



# Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

## Vacationers add to parish life in “cottage country”

As another summer approaches, anticipation builds throughout the Ottawa Valley. Our thoughts turn to boating, camping, golfing and all of those great leisure opportunities our area provides.

Many parishes in the diocese are also looking forward to the influx of worshippers who come from away to swell the ranks in local churches and bring new energy to the regular parish community.

Its proximity to the greater Toronto area and beautiful highland location make Haliburton a classic example of the summer parishioner effect.

Fr. John Lacey has warm memories of the summers he served there at St. Anthony Mission.

“The parish basically doubled,” he recalls, noting that his estimate is based on the envelopes in the collection plate, which would increase from 130 to about 230 each week from June to September.

While the monetary donations of summer visitors are always welcome, their contributions are much richer than that.

“There was a wonderful blend in the community,” Fr. Lacey says, referring to the residents whose local roots went back generations to the logging days of the region, as well as the professionals who enjoyed family cottages and are now retiring in large number in the area.

“They bring a wonderful worldliness,” he adds. “Of all the experiences in their life, this was the one they chose to adopt.”

The parish priest admits that there is some work involved in blending two groups into one successful community.

“It has to be managed,” he says of the careful blend of tradition and new approaches.

A fun tradition at Haliburton was the summer-long silent auction. Up to 40 donated items would be on display, and church visitors were invited to place their bids each time they visited.

“Labour Day was the grande finale,” says Fr. Lacey, noting that items such as a crystal chess set would be bid above the \$100 mark after weeks of careful watching and strategizing.



*The Fitzgerald summer family reunion, held every summer in August at Silent Lake Provincial Park, offered Fr. John Lacey the opportunity to share a gentle summer homily. The family invited Fr. Lacey to celebrate mass for them, and for anyone else who wanted to attend, in the early afternoon on Sunday.*

“It was an exciting, fun environment,” he says. “There was a tremendous spirit of joy and a great energy.”

With entertainment options such as theatre and outdoor concerts abounding through the summer months, the church made a conscious decision to pull back on its extracurricular offerings. Dinner theatres and card games were reserved for the off seasons.

The church in Haliburton has benefited from the talents of its “members from away”. There was the vocalist who added a capella music to the regular Sunday morning mass for the six months he lived in the area. There are the business professionals who now live in the community much of the year and contribute their human relations and management skills as members of the parish council. There are the people who dare to dream big when a special event or important fund-raiser is in the works.

Importantly, Fr. Lacey notes that the contributions do not just flow in one direction from the visitors into the church. He cites examples such as the children who love to serve at mass in a friendly, country church but would never dream of taking on the task in the city. There are the quiet visitors who feel at home and find special spiritual nourishment in a peaceful, rural setting.

“It works both ways,” Fr. Lacey says. “It is a warm environment where friendships really flourish.”

*Cottage Country - continued from page 1*

Fr. Basil Tanguay sees his four parishes in the Pontiac experiencing the same rewards. Summer visitors are most prominent at Ste Anne at Ile-du-grand-Calumet. Their presence is also noticed at St. James in Portage-du-Fort and St. John the Evangelist in Campbell's Bay and, to a lesser extent at Bryson. A new mix is also added because regular parishioners tend to move from one church to

another during the summer because of the different mass schedules.

"I've seen a number of cases where friendships have developed," says Fr. Tanguay.

The visitors get involved in parish life in a number of ways. When the church picnic at Calumet Island was active, visitors made up a big part of the crowd and the food contributions for the event. They also come out to support an annual fund-raising golf tournament for St. James.

"Involvement in their home parish usually translates to involvement here," observes Fr. Tanguay.

He has responded by extending a broad invitation to the summer community. Mass times are publicized in church ads in all of the tourist publications for the area, and this year patrons of a local restaurant will find an ad for the local parish on the placemats set in front of them.

"It really is an outreach and people appreciate it," concludes Fr. Tanguay. "We're learning!"

## An early summer visitor

One of the earliest summer parishioners to visit the Pembroke Diocese was the Blessed Brother Andre Bessette.

According to "Highways of Destiny, A History of the Diocese of Pembroke" by Fr. William O'Dwyer, Br. Andre was a periodic visitor to Mattawa and close friend of Fr. Duquette who served at Mattawa's St. Anne Parish from 1917 to 1949.

Br. Andre will be canonized on October 17 of this year. Born to a poor Quebec family in 1845, he entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal in 1872. He was made porter at Notre-Dame College, where he received visitors for the next 25 years.

Br. Andre welcomed the sick and heartbroken, inviting them to pray to St. Joseph. His reputation grew as people reported that their prayers had been answered. He has been credited with thousands of miraculous healings and became known as the miracle worker of Mount-Royal.

Out of devotion to St. Joseph, he built a chapel with help from friends and money he earned from giving haircuts to students. Larger versions of the chapel were constructed as more and more pilgrims came, and in 1924 construction of the present basilica of St. Joseph's Oratory began.

A series of religious and cultural celebrations linked to his upcoming canonization will be held in both Rome and Montreal.



## Reverend John Edward "Jack" Green

The Reverend John Edward "Jack" Green, priest of the Diocese of Pembroke, died peacefully at Marianhill in Pembroke on May 19, 2010.

Fr. Green was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 23, 1929. His father was Joseph Michael Green and his mother Catherine Mary O'Gorman. He is survived by his brothers Gorman, Francis and Jerome (Jerry). He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Gregory, and his sister Jean Owens.

Father Green was ordained to the priesthood at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deep River, on May 31, 1956. He served as assistant priest at the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Pembroke, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Renfrew, and St. John Chrysostom Parish, Arnprior. Fr. Green was pastor of Saint Pius V Parish, Osceola and Sacred Heart Mission in Cobden from 1969-1972 and again from 1994-1997. From 1972-1994 Father Green served as pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish in Barry's Bay.

In his homily at Fr. Green's funeral mass, Fr. Pat Tait of Pembroke said, "There is one word to describe Fr. Jack's legacy as priest, as brother, as uncle and as friend... 'gentle'. How many of us found rest for our souls in Fr. Jack's 'gentleness'. As confessor, as spiritual director, as homilist, as confidant, as friend, gentleness characterized all that he said, all that he did, all that he was. Our response to that gentleness was respect, admiration and above all love. To know Fr. Jack was to love Fr. Jack."

Bob Corrigan, a parishioner at St. Lawrence O'Toole at the time Fr. Green served there, echoes the sentiments expressed by Fr. Tait. "What impressed me was how humble, soft-spoken and modest he was", said Mr. Corrigan. "He was always very quiet about it, but he was always interested in helping people."

In the early 1980s Fr. Green was instrumental in providing support for two Cambodian families seeking refuge from unrest in that country. In time the families moved away and became quite successful. Mr. Corrigan notes that they all came back for Fr. Green's funeral and were present at his 50th anniversary celebrations a few years ago. Again, Mr. Corrigan emphasizes the humble approach Fr. Green took. "He just wanted them to be helped out and taken care of," he said.

After his retirement Fr. Green often returned to Barry's Bay, where his brother Jerry and his family lived. Family and friends were very important to him. Mr. Corrigan speaks of often seeing him on the family porch. "It was always so pleasant to stop and chat with him," he said.

Following his retirement in 1997 Fr. Green resided at Marianhill, where he continued to carry out his priestly ministry. Lying in state took place at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Barry's Bay. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke, on May 22, 2010. Interment was in the parish cemetery.



# A message from Bishop Mulhall: Our gift of generous service in the diocese

**My dear Faithful of the Diocese of Pembroke:**

As the spring weather continues during these beautiful days of May, we are reminded that some aspects of our pastoral work in the diocese will slow down for the summer. In these days many of our young people will be receiving the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation and many young couples are preparing for marriage during the summer months. As these young people receive these sacraments, those who helped with their preparation – parents, brothers and sisters, parish priests, parish and diocesan catechists, primary school teachers – experience great joy in seeing those under their care enter into a more profound union with Christ. This culmination of their service of preparation is often very evident in their happiness at these liturgical ceremonies.

There are three areas of sacramental preparation and ongoing formation which I wish to mention in this message. This has been the first year of our revised

marriage preparation program offered in the diocese. While a majority of the preparation of an engaged couple takes place through their regular meetings with the priest in the parish, the diocese offers a three-day program to assist the pastors and to allow time for married couples to present Christ's teachings on the nature of marriage. I am very pleased with the progress that has been made in this program and I wish to especially thank those couples who have generously given of their weekends to act as guides and teachers of this program to our engaged couples.

This has also been the first year that many parishes in the Pembroke, Renfrew and Barry's Bay zones have adopted the diocesan program for the preparation of our young Catholics for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. This has been a time of adjustment for many of the school communities in these zones and I appreciate the patience and understanding of all concerned. My thanks go out to those new catechists who have been helping our pastors in this pastoral service for many years now.

This program calls for many sacrifices and demands on people's time and I wish to express my continued appreciation for your care.

These two areas of pastoral care identify our shared love and service for our young, especially those being fully initiated into the life of faith in our parish communities and for those young couples who are entering into marriage and forming families. These families are the foundation of our communities, both regarding faith and society. These young parents are the first teachers of the faith to their children. Our parishes and schools then assist them as best we can to both reflect God's love in the world and introduce their children into a living, personal relationship with Christ.

