



Ecclesia

The Newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Pembroke

Spring 2023

I do not refuse the task: Bishop Lorrain and the establishment of the Diocese of Pembroke

By Reverend George Ryan Holly

Part 1 – Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain

On August 4, 1867, one month after Canada's Confederation, Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Montreal. Father Lorrain spent his first two years on staff of Sainte-Thérèse Seminary where he received his own formation. In the summer of 1869, Bishop Bourget loaned this zealous priest to New York, where he became the parish priest of the upstate town of Redford to serve the large influx of French Canadians.

For ten happy years, Father Lorrain ministered to the souls of Redford, New York until 1879 when he was abruptly called back by telegram to Montreal. This summons to return to the city came as a great sadness to the pastor, who had found great fulfillment among the people of Redford parish.

Shocked by the sudden recall to Montreal, Father Lorrain made a visit to Bishop Edgar Wadhams of Ogdensburg to inquire if he had somehow failed in his pastorate of Redford. Bishop Wadhams assured the young priest that his ministry in Redford was deeply appreciated, and it was his personal hope that he could stay. After an appeal to remain in Redford, it became clear that the Bishop of Montreal was not going to change his mind and that Father Lorrain was to return immediately to become the pastor of the challenging parish of Saint-Henri. A year after returning to Montreal, Bishop Fabre appointed Father Lorrain as vicar general of the diocese, where his administrative skills were put to good use.

Within two years, the life of this priest would change again, this time with the call to become bishop at the age of forty to oversee the newly established Vicariate of Pontiac. Upon news of the appointment of Lorrain as bishop of this new territory, Bishop Edgar Wadhams of Ogdensburg

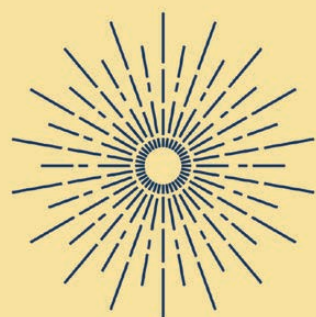
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September 1898: Bishop Lorrain celebrating the establishment of the Diocese of Pembroke

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125th ANNIVERSARY



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wrote to his dear friend and explained that “this is the reason why you were recalled from Redford” – so that he may learn more experience from his time in Montreal before taking on this new mission. In conveying news of his appointment, Bishop Fabre of Montreal finally revealed to Father Lorrain that when his name had been submitted to the Holy Father three years previous, word had come back that it would be imprudent to appoint a priest who was assigned to the United States. Hence Bishop Fabre’s terse recall from Redford. The esteem of the clergy and faithful was evident on September 21, 1882, when more than 15,000 attended his episcopal consecration at Notre-Dame in Montreal.

Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain would now be invited to draw upon his happy years as a parish priest among the farmers of Redford and his administrative skills learned in the city of Montreal and use them for the establishment of the new and expansive Vicariate of Pontiac, which would eventually become the Diocese of Pembroke.

Part II – The Diocese of Pembroke

The establishment of the new Vicariate of Pontiac in 1882 was created out of an expansive territory that stretched from James Bay to north of Kingston. Generations before had seen the waterways of the great Ottawa River bring Recollect Fathers and Jesuits, including the Canadian Martyrs, bringing the sacraments through this territory.

Upon arrival in Pembroke in 1882, Bishop Lorrain had the benefit of inheriting parishes that were already established in the Valley under the auspices of the dioceses of Kingston and then Ottawa, and the presence of religious such as the Grey Nuns of Ottawa who administered schools in the territory. While Catholic parishes and institutions were already a reality in the Ottawa Valley, Bishop Lorrain realized this new Vicariate was vast and that he had a desire to meet his people.

Bishop Lorrain chose Pembroke to be the seat of the Vicariate because of the central and inter-provincial location, access to trains and the waterways of the Ottawa River. With great fortitude, the youthful bishop used every mode of transportation possible – including canoe – to reach the far northern regions of the Vicariate. His personal diary of these visits would eventually come to be published and revealed not only the beauty of the north, but the harmonious pastoral presence Bishop Lorrain had amongst the Indigenous peoples in this land, primarily Algonquin and Cree communities.

Diocese of Pembroke then and now

1898

Catholic population 40,000
24 parishes, 33 missions,
37 chapels
36 priests
4 convents
3 hospitals

2023

Catholic population 52,983
50 parishes, 8 missions,
1 summer chapel
40 diocesan priests
13 permanent deacons
2 convents
2 hospitals
2 homes for aged
21 schools – Renfrew County
Catholic District School Board
1 school – Nipissing-Parry Sound
Catholic School Board
2 schools – Algonquin &
Lakeshore Catholic District
School Board
2 schools – Conseil des écoles
catholiques du Centre-Est
5 schools – Conseil scolaire
catholique Franco-Nord



Bishop Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain

In total, Bishop Lorrain made five extensive visits to the northern regions, at times accompanied by members of these Indigenous communities, often by traditional birch bark canoe. News of these visits became known to Pope Leo XIII who, in particular, asked Bishop Lorrain in their meeting in Rome in 1888 to extend his blessing to the Indigenous peoples of the Vicariate.

Among the pastoral activities, chapels and catechetical programs that were established in the expansive Vicariate, Bishop Lorrain invested \$4,600 in books that were printed in various Indigenous dialects. Preservation of Indigenous dialects was a priority that Bishop Lorrain established from the outset of his ministry, as noted by the *Pembroke Observer* in July 1898. At the time of the new Bishop’s appointment in 1898, the Algonquins sent a message that “the children of the forest, hearing that the Pope had made a great feast for the ‘Guardian of Prayer’ at Pembroke, wished to associate themselves with the white men of the Bishop’s flock, to share in the joy of the feast, and to thank their chief pastor for the labours he had endured.”

Of great priority to Bishop Lorrain was the establishment of Catholic schools, and his extensive administrative background gained during his days in Montreal not only helped the Vicariate to eradicate debts, but to see the establishment of English and French schools. Likewise, these skills were instrumental in working with the Grey Nuns of Ottawa in the expansion of a larger hospital in Pembroke to meet the medical needs of the day.



