highs and lows of the spiritual life. We encounter Christ in the Sacraments, in Scripture, in our neighbor, in nature, and in ourselves. At times, we want to quit. At other times, we wish the pilgrimage would go on for a few more days. But, most importantly, when we walk the final metres up to the shrine and we hear the heavenly bells of St. Ann ringing, we know that we are home.

Photo Credit: Dennis Corrigan

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- 3 hour stop at St. Joseph Oratory
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- Departure from Ste-Anne de Beaupré at 8:00
- Quick stop at Our Lady of the Cap Shrine(max 1hr)
- Visitation of Marguerite D'Youville Sanctuary in Varennes



-Prices will be determined by May 30th

Spiritual Directors

- Father Réal Ouellette
- Father Justin Bertrand

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Diocese of Pembroke



Sister's Sisters: A conversation with Sister Mary Rice, C.S.J.

By Susan Dagenais

Never underestimate the power of prayer and good example.

Mary Rice grew up in a prayerful atmosphere. Her family never missed saying the Rosary. They never missed Sunday Mass. Her parents always had a great love for the Church.

Mary's father belonged to the Holy Name Society. These men resolved never to use the Holy Name of Jesus in vain. On the first Sunday of each month, they gathered together, sat at the front of the church, and renewed this promise.

Mary lovingly describes her mother as "a Saintly, helpful, prayerful woman, always ready to listen and to enjoy."

On her father's side, young Mary had four uncles who were Christian Brothers, living in Toronto.

"They frequently visited, saying that their prayers were being said for us."

Mary also had an aunt who was a religious sister, Sister Benedict. She too prayed for the family.

Born December 29, 1924, Mary Rice was the third child in a family of 10 children. She had an older sister, an older brother, three younger sisters, and four younger brothers. Since Mary grew up on a farm, she has always had an openness to life.

"We were forever surrounded by new life: lambs, calves, colts. Never a dull moment!"

The Rice farm was located in Bromley Township, only a mile-and-a-half from Saint Michael's School and Church in Douglas. Mary's teachers were religious sisters who were "kindly and eager for their students to do as well as possible." The school had a library, planned concerts for the community, and provided choir practise wherein the children learned to sing in Latin.

In Grade 7, Mary had to stay home from school because of illness. Her teacher, Sister Teresita, wrote her a cheery note and put a chain with a Miraculous Medal in the envelope and delivered it to her young student.

This simple gesture so profoundly touched Mary that today, at 94 years of age, she vividly recalls her resolve.

"When I grow up I'll be like that. But I'd have to be a Sister. From then on, the thought never left me."

In 1944, at the age of 20, Mary Rice entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke. How fitting that she should honour one of the many women who had continually prayed for her! Mary chose her paternal grandmother Honora's name.

Mary Rice, now Sister Honora, taught for many years in Catholic schools in Renfrew County.

In 1967-68, children attending rural schools in Chalk River, Deux-Rivières, and Stonecliffe were amalgamated into Deep River. Sister Honora became the principal of Saint Mary's School in Deep River. The school soon grew to accommodate more than 700 students with a staff of 26 teachers. Sister points out that at that time, only two of the teachers were male: Leo Kenney, who was Father Bill Kenney's father, and Howard Saari.



Sister Honora, Principal, St Mary's Staff, Canada's Centennial Confederation Year 1967.

Sister Honora was not the only family member to be called to religious life. Two of her sisters, Loretta and Teresa also accepted the call. Her brother Isaiah became a priest of the Diocese of Pembroke.

Teresa Rice, who took the name Sister Edana, was a nurse in Barrhead, Alberta, and served five years in Peru.

Sister Honora, now Sister Mary Rice, remembers boarding a small plane in the 1970s from Pembroke to Ann Arbor, Michigan, along with several others to attend a Charismatic Renewal retreat.

On her return, Sister and others went to Madonna House. At Madonna House, Sister Mary Rice was baptized in the Holy Spirit. She says, "The word of God became alive for me. It was a joy to read the Bible. I couldn't get at it enough."

