



# ecclesia

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

www.diocesepembroke.ca

## May we not hesitate to make our views known...

Dear Faithful People in Christ,

A great amount of the material in this issue of *Ecclesia* deals with two issues of supreme importance to us as Roman Catholics. These are the sanctity of human life and the importance of working and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

With respect to the first, I wish to say that, when I participated in the recent National March for Life on Parliament Hill, I met many people there from our own Diocese. I wish to congratulate each and every one of the participants for raising your voice publicly in defense of human life from fertilization to natural death. I am especially proud of the large number of young people from our Diocese who were in attendance, among them delegations from Bishop Smith High School in Pembroke, St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew and Madawaska Valley District High School in Barry's Bay. Let us not fail to pray continuously for the protection of human life at every one of its stages. May we not hesitate to make our views known to those who have the responsibility to formulate just laws in our country.

As to the question of religious vocations, a number of important initiatives have been undertaken by our

vocation directors. Throughout the month of May, some of our parishes hosted zone gatherings to pray for vocations, while others had their own parish events. These culminated in a diocesan Mass to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This was celebrated at St. Columbkille's Cathedral on the solemnity of Pentecost. To this event, some of our pastors brought from their parishes young men who are seeking to discern how God may be calling them to follow His Son. Approximately thirty young men were present for the Mass and for the dinner and brief discussion that followed. Our vocation directors and pastors have been in contact with as many as sixty young men who have responded to our invitations to discuss the question of a religious vocation. Please be sure to keep all of these in your prayers, asking our Lord to make known to them His will. May the Good Shepherd raise up religious vocations from among our own parishioners for service in this Diocese.



My final point in this brief message is to draw your attention to the important document recently issued by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and which is published in this issue of *Ecclesia*, namely, *Election 2004: Responsibility and Discernment*. I encourage you to read it carefully in preparation for your participation in this year's federal election. This election is an extremely important one, because it will give political direction concerning a number of crucial issues in social policy. The CCCB document encourages Catholics to weigh the issues carefully in the light of Catholic moral and social teaching and to exercise the right to vote.

May the Lord bless you with peace and hope as you grow in faith and give joyful witness in our world to the love of God and the inalienable dignity of every human being.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Richard W. Smith  
Bishop of Pembroke

## **ELECTION 2004: Responsibility and discernment**

*An Invitation to  
Canadian Catholics  
by the Episcopal Commission for  
Social Affairs of the Canadian  
Conference of Catholic Bishops*

### INTRODUCTION

1. A federal election will be held June 28, 2004, according to Canadian parliamentary tradition. As citizens, Canadian Catholics have an obligation to be interested in political life and to exercise their civic responsibilities by participating in the electoral process, particularly by voting.
2. Engagement in the political process is a constant civic duty, not only during electoral campaigns.

We encourage Catholics to increase their awareness of the issues involved, to raise their concerns with the political candidates, to encourage strong civic debates, to run for political office, and especially to vote. We also thank everyone who is involved in running for or serving in political office, whether they belong to a particular faith community or not. Their commitment and service are generous contributions to the common good of our society.

### Political Discernment

3. The Gospel does not give Catholics a specific program of social and political action. Nor does the Church "set forth specific political solutions to temporal questions that God has left to the free and responsible judgment of each person."

Each Catholic must exercise political discernment and prudential judgment. Within a democratic society, there exists a range of legitimate political approaches. At the same time that Catholic moral

*(Continued on page 2)*

# ELECTION 2004: Responsibility and discernment

*(Continued from page 1)*

principles are clear and defined, they can be respected and advanced in many different ways in the political arena.

Both in society and within the Catholic community, there exists a range of legitimate political opinions, attitudes, convictions and orientations.

## **SOME KEY PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC MORAL AND SOCIAL TEACHING**

1. The following are some key principles of Catholic moral and social teaching. They are not a political platform but a lens through which to examine and evaluate public policy and programs.

### **Respect for Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

5. People of faith believe that life comes from God, that human life from beginning to end is a gift beyond measure. Each human being, created in the image of God, has incalculable worth and inherent dignity. Life is the most precious gift that can be given, and it is a Christian duty to love life, respect it and keep it from harm. The sacredness of the human person is at the heart of the Gospel.

6. Catholics believe in the freedom and responsibility to choose and promote human life at all stages, from conception to death. Choosing life means defending and caring for people in all circumstances, especially the most vulnerable, the most fragile. Choosing life means protecting the smallest of human beings - the human embryo - who is a member of the human family. Choosing life means demanding support for pregnant women. Choosing life means putting in place policies that balance family and work responsibilities, promote a family-centred approach, and provide safe and affordable housing. Choosing life means supporting and being present for those who are disabled, elderly, ill, poor or suffering. Choosing life also means respecting the life and dignity of those who are dying, and accompanying them to the very end. Will the upcoming federal election reflect these concerns for each life and all life?

### **Support for Marriage and the Family**

7. Marriage is a loving, life-giving partnership between a man and a woman. Its pur-

pose is the good of the couple and the procreation and education of children. The fulfilment of its objectives contributes to the good of society. For this reason, society has always affirmed the fundamental purposes of marriage. These basic truths can be recognized through human reason and experience. Indeed, marriage is a natural institution that predates all social, legal and religious systems; its existence extends beyond the limits of human memory.

8. Catholics believe that the gift of love between husband and wife, passed on from one couple to another, from one family to another, from one generation to another, is indisputable evidence of the greatness and grace of marriage. Marriage needs the support and protection of society. Will the upcoming federal election reflect this concern?

### **Preferential Option for the Poor**

9. For Christians, concern for the impoverished is not only a political option, but also a Gospel imperative. Jesus had a special love for the weak and vulnerable; he identified himself with them and proclaimed the Good News to them.

10. Pope John Paul II has said that the moral measure of a society is how the most vulnerable are faring. Catholics are to provide for those in immediate need and to act against injustice. They are called to give preference especially to those who are most at risk, poor or oppressed. How this shapes public policy goals and priorities reflects the character of society. Will the upcoming federal election offer hope to those whose voices are often not heard