After sixteen years of nurturing the seeds of faith in the Vicariate of Pontiac, the Holy See recognized the need for this portion of the People of God to be elevated to the establishment of a diocese. On May 4, 1898, Pope Leo XIII signed the decree creating the Diocese of Pembroke. Two days later – not surprisingly – the Holy Father signed another decree appointing Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain as the first bishop of this newly created diocese. News of these double appointments reached the shores of Pembroke in early July, and a new stability was established with the status of diocese, but the missionary work was only just getting started!

In the early days of this new status as a diocese, Bishop Lorrain issued a pastoral letter to his clergy in September 1898 exhorting them to the mission at hand, “to preserve the true Catholic Faith in those confided to your care, to bring back the strayed sheep to the fold, to kindle the faith in their hearts the sacred flame of piety and devotion... are duties that necessitate persistent labour, many a sacrifice, privation and fatigue: and all those painful obligations you will freely accept for the good of religion, the salvation of souls and the prosperity of your diocese.”

Part III – Succession

Bishop Lorrain’s pastorship of the Diocese of Pembroke would span for another 17 years.

At the age of seventy, recognizing his frailty, Bishop Lorrain petitioned the Holy See for an auxiliary bishop to assist him with the duties of the diocese. The Holy Father acceded to Bishop Lorrain’s request and, in 1912, appointed Father Thomas Patrick Ryan as Auxiliary Bishop of Pembroke.

Not only was Thomas Patrick Ryan of Renfrew the first priest to be ordained by Bishop Lorrain for the Vicariate of the Pontiac, he also had served for many years as personal secretary to the bishop, seeing first-

hand the apostolic zeal of the founding bishop and the growth of the local Church. He would subsequently succeed his spiritual father as the second Bishop of Pembroke in 1916.

Bishop Lorrain died on December 18, 1915, at the age of 73. The death of the pioneer Bishop of Pembroke was widely mourned and even noted in the evening edition of the *New York Times*. True to his motto, Bishop Lorrain did “not refuse the task” of preaching the Gospel in different languages, cultures, and climates, but rather embraced it zealously, building on the solid foundation of Christ for the timeless missionary tasks of caring for the salvation of souls and prosperity of the diocese.

For more history of the Diocese of Pembroke, visit our website at <https://pembrokedioocese.com/history-of-the-diocese/>



THE MOST REVEREND
GUY DESROCHERS, C.Ss.R.
kindly requests your presence at the
MASS OF THANKSGIVING
to mark the
125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE
at the
Cathedral of St Columbkille, Pembroke,
on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



Reception to follow
in the Cathedral’s
Parish Hall

Past and present Bishops

Name	Date named Bishop of Pembroke
Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain, D.D.	May 6, 1898
Patrick Thomas Ryan, D.D.	August 7, 1916
Charles Leo Nelligan, D.D.	August 16, 1937
William Joseph Smith, D.D.	May 19, 1945
Joseph Raymond Windle, D.D.	February 15, 1971
Brendan Michael O’Brien, D.D., S.T.D.	May 5, 1993
Richard William Smith, D.D., S.T.D.	April 27, 2002
Michael Mulhall	June 30, 2007
Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.	May 6, 2020

Ecclesia



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New members of the Evangelization team

New to the Evangelization team are Greg and Mary Doyle, members of Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish in Combermere. Greg and Mary both grew up on farms in the Cayuga/Caledonia area, met in high school, and married young. They moved to Georgetown where they raised their family before moving to Combermere twenty years ago. Greg and Mary have been married for 52 years, and are thankful for the blessing of their five adult children, three sons-in-law, twelve grandchildren and the many people who have shared life, love and faith with them.

As a married couple, they have enjoyed and personally benefited, from among other things, involvement in the Marriage Encounter, Cursillo and Charismatic movements, the Lasting Treasures Catholic Youth Conference, Small Faith Communities, Small Group Scripture Studies and Marriage Preparation. Their goal is to help everyone they come in contact with see themselves as children of God, called to walk as Jesus walked, and to become His disciples, open to and guided by the Holy Spirit. With this goal in mind and praying for guidance from the Holy Spirit, they plan to be active participants and encouraging voices on the Diocesan Evangelization Team.



Greg and Mary Doyle, Combermere, are the newest members of our Diocesan Evangelization Team.

A brief update on the Evangelization team

By **Pierre-Alain Giffard**

The Evangelization team has been working diligently to advance missionary initiatives within the diocese. Members meet regularly, every two to three weeks, to ensure that projects are progressing. Here are some of the initiatives they have been working on:

- To aid with evangelization and parish renewal efforts, the team is creating videos, a new crucial new aspect of their work. They have also launched fundraising initiatives

to support the evangelization mission. Additionally, the team designed a pamphlet as part of a communication strategy, providing an overview of the diocese's evangelization vision and its various dimensions.

- In February, the team organized a session for priests to introduce the Divine Renovation mentorship program. Members of the team will also be starting Healing and Evangelization Services, and support has been provided for organizing the Alpha course in Bryson.

- The team has also begun meeting with priests and lay leaders in deaneries to discuss parish revitalization.
- Finally, the Blessed Catherine's Starflowers initiative remains a major focus, and the team is delighted to have welcomed new members, Greg and Mary Doyle, to support its development.

Overall, the Evangelization Team has been very busy and remains focused on proposing new and effective ways to make disciples.

A small group approach to evangelization

By **Pierre-Alain Giffard**

Today, Canada has become a mission field in the same way we once viewed the least developed countries. Christendom has ended and our parishes must evangelize in order to remain faithful to the mission that Christ gave us. To do this, small missionary groups can play an important role, as they have throughout the history of the Church and recently through movements such as the Focolare, the Charismatic Renewal, the Cursillo, and the Cell System of Evangelisation. They allow for a unique and powerful means of proclaiming the Gospel.

A Parish Missionary Group is a small group of two to twelve individuals who are connected to a specific parish. The group's facilitators aim to integrate nonbelievers or non-practicing Catholics into parish life. The goal of the group is to reach those in need of Christ's light.

Parish Missionary Groups typically gather on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, usually at a member's home, for a period of one to one-and-a-half hours. During these meetings, participants view videos that convey the fundamental message of Christianity (the kerygma), or read a passage of the Gospels and exchange their viewpoints. At the end of each meeting, the group members share their prayer intentions and pray for those in need. Everyone is encouraged to invite those they know who could learn about the love God has for them.