Saint Joseph Motherhouse in Pembroke soon became the gathering place for a Catholic Charismatic prayer group. Some 30 people attended weekly prayer meetings and were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In 1977, all three Rice sisters travelled to British Columbia, to the Diocese of Nelson. They spent years working under the direction of Bishop Emmett Doyle. Sister Honora did catechetical work with the public school children.

Sister Columba visited the sick at the hospitals and Sister Edana worked as assistant to the parish priest, Father Bob Anderson.

How did it come to pass that three sister Sisters ended up together in British Columbia?

Sister's reply spoke volumes as to the wherewithal of these religious. "I happened to speak with a Sister of Saint Ann from a Western diocese who told me that Bishop Doyle of Nelson was visiting in Ottawa and looking for sisters to work in his diocese. During an appointment with Bishop Doyle at the Château Laurier, he said that he was open to having the three of us come out to his diocese."

These three energetic sisters loved the West. They have many fond memories of Penticton and Cranbrook, British Columbia.

About 10 years ago, Sister felt a calling to leave her ordinary secular clothes behind. She received permission from her superior to change back to her



Sister Teresa Loretta Rice, who took the name Sister Columba, taught near Ottawa and in Pembroke and area schools for many years.



Sister Loretta



Sister Mary Rice at 94 years of age

habit. Today, Sister Mary Rice wears a black veil and a long black dress.

Since returning to the Motherhouse in Pembroke in 2005, Sister Mary Rice has been doing small works of mercy. She has been blessed to have her two sisters, Sister Teresa and Sister Loretta, living with her at the same Motherhouse.

The Rice children had many aunts and uncles who prayed fervently for them. As grandparents, aunts and uncles, we often ask ourselves what we can do to help our young family members. Let us continue to pray for them, never underestimating the power of prayer and example.

What are we teaching?

*By Susan Dagenais, President
Renfrew County Right-to-Life*

Are we teaching our sons and daughters the following truths?

When they feel alone and helpless, they have a Father in heaven who truly loves them and wants only good for them.

When they feel harassed by lies and the half-truths of this world and are tempted to sin, they can run to Jesus who loves them and will provide them with the truth.

When they repeat over and over again, “I praise you for I am wonderfully made,” the light of Christ will shine through them for others to see, and others will want to have what they have.

They need to love themselves so they can love in turn.

Are we teaching our children these things?

Should we perhaps be teaching our children these lyrics to Deacon Bob Williston’s song?

“Listen more closely to how you were made, a smile from God’s loving heart.

He crowned you with life, and showered you with gifts, to bring his love to the world.

You were made a little less than the angels, you were made to be the best, of His shining stars. You were made a little less than the angels. Be the beauty, the wonder, the majesty splendor, be the person that God knows you are.”

Also, this verse from Joshua 1:9:

“Be strong and courageous.

Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

We must be open and honest in our teachings, and in our answers to very controversial questions:

An unborn baby does feel pain.

Euthanasia is playing God.

Abortion is directly linked to breast cancer.

There are over 104,000 abortions each year in Canada.

Abortion hurts women and kills their unborn babies.

“Bubble Zones” infringe on the very fabric of our society, our freedom of expression.

We have sex-selective abortion.

Even on university campuses, where freedom of speech is of paramount importance for a healthy society, this fundamental right is being trampled upon.

We have had 30 years of zero legal restrictions on abortion in Canada.

Abortion is a disgusting and horrific procedure.

Pro-lifers want sincere and honest information. Other countries have outlawed abortions past 20 weeks.

We have live-birth abortions.

As Christians, we believe in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

Jesus forgives.

Information is power.

We need to pray and keep praying for all.

Let’s teach our sons and daughters that with our ear on Christ’s heart, we have the truest perspective on our world.

Let’s not have our children “looking for love in all the wrong places...”

What are we teaching?

Companions on the Journey

By Jean Schlicklin-Tyler

Intergenerational relations are a vital link for our CWL faith communities. One of the success stories of elders and young families connecting in our community is the “Companions on the Journey” program. In 2005, Anna Sicoli-Nichol, the CWL president (she has since died a few years back) and Jean Schlicklin-Tyler, the family faith formation coordinator teamed up in our parish to create a program called “Companions on the Journey” (CoJ). This experience was supported by the pastor at the time, Fr. John Lacey, with prayer being the main focus connecting the young families with elders in our church. There was a lack of connection between these young families and the CWL elders in our community at the time. The two groups did not have opportunity to do things together with a different focus in life. This simple prayer partnership strengthened the relationships which have continued to grow over the years.