An ongoing program, which has been expanded, has been the Adult Formation series offered throughout the diocese in the fall, winter and spring. These lectures and question periods are open to anyone interested in deepening their understanding of the faith in certain topics. These lectures have been offered over the years in Pembroke but several years ago the decision was made to move from one area of the Diocese to another on a two- or three-year cycle. This coming year (2010-11), for the first time, the program will be offered in all five zones of the diocese (Pontiac, Renfrew, Pembroke, Mattawa, Barry's Bay). This is an ambitious expansion and I am delighted that we are able to increase the frequency of the lectures in these parts of the diocese.

All of these initiatives are marked by a generous offering of people's time to make these programs possible. Those who offer their service easily receive as much as those attending and benefiting from the sessions. Each of us knows how true this is. As a diocesan church it marks an aspect of that command we receive from the Lord to go out to the nations and spread the Gospel. When we approach this service with a proper disposition and attitude, we are able to leave the rest to the Lord and know that the Lord will sustain our efforts and bring forth the fruit that He desires at the time that He judges best. This is a very consoling reality to us all. It often takes time for us to appreciate this mystery in our lives. But wonderfully, a deep appreciation of this gift calls us more and more to seek the true joy we find in giving of ourselves for our brothers and sisters in the service of the Lord.

† Michael Mulhall  
Bishop of Pembroke



## A Night to Remember! – The Year for Priests Appreciation Dinner

*On Friday, April 23, 2010, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Pembroke worked together to make a very public statement in support of their priests. The diocesan councils combined efforts in this "Year for Priests" to hold a formal dinner in honour of the priests of the diocese. The dinner was sold out, with almost 400 in attendance. The head table guests were, from left, John Huff, Faithful Navigator, Assembly 0869, K of C, and his wife Sandra, Ambrose Holmes, President of the Diocesan K of C, and his wife Judy, Bishop Michael Mulhall, guest speaker Noël Simard, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie, Msgr. Douglas Bridge, Diocesan Chancellor, and Bev Drouin, President of the Diocesan CWL, with her husband Bob.*



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# Who is St. Columbkille?

By Jason Dedo

St. Columbkille, also known as Columcille, Columbus and Columba, was born on December 7, 521 AD into the royal clan of Conaill in Ireland.

His proper name was Colum MacFehlin MacFergus. The name Colum means “dove”. It is said that as a boy he spent a lot of time in church and soon the suffix “cille”, the Gaelic word for Church, was added to his name. He was then called Colum-cille – Dove of the Church. Columbkille was highly educated and destined to become a king but instead followed his heart and studied religion.

Little is known of the early years of his life, but it seems he became a monk at an early age and soon became famous for his

charitable work with the poor in Ireland.

When he was 42 years old, Columbkille set sail from Ireland with 12 companions for Scotland. While in Scotland, he founded the Abbey of Iona and became the first abbot. His monks began establishing monasteries throughout Scotland and undertook the great challenge of converting the Picts, a collection of Gaelic tribes, to Christianity.

While in Scotland, Columbkille spent much time creating churches and parochial schools. Many people flocked to become followers of Columbkille who was admired for his strong acts of penance and rich prayer life.

Columbkille was instrumental in establishing the Gaelic kingdom of

Dalriada in Argyll under Aidan, its first independent king.

St. Columbkille was a writer and copied the Scriptures as well as other manuscripts. He was also a poet, but his greatest work was The Book of Kells, an Irish manuscript of the Four Gospels.

Columbkille died on June 9, 597 and thus his feast is celebrated on June 9.

Columbkille is Scotland’s most revered saint and is held in high esteem in Ireland as well. He is the patron saint of Scotland, poets, and bookbinders, as well as the Diocese of Pembroke. The Cathedral of St. Columbkille in Pembroke was likely named so because of the devotion to this saint by the early Irish and Scottish settlers in the area.



*This statue of St. Columbkille, with his book and his dove, was placed in the Cathedral of St. Columbkille in Pembroke in 2007.*

## “Our Lady of Combermere” turns 50

The Combermere landscape offers a bounty of striking features, not the least of which is the beautiful, life-sized bronze statue affectionately and widely known as Our Lady of Combermere.

Based on the model of “The Questing Madonna” in Santa Barbara, California, the statue depicts the Mother of God running with open arms to embrace us, her children, and lead us to her Son, Jesus Christ.

It was on June 8, 1960 that the newly-arrived statue was officially blessed by the late Bishop William Smith in a very happy ceremony on the banks of the Madawaska River.

On that day in 1960 Catherine and Eddy Doherty gathered with Madonna House staff, neighbours, clergy including 22 priests, and friends from the diocese to celebrate the consecration of Our Lady.

Friends of Madonna House from far and wide are invited to gather again this summer, on Sunday, July 11, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the statue.

The occasion will begin with the rosary at the statue of Our Lady of Combermere at 4 p.m. followed by a

‘bring your own’ picnic supper on the grounds of St. Mary’s.

Participants are invited to bring a dessert to share and musical instruments to play. They should arrive prepared to eat and sing and dance together, thanking God for the gift of being sons and daughters of so wonderful a Mother!

For more information about Madonna House and Our Lady of Combermere visit [www.madonnahouse.org](http://www.madonnahouse.org).

### The words of Bishop Smith, June 8, 1960:

“This afternoon in this very blessed part of the diocese, in this very beautiful part of the world, in this month of June, I know that, as the years go by, great graces will flow out all over this diocese, all over Canada and the United States, and all over the rest of the world through Our Lady of Combermere and the great work to which these people have dedicated their lives.

“In blessing the statue of Our Lady of Combermere I have in mind the thought that a great deal of the work necessary to bring the world to the feet of Our Lady will depend on the loyalty and devotion of the friends of Combermere. There has been much progress here.

*“Our Lady of Combermere” has graced the grounds of Madonna House for 50 years. It was consecrated in 1960 by Bishop William Smith, seen here with Madonna House’s founder, Catherine Doherty.*

The hand of God is in it. We hope that God will continue, through the hands of Our Blessed Mother, the dispenser of all graces, to bless this hallowed spot.

“We seem to be living in a confused world, one becoming more confused all the time. As the years go by, it seems to me that the solution to the things troubling us will be cared for by Our Lady. She promised to help us, so long as we do our part. So if we listen to her words, in whatever work we do, and dedicate ourselves to her, we will have an opportunity to make recompense to God for many of the sins of the world.

“Now we bless and dedicate the diocese, and the country, and all the Americas to Our Lady of Combermere. Graces will go out in abundance from Our Lady of Combermere and we shall all benefit from this centre of the lay apostolate — all of us — in the diocese and those outside.”



# Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage – a covenant of love

By Yvette Bourque

What an interesting and challenging ministry it is to prepare couples for marriage today. This task has been underway with a new program for English-speaking couples preparing for marriage in the Diocese of Pembroke since October 2009. The courses are essentially zone-based and were offered in the Renfrew, Barry's Bay and Pembroke zones over the past year, preparing 77 couples in total. The program consists of a Friday evening and two full Saturdays, at the cost of \$100 per couple. Although parish-based programs are encouraged and may be more effective, many parishes are unable to train and maintain a team of married couples who can commit the time necessary to such a ministry. An added benefit of a diocesan team that ministers in different parts of the diocese is consistency. In a diocesan program all zones receive the same program content.

There are at present 10 couples who are involved in the English program and two couples in the French program. Fr. Real Ouellette has been very involved in helping to organize the overall format of the days, details of the presentations and prayers for the new English course. Fr. John Burchat has also been a presenter, as he has had extensive experience in the past with the new portion of the program titled "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage" by Christopher West. The team is very grateful to both of these priests for their assistance. The new portion has not been fully implemented in the French program as the resources are not available in the French language.

All of the married couples in this ministry, as well

as Fr. Ouellette, attended a training program in the spring of 2009 to learn the details of the new portion of the course, which takes the teachings of the late Pope John Paul II on marriage and sexuality and puts them into everyday words and analogies that the average person can understand and relate to.

Before the program begins the couples receive in the mail a book titled "Good News about Sex and Marriage – Answers to Your Honest Questions About Catholic Teaching" by Christopher West. Friday evening begins with an ice-breaker and most often an opening prayer and some words of welcome by Bishop Mulhall, an introduction to the course and what the obstacles to a joy-filled marriage are. The evening ends with the topic of "Why Christ in your marriage" and proceeds to small group discussion. The first Saturday is filled with the "God's plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage" program that includes six main talks and some private reflections. The topics discussed include:

- God's plan for marriage "in the beginning" - male and female He created them
- Christ restores God's plan for marriage – male and female he redeemed them
- What are you saying "I do" to? – the basics of marriage in the Church
- The joy of sexual honesty before marriage
- The joy of sexual honesty within marriage
- Some practical benefits of natural family planning

The program comes with a couple's workbook that they can use to follow the course and write in throughout the day. At the back of the workbook is an evaluation specifically for this part of the course which the couples fill out if they choose.