There are numerous benefits to establishing small missionary groups within a parish. Through them, people can come to know Jesus, grow in intimacy with God, and receive the sacraments of initiation (or re-engage in sacramental life if they are already baptized). For practicing Catholics, these groups provide an

opportunity to share their faith and invite others to join. Additionally, members support and encourage each other in many ways, especially in their spiritual journeys.

Establishing small missionary groups in your parish will help spread the love of God, leading people to love and follow Jesus. But one must remember the primary purpose of these groups: to reach out to people who do not know or do not follow Christ. This is the most significant way to serve others and fulfill God's will. There is no greater service to humanity and noble purpose in life than sharing God's love and salvation. Evangelizing is an act of love.

For more information about starting a group in your parish, please contact Pierre-Alain Giffard, the director of pastoral work at pag@pembrokedioocese.com.



How to make sense of the Book of Revelation

By Fr. Michael Smith

The *Book of Revelation*, also sometimes called the *Apocalypse* (the Greek word for ‘revelation’), is the last book in the Bible. The author writes that his name is John, and that he is in exile on the island of Patmos. According to tradition, the book was written by the apostle St. John. The precise identity of the human author is uncertain, but this does not take away from the fact that the *Book of Revelation* is the Word of God.

There is much interest in the *Book of Revelation* these days, and not always for good reasons. There is a popular belief that this book contains predictions of current events in our day. The message of the book is certainly current, but in the sense that it is equally relevant for all periods of history.

Cracking the code

The *Book of Revelation* is written in a kind of code, a method well-known to the people of Israel, and used in times of persecution. The technical term for this code is ‘apocalyptic literature’ of which parts of the *Book of Daniel* in the Old Testament are another example.

The book was circulated among seven churches that were in what is now western Turkey, and it was read out loud in the gatherings of these churches. The seven communities were suffering persecution by the Roman Empire, but they also had internal problems of their own. The book’s intent was to urge these communities to live the Gospel more faithfully, and it assured them of Jesus’ final victory, even in spite of present hardships.

Since it was a time of persecution, there would be a risk to people’s safety if the book were to fall into the hands of the Roman authorities. To avoid this fearsome eventuality, the book was written in code, with symbolism with which the people were already familiar, but which would be incomprehensible to non-Jews and non-Christians. Here is the meaning of some of the symbols:

- *The One seated on the throne* is God the Father.
- *The Lamb who was slain* is Jesus who was crucified. The fact that the Lamb is alive and victorious refers to Jesus’ resurrection and his triumph in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- *The bride of the Lamb* is the Church, the vast assembly of Christ’s followers.
- *The Woman clothed with the sun, who gives birth to a child*: This symbol has a double meaning. On one level, it refers to the Virgin Mary, the New Eve, who gave birth to Jesus. On another level, it refers to Israel, the People of God, from whom the Saviour of the world takes his human origins. The Woman’s children are the members of the Church, the new People of God.

- *The scroll with seven seals* is a seven-part message for God’s people.
- *The Red Dragon* is Satan.
- *The two beasts* are, respectively, false messiahs and false prophets.
- *The number 666* represents the name ‘Caesar Nero’. Each letter of the Hebrew and Greek alphabets was considered to have a numerical value. The total numerical value of ‘Caesar Nero’ in Hebrew is 666.
- *The Great Harlot or Prostitute* is the Roman Empire. Her promiscuity represents Rome’s trade, military exploits, and immoral behaviour, which were propagated throughout the Mediterranean world.
- *Babylon* represents Rome. In the 6th century B.C., the Jewish people were exiled to Babylon, in what is now Iraq. The *Book of Revelation* considers the persecution wrought by Rome as a kind of internal exile.

What is the message of the book?

When you put all the symbols together, the message is really quite simple: The Lamb will be victorious. Jesus will conquer. The persecutions of the present will give way to the ultimate triumph of Jesus and his followers. Those who are currently suffering hardship are therefore to take heart. Be faithful. Don’t give up.

Some suggestions on how to read the Book of Revelation

When reading the *Book of Revelation*, it is best not to try to be too analytical. It is not helpful to ask constantly, “What does this symbol mean? What does that symbol mean?” Now that you know the meanings of the main symbols, it is best to read the *Book of Revelation* in one sitting, letting yourself be carried by the sweep of the narrative. It will take you through initial words of encouragement or reproof, through the account of the persecutions, and on to final victory. It is important to catch the mood of the book as it takes you from conflict to triumph. Most of all, keep firmly in mind that the *Book of Revelation* is the Word of God. It contains a personal message for each of us. The Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of the book is the same Holy Spirit who assists us as we read it. It is important to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us.

For further reading

I would recommend a good study Bible. Make sure it is a study Bible, however, and not a “Reader’s Edition,” which has few footnotes. The study editions of the *Jerusalem Bible* and the *New Jerusalem Bible* have very good notes, as do the study editions of the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New Revised Standard Version*. These study notes are scholarly without being too technical. If you are reading in French, the study notes of *La Bible de Jérusalem* are very good.

Parish Suppers 2023

Please look for the parish supper notices on the Diocesan website <https://pembrokediocese.com> and in parish bulletins this year, since details were not readily available for this issue of *Ecclesia*.

Notice

The Diocese of Pembroke is saddened by the passing, on Monday March 20th, of Reverend Roch Jean Gagnon at the age of 93 and in his 65th year of Priesthood. A full obituary will be included in the Fall issue of *Ecclesia*.



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Saint Profile

Saint Joseph of Arimathea

The Word of God shares with us Good News, and we learn so much about God's chosen ones and the saintly people. St. Joseph of Arimathea is one of them for whom we must truly thank God.

In the New Testament we learn about Joseph. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, a council of 71 members that were able to exercise legislative and judicial authority over the Jewish faith. It was noted that he was a wealthy man and a good man according to the Gospel of Saint Luke 23:50. He was a disciple of Jesus, but he kept it hidden for fear of the members of the Sanhedrin that were against Jesus. The Sanhedrin are the very group who demanded that Jesus be crucified.