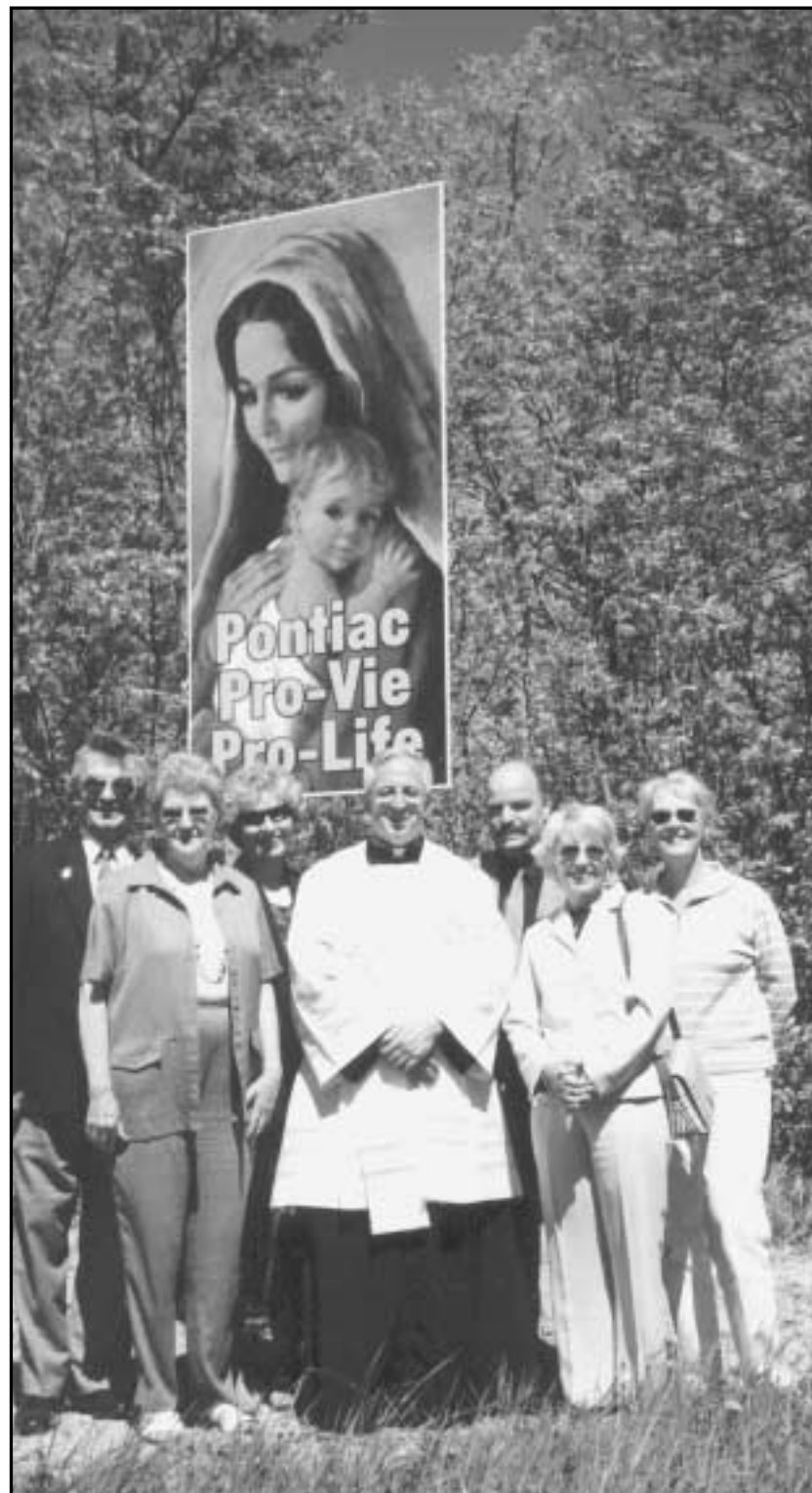
### **The Common Good**

11. The common good is "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and easily."

It allows human dignity to be respected and fundamental needs to be met. It is more likely to be achieved when everyone contributes to the building of a just and compassionate society in which the human development of each person is promoted.

12. Human beings are created as members of a family, with roots in the larger commu-

*(Continued on page 12)*



### **Billboard Blessing**

On hand at a recent dedication of a billboard declaring the sacredness of life were (from left): Bob Farmer, Helen Lalibertie, Carmel Farmer, Fr. Shalla, Leo Rochon, Kay Ranger and Angie Retty.

## **New billboard dedicated by Quebec Pro-Life group conveys the sacredness of life**

On Sunday, May 30, 2004, twenty-eight people gathered at St. Joseph's, Quebec, for the blessing of a billboard erected by Pontiac Pro-Vie, Pro-Life.

The billboard depicts the Madonna and Child. The choice of this simple image is meant to convey the sacredness of life as illustrated by the love between the mother and child. It is hoped that all who pass by may be moved to reflect on the precious gift of life.

This billboard was built by Charles McGuire, St. Joseph's, Qc and the land was donated by Paul Kelly, St. Joseph's, Qc. Father Christopher Shalla, parish priest of St. Joseph's parish blessed the billboard. Present were members of the executive of Pontiac Pro-Vie, Pro-Life, and supporters.

Pontiac Pro-Vie, Pro-Life is a group of concerned citizens whose goal is to proclaim and promote the dignity of and the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.



# LIFE: A RIGHT, A MISSION, A RESPONSIBILITY

## Message by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family on the Occasion of the National March for Life Ottawa – May 13, 2004

The Catholic Organization for Life and Family welcomes the opportunity offered by the National March for Life to remind Canadians that choosing life is the only choice that respects God's plan for humanity.

The question to ask, at a time when science is able to produce human beings in a laboratory, is this: What has been, since the beginning of time, the Creator's plan for life, for human sexuality and for the arrival of children into the world? What does God expect each one of us to do to promote this plan?

Choosing life means defending the life and dignity of each person, from his or her conception right up until his or her natural death. It also means walking with all those who cross our path, so that they might flourish while responding to God's daily call. God's plan for life involves loving both God and our neighbour, who has been created in God's image.

Each man, woman and child has been entrusted with a mission for the common good of the world, a mission that no one else can perform for them, such as forming a family where happy children will thrive; giving the gift of time to a child with disabilities or to a volunteer organization; or welcoming a grandparent who can no longer live alone. And, who knows, maybe even discovering a

cure for AIDS, making an exceptional movie, composing a symphony or developing new policies in favour of a fairer distribution of the world's riches.

Everyone will rise to this challenge if they are first allowed the right to live, and then provided with some basic help along the way – constant, loving parental involvement in their upbringing, guidance in the choice of a suitable course of study or career, ongoing assistance in case of an unexpected pregnancy, moral support during unemployment, encouragement in times of sickness and suffering, and compassionate accompaniment when death is near and the passage from life to Life beckons.

Throughout our lives, the God of life calls upon us and counts on us to promote and defend life, our most precious gift. What trust God has placed in us! And what a responsibility that is!

It is important to march for life, to publicly declare that life is sacred and that it must be defended at every stage of development and in all its dimensions. It is important to be involved in the emergence of a culture of life. But let's also take the time each day to wonder about life, to love life with all its joys and challenges, and to show our gratitude for the very gift of life that comes from God.

*Let us awaken with a song of gratitude in our hearts. We have been granted this one more day, this time of our lives. May we be a blessing.*

*Let us breathe and count each breath as a blessing. We are sustained by the air, by generations who have gone before us and are now part of the dust, the stardust and*

*the air. We are upheld by the earth. We have a place to walk on. We have eyes that can notice the difference between day and night. Once again, may we be amazed, as on the first day of creation, that there is night and there is day, evening and morning.*

*Let us listen to the world about us, as if on the first day of creation. Not only are there birds, there are flowers and trees greening – even in the midst of our cities.*

*Let us listen to the beating of our hearts – to the hopes and fears which flow through us and beyond us. However burdened and broken our hearts may be, they are still beating and this too should never be taken for granted.*

*Let us pause to think about the people we know. May we not take them for granted. Let us grant them, friends and enemies and mere acquaintances, a good measure of respect. They too had their beginning in God.<sup>1</sup>*

Awaken to Life! Choose life!