What was created as a way to build a prayer relationship has grown into deeper friendships. It started by gathering names of willing families and willing elder couples or singles to be in a prayer match. With an equal number of pairs, we let the Holy Spirit make the matches for a two-year time period. The names of young families were in one pile and a pile of elders’ names in another. One at a time with the Holy Spirit, the names were brought together. Then we created a “fridge certificate” with the names of the

family and children including their phone number along with the elder and their number. There was also a space for prayer concerns to be added as you got to know your partner. In a ceremony during Mass we invited the pair to meet and go forth into this new relationship of prayer with and for each other. This happened every two years until 2009. Relationships were created. Some friendships grew over the years as people who would not otherwise even have met. Some would attend social events and create opportunities to have interactions. There were others who did not even know who their match was. These were some unfulfilled relationships that seemed to go nowhere. What you put into the relationship was what you got out of the partnership.

During the next few years from 2009 to 2017 circumstances unfolded that no new matches were made. When we reviewed the idea in 2017, the Family Faith Formation coordinator, Michelle Dulong (our parish religious education program) and Peggy Flowers the present CWL president were delighted to have new matches set up. Over the years some had lost their prayer partners to death or some moved away from the area. Two of the companion matches had continued during those intervening years and did not want to change. They had built a strong connection with their match, so chose not to switch. Others were delighted to have a new match. So, the Holy Spirit was called on again and asked in prayer to set up 13 more new matches for another two years.

Stories of support have been inspiring. During a time of loss, a young family connected to an elder with prayer when a spouse died or as an illness progressed, gave new opportunities to strengthen our faith. The commitment in CoJ is to pray for one another. One of the ways to do that is to get to know your partners in the CoJ program. One recent story of a new match was shared. A family had been invited to the elder’s home for dinner to get to know each other. When they take time to share what is important in their lives, they can pray for one another in a deeper way. Another was shared of a family giving support at the funeral of one of the elders they had been matched with in an earlier pairing. Because they had been part of the elder’s life, the family was included in the Mass of Resurrection in a more personal way. These are just a few of the shared stories that show how our faith has deepened and grown as we share life and faith with one another in CoJ. The young people have elders they know and are included in some special pot lucks or sacramental preparations during the Family Faith Formation programs. It has been humbling to witness the young people stay connected to the church community as they grow into young adults. The joy that is expressed in the faces of the elders as they witness the special relationships they have with young ones of our church is exciting as we move into a hopeful future.

As the Carey Landry song inspires, *Companions on the Journey... Sharing bread and sharing life. It is in hopes we bear and life we share, as companions on the journey...*

The Catholic Women's League of Canada 2019–2023

By Maureen Brennan

The Catholic Women's League of Canada adopted a Strategic Plan at the August 2018 National Convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Components of this new Strategic Plan will be presented to each parish council in the Pembroke Diocese early in 2019.

CWL meetings

Teams of two to four members of the Pembroke Diocesan CWL executive will criss-cross the diocese until mid-April 2019, meeting with parish councils, explaining how our organization will align the activities of The Catholic Women's League with its purpose, its values, its new goals and vision of the future.

The core purpose of The Catholic Women's League is 'uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, in Canada and the world. The core values are defined as FAITH – following Catholic teaching; SERVICE – local, national and international; and SOCIAL JUSTICE – actively involved in society. This purpose and these values lead into our new Mission Statement: *The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

Over the 18 months of planning prior to the plan's adoption, three goals were identified by the team: Goal 1. Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada grow in faith by sharing, witnessing, and developing leadership skills to create positive change. Goal 2. The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy. Goal 3. Through outreach and service, members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.

The envisioned future of The Catholic Women's League is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women, inspired by faith. It is to be a vital participant in the Church; to be a valued partner for social justice; a respected advocate at all government levels and connected to the world.