The second day covers important topics such as communication, conflict resolution, commitment, finances, family of origin, sexuality, family, stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures. An evaluation given at the end of this day helps to see how effective the participating couples feel the overall course has been for them.

From the optional, anonymous evaluations over the past year we have learned some important information about the profile of the engaged couples we are ministering to today. Here are some of the findings:

- approximately 60% of couples are both Catholic. The other 40% are entering a mixed marriage. Within the 40% there are some couples or at least one partner who claims to be agnostic (believes nothing can be known about the existence of God) or has indicated "other" leaving out the non-Catholic Christian option.
- 95% of the couples are cohabitating. 97% are sexually active and using contraception.
- Church attendance varies from regular to never (for the Catholics and agnostics). Approximately 60% say they attend Church regularly or sometimes. The other 40% attend rarely or never.
- about 35% of the couples indicate they are now considering saving sex until marriage and possibly using natural family planning (NFP).
- 100% said "yes" or "somewhat" to now having a better understanding of the Church's teaching about marriage.
- 75% said the program has "positively" affected their relationship with God and their impression of the Catholic Church (including some agnostics), while 25% chose "indifferent" or "negative".

Generally speaking, the data tell us that many couples are not practising their faith, are often closed to the idea of living a Christian marriage and receive less from this program than the others. Those couples who have been cohabitating for many years are not as open to the wisdom of Church teaching on contraception and keeping sexual intercourse within marriage. However, some participants have admitted that at first they were not accepting Church teaching on contraception and after participating in the program they are now looking into new options that they were unaware of before, such as NFP.

Those couples coming for preparation for this beautiful sacrament who intend to live their marriage as a sacrament find great joy and support. Many have been pleasantly surprised to discover the importance of keeping Christ in their Christian marriage and realize this is something that has been missing in their relationship. Many others have indicated the significance of learning the importance of good communication skills, how to resolve conflict, the importance of spending time wisely with those you love, the benefits of the sacrament of reconciliation, and how to identify and work through the five stages of marriage. Still others have found the program to be a nice "refresher" as they had forgotten what marriage means in the Catholic Church. What was surprising was the 35% of couples who indicated that the most relevant topic in the course was NFP.

## Theology of the Body in Combermere

By David and Posie Douthwright

The meaning of being human, life, love, freedom and truth. Those were the grand themes shared and discussed during an eight-week education series held at Holy Canadian Martyrs parish in Combermere this winter. Parishioners from area parishes were invited to Combermere to experience the on-screen presentations of Christopher West as he presented his introduction to Pope John Paul II's "theology of the body".

David Douthwright comments, "In recent years I have been more interested in knowing my Catholic faith. When I became aware of the theology of the body, I immediately experienced a joy because it helped explain for me the 'whys' of my faith and not just the 'whats'. I have at times been discouraged with the way things are in the world and especially in Canada. Marriage and family breakdown, abortion, sexual confusion, physical and psychological child abuse, and a general erosion of wholesome values in our society are sometimes overwhelming and leave me to think what can we do to reverse this decay of our civilization. But as we have seen before in history, God, out of his great love and mercy, does not abandon us but rather raises up prophets and servants who bring a fresh new vision and shed light on the darkness. Pope John Paul II's theology of the

body is one such example in recent times of how the Holy Spirit moves and breathes new life and truth on people who otherwise would "perish for lack of a vision" for living. This has been true for me so I now have a new hope and a new desire to do what I can to work toward a "culture of life and love" right where I live and work. It was especially meaningful to also come together with others in our parish to reflect on topics that are so central to our community's life of faith. It certainly helped to build up our parish community."

One of the married couples participating in the program commented, "Participating in this series has clarified, and in many ways, renewed our understanding of what we are called to be as sexual beings made in the image and likeness of God. As Catholics all our lives, we have always desired to grow closer to Jesus and to increasingly understand His deep love for us. Taking advantage of tools and programs offered by the Church has helped us to do that. Marriage Encounter was our first such blessing followed by many others. What the Servant of God, John Paul II, has written, and Christopher West has summarized, strengthens our faith foundation as individual Catholics and as married couple even after 40 years of marital bliss. We have strongly encouraged our own adult children and friends to take advantage of this new blessing from our Church."

# The complicated face of Catholic education in the Diocese of Pembroke

Checking the pulse of Catholic education in the Diocese of Pembroke is not a simple task.

Where most other dioceses in Ontario have a direct line of communication with one English and one French school board within their jurisdiction, the organizational chart here involves a network of 10 administrative bodies in two provinces.

Further complicating the picture is the fact that publicly-funded Catholic education no longer exists in the province of Quebec.

Whether it is a reaction to the complex overall picture or simply a reflection of the region's practical approach, the bottom line is that the heart of the relationship most often lies in the strong connection between an individual school and the local parish.

"In most cases the school is right beside the church," says Jason Dedo, director of faith formation

and leadership development for the Pembroke Diocese.

He points out that broad-based initiatives such as the recently developed sacramental initiation policy are sent out to all of the educational administration offices for review. The Bishop also takes an active role in board-level activities such as the Christian Community Day mass offered by the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board and the inaugural mass for the school board trustees.

Dedo points to the importance of the home-school-parish triangle and the strength that develops when the local players are allowed to build their own relationships and programs.

The good news is that, wherever you go, you will find a strong and healthy pulse indicating a vibrant Catholic educational community.

This issue of *Ecclesia* offers a view of the state of Catholic education from each side of the Ottawa River.

## The Ontario example – publicly funded Catholic education

Bob Schreder is a firm believer in the power of a Catholic education system.

"We're very blessed in Ontario that we have a publicly-funded system," he says. "We're very grateful for that and we want to ensure that it continues and is, in fact, enhanced."

As chair of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, Schreder has a first-hand view of Catholic education in action in Ontario.

He points to school masses, the chaplaincy program in secondary schools, the inclusive approach to special education and the power of collective social action as just a few of the ways the Catholic mission comes to life in the school setting.

"We don't want to be a duplicate system," he says, referring to the existence of four publicly-funded school systems in the province to administer Catholic and public schools for both French and English populations.

"We want to be a system with a difference," Schreder concludes.

In fact, the school board's strategic plan for 2009-2010 clearly sets out the form that difference should take. The overarching "Statement of Priority" lists three main goals:

- to promote and celebrate the gift that is Catholic education throughout Renfrew County

- to support the ongoing faith formation of students, staff and the broader Catholic school community, and
- to advocate and respond to the call of the poor; both locally and globally.

Each year, students from the board's two high schools travel to the Dominican Republic to spend a week living and working with the poor there. Schreder points out that such activities go beyond secular humanitarian outreach.

"When our students participate in these signature events, they are experiencing social justice in the truest sense of the phrase," he says. "Their actions are rooted in Christ's message to be and live the Good News for all."

Director of Education Michele Arbour notes that the Catholic perspective permeates every aspect of the educational system.

"It's immediately evident the minute you walk in the door of one of our schools," she says. "Our students are taught to put a Catholic lens on everything they do, and to be guided by Jesus in their thoughts, words and actions."

Arbour cites the Catholic curriculum developed by

## The many educational players in the Diocese of Pembroke

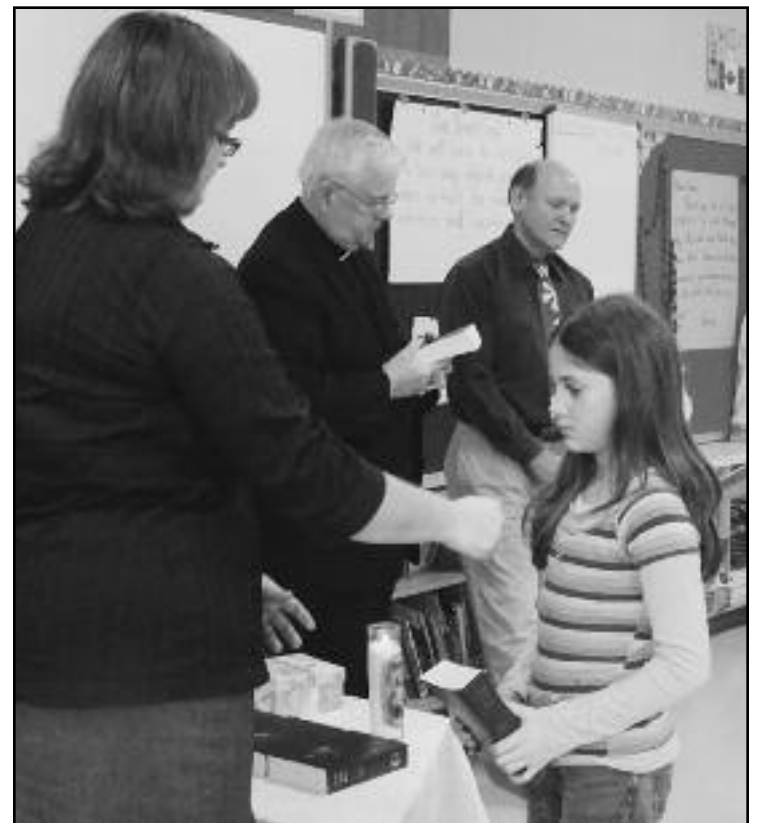
Educational administration throughout the Diocese of Pembroke is conducted by the following organizations.