After all the suffering and painful agony that Jesus endured on His way to Calvary, he was then nailed to the Cross. With His surrender to the complete submission of His Father's will, He died on the Cross. After His death, Joseph, this good man who risked everything, even more than his reputation, asked Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, for the body of Jesus. It is noted that Nicodemus, the very

one who visited Jesus at nighttime for fear of being caught asking Jesus about the Kingdom of God, was also with him. The two men were granted the body of Jesus and they immediately prepared His body for burial. As per the Jewish custom, they wrapped the body in strips of linen and a mixture of myrrh and aloe. This was the sixth day of the week just before the Jewish Sabbath and it was later in the day. Joseph and Nicodemus hurried to place Jesus in Joseph's own new tomb hewn out of rock located in a nearby garden. After the stone was rolled in front of the opening, they departed, and that is the last time we hear about Joseph.

Recognizing the compassion, love and reverence this great saint had, let us pray:

Merciful God, whose servant Joseph of Arimathea, with reverence and Godly fear, prepared the body of our Lord and Saviour for burial, and laid it in his own tomb: Grant to us, your faithful people, grace and courage to love and serve Jesus with sincere devotion all the days of our life: we ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Saint Joseph of Arimathea's Feast Day is March 17, and he is the Patron Saint of Funeral Directors.

St Joseph of Arimathea: Pray for us that our hearts will not be troubled by the burdens of this life; instead, that we will place all our trust in Jesus. Amen

Advent secretary retreat day

By Kathy Tripp, Our Lady of Mercy Church Bancroft

Thursday December 8, 2022 was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What a beautiful day to have our Advent Secretary Retreat Day at Our Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pembroke.

Our day began with Deacon Adrien leading us through the Liturgy of the Hours. The peace that entered the room was tangible. Deacon Adrien's gentle voice as he sang and led us through the liturgy was profoundly peaceful and comforting. Deacon Adrien encouraged us, as parish secretaries of our respective parishes, to remain faithful to our ministry. He stressed that we, as secretaries, are the first people that a lot of the parishioners see before they meet the priest. We are truly blessed to be called to minister to our pastors and to our parishioners. He stressed his appreciation for what we do and made us feel, individually and as a group, very special and truly blessed. It is a true calling for all of us and we felt truly honoured and appreciated. Many of us were meeting each other for the first time. Some of us met for the first time last year, but more secretaries attended this year, and it was a joy to meet each other and finally put a face to a name!

We were privileged to be able to meet Matthew Schooley, who most of us have only met through email, phone calls and zoom. Matthew was able to walk us through a lot of our daily, monthly and annual reports and answer our questions. He was also able to solve problems for us and simplify matters that, for some of us, seemed like mountains which he made seem like "molehills."

We broke for a wonderful catered lunch and were joined by Bishop Guy, Deacon Adrien and Father Mitch Beachey. It was an honour and a privilege to have Bishop Guy join us and spend such a casual, relaxed time together. After lunch, the Bishop spoke to us and reiterated our gift and our ministry as parish secretaries and encouraged us to **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!**

PRAY! For strength and courage to help our parishes grow and flourish in this very different world we live in;

PRAY! For Blessed Catherine's Star Flowers, which enable the elderly parishioners to feel useful, needed and blessed as they pray for other suffering souls in our community!

PRAY! For the evangelization project in our diocese, that it will flourish and reach many lukewarm parishioners and bring them back to our Masses!

PRAY! For Bishop Guy and how blessed we are that he was called to our diocese!

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! Bishop Guy stressed that anyone and everyone has the ability to **PRAY!** Old or young, prayer is powerful!

After Bishop Guy's inspirational talk and before the day ended, we were all able to speak openly and freely about our jobs, our individual challenges, our joys, and the gifts that come from being parish secretaries. It was so nice meeting Donna Biggs after only talking to her on the phone! So much more personal now being able to put a face to the voice. Also, it was a pleasure to meet Carole Schryer-Dufour as she, too, was just a voice at the end of a phone for many of us.

It was a joy-filled, pleasant, educational, humble and prayerful day. Deacon Adrien and the Bishop made us feel that we are needed and very much appreciated. We were definitely made to feel that our position as parish secretaries is truly a gift from God. We look forward to another ADVENT RETREAT DAY to grow together in our faith and our ministry.



Pastoral appointments – Fall 2022

The Most Reverend Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R., announces the following pastoral assignments:

- **Reverend Steven BALLARD** was granted a health leave to begin treatment immediately. Please remember Father Ballard in prayer during this time of illness.
- **Reverend Daniel KELLY** was appointed administrator of St. John Chrysostom Parish, Arnprior, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Braeside, while Father Ballard is on health leave. This appointment was effective immediately.
- **Reverend Jim BEANISH** was appointed pastor of St. Andrew Parish, Killaloe, and Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Brudenell. This appointment took effect on October 13, 2022.
- **Reverend Mitchell BEACHEY** was appointed rector of the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, while also remaining as pastor of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste in Pembroke. This appointment took effect on October 13, 2022.
- **Reverend Peter DO** was appointed as parochial vicar of the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste. This appointment took effect on October 13, 2022.
- **Reverend Fortunatus RUDAKEMWA** was appointed as parochial vicar of the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish and Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste.

Annual priests' retreat

By Rev. Réal Ouellette

From October 23-27, 2022, the priests of the diocese were able to gather for the annual priests' retreat after a hiatus since 2019 due to the pandemic. It was a beautiful moment of grace and fraternity.

The event, organized by the Diocesan Priestly Life Committee, took place at Calabogie Peaks where it has been held for the past 15 years. Beginning with supper on Sunday and ending with lunch on Thursday, the priests' retreat includes spiritual conferences, times of prayer and adoration, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and times of fellowship for priests.

This time, the preacher of the retreat was our bishop, Bishop Guy Desrochers. While sharing the testimony of his faith journey, he focused on the theme: "Becoming one with Christ." As is the custom, the Wednesday evening supper was dedicated to highlighting priests who are celebrating significant ordination anniversaries. This year we took the opportunity to celebrate anniversaries that could not be celebrated in 2020 and 2021. The jubilarians present for this meal were: Father David May (40th), Father Terry Sirosky (40th), Father Robert Johnson (25th), Father John Lacey (25th) and Father Jim Beanish (25th). Congratulations to these priests and all other jubilarians.

Holy Name of Mary celebrates 175 years

This year will mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of Holy Name of Mary parish in Quyon, QC.

"I was baptized in May of 1941 and have been here all my life and now approaching 82 years of age," said life-long parishioner Ed Desabrais.

"I began serving Mass with Father O.J. MacDonald at the age of six and a half years old. I have served on the parish council for some 50 years, and now I am a senior advisor. I have served with many priests over the years. I have done everything but say Mass. I was administrator for three cemeteries for 39 years and I loved it – the history of it all."

His devotion is but one of many such examples of devoted parishioners whose faith have ensured their parish has persevered all these years.

Nestled between the Ottawa River to the south and the Quyon River to the north and west, Quyon was founded by Irish immigrant and businessman John Egan in the 1840s, who gifted two acres of land to establish a mission church. Priests from North Onslow and Pontiac Village would attend to the faithful.

Later, in 1872, a two-acre plot of land was donated in order to build a church that would replace the mission chapel. In 1882, Father John Cadigan would be assigned as the first parish priest. Sadly, he passed away two years later, and was succeeded by Father Ambrose Nolin.

During his seven-year tenure, Father Nolin saw to the remodelling and enlargement of the church.

Father Bernard Kiernan was assigned to the parish upon the retirement of Father Nolin in 1890. Those decades were not easy for members of the clergy in such rural settings. Not only were priests in Quyon responsible for their own flock, but they were also responsible for the faithful of North Onslow, a mission of Holy Name of Mary.

In the case of Father Kiernan, he contended with a tuberculosis scare at a young age. Despite this, he carried out his duties, traversing the wide township where he was needed. He saw to the construction of a presbytery in 1893-94.

It was in 1907 that a new stone church was built to replace the original brick church. Bishop Narcisse Zéphirin Lorrain blessed the

cornerstone of the new structure on June 30th of that year, and later dedicated it to the Most Holy Name of Mary on October 20th, 1908. As for Father Kiernan, he would remain at the parish until 1915.

In the ensuing decades, a variety of priests would be assigned to attend to the spiritual needs of the people, making their own vital contributions to the community.

It should also be noted that the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived to the community in 1951 at the invitation of the local school board to oversee both the elementary and secondary education system. They would remain in the community until 1979 when they closed their convent due to declining members of their local order.

For parishioner Desabrais, he is blessed to have seen several special occasions celebrated at Holy Name of Mary.

"Marriage in 1962 with Father T.P. Klatt, our children's baptisms and their marriages and the baptisms of our grandchildren," he said.

There are current discussions for a Mass of Celebration later this summer to mark the anniversary.



125th ANNIVERSARY



Diocese of Pembroke | Diocèse de Pembroke

Ecclesia: Newsletter of the Diocese of Pembroke
Spring 2023

125th anniversary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River

This year will mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River.

It was Father James Lynch of Chapeau, Quebec who first celebrated Mass at the home of James Howler in Point Alexander in 1856, just upstream from Deep River. In 1872, Mass was transferred to the home of Felix McCarthy given its close location to the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was at this time that the responsibility of attending to the religious needs of the area settlers was transferred to Pembroke. From there, Father Oliver Boucher would travel to the area to celebrate Mass until 1875, then replaced by Father Remi Faure.

Father Faure would oversee the construction of a framed church and sacristy. The sacristy would prove essential as a place of residence of visiting priests. The church was dedicated to Saint Alexander. Eventually, the church was elevated to parish status in 1898 with Father A.M. Renaud as the first pastor, who would see to the addition of a brick presbytery.

By 1900, 26 Catholic families called the parish home. However, the relatively low population made it impossible to establish a separate school. In fact, the local population would continue to decline for the next 25 years. Despite this, a steady stream of priests would continue to attend to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

However, great change would arrive to the community in 1944 with the establishment of

Atomic Energy of Canada plant in nearby Chalk River. Deep River, a new town site, was built north-east of where the church was located at that time. It was there that some 600 homes were constructed to house the thousands of employees who moved to the area to work at the new facility. Of those who arrived, one-fourth were Roman Catholic.

The surge in Catholics to the area would more than justify the establishment of a separate school which was opened on November 13, 1949 and blessed by Bishop W. J. Smith.

The continued growth of the population into the 1950s meant that a new and larger church was needed. Under the leadership of then parish priest Father Joseph McElligott, it was decided that the new church would have no basement in order to minimize the cost of the structure, and the old church building would be converted into a parish hall.

In June of 1953, a contract was signed to build the new church for \$145,000. Bishop Smith blessed and laid the cornerstone on November 15 of that same year.

Construction was completed in the spring of 1954 and dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Located along Highway 17, the first mass was celebrated on July 11 of that year. On September 26, Bishop Smith officially blessed and opened the church.

In 1960, parishioners raised funds to construct a new rectory attached to the church. Two years later, the old church was no longer being utilized as a parish hall and was demolished.

That same decade also saw the establishment of the first parish council to assist in the various administrative duties of the church.

“It does not seem that it was 25 years ago that as pastor along with the parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we celebrated the 100th anniversary,” said Father Bill Kenney when asked to reflect on his time at the parish. He moved to Deep River at the age of seven.

“Our Lady of Good Counsel was my home parish where I grew in my faith with Father Buckley as my pastor and the support of a great faith community. After studies at St. Peter’s Seminary, I was ordained a priest at OLGC as well.”

“Bishop O’Brien appointed me pastor of OLGC in 1994 and I had the privilege of serving the parish for 12 years; an experience that brings back fond memories as I remember my years there. Congratulations to the many parishioners that I have been privileged to know, love and to serve as you celebrate your 125th Anniversary!”

Today, Father Moses Nwosu oversees Our Lady of Good Council parish as members uphold their devotion to God and Christ, just as their predecessors did so many years ago.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 1927–2022

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who died on New Year’s Eve.

Joseph Ratzinger was born on April 16, 1927, in Marktl am Inn, Germany. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1951 for the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. For many years, he served as a professor of theology at Tübingen and Regensburg, and distinguished himself as a scholarly author. He was a peritus (appointed expert) at the Second Vatican Council.

Ordained to the Episcopate on May 28, 1977, having been appointed archbishop of his home diocese, he was created Cardinal on June 27 of that same year.

From 1982 to 2005, he served alongside St. John Paul II as Prefect of the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

He was elected Pope on April 19, 2005, and served for almost eight years, becoming the first pope in over 700 years to renounce the office, which he did on February 28, 2013.

May he rest in the peace of the Lord, awaiting a share in Christ’s Resurrection.



Pope Benedictus XVI at a private audience (January 20, 2006)
Giuseppe Ruggirello / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-SA-3.0



Family Life and Youth Ministry Office updates

By Yvette Bourque

Since October 2022, Patrick Sullivan has been leading the **Image of God Women's sessions** in the Renfrew Deanery at St. Francis Xavier parish on a monthly basis. This new initiative has been very inspiring to myself and many of those who have attended. There are new ideas to ponder and reflect on each month about the health of our own faith life, our spousal relationship and the relationships we have with our children, whether adult or still young in age. This has been an uplifting and enjoyable time spent with other women seeking to improve ourselves in all three of these areas. I only wish there was something like this years ago. To anyone who has not yet come out to a session, I encourage you to do so. The women who come are amazing, honest and comical at times too. I always love a good laugh. Unfortunately, the men's sessions have not taken off and are on hold for now. Dates and topics are always on the front page of the diocesan website under Upcoming events. www.pembrokediocese.com.



The new **Theology on Tap** in both Pembroke and Barry's Bay began in January 2023. It is nice to already see some new faces coming out to the presentations, where our priests and others generously share their time with those who are curious to learn more about their faith. The larger age group allows more people to participate and provides different perspectives during the discussions. The teaching ministry of the priesthood is very important, and this event allows for more opportunities for this to happen in a relaxed environment. It is our hope that this initiative will be available in other deaneries in the future. Watch your bulletins and the front page of the diocesan website for upcoming dates and speakers.

The Diocese of Sault St. Marie offered a **one-day youth leadership conference called LEVEL UP** in North Bay this past February 25. Fr. Daniele Muscolino, who is the Director of Youth Ministry for the diocese, was the main organizer. Thirty-one participants between the ages of 13 and 19 from our diocese hopped on the bus in the wee hours of the morning to take in this event, accompanied by Fr. Scott Murray as our spiritual leader. A van load from the Combermere area also joined in. Fr. Réal Ouellette, whose parish is in the Diocese of Pembroke but only 15 minutes away from North Bay, helped with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spent the majority of the day with us as well.



Ken Yasinski of Saskatchewan was the keynote speaker for the conference. He has been speaking full-time for 20 years within the Catholic Church. He is the founder of Face-to-Face Ministries, a Lighthouse Catholic Media Speaker, author and songwriter. The message for this conference was, "What is the purpose of my life?" Ken challenged the approximately 168 youth participants to live their lives according to our Creator's design. He explained that when we use anything for other than the purpose that it was created or designed for, it will likely break or become damaged. He used the example of a cell phone as an analogy. When you use a cell phone for what it was designed for, you can do some amazing things with it and make use of it to its full potential. When you decide to do things that it was not designed for, like put it into the slot of a toaster and press the button down, or put it in a tub full of water to see if it can float like a boat, it will soon be damaged. An important message was that many of us use our lives in contrast to what the Lord has created us for, and when we do that, we too become broken and damaged. The solution, though, is to understand the true purpose of our lives, which is to know, love and serve God in this world, so that we can be with him forever in the next. When we find ourselves going in the opposite direction and using our lives or bodies in a way that was not meant for our design, we need to turn back to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is our healer and redeemer. He alone is the divine surgeon who can fix our brokenness and restore us to our true purpose.



I'd like to thank the youth who attended for the respect, pleasant manner, and joy that they shared with all the other youth whom they had never met and with us, their chaperones. They practiced patience and kindness towards the other youth, some or many of whom have not yet come into full awareness and understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ and the practice of the Catholic faith. I commend them for the bright light that they were to the other youth. The world needs that ever more these days.

For the Lord says in **Matthew 5:14-16** "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*"

May we never hide our light under a bushel. That would be living in contrast to God's plan for our lives, which is the path of love and peace.

NOTICE – The Archdiocese of Toronto is postponing its annual summer Steubenville Toronto Youth Conference until the summer of 2024.



125th ANNIVERSARY



Diocese | Diocèse
of Pembroke | de Pembroke

Ecclesia: Newsletter of the Diocese of Pembroke
Spring 2023

Rebuild My Church

One day, while Saint Francis was praying before a crucifix in a church that needed repair and renovation, he heard Christ speak to him from the crucifix: **“Francis, go and rebuild my Church.” At first, he thought it was a call to renovate the church building, but soon Francis realized that God was calling him also to contribute to a spiritual renewal of the Church.** In a similar way, our diocese is in the process of renovating two important buildings, and to spiritually renew our Christian communities. We are starting a fundraising campaign based on *Four Pillars*.

The *First Pillar* is the renovation of Saint Columbkille's Cathedral Rectory, which was first constructed in 1885 with completion in 1887. This reconstruction project will have new suites to welcome some of our retired clergy to enjoy independent living. The Cathedral parish office will also be located in this same building at 188 Renfrew Street.



Pillar 1. Renovations to St. Columbkille Rectory to house retired priests.



The *Second Pillar* of our campaign is to make necessary repairs to St. Columbkille Cathedral, such as plastering and repainting, considering the last recorded renovations were done in the year 2000. Our Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, has a great history that began with its construction in 1872, under the direction of Father Jouvent. The building was completed in 1874, but the interior was unfinished. In 1875, Father Remi Faure was appointed to the Cathedral in replacement of Father Jouvent and continued the great works on the interior. This beautiful Cathedral is the symbol of unity for all the faithful of our diocese, hence the importance of restoring the building.



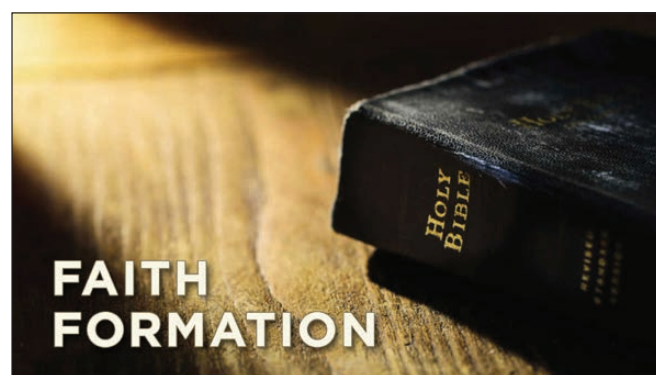
Pillar 2. Needed repairs to St. Columbkille Cathedral.