On the home front, our first Diocesan activity in 2019 was our Spring Meeting Saturday, April 13, at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, Barry's Bay, Ontario. We will wrap up our year-long focus on 'homelessness' at our Annual Diocesan Catholic Women's League of Canada convention hosted by the council of St. Michael's, Douglas, Ontario, on Saturday May 25 with guest speaker Colleen Perry, Ontario Provincial Representative.

The theme for 2019–2020 is *Care for Our Common Home*. The social doctrine behind it focuses on how people treat each other as human beings, how to be intentional disciples, and how to care for creation. All of creation, not just humans, long for fulfillment in the eternal life of God. The resurrection of Christ is the first sign and fruit of the promise of God for all creation. All creation longs for a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1). The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one and the same. I close with this prayer written by Mary Ryan, Past President, St. Dunstan Parish Council, Fredericton, New Brunswick.



Care for our
Common Home

'Prayer to Sustain'

Lord, season after season,

You continue to renew the face of the earth,

"For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.

"Teach us, Lord, as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, to become attuned to our need to protect the beauty of our common home.

May our efforts lead us to sustain its natural order, so that, in the words of Pope Francis, our heritage is never "deprived of physical contact with nature."

Pre-Lenten retreat

By Lucy Caron

On a bright and cold Saturday morning, March 2, 2019, a group of approximately 50 people gathered in the Parish Hall of Saint Columbkille's Cathedral for a four-hour pre-Lenten retreat. It was a spiritual time of sharing our faith and preparing our hearts for the penitential Lenten season. We were all welcomed warmly by Deacon Adrien Chaput. Hot coffee and delicious muffins were offered as we gathered in fellowship. After opening prayers and thanksgiving, Tony Cosentino was introduced and shared with us the amazing Graces open to us through the practice of Lectio Divina. He encouraged us to take up the practice of calling forth the Holy Spirit and reading the Gospel of the day in a contemplative manner and allowing

the Word of God to settle in our hearts and minds. I found his session to be very inspirational for my further spiritual growth. Thank you, Tony!

We were then asked to turn our chairs toward the screen to view a video production by the Saint Augustine Institute titled *Forgiven*. This video was beautifully produced and is an excellent tool for preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Deacon Adrien shared his musical talents and beautiful voice with us to lead in songs of praise. This added another opportunity for reflection and thanksgiving to God. A lunch was then provided and enjoyed by all with time to share our thoughts with fellow participants. After our appetites were well satisfied, Father Beanish was welcomed forward

to offer some of his insights and offered attendees the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Cathedral. Quiet time for personal reflection and contemplation before the Exposition of the Holy Eucharist and beautiful background music sung by Deacon Adrien completed the atmosphere of peace and love filling the Cathedral.

It was exactly what my soul needed to prepare for the fast-approaching Lenten season. On behalf of all the participants, I would like to thank all involved in the preparation of this retreat, Tony Cosentino, Deacon Adrien, Father Beanish, Monsignor Bridge and all the volunteers behind the scenes. I couldn't have imagined a more perfect Lenten preparation. God Bless you in your ministry.

Parish Suppers 2019

Sunday, May 26

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Braeside, ON

Barbecued chicken

2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Adults \$15.00; Children under 12, \$5.00, under 6 free

Take-out available

Sunday, June 9

St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON

Hot roast beef dinner, fresh home baking.

2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Adults \$15.00, Children 12 & under \$5.00,

Children under 5 free

Take out & delivery available (613-432-5825)

Sunday, July 14

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

1934-style Summer Parish Picnic

Celebrating the 85th anniversary of the parish

BBQ, live entertainment, silent auction, children's

games, photo booth

Sunday, July 28

St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Bonfield Church Picnic

Sea Pie, Home-Baked Beans, Full

Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies

Games: 1:30 p.m.–5 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,

Repas – 15h30 – 17h00

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. Article Bingo. Raffle tickets. Canteen

St. Martin's Parish Hall, 1:00 p.m.