### In Ontario:

- Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
- Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
- Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
- Commission scolaire du lac Témiscamingue
- Conseil scolaire catholique franco-nord
- Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du centre-est

### In Quebec:

- Commission scolaire des portages-de-l'Outaouais
- Commission scolaire des draveurs
- Western Québec School Board
- Commission scolaire des hauts-bois de l'Outaouais



*Grade 4 students at Cathedral Catholic School in Pembroke held a Bible prayer service where they were each presented with a Bible donated by Fr. Pat Tait, of St. Columbkille Cathedral. Teacher Rachelle Stewart and student Olivia Parcher are seen with Fr. Tait and Principal Alfie Sicoli. (Photo courtesy of the Pembroke Daily Observer)*

teachers working with organizations such as the Eastern Ontario Catholic Curriculum Co-op and the Institute for Catholic Education. Through these initiatives, regular classroom lessons are infused with Catholic themes and other specific courses are developed, such as “Our Language, Our Story” character education package, based on the Catholic virtues.

“We live and work in a dynamic, faith-based environment,” says Arbour. “We are truly blessed.”

### The Quebec example – church-led Catholic education

Surprisingly, Fr Réal Ouellette, who serves the Quebec parishes of Fort Coulonge, Otter Lake, Waltham and Vinton, is not mourning the loss of funding for Catholic education in that province.

Since the church assumed responsibility for catechesis training five years ago, he has witnessed a stronger bond between church and family.

“I think it was one of the most positive things that’s been done,” he says.

For Fr. Ouellette, outreach to children and youth has always been a priority. He admits that the new structure in Quebec adds to the responsibilities of both church workers and parents, but he says that in itself is a good thing.

“That’s the purpose of the church – to talk about Jesus, to spread the Gospel and to deepen the faith in Christ,” he says.

“It is work, but it is good work.”

Fr. Ouellette sees the benefits of the church-led education program first-hand – in the previously empty pews that are now filled with families, at least once a month when they have made the

commitment to be there for catechesis.

He is also enjoying the experiences of the richer dialogue taking place among those families.

He shudders when he recalls his conversations in recent years with parents asking to have their infants baptized.

“I’d ask some questions to learn about their own knowledge,” he says. “Even though they had been educated in the Catholic schools, they barely remember anything from it. They didn’t need to talk about God or Jesus with their kids.”

Now, families who elect to be part of a parish take on an active role associated with that choice. Each September, Quebec parishes hold registration for children from grades one through six. Once enrolled, they meet with instructors at the church once each month, when possible on a Sunday so that the education session ties in with the weekly celebration of mass. At the same time, their parents meet with instructors who help them support their children’s learning. The educational program runs from September through June each year.

Catechesis is still optional, in that it is up to the families to enroll and take part. But it is an option that is being taken up willingly by a large percentage of parishioners. In Fort Coulonge, for example, there are 150 children participating this year.

Each of those children represents another door opening for exploration of personal faith within the family and the church.

“It gets them to be involved in their faith,” concludes Fr. Ouellette. “They don’t see religion as just another course at school or something that the teachers are better able to handle.”

## Please make sure your Ontario property taxes support Catholic education

As a Catholic living in Ontario, you have the right to direct your property tax support to the Catholic education system.

Are you sure that your tax payments are designated for publicly-funded Catholic education?

When you move, your Catholic school support does not follow you. As soon as any change is made to your address, your school support designation reverts to public. Unless you update the information, you will not be able to take part in Catholic trustee elections this fall. Please check your property tax bill or talk to your landlord to confirm that your property taxes support the Catholic education system.

If you are not currently registered as a Catholic school supporter, you can obtain the necessary form to change your support by contacting the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board office at 613-735-1031 or 1-800-267-0191. Please ask for extension 312.

What are you supporting?

- Teaching of values students can take with them through life.
- The continuance and enhancement of Catholic education.
- Safe, caring and faith-filled school environments that encourage students to express their faith.

How does your property tax designation make a difference?

- As a registered Catholic school supporter, you have the opportunity to elect trustees who will represent and address your interests and concerns at the school board level and at various levels of government.
- The registration list of Catholic school supporters is a public record of the breadth of support for Catholic schools.
- It helps track demographic trends for educational planning purposes.
- It guarantees your right to enroll your children in Catholic schools.

## School program focuses on full, conscious and active participation in the mass

In a new, county-wide initiative this year, teachers throughout Renfrew County have put a special emphasis on the rites and practices of the Catholic mass.

Students from kindergarten up have been encouraged to pay close attention at the services they attend, and to practise their Catholic rites as part of their classroom activities.

“It’s important for us to share the richness of the mass,” says Director of Education Michele Arbour. “We want them to appreciate the rites and prayers they are offering.”

A resource guide was developed and delivered to all of the teachers in the county’s elementary schools last September. Each teacher was encouraged to adapt the material to suit their students. Some have introduced music to help bring the practices of the mass to life, others have enlisted the help of parish priests to talk about the different aspects of the liturgy.

The resource guide begins at the church door, with a reminder that we should enter with reverence and respect. The baptismal symbolism of blessing ourselves with holy water is explained, and students are reminded to genuflect at the pew in reverence to the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Discussions have also been encouraged about the practices of kneeling at different points in the mass, the significance of the prayers, and the historical and symbolic background of each aspect of the service.

“The mass is the most powerful and important prayer that we have,” says Religious Education and Family Life Resource Teacher Tony Cosentino, who developed the study guide.

He explains that the title of the resource guide is taken from Vatican II’s Constitution on the Liturgy, which called for “full, conscious and active participation” in the eucharist.

“Our goal is to enable and empower students to do that,” Cosentino says. “This is a part of their faith that’s going to nurture them for the rest of their lives.”

## A unique presence, working as a Catholic chaplaincy leader in a public high school

Everyone in the province with Andrew Baklinski's job description could fit into a "Smart" car – with room for a passenger. Working as a Catholic chaplaincy leader in a public school board high school, Andrew has a unique job.

His position was introduced in the mid '80s when a group of parents in the largely Polish-Catholic Barry's Bay region felt the need for a Catholic spiritual presence in their only available secondary school, Madawaska Valley District High School. MVDHS serves about 500 students in Barry's Bay, and the nearest Catholic high school is located in Pembroke, over one hour away. About half of the student population at MVDHS come from a Catholic background.

After extensive discussions with the Renfrew County District School Board, the position was created, located at MVDHS, but funded by the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board. The position was originally filled by Fr. Archie Afelskie, who was parish priest at St. Casimir Church in Round Lake Centre at the time.

Andrew grew up in the Barry's Bay area after his parents moved to the region from southern Ontario when he was five. After attending local schools he studied at the Legion of Christ School in Connecticut and the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. He also studied in Vienna, Austria. He worked for a time in theatre and film, but after meeting his wife-to-be he realized that lifestyle was not conducive to

family life. He studied to become a teacher and moved back to the Barry's Bay area in 2001 to start a family.

Andrew says, "I feel very strongly that a main part of the job is to be a prayerful Catholic presence in the school." He

continues, "I have a sense of really

being on the front lines of the church's mission." At the same time, it is important to be sensitive to the presence of people from a wide variety of faith backgrounds in the institution.

"I work closely with a number of the Protestant clergy," he says, "we have to focus on what we have in common, a faith in Jesus Christ."

He says that building personal relationships outside of the classroom is also important.

In addition to his role as chaplaincy leader, Andrew spends half his time teaching. He teaches grade 10 and 12 level courses in theology and a grade 12 course in philosophy.

"There is a hunger for truth," he says, "beyond materialism." Part of his role is to bring students to



*The Baklinski family. Left to Right: Veronika holding Basil, Anna, Helena, Cyprian, Eva, and Andrew holding Thaddeus.*

the realization that there is more to life and education than simply preparing yourself for a good job with lots of income. "We have to break out of the work-a-day world mindset," he says. This is part of his teaching in philosophy, as well as something pursued in his role as spiritual advisor. "The two most important questions in philosophy," he says, "are 'who am I?' and 'where am I going in life?'"

He finds broadening his students' perspectives to be rewarding. "They may not all immediately start going to church regularly," he says, but he feels that at least he has helped them to recognize the important role spirituality can play in our pervasively materialistic culture.

## Finding the power of faith in home visits

When it comes to sharing the power of prayer with his confirmation classes, Fr. Grant Neville knows exactly where to go. He takes the confirmands out on a road tour, stopping at the homes of the sick and shut-ins from his parish.

"Their strength comes through their prayer and their faith," he says. "Their faith has to be seen in action."

The visits are arranged for groups of four young people at a time. They normally travel to three homes, taking the priest's sick call kit with them. They offer a prayer to bless the home, read Scriptures, join together in the Our Father and other prayers, and serve communion.

The experience really comes to life, though, when they talk together about their prayer life. Fr. Neville encourages the hosts to share how often they pray, the prayers they say, and why some prayers are favourites.

Marta del Castillo and her husband Andre Dubuc recently welcomed Fr. Neville and his troupe of confirmands to their home. "It's so delightful to have children in the house again," says Dubuc.

He adds that his wife has been bedridden, and they had missed a number of church services because of her illness.