<sup>1</sup>The Catholic Group for Health, Justice and Life, *Awakening to Life – A Meditation*, 1999. This brochure is available from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, 2500 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2 – Phone: (613) 241-9461, ext. 161 – Fax: (613) 241-9048 – email: [ocvfcolf@ccc.ca](mailto:ocvfcolf@ccc.ca). A donation to help offset printing costs would be appreciated. This document is also available on-line at <http://ocvf.cccb.ca/Files/awake.pdf>.

The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) was jointly founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and the Knights of Columbus. It promotes respect for life and dignity and the essential role of the family.

## SAINT GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA; MOTHER, DOCTOR, LOVER OF LIFE

By Rev. T. Rosica, csb

Gianna Beretta Molla was born in Magenta (Milan), Italy, on October 4, 1922, the 10th of 13 children. After earning degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia in 1949, she opened a medical clinic in Mesero (near Magenta) in 1950. She specialized in pediatrics at the University of Milan in 1952 and thereafter gave special attention to mothers, babies, the elderly and the poor. While working in the field of medicine, which she considered a "mission" and practiced as such - she increased her generous service to Catholic Action, especially among the "very young." She became engaged to Pietro Molla and they were married on September 24, 1955 in St. Martin's Basilica in Magenta. In November 1956, to her great joy, she became the mother of Pierluigi; in December 1957 of Mariolina; in July 1959 of Laura. She met the demands of mother, wife, doctor, and her passion for life with simplicity and great balance.

In September 1961, towards the end of the second month of pregnancy with her fourth child, Gianna had to make a heroic decision. Physicians diagnosed a serious fibroma in the uterus that required surgery. The surgeon suggested that Gianna undergo an abortion in order to save her own life. A few days before the child was due, she

was ready to give her life in order to save that of her child: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate; choose the child - I insist on it. Save the baby."

On the morning of April 12, 1962, her daughter Gianna Emanuela was born. Despite all efforts and treatment to save both of them, on the morning of April 28, amid unspeakable pain and after repeated exclamations of "Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I love you," the mother died. She was 39 years old. Her husband Pietro has described Gianna's life as "an act and a perennial action of faith and charity; it was a non-stop search for the will of God for every decision and for every work, with prayer and meditation, Holy Mass and the Eucharist."

On April 24, 1994, Pope John Paul II beatified Gianna Beretta Molla, mother of a family, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The Pope said that her witness was a hymn to life. At the beatification ceremony, the Holy Father said that Gianna's action for life was possible only after a life of preparation.

Virtuous people know what to do because of informed conscience. This means that the person is living a morally good life and their decisions flow from a devel-

oped instinct for making truly human decisions. This type of person no longer does good out of a sense of obligation, but rather, looks for opportunities to do the good. Gianna Molla's action was heroic.

St. Gianna Molla continues to remind the Church and the world of the necessity of a consistent ethic of life, from the earliest moments to the final moments of human life. We are being called to heroism by our choice of life. Most of us are not ready for heroic action; our lives have not readied us for it. But we can and must take the next step in preparation for surrender of self. Let us ask St. Gianna to give us the courage to take the next step.

On Sunday May 16, 2004, in the presence of her husband, Pietro, and family, Pope John Paul II canonized Gianna Molla, proclaiming her a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Gianna's husband Pietro, who will soon be 92 years old, oversaw the canonization effort for his wife. Their son, Pier Luigi, is one of the senior partners of Ernst & Young Accounting Firm in Milan. Their daughter Laura, recently married, is a Corporate Real Estate Executive; Mariolina, the second child, died many years ago. Their fourth child, daughter Gianna Emanuela, is now a medical doctor and specialist of gerontology and of Alzheimer's disease near Milan.



## Fr. Bill Ryan: Speaks on the Issues of Social Justice

Fr. Bill Ryan, the coordinator of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice, spoke to the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom Church, Arnprior, on world economics. In 1925, Fr. Ryan was born in Renfrew. At thirteen years of age he worked with his father in the logging camps near Wolf Lake and Otter Lake. Poor working conditions, long hours each day in the bush, and little pay prepared Ryan to become an expert in economics. After entering the priesthood, Ryan went to Harvard University where he received his doctorate in economics. In his talk, Fr. Ryan told the parishioners that there are about a billion people in the

world today living in absolute poverty. "In addition," he said, "another two billion struggle to get the bare necessities of life each day." Fr. Ryan travels the world to meet with business, religious, government leaders, to help organize and work with the poor, to help create the opportunities to effect change. He says we have to carry out the pope's request to make the poor our fundamental option. As part of the Development and Peace Share Lent Program, St. John Chrysostom Parish contributed over \$12,000 and the students of St. Joseph's School raised \$1,350.

## Diocesan Adult Faith Course

The first year of the Diocesan Adult Faith Course ended with a Retreat Day on May 8. Bishop R.W. Smith took time away from his very busy schedule to preside over the Eucharistic Liturgy and to deliver the homily. After the Liturgy, the Bishop met with the retreatants over coffee break. He told them how happy he was to have so many registered in the Adult Faith Course and how important their role in the Church is today. Rev. Pat Tait, Rector of the Cathedral, facilitated

the discussions and prayer sessions. He emphasized the mission of Jesus in Luke's Gospel (to bring Good News to the poor, imprisoned, blind and captive) and the commission of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel ("Go into the world and make disciples of all nations").

The participants were reminded that the great commission in Matthew begins with an action verb; calling us to "Go therefore . . ." to move out beyond self-imposed

limits, not to bloom where they are planted. "Our mission like Jesus' mission," said Fr. Tait, "is not only to give witness to the Good News but to 'be' Eucharist for all."

In order to provide some insights into our own personal journey of conversion, Fr. Tait commented on Peter's faith journey. Participants then shared one of their stories of conversion on their journey to a deeper relationship with God. These personal testimonies were filled with faith, hope and transformation.

"Lectio Divina" (divine reading), a method of meditating on a Scripture passage, was introduced. This traditional form of meditation provided a simple format for participants to use in their daily reading of Scripture.

This retreat day was held on the Mothers' Day Weekend, and participants felt that it provided them with a wonderful preparation for Sunday's celebration of Mothers.

## Retirement

Due to illness, Sr. Constance Lacroix has had to retire from her position as Director of Religious Education for the Francophone sector.

Working at the Diocesan Office over the past year, she took up the challenge to design a new catechetical model for families and Christian communities. Under her leadership, the Diocesan Committee for the Education of Faith began to create a Diocesan Religious Education Program for Adults and a Diocesan Catechetical Program for children, especially for those living in Quebec.

Sr. Connie spent many hours looking for appropriate resources to implement these programs.

We are grateful to her for her devoted work. ECCLESIA wishes her good health in the future and many happy years of retirement.