Adults: \$14.00; Children 5-10: \$5.00;

Under 4: Free

Sunday, August 11

St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON

Supper & Bazaar

Turkey, ham, stuffed pork, baked beans,

Salads, rolls, pies and desserts

Entertainment, bingo, garage sale, raffles

Adults: \$15.00; Children 4-12: \$5.00;

Children under 4 free; 1:30–6:00 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 seapie,

homemade beans, coleslaw, homemade raspberry,

blueberry, 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.

705-752-1775 / 705-752-5426 fax

Sunday, August 18

Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON

Turkey Lunch & Supper

Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets,

Grab bags. Air Conditioned – Take-out

available – Wheelchair accessible

Westmeath Community Centre

Adults: \$15.00; Children (5-12): \$6.00,

Four & under: Free; 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 18

St. Hedwig Parish, Barry's Bay, ON

Turkey dinner

Adults \$14.00; Children \$6.00; under 3 free

2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON

Turkey, Ham & Baked Beans

Live entertainment, bingo, country market

Adults: \$14.00; Children 10 & under: \$6.00;

Children under 4: free

Served from 1:30–6:30 p.m.; Visitors' Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

St. Mary's, Wilno, ON

Chicken Supper; Home-Cooked Meal

Plates served from 1 p.m.

Take-out available; Visitors' Mass 12 noon

Elevator/Wheelchair accessible

Adults: \$15.00; Children under 10: \$5.00

Sunday, September 1

St. Ignatius Martyr Parish, Maynooth, ON

Annual Supper and Bazaar

Turkey, ham, beans, mashed potatoes, gravy and

vegetables; Homemade pies and squares

Raffle, wheel, fish pond, Nevada tickets and Bingo

Shop the craft table for crafts, preserves and baked

goods, etc.; Something for everyone!

Adults: \$15.00, Children under 12: \$5.00

Children under 5: free; 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Parishioners and Fr. Malachy Ekezie extend

a warm welcome to all!

Sunday, September 8

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, LaPasse, ON

Turkey and ham dinner

Mount Carmel Hall

Adults: \$15.00, Children under 12: \$6.00

Children under 4: free; 2:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, September 8

St. John the Evangelist, Campbell's Bay, QC

Turkey, Ham & Homemade pies

Adults: \$15.00; Children 12 and under: \$6.00

Toddlers free; 3:30 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, CWL gift shop

Religious articles

Take-out meals available

Adults: \$13.00; Children under 12: \$6.00

Children 5 and under: Free

11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Mass at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 15

St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, ON

Roast Beef, Ham & Bean Dinner

Adults: \$15.00; Children under 10: \$5.00

11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Take-out available

Sunday, September 22

St-Jean Baptiste, Pembroke

Turkey & ham dinner

Take out available; Handicapped accessible

11:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Adults: \$15.00, Children: \$5.00

Sunday, September 29

St. Patrick, Mount St. Patrick

Turkey, ham, beans

12:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

Adults: \$15.00, Children under 12: \$6.00

Take out available

Sunday, September 29

St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC

Turkey, beans and all the trimmings

Raffle tickets, bingo and draws

Chapeau Arena, wheelchair accessible

12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Adults: \$15, Children under 12: \$7.00

Sunday, October 13

St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON

Buffet Beef & Bean Supper:

Beef, potatoes, vegetables with all the trimmings,

homemade desserts, buns and pies

Craft table, Bingo, Live entertainment

Supper at 12:30 p.m.

Adults: \$15.00; Children 12–5: \$5.00;

Under 5: Free

Take out available; Gift certificates are available at the

parish office. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, October 20

St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON

Harvest Festival Dinner – Hot Roast Beef

Adults: \$15; Children: \$7; under 6 free

Travellers Sunday Mass @ 11:30 Mass

Dinner 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 20

St. Joseph, Allumette Island, QC

Roast beef supper

St. Joseph Family Centre

Wheelchair accessible; One sitting at 5 p.m.

Advance tickets only

Contact Donna at 819-689-2558

or Sharon at 819-689-2907

Sunday, November 3

St. Matthew the Apostle, Madawaska, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Bean

Supper – Raffle Tickets

Community Hall, Madawaska

12 noon – 6 p.m.

Adults: \$14.00; Children under 10: \$5.00;

Three & under: Free