"We were starving," he says. "It was so nice to have the opportunity to talk about our prayer life."

Prayer is a constant throughout the couple's days, beginning with two hours of devotion before breakfast each morning and ending with a family rosary at 9:30 each evening followed by personal petitions.

"To me, it's like breathing," says Dubuc.

"It is the only, only thing that has kept me alive," adds his wife. "Prayer is number one."

She also talks about the assurance she finds in her faith. "I know that there is a beautiful future for me," del Castillo proclaims.

She adds that she hopes the near future includes more visits from young people. "They can come any time," she says. "Our doors and windows are open."

Minette Martin agrees. As a cancer patient who has just started treatments, she welcomed the privilege of sharing her story of faith with the youngsters.

She talked to them about praying to her guardian angel, the importance of the Divine Mercy devotions and other Catholic rites that they practise in their home.

"Prayer is strength for me," she says. "I have so many people praying for me and it's such a blessing."

Martin understands that teenagers sometimes need

extra encouragement to keep their prayer life active. She encouraged her young visitors to get into the habit of saying a decade of the rosary every day.

Thirteen-year-old Ty Sullivan is one of the students who made the rounds with Fr. Neville this spring.

"It was really good for us," he says. "We were seeing what the church really means to people."

His classmate, Caitlin McMillan, agrees.

"I learned how much Jesus means to people and how much he can mean to me," she says.

Both Ty and Caitlin said they would not hesitate to make the visits again.

In fact, Fr. Neville says the program has extended to a visitation program offered by the high school.

He has seen rich rewards, both in Combermere where he started the visiting program nine years ago and since he moved to Killaloe and implemented it there.

"It's time-consuming, but I find it's so rewarding," he says. "I know the kids love to do things."

"They've got something to offer – their gifts of youth and joy," he adds. "People really perk up when we get there."



## Parish Profile

# Strong roots and a living faith are present at St. Mary, Quyon

St. Mary Catholic Church is one of three landmarks associated with the village of Quyon, Quebec.

Along with the Quyon ferry and Gavan's Hotel, it captures the attention of visitors to the region and embodies the deep roots of settlement along the Ottawa River.

The beautiful riverside grounds combined with the heritage presence of the church and rectory give St. Mary strong "curb appeal". Conversation with the priest and parishioners quickly confirms that the positive initial impression reflects the very heart of this Catholic community.

"We're a happy little bunch and we're optimistic," proclaims Fr. Michael Costello, who has served the parish for the past 10 years.

"There is good faith expression here," he adds of

the community of about 225 families.

The church has remained stable as the village around it has undergone the inevitable changes faced by a rural, remote settlement.

Eleanor Foran is the organist at St. Mary. Her family roots are from the area and she has lived in Quyon since 1962.

"It was more of a self-contained community than it is now," she says of the village in the 1960s.

There was a bakery, a ladies' wear shop, groceries, and a strong business presence that has since given way to larger shopping centres elsewhere.

"That has taken the heart a little bit out," Foran says, explaining that many Quyon residents now make a daily commute to jobs in Gatineau or Ottawa.

Fr. Costello agrees that the pressures of time, competing interests and links outside the community can weaken the natural link to the church that was more powerful a generation ago.

"Our story is the same as everywhere else," he says. "We just continue to serve as best one can and be a witness to what we believe."

The "happy little bunch" at St. Mary has made change a positive experience wherever possible. Years ago, there were two English masses and one French service offered in the church each week. Now, there is a single bilingual mass each Sunday. The readings and the prayers of the faithful alternate between English and French on a week-by-week basis, and the homily is always delivered in both languages.

"We've come a long way as a fully integrated, bilingual community," says Foran.

As an English-speaking organist, she found herself learning French hymns when the bilingual mass was introduced by Fr. Tanguay in the late 1990s.

"That's been a gift for me," she says.

She serves with another group that has a strong presence in the church – the CWL. Foran shares chairperson duties with Donna Provost and Joan Desabrais. They will be organizing special celebrations this year to mark the

council's 55th anniversary, including a mass on May 16 that was dedicated to living and deceased CWL members.

There is a powerful core community at St. Mary. A dedicated daily mass group fills about 25 chairs in the sacristy/chapel. Their traditions include offering a holy hour on the first Friday of each month for different intentions.

"They are praying for the rest of us who may not be able to be there as often," Foran says.

"We have a living church," she proclaims. "There are lots of roots, far and wide that have nurtured a terrific faith and a terrific dedication."



## St. Ann's, Cormac The 72nd Annual Pilgrimage

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,  
July 22-24

7 p.m. – The Triduum

*Celebrated by*

+ *Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki*

**Sunday, July 25**

11 a.m. – Outdoor Mass at the Shrine

*Celebrated by*

+ *Bishop Michael Mulhall*

2 p.m. – Outdoor Mass for the sick

*Please bring your own lawn chair*



# Two communities find a new future together in Pembroke

Within the walls of the Sisters of St. Joseph convent in Pembroke, members of two religious communities are experiencing the beautiful mysteries that can unfold when their prayers are simultaneously answered.

For the past years as their numbers decreased, the Sisters of St. Joseph have anxiously tried to prepare for the future. As they prayerfully contemplated the road ahead, they attempted to sell their large convent and waterfront property in Pembroke's west end.

They explored collaborative arrangements and investigated potential possibilities. None of the options came to fruition.

Then, one day a year ago they received a telephone call. It was the Sisters of the Visitation, who were preparing to leave their century-old convent in Ottawa and were looking for a future home.

"It was an answer to prayer for both groups", says Sister Constance Lacroix, a councillor with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

As she speaks preparations are being made for the Sisters of the Visitation to move into the convent on Pembroke Street West.

The relationship between the Visitation Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph actually goes back to Annecy in France, where the Sisters of the Visitation were founded 400 years ago. They later relocated and members of the Sisters of St. Joseph now live in the Annecy monastery and care for the Visitation Sisters' archives.

Although both communities are built around a common core faith, there are some interesting contrasts in how they live that faith. The Sisters of St. Joseph are an apostolic order with a mission to go out into the world with the Gospel message, while the Sisters of the Visitation are a cloistered, monastic order dedicated to contemplative prayer and adoration.

Nevertheless, "we complement", says Sr. Constance, "It's a perfect fit."

The Visitation Sisters will establish their monastery in the east end of the Motherhouse, while the sisters of St. Joseph will reside in the centre and east wings. They will share the chapel, where they will celebrate mass and prayer. The Visitation Sisters will take their meals in silence in a separate dining room, but they will use the servery with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sr. Constance is now leading weekly French lessons with her sisters to help bridge the language gap between the English Sisters of St. Joseph and the French-speaking Sisters of the Visitation.

"We want them to feel at home," she says.

The first arrivals from the monastery in Ottawa have already been embraced in the welcoming spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"We feel that we are being spoiled," says Sr. Jacqueline Castonguay.

"I feel great joy," adds Sr. Marie Joseph Ledoux.

Sr. Jeanne Therese affirms: "It is God who brings me here. He's the one that leads us."

"There has been a great spirit of joy between the two communities", says Sr. Constance.

"It's brought a whole new dimension to our life and to their life. "St. Joseph as our patron has really guided us and cared for us."

The formal closure of the Sisters of the Visitation monastery in Ottawa will take place on August 15 at Notre Dame Basilica with a final liturgy and celebration of the order's 100th anniversary in Canada.



*Sr. Jacqueline, back row left, Sr. Marie Rene, back row right, and Sr. Jeanne Therese, left and Sr. Marie Joseph, are the first of the Sisters of the Visitation to move into the Sisters of St. Joseph convent. Sr. Marie Meilleur and Sr. Constance Lacroix, back row centre, are with the Sisters of St. Joseph.*

## Calendar of Events

### June 11, 2010

Young Adult Ministry, for youth ages 18-35. At St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### August 7 – 8, 2010

The 136th annual pilgrimage to Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre and Cap-de-la-Madeleine. The weekend celebrant will be Roger Ebacher, Archbishop of Gatineau.

### September 1 – 13, 2010

Oberammergau's Passion Play and Exploring the Alpine Countries. A 13-day tour featuring the Oberammergau Passion Play, a Mozart Dinner Concert and visits to Vienna, Salzburg, Berne, Lucerne and Munich along with a cruise on the Danube. Contact Jamieson Travel & Tours at (888) 582-7011.

### October 16 – 18, 2010

A pilgrim's journey to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, presented by Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish, Combermere. Please book early. Contact Jerome Anderchek at (613) 756-3589.

### August 9 – 23, 2011

World Youth Day – Madrid, Spain, "Rooted and Built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the faith". A 15-day pilgrimage which will be the experience of a lifetime. Open to youth between the ages of 18 and 35, a limited number of spaces are available. Contact Yvette Bourque at (613) 732-7933 x 208 or [yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com](mailto:yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com).

# Working towards a different type of retirement – OPP Detachment Commander Tim Foster studies to become Deacon Tim

Like anyone else heading into the final few years of their professional career, Tim Foster is dreaming of the new opportunities retirement will bring.

But instead of the usual visions of unlimited rounds



of golf or months on a southern beach, Foster is anticipating more time for prayer, liturgy, building and sharing his faith.