Sr. Constance Lacroix

## 150th Celebration of St. James Parish

Portage-du-Fort  
September 12, 2004  
Eucharistic Liturgy  
at 11 a.m.  
Bishop R. W. Smith  
will preside.  
Followed by lunch

## PARISH SUPPERS

Look for the  
complete listing in the French  
section of this issue



# Petawawa parish adds new program to its youth ministries

Family Formation is an exciting new ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Petawawa. The program is home-based and designed to equip parents to pass on their Catholic faith to their children. We work with children who are in kindergarten through grade six. It is a welcome addition to our parish youth ministries LIFETEEN and The Edge.

Family Formation is written by a group of parents from a parish in Ham Lake, Minnesota. The program, which has been used for over ten years, follows the three year liturgical cycle of the Church, is faithful to the teaching of the Magisterium and references the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is very well laid out and easy to follow.

Our parish gatherings are held at the church on the last Monday night of each month at 6:30 p.m. At these meetings parish volunteers Jody Schroeder and Julie St. Aubin use fun activities to teach the children and help them to grow in their faith. Coordinator Peggy Dunne facilitates preparation evenings for the parents that enable them to use the weekly packages of instruction and activities for the rest of the month as well as grow in their own faith and knowledge.

Each of the weekly lessons has a theme which is based on the liturgical calendar and the current season. The stories in the weekly story book are based on the Gospel for the week. These stories are written at a level appropriate for this age group. Some of the recent themes have included; the Pope, the Trinity, the Prodigal Son and What Makes a Family?

At home, the family sets up a prayer centre with a candle, Bible and other items on a table cloth of the current liturgical colour. The children love to dress a paper "Father Joe" cut-out doll in the appropriate vestments and place it on the table along with various items from their lessons.

The families are asked to set aside one hour per week to do the activities from the package provided. It requires dedication but the families report that the end result is well worth the effort. The children impressed the parish one Sunday when Father Joe asked how many popes there have been. Several of the youngsters knew the exact answer because we had learned it at Family Formation.

The program uses brightly coloured cards to log time spent by the children in daily Bible reading. As a reward for memorizing the verse of the month they receive Holy Cards to collect or trade with their friends.

The team are excited about using this program and have already seen signs of deepening faith in the children involved and their parents. Anyone interested in more information about Family Formation can call the parish office or Peggy Dunne at 687-7158.



## Bible Study Course

Thanks to the CWL, twenty-five parishioners from St. Anne Parish, Mattawa, gathered in their small hall for a Bible Study Course. This course was based on three aims: first, it focused on Luke's gospel so that the participants could understand and live out its message today; second, the participants were encouraged to connect the gospel to their life issues in order to help them see the Bible as a resource for facing the challenges and difficulties in their lives; third, it provided participants with a basic biblical knowledge which will help them to pray with the Bible and to share their faith with others.

## Salt and Light Television Canada's Catholic Network

Over the past 50 years, there has been an explosion of access to media, coupled with a dramatic increase in the use of modern communication methods. These powerful tools provide an enormous growth in opportunity for Catholics in Canada and around the world. Our country's 12.8 million Catholics (5.2 million households) represent 43.5% of the population, but, overall we are extremely under-served when it comes to Catholic programming. **Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation** was created to bring Catholics closer to their faith using today's communications vehicles. Currently **Salt and Light is available on Rogers Digital Cable. Salt and Light Television, Catholic Television for the Soul**, is commercial-free and subscription-based. Programming focuses on five major streams:

- Prayer, Meditation and Devotion
- Multilingual Catholic Liturgy (including significant Vatican ceremonies)
- Learning and Faith Development
- Stories of Catholic Action and Social Justice
- Catholic perspective - information and context

Taking off on the wings of World Youth Day 2002, **Salt and Light** put into practice the vision of the Holy Father that we all be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." This charitable, not-for-profit, entity is led by Father Thomas Rosica, C.S.B. and was formally launched in the Fall of 2003. The development of this TV program relies greatly on the response from subscribers . . . they need Catholics to subscribe. If **Salt and Light** television is not currently available from your provider, you can contact your cable company and request that **Salt and Light** be included in its line-up.

Calling  
all  
High School Teens!  
Join  
**LIFE @ TEEN**  
for  
**XLT**  
Experience The Power

TUESDAYS, July 6th, August 3rd  
September 7th and October 5th  
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

ST. COLUMBKILLE CATHEDRAL  
Pembroke, Ontario





## Cormac Pilgrimage

Each year the end of July brings thousands of people to one tiny place in Renfrew County for one special purpose. Annually since 1938, many Catholics and Christians of other persuasions have convened at Cormac to pay special tribute to the grandmother of Jesus, good St. Ann.

As any grandmother might, so St. Ann is supposed to put in a good word with Mary and Jesus, especially for those needing healing. Though in times past physical healings seemed to be emphasized, the more urgent needs today are in the areas of emotion, mind, memory, family history and the human spirit.

Personal trainers, health clubs, clinics, naturopaths, herbalists, dietitians, personal counselors and many other people today make a high priority of "wellness." Even spiritual people recommend a clear harmony between the parts of our persons. Prayer for new healing and thanksgiving for past healings is on the lips of very many persons at Cormac.

This Pilgrimage to honour Saint Ann happens in a humble place. Its participants are joyful and peace-loving people. Children and young families are among the major attendees; several generations of the same blood-family may be seen reuniting and enjoying their family traditions there. Though parishioners of the small parish of

Saint Ann's were accustomed to doing most of the work associated with the grounds - the prayers, the food service and the display of religious articles, that situation is changing in an evident way. From across Renfrew County and the Pontiac, individuals and society members are coming forward to offer a helping hand. Parishes and fraternal groups, like the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League, offer to help for a few hours, to lighten the workload associated with six thousand people assembling.

Of particular interest this year is the fact that one of the lifelong parishioners of Saint Ann's is just a step away from ordination as a Catholic priest. Ryan Holly would surely tell us that much of his zeal and his courage to serve the Church were acquired here at Cormac in his involvement with the traditions, the prayers and the blessings associated with "The Pilgrimage to St. Ann." The outdoor grotto to honour Jesus' grandmother is available for prayer all summer long. So too is the outdoor memorial for Pro-Life. It may be fair to say that on Sunday, July 25, all roads lead to Cormac. May every reader of these lines feel welcome to join us, as part of a Valley tour, or indeed, as an individual, on the last Sunday of July.

Welcome, Pilgrim!



# TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE LIVES



Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Petawawa, has been blessed with wonderful family and youth ministries. During the past four years, teens from the parish and area have been challenged to live their faith through the LIFE TEEN program which originated at St. Timothy's Parish in Mesa, Arizona, in 1985. LIFE TEEN is an international ministry which will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Anaheim, California, in May 2005.

## WHAT MAKES IT WORK?

The success of LIFE TEEN is based upon a commitment of speaking the truth, helping teens to feel loved and accepted and building a community focused on Christ through the Eucharist. The LIFE TEEN Program has been designed to reach teens on four levels; Spiritual, Educational, Emotional and Social. Providing a community with a liturgy geared toward their spiritual needs is the first step. Teaching them about the truth in line with the theology of the Catholic Church is how the program educates. This is accomplished through Bible studies, open discussions, and personal experiences. The LIFE TEEN Program provides an atmosphere in which teens can honestly express their feelings and emotions in a loving environment. Teens are encouraged to become part of the community through service, outreach and social events. LIFE TEEN works in all types of parishes, both large and small, and from all different economic and multi-cultural backgrounds. Many have been successful in implementing LIFE TEEN in their communities.