The *Third Pillar* is to invest in resources for evangelization, which focuses on the people who do not yet know Christ or those who have distanced themselves from their Christian faith.



Pillar 3. Investment in evangelization.

The *Fourth* and last pillar is to support the ongoing formation of disciples and leaders in all parishes, to help pastors to continue the mission of Christ: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God according to Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Catholic Church.



Pillar 4. Ongoing formation efforts.

As you can see, in the vision of rebuilding our Church, we are focusing not only on the buildings, but also on drawing people closer to Christ.

It is an honour and privilege to share this vision with you, the faithful of the Diocese, who will join me in this great campaign. With the blessing of Bishop Desrochers, I will lead the members as Chair of this committee with the following members who have accepted God's call of rebuilding: Mr. John Huff, Mrs. Nancy McCluskey, Mr. Pat Quinn and Mrs. Christiane St-Jean. We are very excited about starting this campaign for our Diocese, but we need your help with prayerful and financial support.

There are many ways that you can contribute: through your Sunday donation by making your cheque payable to the Diocese of Pembroke, also marking at the bottom of your cheque “Rebuild My Church.” You may also go to our diocesan website and do an e-transfer or a donation by credit card. If you need any assistance or require more information, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at 613-732-7933 ext.206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioecese.com

Thank you for investing in and following Saint Francis as he desired to do God's will. The return on your investment will certainly have heavenly rewards.

**God Bless,
Deacon Adrien Chaput**

Notice

The new address of the Chancery Office for the Diocese of Pembroke is now 284 Trafalgar Road, Pembroke, ON K8A 5A8.



Father Mervin Coulas: 60th anniversary

Rev. Mervin P. Coulas, a native of Barry's Bay, was ordained on May 29, 1963 by His Excellency, the Most Reverend William J. Smith at St. Hedwig Church in Barry's Bay.

Father Coulas went on to serve the faithful in parishes throughout the diocese from Bancroft and Haliburton to Deep River, Pembroke and Renfrew with more stops in between.

Father Coulas also served as Religious Education Director at Madawaska Valley High School in Barry's Bay, chaplain at Bishop Smith Catholic School in Pembroke, and a board member with the Renfrew County Catholic School District School Board, as well as Vocation Director of the Diocese of Pembroke for 25 years.

He had the opportunity to visit Vatican City several times, including while he studied canon law, and celebrated Mass with the Holy Father, Blessed Pope John Paul II, in his private chapel.

For the last 17 years before his retirement, Father Coulas served at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Barry's Bay as administrator.

He currently resides at Marianhill in Pembroke and notes that of the four priests ordained in the diocese in 1963, he is the last one left. Of his 60th anniversary he said, "It's a landmark not many reach," and shared that this will be a quiet one for him. Since retiring, Fr. Coulas says he "misses the people," however he does stay involved on a couple of committees, such as the Council of Priests, because it's "good to keep active a bit."



149th Annual Pilgrimage 149^e Pèlerinage annuel



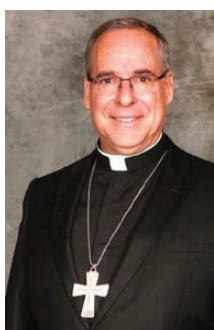
**STE-ANNE-DE-BEAUPRÉ &
NOTRE-DAME-DU CAP /
OUR LADY OF THE CAPE**

**FROM THE DIOCESES
DES DIOCÈSES**

Ottawa-Cornwall,
Gatineau,
Pembroke,
Mont-Laurier/St-Jérôme,
Kingston

**OUR CELEBRANT
NOTRE CÉLÉBRANT**

Bishop/Mgr.
Guy Desrochers, C.S.S.R.
Diocese of/de Pembroke



AUGUST 12-13, 2023 / 12-13 AOÛT 2023

INFORMATION:

MIKE: 613 224-8110 EMAIL: pa.ap@bell.net

www.ste-anne-de-beaupre.com



In loving memory of / À la douce mémoire de
Sylvia et Nathalie Soucie, Leaders Fort-Coulonge
Natalie: March 25, 2021; Sylvia: December 3, 2021
Mother Daughter Team / Équipe mère-fille



Departures from the Diocese of Pembroke are: Renfrew, Cobden, Pembroke, Fort-Coulonge, Campbell's Bay, Shawville. For information and reservation contact Mike Budge in Ottawa at 613-224-8110 or by email: mike.budge@bell.net

Join the 83rd Annual



Photo taken by Paige Zadow

**PILGRIMAGE
TO THE SHRINE OF ST. ANN
Cormac, Ontario**

Sunday, July 30, 2023

With Fr. Réal Ouellette

"Living a Daily Life with the Trinity"

Thursday, July 27 at 7 pm; Friday, July 28 at 7 pm

Saturday, July 29 at 7 pm

Mass and Homily given each evening by Fr. Réal Ouellette

Sunday, July 30 Celebrations

11 am Outdoor Mass of Healing at the Shrine

1 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

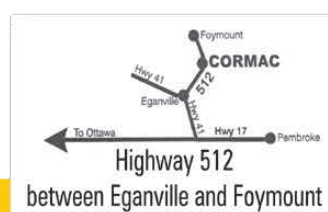
1:30 pm Closing Benediction

*Religious Articles for Sale
Priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Food and Refreshments available*

For information call 613-628-2020

Please bring your own seating. No seating is provided.

www.cormacpilgrimage.com





125th ANNIVERSARY



Diocese | Diocèse
of Pembroke | de Pembroke

Ecclesia: Newsletter of the Diocese of Pembroke
Spring 2023

The formation of a new office

By Father Réal Ouellette, co-director & Patrick Sullivan, co-director

In the days of St. Paul, the written letter was the modern means of communication. It allowed his thoughts and even his personality to be communicated to places often quite far away. In fact, without it, there is little debate that St. Paul's ability to spread the Gospel would have been hampered greatly.

Yet, for all of that, we rarely see Catholics today taking advantage of our modern means of communication to spread the Gospel and encourage a life of faith.

It should come as no surprise then, that when the Diocesan Evangelization Team first took a look at the monumental task of revitalizing the diocese, one of the most obvious and immediate concerns was the state of communications.

Why?

For the simple reason that though, in many ways, the Diocese of Pembroke was ahead of other dioceses when it comes to modern media, it became clear that even these forms of communication were struggling to reach the men and women in our pews.

For example, most dioceses today have a website that is kept relatively up to date, but what most don't have – and they wish they did – is a

diocesan email list. The Diocese of Pembroke has one and it is used to spread news from around the diocese weekly.

Not only that, but our diocese has something that many others across the globe hope one day to have, something that is seen as a crowning achievement of communication in areas of faith that span many kilometres. Can you guess what it is? Yes, a newspaper.

Ecclesia is a professionally designed and printed periodical, something that we can hold in our hands and pass on to our neighbours, and you can find it in every single parish of the diocese.

Do you see the problem?

Even though we are already far ahead of the game when it comes to communications and even though we are, in some ways, the envy of other dioceses for what we *have*, it still doesn't change the fact that the message of faith and friendship is somehow getting lost.

Many have never heard of *Ecclesia* even though it has been running since the mid-1990s. Most are not aware that there is an email list that they can sign up for, bringing the weekly highlights of their fellow Catholics right into their inbox.

So, to address this growing concern, in May 2022, Bishop Guy created *the Office of The New Media* (a task force of sorts) whose aim is to address

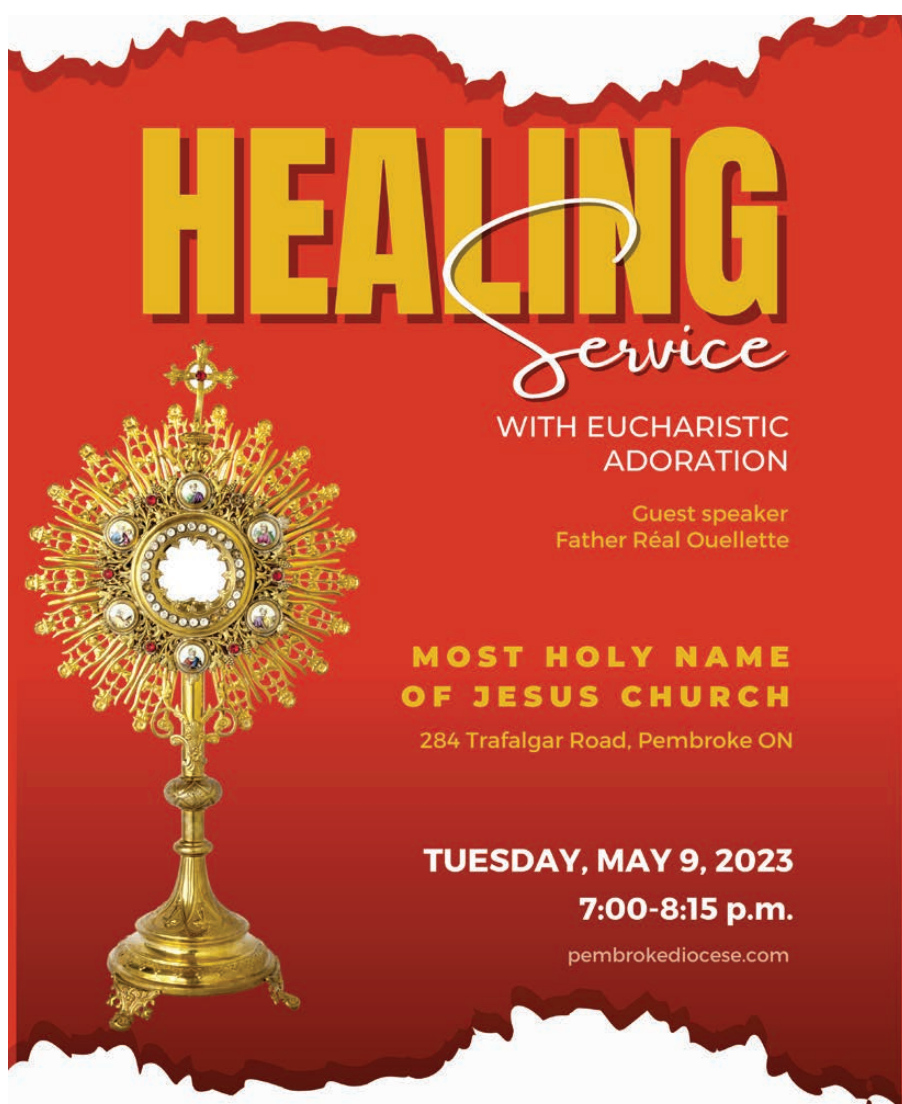
head-on the many challenges that spreading the Gospel faces in our time.

Over the next year, you will see this reflected in a noticeable improvement in our print materials, our website, video production and social media, but we won't stop there.

Like St. Paul, the goal of this new office is not simply to write letters on better parchment, but to find ways to keep the Body of Christ connected and in loving union. And to do that, we are going to need your help.

After reading this short article, tell others about what we already have going, an email list and *Ecclesia*. Tell them how excited we all are about the new videos coming out and the social media channels that we will be using to reach different demographics. Tell them that we're going to be connected to one another and kept informed about topics of faith in ways that we never have been. Finally, tell them that we're going to do what St. Paul did, which is use the best of modern communications to bring the Good News of Jesus to others.

Do all of that, and then please pray for us, as we pray for you. Our task is a monumental one, and it will take the effort and prayers of the Body of Christ to achieve it.



HEALING
Service
WITH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Guest speaker
Father Réal Ouellette

MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH
284 Trafalgar Road, Pembroke ON

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023
7:00-8:15 p.m.
pembrokedioocese.com



Invest in Your Faith
TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL
Sunday, June 4, 2023
at your parish

**EVANGELIZATION PROJECT
SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Invest in our families
Family is where faith is lived on a daily basis and family is where the faith comes alive and blossoms. The Evangelization Project aims at better equipping families to understand and deepen their faith in order to share the Gospel with those around them.

Invest in missionary parishes
The parish is the community where believers come together to celebrate their faith, spread the Gospel, assist those in need, and support each other on their spiritual journey. The Evangelization Project brings pastoral resources to parishes for achieving that mission.

Invest in our priests
Our priests are ministers chosen by Jesus Christ and the Church to shepherd parishes and guide people in their journey of faith. The Evangelization Project supports priests through formation in leadership for the challenge of spreading the Gospel to today's society.

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Diocese of Pembroke