Last September, the OPP detachment commander began studies to be a Catholic deacon.

The commitment of at least 10 hours of university-level study each week is no small undertaking for a 52-year-old man who regularly works as many as 60 hours per week.

But taking on big challenges is nothing new for Foster, who lives in Astorville and worships at St. Thomas Aquinas Church there.

Through part-time studies from 2000 to 2006 he was able to complete two years of university. He has also combined an active police career with leisure occupations such as refereeing for the Ontario Hockey League and service with the Columbian Squires, Boy Scouts and Sea Cadets.

His first encounter with the concept of Catholic deacons was several years ago, when an OPP colleague was spotted with an armful of big books. He explained that he was studying to be a deacon, and Foster knew he wanted to learn more.

The impetus finally took root about three years ago when Fr. Jean Marc Raymond casually mentioned over Christmas dinner that the deaconate could be a good fit for Foster.

“He planted the seed,” Foster says.

There were two years to follow of prayer, discussion with the bishop, and deliberation before he

enrolled in the University of Notre Dame’s deaconate program.

Through the on-line courses, Foster and classmates throughout the United States and as far away as the Philippines and Iraq are guided through readings, as well as listening to lectures and participating in two chats each week. There are five units in each course, and the discussions generate as many as 170 posts on the discussion board for each unit.

“It brings me closer to other Christians,” Foster says of his participation in the studies. “I’m learning more now than I ever did, and the more I learn, the more it increases my faith.”

He plans to complete the required courses by April 2012. Following that, he will go through a mentoring period.

What form his service as a deacon will take is a matter that will be decided by the Bishop. Foster just knows that there is a definite need in the church, with most priests now serving two, three or more parishes.

“It’s just a feeling that I have something to give,” he says. “I feel strongly that I have something to offer back.”

He does have a particular interest in helping young people through those years when they often naturally lose interest in the church.

“I’d like to help keep them interested,” he says, mentioning confirmation classes, workshops and youth-based activities as options he would like to explore.

## Students walk for life

Every year approximately 1.6 million children are aborted in Canada and the United States. Worldwide the figure is over 40 million. The numbers are stunning. This summer two students from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry’s Bay, Ontario,

### Medjugorje: A Mother’s Call

A pilgrimage to the Croatian village of Medjugorje will be held October 12-21, 2010. If you have not yet experienced the serenity of Medjugorje, now is your chance. Hosts will be Helen and Larry Schruder. Transportation from Pembroke and area locations is an added bonus, with flights leaving from Toronto. This will be a music-filled, escorted tour by Emile and Sylvia Giroux. For more information contact Emerald Tours, (613) 735-0107.

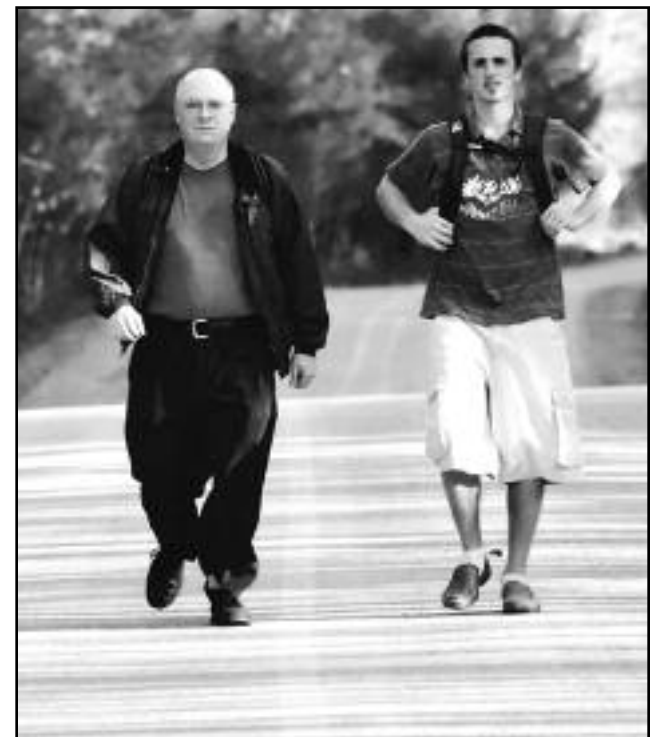
The cost is \$1,725, which includes motor coach transportation from Pembroke to Toronto, airline costs, accommodation (double occupancy), meals (breakfast and dinner), and transfers. The price does not include airline taxes.

Michael Hayden and Jonathan Baker, have decided to do something about it. They’ll be going for a walk.

Pope John Paul II, as part of what he called the new evangelization, made an impassioned plea for Catholics, especially the young, to promote the dignity and the sanctity of all life. In response to the Holy Father’s call Michael and Jonathan will be walking across Canada, from Vancouver to Ottawa, as part of a Pro-life group called Crossroads. Founded in 1995 by a student at Franciscan University in Ohio, Crossroads is composed of small groups of college students who walk across Canada and the United States to raise awareness for the pro-life cause and work towards ending the tragedy of abortion.

During their 5,500-kilometre walk, which will take them almost three months to complete, Michael and Jonathan will pray morning and evening prayer plus 20 decades of the rosary every day, attend daily Mass when possible, speak to Churches and youth groups across the country, and pray in front of abortion clinics in every major city they visit.

It will be the walk of a lifetime but it won’t be without sacrifices. In order to do the walk they will have to forgo their summer jobs and will be unable to



meet the costs of their education next year. If you would like to help Jonathan and Michael in their mission, donations may be sent to Michael Hayden (attention: Walk for Life) at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy, 18 Karol Wojtyla Square, Box 249, Barry’s Bay, ON K0J 1B0.

# The February mission to Chincha Alta

Sr. Pauline Coulterman, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Pembroke, was accompanied by eight companions from the Pembroke Diocese on her annual visit to Chincha Alta, Peru in February. The generous donations made by the people of the diocese to support this mission contributed to the purchase of construction materials, school supplies, food, furniture and furnishings for needy families. A special thanks goes out to Sr. Maria Choquez and Sr. Gloria Muchaypina, who are at present working in Chincha Alta, and who made the visits to the various families possible.

The participants visited many needy families in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in groups of two or three, most times with a translator. We travelled in small taxis (called Ticos) or in the parish half-ton truck. Every other day we ventured out into the community, waving to passersby, especially the children, who are enjoying their summer holidays. We got to see firsthand the effects of the 2007 earthquake. Most homes made out of mud brick were completely demolished. Much of the rubble has been cleared away, leaving empty lots where people once had their homes and they have not been able to rebuild. A large number of the main streets are not passable because water and sewer pipes are being repaired. Piles of dirt are seen everywhere as the streets are being dug up to fix the pipes and there are some signs of foundations being laid down for future dwellings.

Most of the needy families we visited live in the rural area of the parish and therefore the streets have not been paved or repaired in any way since the earthquake. Children play in the dirt streets and dogs roam where they wish. Women throw their wash water on the road to keep the dust down. We were welcomed into the people's homes as if we were long lost friends or relatives and they might have run next door to borrow a few chairs for us to sit on. We visited with them and took note of the living conditions. Most times we found the houses to be inadequate in size and space for the number of people living there. There appeared to be no opportunity for privacy of any nature. Beds and mattresses were scarce and in poor condition. Often the house was sparsely furnished with no sign of any food. Each time we were overcome with compassion for the family living in these conditions. It was impossible to meet all of their needs but we tried to address their most urgent and immediate ones.

Every other day we would take a translator and enough money for our purchases and head out to find the best place to purchase a number of supplies. Generally we ended up in the market. We would load

up with food, bunk beds, mattresses, pillows, sheets, small propane stoves, pots and pans, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and any other needed items. When we returned we would make up the necessary packages for each family and then revisit them. It was heartbreaking to see the conditions people are forced to live in, but we were rewarded somewhat when we returned with a few necessities of life. Lots of hugs, kisses and God blesses went with each delivery.

Fourteen teachers from the "SET" schools (early stimulation training for children from ages 0 - 3 years) received \$120 each to spend on supplies needed to upgrade their SET. The teachers in these schools are paid 332 soles /monthly (\$133 monthly) from which they are expected to purchase school and cleaning supplies. Their compensation is actually considered a "propina," a tip they receive from the government to look after the children. A salary would require a higher payment. They were thrilled to get new items for the children to enjoy. These SET schools help make it possible for mothers to go out and work for a few hours each day. There are still 10 teachers who are available for further help.

For the construction projects, Bob Coyne and Sr. Maria went out to the sites to view and measure the area. They then purchased all the necessary materials and delivered them in the parish half-ton truck (Sr. Maria drove). The next day they would take the labourers out and oversee the work. Some of us would go along to take notes and many pictures (before and after shots). We all got to know the families and managed to interact with them despite the language barrier.

The cost of enclosing and roofing a 20-square-foot area is approximately \$300, plus labour costs of approximately \$240 (\$5/hour/labourer). Material was also purchased to construct bathrooms and the cost of these varied.

Other items that were purchased are: Bunk beds \$100; Single bed \$50; Double bed \$55; single mattress \$20; double mattress \$22; bedding single \$15; bedding double \$20; pillows \$2; chair \$10; comfortable chair \$25; food basket \$25; bags of food and hygiene products \$10; set of 2 pots \$16; gas stove and gas tank \$45.



*Leanne Brayshaw of Mattawa is seen with some of the Peruvian recipients of aid from the Sisters of St. Joseph and their supporters in the Pembroke Diocese.*

The funds raised from the sale of ribbon necklaces in Canada helped to construct a brick house for a family who lost their home in the earthquake and have been living with the grandparents for two years (together with two other families). Over \$3,000 was spent on this house and the family will be contributing to the purchase of the doors, windows, etc. When we visit again in November, we will be anxious to see the progression of the house. Thanks goes out to everyone who purchased the necklaces, your support is greatly appreciated by this family and by Yvonne.

We were showered with many thanks and blessings and we wish to pass this on to you and to let you know that the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Pembroke has made a huge difference in the lives of these people.

The donations to the Sisters of St. Joseph through the Christmas Fundraiser helped over 60 families in one way or another. Over \$21,000 was raised for this February project and approximately \$25,000 was spent in Chincha for goods purchased and labour provided. It was amazing to see how far this money went and every penny was greatly appreciated by the Peruvian recipients. The success of our mission has overwhelmed us and we are very grateful for the support of our friends and community. It is our hope to work towards a February 2011 Mission to Chincha and we look forward to another outpouring of support. If you would like to contribute to this you may send a cheque to the "Sisters of St. Joseph" and mark it "February 2011 Peru Mission" and mail to Sr. Pauline Coulterman, 200 Willoughby Cresc. Apt. 103, Pembroke, ON, K8A 8A6. Thank you again for contributing to the success of our mission.

The participants of the mission to Peru were Sr. Pauline Coulterman, Pembroke, Catherine Mahusky, Renfrew, Bob Coyne, Arnprior, Nancy Burton-Coyne, Arnprior, Yvonne Sklepowicz, Renfrew, Terri-Lynn Mahusky, Renfrew, June Brayshaw, Mattawa, Leanne Brayshaw, Mattawa, and Nancy Bailey, Renfrew.

## A P O L O G E T I C S 1 0 1

# Loving the Church

*In this series, the author lays out a common sense approach to understanding and defending the Catholic faith.*

**By Andrew Baklinski**

*(Prolegomena: I had planned to write on the problem of evil for this issue of Apologetics 101, but recent events in the Church and the world have inspired me to write on this topic from a slightly different perspective than was intended. The problem of evil will be addressed as planned in the next issue.)*

There has been much said and written in the last months about the abuse that has gone on in the Catholic Church. That grievous wrong has been done by those who claim to follow Christ, is undeniable. That much of the media frenzy which has followed has been vitriolic, antagonistic and incredibly biased, is also evident even to a casual observer. Many varied solutions aimed at rooting out the problems have been proposed by some speaking in wisdom and by many, many more in ignorance.

What follows is not a practical solution. It is not an attempt in any way to trivialize the pain the victims have undergone at the hands of perpetrators, or to deny the responsibility that the Church faces in addressing the problems that brought all this on, but rather, a stepping back and looking at the situation from a different vantage point – one that perhaps may allow some perspective and even some hope.

The title of this article suggests that the Church is to be loved. What is the Church and what do we mean

me when I entered and it took my breath away even as my spirit soared. Strong shafts of morning sunlight from high above in Michelangelo's dome, cut through the Roman haze and lit up the intricate marble floor – a kaleidoscope of light, colour and mystery. I spent the better part of a day wandering about, soaking everything I could from this place.

Thinking back about that day and the many other times I have been blessed to be in the eternal city, I ponder on the mystery of Church. Yes, the Church is a centuries-old edifice in Rome that moved a young theology student many years ago. But it is more than that. The Church is also the simple rustic wooden building, set out on a hilltop, where families have gathered for generations to worship, singing hymns of praise to their Father in heaven. But this is not all. Buildings rise and fall. The buildings are meant for people – thus the Church is the people of God who are called together to form one, holy universal family built on the faith of the apostles. But going deeper still, the Church is the bride and the body of Christ.

## A Bride that is Loved

John, in his final vision in the book of Revelation, sees the Church in her deepest essence. “And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem coming down... prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Rev 21:1-2) As a man takes a bride and the two become one flesh, so Christ takes his bride, the Church, and she becomes his body. As a husband loves his wife, so Christ loves the Church writes St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. This marital imagery is used throughout scripture as a way to speak of the mystery

## Loving like Christ

If God loves the Church, then we are called to imitate Him in this as in all things. This is the essence of the Christian. To say that Christ's love for the Church is unconditional means that he loves her to the end. The greatest love He showed for her was to suffer in the garden, to encounter thorns and nakedness and to embrace the wood of the tree of life – the cross – to suffer and die for her. Thus, this new Adam did for his bride what the old Adam did not do for his bride (Eve) and in so doing he restored friendship between God and man. The union of Christ and his Church, accomplished in a sublime way on the cross, becomes a sort of watershed moment not only in the history of the Church, but also for each individual Christian, for it points the way to what we must do and for what we hope for.

To love the Church like Christ loves the Church means that we must suffer along with Christ for love of the Church. This suffering is not pointless, but like Christ's, is ultimately redemptive. To suffer with and for the Church is to be like Christ, who was misunderstood and mocked, to be a man of derision who was beaten, stripped and killed. It means to be humble, seemingly weak and powerless, to be crushed. But ironically, in this seeming defeat, is the greatest victory and therein lies our hope. For, just as Christ rose victorious, confounding his enemies on Easter morning, so we know that in the fullness of time, the Church will do the same. Her lover has promised this.

## Hope

With this hope, the Christian can look at events like those that have happened in the last years and are now coming to light, with the eyes of eternity, rising above the cacophonous symphony produced by a confused modernity and setting his/her eyes on the victory that will come. The Church on Earth is imperfect for she is made up of less than perfect members who do sin! But our faith should not be shaken, for our faith is not to be placed in the all too fallible members who make up the body of Christ on Earth, but in Christ himself. Praying for the victims and the perpetrators, rendering justice where possible, making amends, but above all, suffering along with the Church, the believer, with the Church and Christ joins in the redemptive work of saving the world. This is our calling and our challenge as followers of the bridegroom. May we have the courage and the wisdom to truly love the Church as Christ does and may our hope be strengthened by God, the lover of mankind, the lover of his Church.

*Next issue: “The Problem of Evil”*

*Andrew Baklinski teaches high-school theology and is also a chaplaincy leader at Madawaska Valley District High School in Barry's Bay.*

*“If God loves the Church, then we are called to imitate Him in this as in all things”*

by loving her? These are deep theological questions, but the answers to them are like many other such theological questions that are both simple (can be understood by the child) and also profound (can be pondered by the mystic).

## When in Rome

I remember vividly my first time seeing St. Peter's in Rome. I had gotten up long before sunrise with a dear friend and together, we had travelled along the dark and misty streets of Rome across the Tiber River and into St. Peter's Square. We were almost alone and the pervading quiet allowed us to take in the immensity of what we saw, now lit by a rising sun. As I walked across the famous dark cobblestones and up the stairs, the basilica towered above, beckoning me into her cool, still depths. I was not really prepared for the beautiful vastness that stretched away in front of

of the free, total, faithful, fruitful love that God has for his family, a love that is unconditional.

Even when God's people are unfaithful, he continues to love and to remain faithful. The Church, insofar as she is composed of human individuals, is imperfect. A study of the Church, beginning in her roots in the Old Testament and continuing to this day, reveals that God's people and their leaders have often been less than up to the task. From the sinfulness of Israelites in the desert and Moses (who never got to enter the Promised Land because he disobeyed God) to Peter (head of the apostles who denied Christ three times) and up to the present time, the history of the Church is a story of sinners trying to become saints. And it is the story of a God who loves us too much to let us remain where we are. God loves his church, his family, and he continually calls his people, despite their failings and imperfections to holiness!

# Feeding the multitudes

This issue of *Ecclesia* includes the popular listing of annual parish suppers. To better appreciate this powerful Ottawa Valley tradition, we decided to take you behind the scenes for a snapshot of the logistics and dedication that go into preparing those mouth-watering dinners.

## St. Patrick Parish, Mount St. Patrick

Work will begin this month to make sure the dinners are ready to serve on September 26.

Convenor Cathy Hunt has probably already started making lists of the supplies her team will need and the people who will take on various roles.

The shopping list will include 1,300 pounds of turkey (about 50 large birds) and 400 pounds of ham.

Corporate support includes the use of the baking ovens at Eganville Foodland, where night crews help check the roasting progress over the two-night process. Tracey's Dairy is another key supporter, providing a freezer truck to safely store the meat throughout the day of the event and deliver left-overs to the Shepherds of Good Hope shelter in Ottawa after the final meal has been served.

Parishioners also offer a variety of skills, from cooking, baking and serving to less obvious behind-the-scenes contributions, such as the special pick-up truck racks designed and built by Simon Kelly to safely transport the roast pans from one site to another.

For stage one, the turkeys are transported from Eganville Foodland to the DACA Recreation Centre for the annual "stuff and fluff" morning.