## WORLDWIDE SUPPORT

In 1995 Pope John Paul II bestowed his Papal blessing on the LIFE

TEEN Program. Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago, has given his personal endorsement to the LIFE TEEN Program. Recently, LIFE TEEN was granted official recognition as a **Lay Association of the Catholic Church** under the sponsorship of Archbishop Gervais of Ottawa, Ontario, and Bishop Olmstead of Phoenix, Arizona. Since the summer of 2000, Matt Smith of 'MTV Real World' has been the spokesperson for LIFE TEEN. Matt has been a core member in LIFE TEEN since 1998 and shares his faith on a daily basis with a national audience. Christian Pop singer Kathy Troccoli, All-Star Mike Sweeney of the Kansas City Royals, Jake Plummer of the NFL Cardinals and many others across the U.S.A. and Canada continue to support the LIFE TEEN Program and its mission of *'Leading Teens Closer to Christ'*.

## TRAINING DAY

In March a training day took place at the Marguerite Center, Pembroke, for a large number of Core members, to deepen our understanding of youth ministry. We spent time learning about such documents as "John Paul II and the New Evangelization" and "The Universal Call to Holiness." We also covered adolescent spirituality and development, Christology, the Catechism, and different ways to improve our ministry and our own personal relationship with Christ and His Church. Everyone enjoyed the chance to re-energize and to have fun and fellowship with one another.

## GOOD FRIDAY

LIFE TEEN, lead by core members Adrien and Bernadette Chaput, presented the Living Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in

Pembroke. It was a spectacular performance and we are grateful to all those who attended and supported the youth – videos and pictures are available for purchase.

Chantelle Grondin, a former participant at LIFE TEEN who has been serving for the past year as "LIFE SUPPORT" for the core team, has accepted a position on the National Evangelization Team (NET) of Canada and will give up one year of her life to evangelize other young people across Canada. She begins training in August and must fundraise \$4,500 before the end of the summer as part of her obligation.

Congratulations, Chantelle! We wish you God's blessings for a spirit-filled year ahead.

## PLUG INTO LIFE

LIFE TEEN at Our Lady of Sorrows begins with Mass every Sunday at 6 pm and is followed by a Life Night until 9 pm. ALL high school age youth are welcome. Adults and teens are invited to visit LIFE TEEN'S national website at [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com) for plenty of great Catholic information and answers to all your questions on any aspect of your faith.

## UPCOMING

Some of the upcoming events are Bible studies, socials and a summer conference. XLT (Exalt) evenings, with special speakers, will be held at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. We look forward to seeing many youth from around the diocese.

## THE NEED FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Anyone in youth ministry today knows youth have a strong need to feel loved. With suicide, depression and substance abuse on the rise, many youth across the country and in our local area are not only unhappy but also in danger. Many have not yet found a way to fill

their emptiness. It's our duty to minister to these teens and save them from a society of deception. It's our duty to lead these young people to Christ. They need our help. Give youth ministry in your parish a chance. Our youth are worth it.

In the words of one participant...

"Through LIFE TEEN I have met other teens that are making similar journeys to mine. It is very hard and stressful to say 'No' to peer pressure when you are the only one doing so, but I am lucky enough to have met other teens that share the same beliefs as I do. I have my peers, who are there to support me as I continue on my journey. And I am there to support them."

## THE EDGE

The youth ministry for grades 6-8 enjoyed a wonderful winter/spring session covering topics on alcohol, Jesus and our family, forgiveness and the faith of the Catholic Church. This session ended with a pizza dinner followed by the LIFE TEEN Mass. THE EDGE will begin again in the fall.



HOLST PHOTOGRAPHY



HOLST PHOTOGRAPHY



## A Vocation Vacation

By John A. Scott

Early this February, I went with Fr. Mitchell Beachey and two other young men from the Pembroke Diocese to a *A Come and See Weekend* at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. About 30 men, from high school age and up, came from several dioceses in Ontario to spend a few days at the seminary, to check it out and explore the possibility of priesthood. For a short time we were able to live with the seminarians and to experience seminary life. We also heard a number of interesting and helpful talks by some of the faculty.

Several seminarians shared their stories, from when they first started discerning their vocations until they ended up in seminary training. Until I went to visit St. Peter's, I had not actually met many seminarians, but the ones I met over the weekend are really amazing men. Anyone can tell that they truly love the Lord and that they are actively following wherever He leads. They also are fun to be with, and I had a great time praying and playing with them all.

The weekend at St. Peter's helped me in my understanding of discernment. I think I have always known that I have a vocation to something, but I still don't know what it is. Talking with the priests and the seminarians and the other men visiting the seminary helped me to understand that discernment is not something we have to do once so we can get on with our lives. We have to continue to discern the Lord's will for the rest of our lives - with the big things, like our vocations, a process which will probably take a long time, and with small things as well. As I talked to the seminarians, I was a little surprised to find that many of them had not been sure that they were supposed to be priests when they entered the seminary and that a lot of them are still not certain God is calling them to the priesthood. But then I realized that these men do know that they have a vocation to be at the seminary at this time and that God wants them to be at St. Peter's working towards the priesthood. Whether they actually become priests or not, they know that as they trust in the Lord, He will make His will and plan for them more clear.

# Excerpts From The MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II FOR THE 41st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

2 MAY 2004 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Venerable Brothers in the Episcopate,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

1. *"Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest"* (Lk 10: 2).

[. . .] On the occasion of the upcoming 41st World Day of Prayer for Vocations, held traditionally on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, all of the faithful join in fervent prayer for vocations to the priesthood, to the consecrated life and to missionary service. Indeed, our primary duty is to pray to the "Lord of the harvest" for those who already follow Christ very closely in the priesthood and religious life, and for those whom he in his mercy continues to call to such important ecclesial service.

2. *Let us pray for vocations!*

[. . .] I acknowledge with joy that in many particular Churches, cenacles of prayer for vocations are being formed. In the major seminaries and in houses of formation of religious and missionary institutes, gatherings are held for this purpose. Numerous families become little "cenacles" of prayer, helping young people to answer the Divine Master's call with courage and generosity.

Yes! The vocation to serve Christ alone in his Church is an inestimable gift of the divine goodness, a gift to implore with insistence and trusting humility. The Christian must be always more open to this gift, careful not to waste "the time of grace" and "the time of visitation" (cf. Lk 19: 44).

3. *Let us pray for those called to the priesthood and to religious life!*

[. . .] The Eucharist is at the centre of all prayer initiatives [. . .] It is good that adoration of the Blessed Sacrament goes hand-in-hand with the Eucharistic Celebration, thus prolonging, in a certain sense, the mystery of the Holy Mass.

Contemplating Christ, [. . .] can give rise in the heart of the person called to the priesthood or to a particular mission in the Church the same

enthusiasm that led Peter to exclaim on the mount of the Transfiguration: "Lord, it is good that we are here!" (Mt 17: 4; cf. Mc 9: 5; Lk 9: 33). This is a privileged way to contemplate the face of Christ with Mary and at the school of Mary, who for her interior disposition can be rightly called "woman of the Eucharist" (Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, n. 53).

May all Christian communities become "authentic schools of prayer", where one prays that labourers may not be lacking in the vast field of apostolic work. [. . .] In the Mystical Body of Christ there is a wide variety of ministries and charisms (cf. I Cor 12: 12), all of them meant for the sanctification of the Christian people. In the reciprocal attention for holiness, which must animate every member of the Church, it is necessary to pray so that those "called" remain faithful to their vocation and reach the highest possible degree of evangelical perfection.

4. *Prayer of those called.*

[...] Precisely in this prospective, it is more necessary than ever "to cling steadfastly to the Lord and to personal vocation and mission" (*Vita Consecrata*, n. 63). The strength of the witness given by those called and their ability to involve others and inspire each of them to entrust his or her own life to Christ depends on their holiness. [. . .]

[. . .] May the Holy Spirit make the entire Church a praying people who raise their voices to the Heavenly Father to implore holy vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. Let us pray so that those chosen and called by the Lord be faithful and joyful witnesses of the Gospel, to which they have consecrated their existence. [. . .]

**John Paul II**

*From the Vatican site ([vatican.va](http://vatican.va))*





From left: Rev. Neil Kuisma, Bishop R.W. Smith, Rev. Ryan Holly and Rev. Donald Smith.

## New Deacons ordained by Bishop

On Saturday, May 22, three new deacons were ordained at St. Columbkille Cathedral by Bishop R. W. Smith. Deacons are ordained for ministry to the People of God. Their ordination puts them in a new relationship with the Church community, one that



requires them to serve the people by helping them on their faith journey. The diaconate is primarily a ministry of service. Deacons serve by baptizing, proclaiming the Gospel, preaching homilies, presiding at weddings and serving to the needy.

There are two kinds of deacons. Men preparing for the priesthood are ordained as deacons before being ordained as priests. They remain deacons only for a time. This is the case with Ryan Holly.

Others are ordained as permanent deacons. These are single or married men, who remain deacons for the rest of their lives. Neil Kuisma and Don Smith were ordained as permanent deacons.

Ryan Holly, from Cormac, a seminarian for the diocese, at St. Peter's Seminary, was ordained to the transitional diaconate, the final step in his journey to priesthood which he will reach next spring



Neil Kuisma, husband of Marilyn, from Deep River, and Don Smith, husband of Nancy, from Renfrew, were ordained to the permanent diaconate and will serve in our diocese. ECCLESIA congratulates them and assures them of our prayers.



Considering vocations (from left): Front - Paul Platt, Wilno; Matthew Fritz, Combermere; Cyprian Zackrzlerwki, Wilno. Back row - Joseph Platt, Wilno; Michael Lund, Wilno; Cody Robinson, Combermere; Brad O'Brien, Combermere.

## Month of prayer supports vocations

Bishop Smith, in conjunction with the Vocation Directors, called on all parishes to offer prayers during the month of May that God's call be listened to in the hearts of young men throughout our Diocese. Each Diocesan Zone was encouraged to have four evenings of prayer for vocations.

For this intention, on Pentecost Sunday the Bishop celebrated a Mass which was attended by people from across our Diocese. Clergy and young men invited by the clergy received a special invitation. After the Mass, the forty young men invited by their pastors were treated to a supper, where Bishop Smith gave a talk, encouraging them to be open to this call and not to be afraid of it. This special month of prayer is an

ongoing effort by the Vocation Directors to promote a "Culture of Vocations". The Third Continental Congress on Vocations to the Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America, held in April 2002, devised the phrase "Culture of Vocations" to stimulate a positive environment throughout the Church for their promotion.

Our response as a Diocese has been to enter into a time of prayer offered specifically for vocations to the diocesan priesthood and to invite youth throughout our parishes to reflect on the possibility of such a call. May we all continue to pray for their openness of heart to hear and answer the call of the Lord.



From left: Philip Kupterschmidt, Deep River; Ian Melnall, Deep River; David Ouellette, Deep River; Joe Cochrane, Deep River.



From left: Anthony Burchat, Round Lake; John Burchat, Round Lake; Steve Pecoskie, Round Lake; Joseph Burchat, Round Lake.

## “You have a great gift for one another,” Bishop tells Madonna House,



*Bishop R. W. Smith with the Directors of Madonna House*

**By Patricia Lawton**

“Be a people of hope and agents of mercy,” said Bishop R.W. Smith to the Directors from the 20 missions of Madonna House Combermere on May 10.

The Bishop met with consecrated laywomen and laymen from field houses in Belgium, Paris, England, Russia, Brazil, Africa, the West Indies, the U.S.A. and Canada. Each May they return to Combermere for several weeks of meetings with the Directors General, priests and elders of the community.

Madonna House was founded in 1947 by Catherine de Hueck Doherty. As a young woman, Catherine fled Russia and lived and worked in the U.S. and Canada. She established the Friendship House movement, and was a pioneer in interracial justice. In the late 40’s, Bishop William Smith asked Catherine to serve the local people of the Combermere area. Since then, the community has grown to more than 200 members. Catherine Doherty’s cause for canonization is now under consideration by Rome.

During his visit to Madonna House, Bishop Smith celebrated Mass at the St. Mary’s Chapel and following supper, gathered with the directors. The Bishop invited them to share about the

nature of their field houses, to reflect on the needs of the people they serve and on what the Lord is revealing to them regarding the Catholic Church around the world.

Each mission is established in response to a request from the local Bishop of that particular diocese. Two to ten staff members (laymen, laywomen and priests) are assigned to these field houses from Combermere and follow a mandate given by that Bishop. This year Maryhouse, located in

Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> foundation anniversary. It was the first Madonna House mission to be established from Combermere.

The most recent foundation is a house of prayer and listening, opened two years ago in Vancouver at the request of Bishop Adam Exner. It follows a mandate to be an “evangelizing presence.” In North Yorkshire, England, Madonna House is a Pastoral Center for the diocese. Three laywomen, one layman and a priest of Madonna

House, assigned from Combermere, give days of recollection and provide friendship and spiritual support to those who visit.

In northern Brazil, Madonna House staff members also provide friendship to all they meet, and give retreats and spiritual support to lay people in the many new communities in the Brazilian church. Visitors can participate in the daily life of the staff there, on a “working” retreat. Staff members are in constant contact with the poorest of the poor.

Local Director, Elizabeth Bassarear, a native of Arizona, U.S.A., has been working in Natal, Brazil, since 1990. “At Madonna House Natal, we do a lot of what our Foundress called, the ‘chit-chat apostolate’,” Bassarear explained. “In the simplicity of living the life of Nazareth—cooking, cleaning, growing our food, receiving visitors and loving the brother or sister who lives with me - people experience this house as refuge and presence of the mercy of God.”