The dressing is all prepared following the secret

Mount St. Patrick recipe in a collective bee at the centre.

"It's getting up to your elbows in turkey cleaning and bread," Hunt says.

She chuckles as she recalls her first "stuff and fluff" experience. As a young parishioner, she anxiously arrived for the event with her loaves of bread tucked under her arm. An old-timer shook her head and advised Hunt to go home, get to work, and return when the bread was broken into the appropriate-sized pieces. On her way home, Hunt met another young woman who worriedly asked if there was a microwave at the centre to thaw her frozen loaves. Hunt gently took her by the arm and they went to her house to make themselves ready to join the experienced team.

Through the years, Hunt has come to appreciate the full value of the dinner. She is certain that it makes the parish richer in ways that go beyond the \$20,000 to \$25,000 raised each year.

The dinner is an annual event for many St. Patrick alumni who have moved as far away as Southwestern Ontario or Montreal. They travel back to the Ottawa Valley for the weekend, and they often donate to their home church throughout the year.

"The best part about the parish supper is that it brings the whole community together that day," says Teresa Connaghan, who coordinated the event for 30 years. She took her annual vacation the week before the dinner, and found it a difficult job to give up when the time came.

The work and donations that go into the day have positive effects on everyone involved.

"It's a pile of work and a lot to ask," Hunt concludes. "But it makes us a stronger parish. Even if we didn't make money, we would try to do it for that reason alone."

Funds that are raised at the dinner are dedicated to special church projects such as new doors or other building maintenance needs. The current project will be a new roof.

Pastoral Assistant Sr. Zita O'Grady says there have been a few leaks and the big job is a definite need.

"It's not extreme yet, but we believe in an ounce of prevention," she says.



## St. Mary Parish, Wilno

Katie Yeretch was in her 80s when she gave up the job of coordinating the annual chicken dinner in Wilno.

Now 90, she vividly recalls her first days in the volunteer job when she was a young mother who would walk up the hill to the church from the village, her two small children in tow.

For 48 years, Yeretch led the volunteer team behind the dinner. She still refuses to take credit for what has become such a successful Wilno tradition.

"You have to have good workers with you," she says. "It's a team effort."

Sylvester Prince took over coordination duties seven years ago. With more than 40 years' professional experience working for Loeb's in Ottawa, he feels it's a good opportunity to put his inventory and ordering experience to work.

The team working with him includes Bernadette Prince, Peter Yantha and Lillian Shulist, the trio that cooks the 2,100 pounds of chicken (about 350 birds) that will be served. A crew of 10 or 15 people will be with them in the church kitchen the day before the dinner, deboning the roasted birds.

Others will be outside, overseeing the big kettles of boiling potatoes that hang over the open fire. At least 12 75-pound bags of potatoes will be consumed before the day is over, along with 350 pounds of carrots, 48 100-ounce cans of peas, and the 75 heads of cabbage to make up the salads.

A crew of 15 women will also be busy throughout the weekend baking the famous Wilno pies, with the creams and meringues made fresh the day of the event.

Prince takes great pride in the fact that all of the meals are served on real porcelain dinnerware with stainless knives and forks, and the tea and coffee are poured into cups and saucers.

It's a lot more work than disposables, but it adds to the event that attracts a long line-up of diners from as far away as London, Windsor and Quebec.

Their purchases during the day contribute about \$25,000 to the St. Mary coffers, and the money goes to general church operations.

"It really helps the parish," says Fr. Miroslaw Olszewski.



*Left, volunteers at Wilno hoist one of the kettles used to boil nearly half a ton of potatoes. Above, workers in the kitchen at the Mt. St. Patrick supper.*

*(Photos courtesy of the Eganville Leader)*

# Upcoming Parish Suppers

**Sunday, June 13**  
**St Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON**  
*Roast Beef Supper and Bazaar*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 5-12: \$5.00;  
 Under 5: free  
 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 19/Sunday, June 20**  
**St. Peter's, Fort Coulonge, QC**  
*Supper – Sea Pie & Baked Beans*  
*Games, Bingo, Draw, and much more*  
 St. Peter's Parish Hall  
 Adult: \$12.00; 12 & under: \$3.00  
 Meal starts at 4 p.m.

**le 19 juin, samedi / le 20 juin, dimanche**  
**Paroisse St-Pierre, Fort-Coulonge, QC**  
*Souper – Sea Pie et fèves au lard*  
*Jeux / Bingo / tirage et beaucoup plus*  
 Salle paroissial  
 Repas : \$12.00 / adulte; \$3.00 / pour les moins de 12 ans, Repas servi à partir de 16h00

**Sunday, July 25**  
**Bonfield, ON**  
*Bonfield Church Picnic*  
*Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies*  
 Adults: \$11.00  
 Games: 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Meal: 1:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**le 25 juillet, dimanche**  
**Bonfield, ON**  
*Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield*  
*SeaPie; Fèves au lard; repas complet; tartes assorties faites à la maison,*  
 Adultes : 11,00 \$  
 Jeux – 13h30 p.m. – 18h00  
 Repas – 13h00 – 18h00

**Sunday, August 1**  
**St. Martin of Tours, Whitney, ON**  
*Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean Supper - Home-style Cooking*  
*Take-out meals available. Games for all the family, afternoon and evening.*  
*Bingo beginning at 1:00 p.m. Flea market opens at 11:00 a.m.*  
*Canteen and Religious Articles*  
 St. Martin's Parish Hall  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 5-12: \$5.00;  
 Five and under: free  
 Sunday Morning Mass at 8 a.m.

**Sunday, August 8**  
**St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON**  
*Hot and Cold Buffet – Turkey, Ham, Beans, Salads and Homemade Pies*  
 \$12.00/person; 4-12: \$5.00

**Sunday, August 15**  
**Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON**  
*Turkey Supper*  
*Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets, Kid's Table. Air Conditioned – Take-out available – Wheelchair accessible*  
 Westmeath Community Centre  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children (5-12): \$6.00,  
 Four & under: free  
 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sunday, August 29**  
**Precious Blood, Calabogie, ON**  
*Gigantic garage sale and barbecue*  
*Bakery & Games*  
*Live musical entertainment 1 – 4 p.m.*  
 – free admission, ample parking  
 Parish Grounds,  
 504 Mill St., Calabogie  
 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Sunday, August 29**  
**Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON**  
*Turkey, Ham & Homemade Beans and all the Fixings, Homemade Pies*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children:\$6.00  
 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m..

**Sunday, September 5**  
**St. Mary's, Wilno, ON**  
*Chicken Supper*  
*Home-Cooked Meal*  
*Plates served from 2 p.m.*  
 Adults: \$12.00;  
 Children under 12: \$5.00  
 17325 Highway 60, Wilno  
 Visitors' Mass at 12:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 5**  
**St. Ignatius, Maynooth, ON**  
*Parish Supper and Bazaar*  
*All Homemade Dinner*  
*Bingo, games, yard sale etc.*  
 Adults: \$12.00  
 Children 10 and under: \$5.00  
 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Mass at 11 a.m.

**Sunday, September 12**  
**Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON**  
*Parish Supper*  
*All You Can Eat Roast Beef and Ham*  
*Home Baking*  
*Cash Raffles*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children \$5.00  
 Special Family Pricing  
 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sunday, September 12**  
**St. John the Evangelist, Campbell's Bay, QC**  
*Annual Roast Beef Supper*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children \$6.00  
 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Sunday, September 19**  
**St. Mary's, Quyon, QC**  
*Roast Beef Supper*  
 Adults: \$12.00;  
 Children 10 & under: \$6.00  
 Lion's Club Hall, Quyon  
 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 19**  
**St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON**  
*Turkey and Ham Supper*  
 Adults: \$12.00

**Le 19 septembre**  
**Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON**  
*Repas à la dinde et au jambon*  
 Adultes : 12,00 \$

**Sunday, September 26**  
**St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Pembroke, ON**  
*Annual Roast Beef, Ham & Bean Dinner & Bazaar*  
*Bazaar Table – Candy Booth – Raffle Tickets*  
 Adults: \$12.00;  
 Children under 12: \$5.00  
 In the Parish Hall  
 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 26**  
**St. Patrick's, Mount St. Patrick, ON**  
*Turkey Supper with Ham and Beans*  
*Bingo, games, crafts and white elephant*  
*Musical entertainment*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children \$5.00  
 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass at 12:15 p.m.

**Sunday, October 3**  
**St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC**  
*Turkey Supper with all the Trimmings*  
 Adults: \$12.00  
 Children 10 and under: \$5.00.  
 Chapeau Arena  
 2 p.m. to 6 p.m

**Sunday, October 10**  
**St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON**  
*Roast Beef & Bean Supper*  
 Adults: \$12.00;  
 Children 5-12: \$5.00;  
 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sunday, October 17**  
**St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON**  
*Hot Roast Beef Dinner*  
 St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children under 12: \$5.00; Children under 6: free  
 Dinners served from 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, November 7**  
**St. Matthew the Apostle, Madawaska, ON**  
*Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean Supper*  
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 4-10: \$5.00;  
 Three & under: free  
 At the Community Hall, Madawaska  
 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