The Natal house is one of the non-North American houses that provide formation for new vocations. Eliana Ribeiro das Chagas was the most recent Brazilian to join the community there. Cristina Coutinho, a Brazilian who underwent formation in Combermere, now serves at Madonna House Belgium.

Two Belgian laywomen are also in formation: Martine Debatty at the house in Belgium and Muriel (Jocko) D’Ursel at the Combermere Training center.



*Making a joyful noise at Madonna House in Brazil*



## “... and a great gift to the church.”

Following formation, the laymen, laywomen and priests of Madonna House make promises, of poverty, chastity and obedience. After seven years in temporary promises members make a lifetime commitment to live out the spirit and mandate of the Madonna House Apostolate. Currently there are eleven applicants in formation, who come from places as varied as Korea, Colombia, the West Indies, Poland, Belgium and North America.

The Combermere Training Center is known around the world to visitors who have come seeking to deepen their Catholic faith. Working guests stay from one week to several months and follow the same schedule of prayer, work and recreation as the staff members. They return to their homes and places of work to live out a gospel centered life. Priests and religious are also regular visitors.

Madonna House puts great emphasis on living the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The ordinary tasks of everyday family life - household chores, prayers, recreation, relationship, all aspects of human activity—are seen as opportunities to incarnate the love of Christ, a love that transforms the individual, the Church and the world.

Daily Mass, the liturgy of the hours, the rosary and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are part of the rhythm of each Madonna House. In Regina and Edmonton, staff operate soup kitchens and clothing rooms.

“We are a family in God, living under the mantle of Our Lady of Combermere,” explains Director General of Men, Mark Schlingerman. Our Lady of Combermere is the title of the Marian shrine on the grounds of the Training Center. It was approved by Rome in 1960.

In July and August, Madonna House provides week-long family retreats at Cana Colony on nearby Bennett Lake. At the Training Center, a summer program of prayer, lectures, work and recreation is offered to young people 19 years of age and older. The community receives many inquires through its website: [madonnahouse.org](http://madonnahouse.org)

Bishop Smith has made several visits to Madonna House since coming to the Pembroke diocese. In April he presided at the funeral Mass for Director General of Women, Jean Fox, and pioneering staffworker, Mary Ruth. Jean

Fox died suddenly while still in office, having held the position for the last 18 years. Mary Ruth passed away at the age of 87, having given fifty years of service to the community. Bishop Smith had met Miss Fox and Miss Ruth on his previous visits and was a deeply consoling presence for the staff during these great losses.

In his closing remarks to the Directors on May 10, Bishop Smith said what a privilege it was to be with them and to hear firsthand just what’s happening in the Church around the world.

“As I was listening to you talk about your houses,” the Bishop said to the Directors, “I kept going back to *Novo Millennio Inuente*. That is such an incredible document. It’s the blueprint for the Church and I’ve put it out as the blueprint for this diocese, too.”

“As you know,” he told them, “like the early era of the Church we’re launching out with a new evangelization. In the Acts of the Apostles we see that the preaching of the Apostles was confirmed and accompanied by wondrous works of the Spirit. Starting *from* the Lord and working *in* the Lord—that’s what gives the great fruit. And as you were saying, we may not see that harvest, but if we’re in communion with the Lord even in the midst of great challenges, He’s the one who has the victory and He has shown it. So it can *only* be positive, it can *only* be hopeful.

“A number of you spoke about the tremendous difficulties and challenges of the environment in which you find yourselves, but never, ever despair. Just continue to be a people of hope and agents of mercy.

“That is *the* antidote, it seems to me, to all the mess and the violence and the hurt that’s out there. Mercy. Be houses where people can be safe. Somehow people will know they’re at home, and they’re safe.

“The growth that we’re seeing in so many areas of the Church, this new springtime—especially as seen through many of the new ecclesial movements—is a wonderful sign of the Spirit accompanying the present day preaching of the Church.

“I can see that you’re very much caught up in that. You have a great gift in one another and you are a great gift to the Church. So God love you. Persevere.”

## EDUCATION WEEK ALIVE IN CHRIST

May 2nd - May 7th was designated as Education Week. Each year the Ministry of Education designates a week to celebrate education in Ontario. During this week the Catholic Education community across the province celebrated Catholic Education Week. This year’s theme was “Fully Alive in Christ.” The theme emphasized that Catholic education views spiritual and moral formation as critical to the development of the whole person and to the realization of the fullness of life. Catholic students are expected to be active citizens and contributing members of their communities and to bring with them life affirming Christian values which will benefit our communities, our province, our country and the world. All Renfrew County Catholic Schools hosted a multitude of activities to mark this week. Some of these were as follows:

- His Excellency, Bishop Smith video taped a message of hope to the students, parents, teachers, trustees, board office personnel and School Councils. He

used the theme ‘Fully Alive in Christ.’

- Students from both Catholic High Schools, Bishop Smith in Pembroke and St. Joseph’s in Renfrew, visited elementary schools to discuss their faith. They distributed buttons which say, ‘I Believe.’

- Each school was given a daily reflection prayer to use. Tony Cosentino, Religious Education and Family Life Resource Person, prepared the reflections. He adapted the material developed by the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association.

- The Bishop Smith School Choir performed at the Board meeting on April 26, 2004.

In addition to these activities, many others took place across the county. These included Masses, prayer services, art work, music, faith-sharing and para-liturgies. Parents and members of the community were welcome to attend and to participate in these activities.

## PRIESTS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

### 50th Anniversary

Father Douglas J. Morris was born in Pembroke in 1926, the son of Joseph Morris and Hilda Perrault. Following elementary and secondary school education, he studied philosophy in Montreal. He received further training for the priesthood at St. Augustine Seminary, Toronto, where he was ordained to the diaconate in the spring of 1953. He was ordained to the priesthood by Most Reverend William J. Smith at his home parish of St. Paul the Hermit, Sheenboro, Quebec, on May 6,

1954. As an assistant Father Morris served at Arnprior, at Campbell’s Bay and at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke. He was appointed parish priest of Portage-du-Fort, Bristol, Douglas, Arnprior and St. Francis Xavier Parish,

Renfrew. He has participated in sabbatical programs in Spokane, Washington and in Jerusalem during the course of his priesthood.

In the fall of 1987, Father Morris began a new ministry for the diocese in becoming an auditor with the Ottawa Ecclesiastical Tribunal, Ottawa. His approachability and his skill in this unique ministry were soon evident. Countless numbers of people have experienced his sensitivity and assistance. It is a ministry that he continues to the present day. In the spring of 1993, Father Morris returned to parish work in Douglas, Ontario, in addition to his responsibilities with the tribunal. In 1995, Father Morris retired from fulltime parish ministry and has assisted at the Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Pembroke, where he is presently serving as administrator while Father Kerry Brennan is on sick leave. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Father Morris on his 50 years of service as a priest and pray that the Lord will bless him with good health and happiness for many years to come.



### 25th Anniversary

Father William Joseph Kenney, the son of Leo William Kenney and Rose (O’Hearn) was born in 1952, a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Deep River, Ontario. Following his elementary and secondary school education, he entered St. Peter’s Seminary, London, Ontario, to prepare for the diocesan priesthood. He was ordained to the diaconate in April of 1978 and was appointed to St. John Chrysostom Parish, Arnprior, Ontario as part of his training. On May 19, 1997, in Deep River. Father Kenney was ordained to the priesthood, by Most Reverend Joseph R. Windle. Following his ordination, he was appointed to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Bancroft, for the summer months and in September of 1979, began ministry at the parish of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, Pembroke.

Very early in his ministry, Father Kenney displayed a great interest in and commitment to the youth and was actively involved in COR and numerous other retreats. His ministry in COR spanned ten years. In May of 1985, Father Kenney was appointed assistant at St. John Chrysostom Parish, Arnprior, where he served until the 1987, when he began a new work as Pastoral Animator for the Roman Catholic Separate School Board. At Bishop Smith Catholic High School, his dedication and care for the youth of our diocese continued, with a special focus on the poor of the third world. Father Kenney helped to facilitate trips to the Dominican Republic that provided an invaluable

experience for our young people. Following six years of ministry in the high school, he was made administrator of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Deep River and of Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Stonecliffe. Shortly thereafter, Father Kenney was appointed priest and continues to serve at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Deep River.

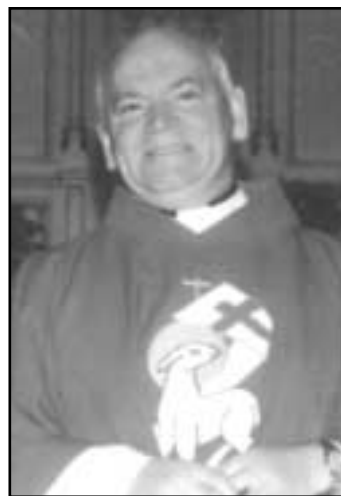


# OBITUARY

## Rev. Roy Valiquette

Former Parish Priest, Rev. Roy Valiquette, of St. Patrick's Parish, Mt. St. Patrick, died suddenly at his residence on Saturday, May 29, 2004, at the age of 76 years.

Father Valiquette was born in Esmonde, Ontario on December 20, 1927, the son of the late Matthew Valiquette and Rachel Davidson. Loving brother of Winnifred (late Ernest) Donnelly, Kapuskasing; Mildred (late Frank) Langsford, Kingston; Glen (late Dick) Osborne, Cobden; Jessie (Lew) St. Louis, Renfrew; Garnet (Pierrette), Thunder Bay; William (Cathy),



Kapuskasing; Daniel (Geraldine), Eganville; Claire, Renfrew; predeceased by siblings, Drusilla (late Wm.) Henderson, Donald (Rita), Eganville; Allan (Hilda), Deep River; Geraldine (Dr. Gerald Wagar), Kingston. Uncle of many nephews and nieces. He received his elementary and secondary education in the Esmonde and Eganville area. Following secondary school graduation,

he completed his studies with the Ottawa Teachers College, Queen's University and Ottawa University.

Prior to a long and distinguished teaching career at Opeongo High School, Father Valiquette taught at Eganville District High, North Bay, and at Grimsby.

In both North Bay and Grimsby, he served as principal and teacher. In 1980, he entered St. Paul Seminary in Ottawa to begin training for the diocesan priesthood. He was ordained to the diaconate at St. Paul's Seminary, Ottawa on April 10, 1983 and to the priesthood by Most Reverend J. R. Windle on September 3, 1983 at St. James the Less Church, Eganville.

Following ordination to the priesthood Father Valiquette generously served as a dedicated priest at Paroisse St-Pierre, Fort-Coulonge; St. Anne Parish, Mattawa; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Renfrew. Early in his priestly career he continued to share his gifts as a teacher with Saint Joseph High School, Renfrew. Father Valiquette was appointed parish priest of St. Patrick Parish, Mt. St. Patrick on July 4, 1985, where he faithfully served up to the time of his retirement in March of 1995.

Father Valiquette is fondly remembered as a devoted priest and an excellent teacher who carried out his duties with much dedication and love. He was a faithful and caring visitor to the sick and the elderly.

He had a special interest in, and appreciation of, the history and heritage of many families of the Ottawa Valley.

On June 2, 2004, at Mt. St. Patrick, the Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Bishop R.W. Smith and celebrated by a large number of priests.

## Responsibility and discernment

*(Continued from page 2)*

nity. Humans are social beings who cannot survive without human relationships. Commitment to the common good is expressed in a solidarity that Pope John Paul II has described "as a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, the good of all and of each individual because we are all really responsible for all." Will the upcoming federal election foster a deeper awareness of what the common good requires?

### TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AT ELECTION TIME

13. Keeping in mind the principles summarized above, how do the various political parties and candidates respond to the following questions? (The list is not exhaustive.)

- What is the position of the candidate and his or her political party on protecting the right to life of all human beings, from conception to natural death?
- What means will they take to ensure that genetic and reproductive technologies respect, protect and promote human life and dignity?
- What measures do they propose to defend the rights of women in the home and in the workplace?
- What are their policies to support women who are faced with unexpected or unwanted pregnancies, both during the pregnancy and after?
- What means will they take to maintain the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman which is ordered to the good of the couple and the procreation and education of children?
- What policies do they propose to support families in raising their children and in fulfilling their responsibilities toward the next generation?
- What are the commitments to ensuring accessibility to health care and home care for all Canadians, particularly the poor, the vulnerable and the elderly?
- What policies do they propose to encourage global peace and to reserve the spread of space-based weapon systems and nuclear, chemical and biological arms?
- What commitments have they made to decrease the growing gap between the rich and poor people in Canada?
- What means will they take to advance the social and economic aspirations of Aboriginal Peoples?
- How will they address the crisis of the lack of affordable and safe housing in Canada?
- How will they respect the right of refugee applicants to a fair appeal process and help them avoid being deported to a country where their lives may be in danger?
- How will they increase overseas development assistance to 0.7 percent of Canada's Gross National Product?

### CONCLUSION

14. Elections are times when citizens are invited to make choices. Catholics are to consider this important responsibility as a priority for the common good of all society. To exercise one's right to vote is not only a contribution to life in common, it is also a sign of commitment to all men and women as fellow citizens. Catholics cannot vote without making clear judgments and reflecting on the political choices before them.

This would seem to involve at least three elements: a) a basic knowledge and acceptance of the principles of Catholic teaching; b) sufficient familiarity with the platforms of the candidates and c) careful consideration of how the candidates will best reflect one's most deeply held principles.

No candidate will be perfect. But by participating in dialogue leading to discernment and by voting responsibly, Canadian Catholics can nourish their faith and fulfil their responsibilities as citizens.

15. Political participation does not end with the announcement of the electoral results. This is merely the beginning. Catholics want to develop healthy communities.

An important sign of a healthy community is when informed and responsible citizens engage their political representatives in ongoing public dialogue on pressing societal concerns. Nothing less can be expected of Christians who are called to be truly responsible for all people.

*Episcopal Commission for Social Affairs  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops*

(Suggested further reading  
available at [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca))