



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

The effects of volunteerism in our parish communities

It's Easter Monday morning, and members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul are busy preparing to serve lunch for the least fortunate at their temporary accommodations at Holy Name Annex. The society is one of several organizations within the diocese that could not function without volunteers.

In the case of members with the group, helping others is pivotal to living out their Christian beliefs.

"I guess we've all received some kind of a calling," says Irene Perrault, President of the Pembroke branch of the society. "These people really do need assistance. They need one really good meal a day."

For Perrault, being an active volunteer within the church was engrained into her from her youth.

"I remember going to sell tickets for the church supper," recalls Perrault. "We also helped by cleaning the church."

Now a retiree and widow, Perrault became reinvigorated as a volunteer for simply wanting to contribute to the betterment of the community. It has also proven to be a great way to remain socially active with other volunteers.

"It's something to do with your life rather than just sitting at home twiddling your thumbs and doing nothing. At least being here you are contributing to society and giving back for what society has given to you. I find it very fulfilling. It gives you a good feeling when you come home and know that you helped someone today."

More than ever, volunteers play a crucial role in delivering basic services within church parishes of the diocese.

At the Most Precious Blood Parish of Calabogie, volunteers assume a variety of roles, such as greeters, Eucharistic ministers, readers and altar servers. But when a shortage of those willing to help arises, the ability to maintain the various parish events that are so crucial to the identity of any church community is compromised.

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship and philanthropy in our society. It is offering time, energy and skills of one's own free will. It is an extension of being a good neighbour, transforming a collection of houses into a community, as people become involved in the improvement of their surroundings and choose to help others.

— Volunteer Canada



Tony Duff and Mary Sandrelli of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Pembroke Council, help prepare food that will be served at the soup kitchen at Holy Name Annex.

The annual parish supper, for instance, is a traditional fundraising event that is suffering from a lack of helping hands to organize, prepare and serve in churches far and wide.

"It is becoming a challenge," admits Mary-Joan Hale, Chairperson of the Precious Blood Parish Pastoral Council. She noted that a direct approach is most often the best way to attract members to volunteer.

"I found that when you ask people on a one-on-one situation if they can help out, then they're more than happy to do so."

In addition, the availability of volunteers can also fall victim to seasonal realities.

"There are quite a few retirees up here, so a lot of them are snow birds," explains Hale. "We never have problems with not enough volunteers in the summer."

Part of the solution in bolstering volunteers in the diocese may lie in educating potential recruits that any contribution made helps in the overall objective of the charitable cause in question. With the proper support, persons can build their competency for the organization with which they choose to be involved.

In the case of First Step Options (FSO) and Support Services of the Upper Ottawa Valley, training is offered to potential volunteers who can play a pivotal role in helping to provide crucial services to those dealing with pregnancy issues, without needing in-depth skill sets.

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The effects of volunteerism*...continued from page 1*

"A person can come in and say, 'I think I'd like to volunteer here, but I don't think I can be that person in the counselling room,'" says FSO Executive Director Greta Landry-Masseau.

"We provide very extensive training and mentorship where they would come in with me or another member to sit in on a counselling session. There is also a lot of behind-the-scenes work that needs to be done like photocopying, folding baby clothes and other tasks. You can volunteer as many hours as you want. Don't sit there and think 'Oh, what could I give?' You don't know what skills you have until you come and find out. Take that step and come and see us for what options there are for volunteers. If you want to see that unmistakable hand of the Lord at work, come here. You're going to just feel great about yourself."

But what does the future hold if the next generation does not step forward to continue the good work of their predecessors? The first step in addressing this may be to open up communications with younger members and to make them aware of the important role they can play in helping others and enhancing their lives as Christians.

One example of an outlet pooling youth volunteer resources is the annual youth retreat organized by the Family Life & Youth Ministry Office.

"We recruit young adults from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay to help with the retreat," explains Family Life & Youth Ministry director Yvette Bourque.

The volunteers from the school take on a variety of roles during the retreat, proving themselves to be an invaluable asset.

"Without them, we couldn't have the retreats because we wouldn't have the manpower," says Bourque.

"They act as the small group leaders, they do some of the skits, and they perform the music for the mass. They love spending time with the youth, they love sharing their faith and struggles. They're not much different in age and they can relate to each other."

Of course, members of the diocese need only look to Jesus Christ himself when it comes to garnering the inspiration to step forward to help those in need.

"When our Lord was on Earth, he did not walk with the affluent," notes Perrault.

Message from the Bishop

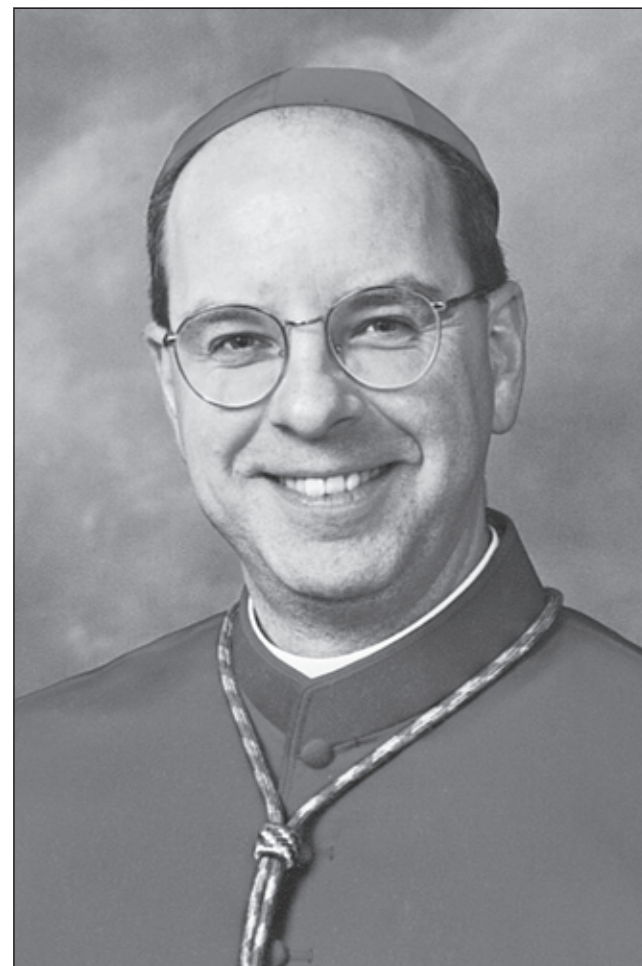
My dear Faithful of the Diocese,

As you receive this edition of Ecclesia, we will be celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in our own parishes, across the diocese and throughout the church. This feast, which brings to an end our Easter Season, leaves with us a great sense of God's providence and care. May an outpouring of the Holy Spirit give strength to all working in the mission of the church and increase the number of those who believe.

Having already celebrated my fifth Easter in the Diocese of Pembroke, I am increasingly aware of the Lord's grace, which continues to be granted through the church. The Easter celebration, from Palm Sunday through the Chrism Mass to the Triduum, left with me a deeper impression than usual of the glorious gift that God has granted to his people. It has been my prayer in these weeks after Easter that in the midst of a very difficult age, the message of God's salvation may enter the hearts of those who seek true happiness.

Marking the passing of a fifth Easter has impressed upon me how quickly the time passes that the Lord grants to us for our work in his vineyard. The years truly pass quickly and we meet so many people who give us strength through their example and to whom we owe the debt of Christian charity. May these days granted to us pass in fruitful work for the Lord and may we have the strength to leave all else in the Lord's hands.

With the passing of the Easter Season, I wish to extend to all young couples preparing for Christian marriage this summer a pledge of our support and care for the future. I am encouraged that this first gesture of love on our behalf has been transmitted to you through your encounter with your parish



priest and those who have been preparing and presenting the diocesan marriage preparation program. I trust that these efforts have conveyed to you how precious in our minds is the mystery and testimony of your married life. The rediscovery of the true meaning of married life is among the greatest needs for contemporary Canadian culture and I am deeply thankful for your desire to live this gift fully. May the fruits of your love for one another and children that the Lord provides be a constant gift to the church.

My dear faithful, may these approaching summer months be a time of true recreation and peace with your families and loved ones, and may this time draw our minds to God in thanksgiving for his many gifts.

† Michael Mulhall
Bishop of Pembroke

Deacon Michael McFarlane

Condolences poured in from many places—Yellowknife, Trapper's Lake and Mississauga to British Columbia, as well as throughout the diocese—to the family of the late Deacon Michael McFarlane of Pembroke.

Deacon Michael was ordained to the Diaconate on June 7, 2003, in St. Columbkille's Cathedral and was active in his ministry in the Diocese of Pembroke at St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Most Holy Name of Jesus and Our Lady of Lourdes at the time of his death.

Mike had retired from his work as a professional firefighter after 16 years of service for the Pembroke Fire Department.

The remarks of friends and acquaintances bear witness to both the type of person he was and the way others felt about him: "He was a man of great faith," "He touched many hearts and lives," "I will remember Michael for his always-cheerful demeanour and his smiling face..." "He knew, loved and served his Lord very well..."

Michael passed peacefully at home surrounded by the love of his family following a short but courageous battle with cancer on Thursday December 15, 2011, in his 57th year.

He was the beloved and devoted husband of Brenda McFarlane (nee Bechamp) and father of Stacey,

Pembroke, Shawn (Chantal), Douglas, and Gregory, Southampton England. He was the loving grandfather of Brandon, Rhys and Gavin, dearest son of Rodney and Margaret (nee Yantha), Pembroke, brother of David (Audrey) and Colleen (Darrell) and brother-in-law of Carol. Mike was predeceased by his brothers Roy and Dwight.

A Concelebrated Funeral Mass took place on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at St. Columbkille's Cathedral with the Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke, presiding, and Interment at St. Columba's Cemetery.



Newly ordained priest in our diocese

This spring, the Diocese of Pembroke welcomed a new member to its clergy.

On May 5, Deacon Mike Goring of Pembroke was formally ordained into the priesthood. As the momentous occasion approached, Goring confided how surreal it is to finally be an ordained priest.

"It came up for me very quickly," admits Goring upon reflecting back on the years of study at the seminary. "It seems like the six years I've had for my formation have just flown by. I'm glad to have the studies behind me, and to move on to begin the priesthood. I'll still be doing a lot of learning, especially the first few years, because a lot of aspects really have to be learned by doing. I'm definitely looking forward to serving the people of God."

Goring graduated from Bishop Smith Catholic High School in 1993. From there, he enrolled in Carleton University, acquiring a degree in engineering and then pursuing a career in the private sector for six years. It was during this time that he began to explore whether his life was meant for a higher calling.

"As I was working in my engineering career, I found myself more and more drawn to the priesthood," explains Goring.

"I went on a silent retreat to discern if God could be calling me to the vocation of priesthood. That's where I really felt that God was, in fact, calling me. I went on a one-year leave of absence from my job to try things out at the seminary."

The year at the seminary saw Goring submerge himself in theology studies. But it was the following summer that Goring would finally realize his path in life was to serve God as a priest.

"That summer, I worked at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré on a youth pastoral team. Having the year of studies and then having the summer to work at a large shrine was really the clincher for me to continue."

But the transition to the religious life did not come without some trepidation, given the reality that Goring would be walking away from a prosperous career.

"Before I began my summer working at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, I had to make a decision with my employer," says Goring. "In the spring of 2007, I committed to not going back to that job. I took a leap of faith."

It was that very faith that gave Goring the confidence and knowledge that his decision was absolutely the right one.

"My spiritual life was growing. I just had a sense that whatever God calls us to, that's the best thing we can do with our lives. It was stepping out and trusting that if God wanted me to do this, that it really would be the best thing I could do. When I first started my studies, I prayed that God would increase in me the desire to become a priest. Year over year, I felt that I was growing in that desire."

As it turns out, Goring will not be setting a precedent with his family in pursuing a life in the service of God. His brother, Father Mark Goring, serves at the director of the Catholic Charismatic Centre in Houston, Texas. It was when they were both studying at university that his brother would answer God's call to serve the church.

"Mark and I both met Father Bob Bedard (deceased), the founder of the Companions of the Cross when we began our university studies," tells Goring. "After one year of studying at university, Mark decided to join the Companions and began his studies with them. I joined the companions a year later, but I just didn't feel at the time it was for me."

His time with the Companions, along with watching his brother pursue his calling to the priesthood, did show Goring a unique happiness that clergy have serving in the presence of God.

"Meeting someone like Father Bedard really showed me a model of priestly life, and to have confidence and trust to really believe that whatever God calls us to do, he'll give us the strength to do it."

Goring also notes the important role his parents and siblings played in providing him support in recent years.

"I've been blessed with a really great family," says Goring. "The whole family has been supportive of me with all of the studies, both engineering and my priestly studies. I'm fortunate to come from



*The laying on of hands by Bishop Mulhall.
Photo by Todd Cybulski/detail Lab*

a family of faith, so I've received a lot of prayer support from family and friends."

In reflecting upon his years of preparation for the priesthood, Goring gives credit to the Roman Catholic Church for providing a system where feedback and support from the seminary and active priests help in building confidence in those aspiring towards a religious calling.

"You find out from different levels of people about your preparedness and readiness to serve as a priest. That's what I really like about the Catholic model; that many different people are part of the discernment. You just don't feel like you're coming up with this on your own. It really is God's will coming through the prayers and discernment of many people. It gives me a lot of assurance in terms of preparedness."

It is no secret the challenges facing the Roman Catholic church in galvanizing youth to reconnect and become more active in their faith. Goring confides his personal desire to reach out to young people and present the joy that the teachings of Jesus Christ can have in their lives.

"One of the key reasons I became a priest is to make the sacrament available to the next generation," says Goring, noting the efforts the church has made under Pope Benedict XVI to reinvigorate its own identity. "As we become more clear in our Catholic identity, I think more and more people will become attracted to coming back. I'm quite positive about the future."



The procession from St. Columbkille Cathedral after the ordination ceremony of Father Goring on May 5.

Photo by Todd Cybulski/detail Lab



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Ordination anniversaries

50 years:

Father Patrick J. Blake, Most Precious Blood Parish, Calabogie, and St. Patrick Parish, Mount St. Patrick

May 26, 1962

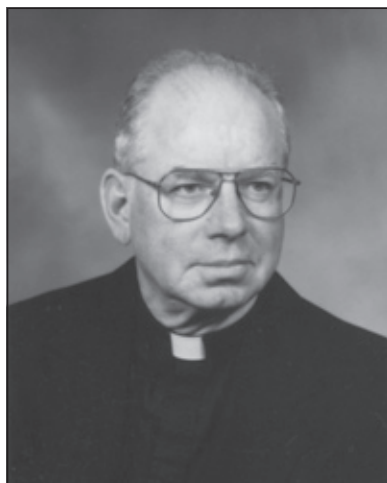
Most Holy Name of Jesus,
Pembroke

Bishop W.J. Smith

Father Blake served at St. Martin's Parish in Whitney for the summer 1962, Our Lady of Lourdes in Pembroke 1962–1965, St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew 1965–1969, St. Chrysostom, Arnprior, 1969–1976, St. Michael's in Douglas, 1976–1977, St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, 1977–1994, and at Most Precious Blood, Calabogie, from 1994 to the present, along with St. Patrick Parish in Mount St. Patrick.

Father Blake lists having an audience with the Holy Father in 1970, and celebrating Mass with the Holy Father in the Vatican City in 1984, the same year Pope John Paul II visited Ottawa, among the highlights over the years.

He also recalls fondly his time as a member of the Flying Fathers hockey team, travelling extensively throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe playing exhibition games to raise funds for worthwhile charities.



Father Norbert J. Cybulski, retired

June 3, 1962

St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay

Bishop W.J. Smith

Father Cybulski served at Most Holy Name of Jesus in Pembroke first and then in Barry's Bay, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke, St. James Parish in Portage, Quebec, St. Casimir in Round Lake Centre, St. Patrick Parish in Mount St. Patrick and St. Mary Parish in Wilno, ending at St. Lawrence O'Toole in Barry's Bay.

Father Cybulski notes that in his early days, Catechism was very important, and he taught grades 6 to 8 in the public and Catholic schools in Barry's Bay for about 12 years, courses about the commandments, the sacrament and the church, four days each week. He also taught religion in the Victoria Avenue High School in Portage and recalls that he had too many students for one night a week, so taught classes Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Father Cybulski has been Chaplain for the Catholic Youth Organization in Barry's Bay as well as at Valley Manor.

Though retired, with his ability to speak Polish, he still hears confessions at St. John Bosco Catholic School, St. Hedwig, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Mary Parish in Wilno and in his home.

Father Cybulski attended St. Jerome's University in Kitchener, where he took Latin for one year, then Orchard Lake Schools, Michigan, to take Polish for one year because he was too young to enter the seminary yet, and had a gift for languages. He also speaks French. He attended St. Paul's Seminary in Ottawa from 1956 to 1962.

Father Cybulski is grateful to his parents, sister, and parish priests while he was growing up for their support, as well as the parishioners in various communities along the way.

Father Michael R. Costello, St. Mary Parish, Quyon, Quebec

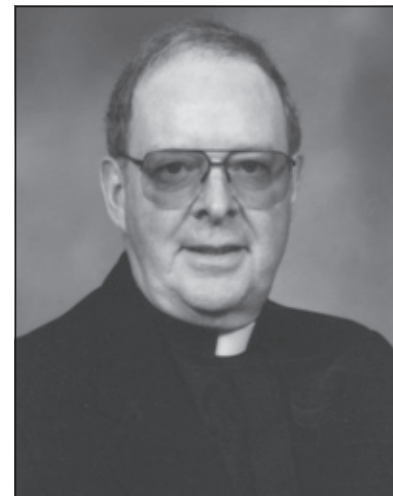
May 27, 1962

St. Chrysostom, Arnprior

Bishop W.J. Smith

Father Costello worked for the first seven years at the Chancery Office with the Bishop, teaching at St. Mary's Teacher's College in Chapeau and as Curate for Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Waltham. He was also Curate at Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke, from 1969 to 1973. In 1973 he was appointed as pastor at St. Edwards, in Bristol, Quebec, until 1986 when he moved on to St. Thomas D'Aquin in Astorville until 2000. Since September 2000, he has served in Bryson, Bristol, Lac-des-Loups and Quyon, with Quyon being home base.

Father Costello notes that he enjoyed the time at the teacher's college in Chapeau, as well as in schools in Campbell's Bay and Shawville for nine years, but the highlight has been the priesthood and serving the people of the parish communities.



30 years:

Deacon Albert Benoît, St. Bernadette, Bonfield

September 1982

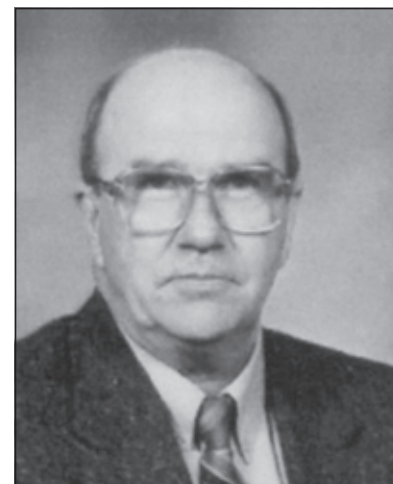
St. Bernadette Parish, Bonfield

Bishop J.R. Windle

Deacon Albert Benoît was the first permanent deacon to be ordained in the Diocese of Pembroke. In fact, Bishop Windle teased him at the time that he would be a "guinea pig". Deacon Benoît says he would definitely do it all over again—it's what he has been called to do, though he has always "kept on his toes" with regards to his role, noting that the acceptance and respect of and respect for the people of the community are utmost.

While some priests have difficulty understanding the role of a deacon, it has worked out very well in this situation. Deacon Benoît's role is pastoral, focusing on the needs of the people since there is only one priest for three parishes in a large rural area with vast distances between. His duties include preparing members of the congregation for all sacraments and funerals, as well as taking care of church administration. People in the community have been open to change in the church because of the rural setting, lack of resources and struggle to survive.

Deacon Benoît notes that the three local parishes work closely with the Diocese of Pembroke and he appreciates the good lines of communication with the Chancery Office. He thanks his wife who supports his role, is understanding of the needs of the people, and is involved in the parish, but not in his actual ministry.



20 years:

Deacon Robert MacDonald, St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay

August 22, 1992—
Queenship of Mary
St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay

Bishop J.R. Windle

Deacon Bob MacDonald has served at St. Hedwig Parish since being ordained as a permanent deacon in 1992. However, he has travelled extensively throughout Canada and the United States preaching and speaking at conferences.

He also wrote a book in 2000 titled *The Catholic Family: Image and Likeness of God* (Queenship Publishing Company).

He graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1963. In 1974, he received his Certificate from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. In 1975, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. In 1984, he was awarded a Fellowship from the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and in the same year he was recognized as a Fellow of the American Geriatrics Society. In 1987, he was honoured as Canadian Family Physician of the Year for his leadership in training doctors and nurses for the medical relief effort during the great famine in Ethiopia of 1985. He led the first of these teams into the famine-stricken country.

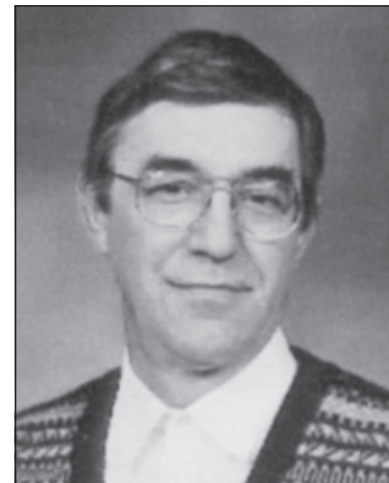


Deacon Frank Martel, Sacré-Coeur, Corbeil

August 14, 1992—
Vigil of the Assumption
St. Bernadette Parish, Bonfield

Bishop J.R. Windle

Deacon Frank Martel was assigned in 2004 to Sacré-Coeur Parish in Corbeil where he remains today, helping to address the unique situation of only one pastor for three parishes in a large rural area. He and Deacon Albert Benoit at St. Bernadette Parish in Bonfield work as a team with Father Raymond at St. Thomas D'Aquin in Astorville. Deacon Martel assists with the administration of the church as well as preparation of baptisms, marriages, etc.—“a system that works quite well since the pastor can't be at all three parishes at the same time,” notes Deacon Martel. His main focus as a deacon “is to serve and help the people of the parish community.”



Pembroke Knights to sponsor “Salute to the Sisters”

Bishop N.Z. Lorrain Council 1531 is planning to honour the Religious Congregations in the Pembroke area with a special “Salute to the Sisters” on September 22 with a Saturday morning Eucharist at the Cathedral with Bishop Mulhall as Principal Celebrant followed by a catered dinner. The intent is to provide an opportunity to express appreciation to the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Grey Sisters of Immaculate Conception for their multitude of services, especially in the health care and education fields, since their establishment here in 1921 and 1926, respectively.

Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Jack Schreader stated: “The contributions that the Congregation of the Sister of St. Joseph and the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have made to our community and the community-at-large in the way of education and health care are legendary. It is time to honour these Sisters and their works.”

It is anticipated that approximately 80 Religious will be guests of the Knights. Members of the federal and provincial parliaments, as well as City of Pembroke Council, have been invited to bring greetings. Members of the community-at-large are able to participate to honour the Sisters by their attendance at the Mass and, if so desired, by the purchase of a ticket to the dinner, which will be available on a limited basis via the local Parish Offices.

Further information may be obtained from Grand Knight Jack Schreader (613-732-3384), Deputy Grand Knight Roger Duguay (613-732-8169) or Chaplain Fr. Murray Tardiff (613-732-1814).



138th Annual Pilgrimage to Ste. Anne de Beaupre & Cap-de-la-Madeleine Shrine

August 11–12, 2012

Saturday August 11

Cap-de-la-Madeleine

Mass in the Basilica at 11 a.m. with Archbishop Paul-André Durocher, Archdiocese of Gatineau

St. Anne de Beaupré

Mass at 7:30 p.m. with Archbishop Paul-André Durocher followed by candlelight procession

Sunday August 12

9:20 a.m. Station of the Cross

11:00 a.m. Pilgrim's mass for the Dioceses of Ottawa, Gatineau, Pembroke, Mont-Laurier & Alexandria/Cornwall with

Archbishop Paul-André Durocher

For information, call 613-224-8110

www.ste-anne-de-beaupre.com

Diocese of Pembroke

74th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann, Cormac, Ontario

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Archbishop Terrence Prendergast as the Principal Celebrant and Homilist will preside and preach at the Triduum at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, preside and preach at the mass for healing at 2:00 p.m., Sunday.

Preferential seating in the shade will be given to those with lawn chairs.

Parish Profile

Most Precious Blood Parish, Calabogie

Members of the Most Precious Blood Parish Pastoral Council in picturesque Calabogie continue to remain quite active in the operations of the church, always striving to raise funds for good causes and attract new members.

The council is responsible for organizing a wide range of events for the parish, including special feasts and barbeques, fundraisers such as bake and yard sales, and after mass fellowships on the first Sunday of every month.

The fellowship gatherings play an important role in connecting parish members with tourists staying in the area. Calabogie, nestled along Calabogie Lake and the Madawaska River, offers many recreational activities such as boating, golf and skiing as well as a four-season resort.

"Being a tourist area we often have visitors, especially cottagers during the summertime," said Mary-Joan Hale, chairperson of the council. "It's a way for new people to meet members of the parish."

The parish also strives to engage young people via Sunday school sessions. The objective is to ensure that children, in particular, feel that they are participating members of the church.

"The Sunday school sessions are linked to the liturgy of the day," explained Hale. "We want to share the word with them. We do a modified version of the gospel and discuss the meaning of it in terms of how they should live their lives like Jesus. On the first Sunday of the month we do have children doing the readings. They also have an opportunity to present art work and crafts to the parish members. The feedback we're getting from the parents is very positive."

The Most Precious Blood Parish also actively participates in the annual Festival of the Senses, a fall celebration hosted by the Calabogie and Area Business Association in partnership with the Township of Greater Madawaska.

"During the festival, the doors of the church are opened and all are welcome to come and visit," said Hale. "This year we are planning to have apple and pumpkin desserts for sale. We will also have a history of the church on display."

In past years, parish members also opened the doors to St. Gabriel the Archangel in Springtown during the festival. Although the church was deconsecrated in 1952, volunteers strive to maintain the building when funds and time are available.

"We have a committee of interested people, including those not necessarily of the parish or our faith, who are interested in preserving this pioneer church. There are members who still have family members buried there," explained Hale, noting that some proceeds from the church's fundraising activities are allocated towards the cost of maintaining St. Gabriel's.

Recent work on the church has included improvements on the metal roof, water proofing the structure, and the boarding up of windows to prevent wild life from entering the building. Hale confirmed that break-ins have occurred at the building, resulting in vandalism and the only remaining statue inside being damaged.

"The next project we would like to do is to get the inside of the church cleaned and restore the stations of the cross," she said, adding that it was her hope the committee would apply for grants to help with future initiatives at the site.

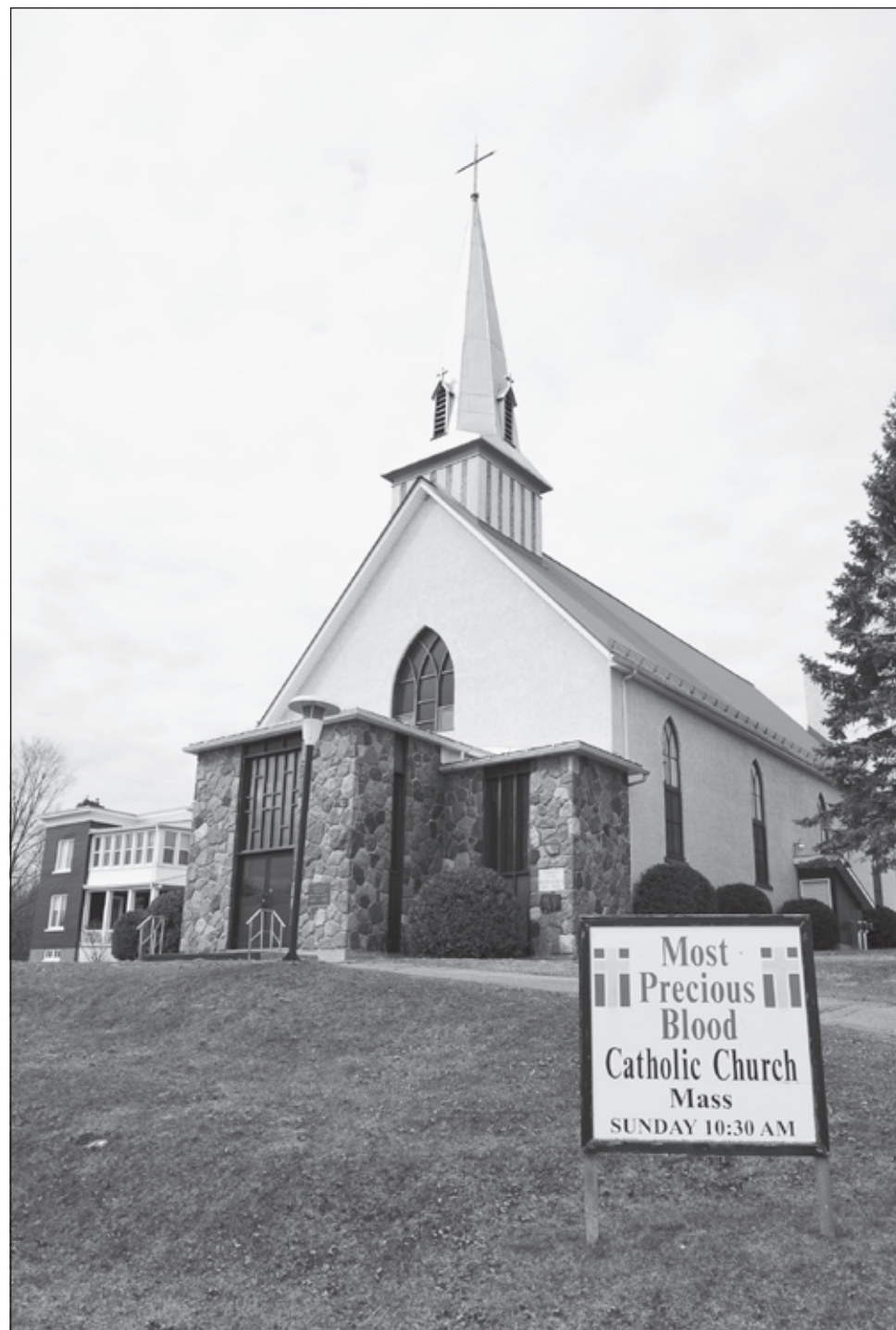
This past Christmas also saw the parish involved itself with donating Christmas packages to the Attawapiskat First Nation reserve in Northern Ontario. The Aboriginal community made headlines across the country in October of 2011, after the band council declared a state of emergency due to inadequate housing.

"We have so much poverty on the reserves and native communities in the north that we really felt we needed to do something," said Hale. A sum of \$1,500 was raised by the church via a combination of donations and proceeds raised from a bake sale during the Advent season.

Like many parishes, Precious Blood is seeing fluctuations in church membership. A combination of members moving out of the area and attempts to attract new members does pose a challenge to stem the shrinkage in parish numbers.

"There are a lot of seniors who have been here for quite a few years and have moved to either Renfrew or Arnprior or even back to the city just because they needed to be closer to medical facilities. In other cases, the houses were getting too big to look after," said Hale, adding that it was her hope that younger members would expand their involvement beyond attending services.

"The big challenge is getting the young families to attend and keeping them here in the area. Our



committee is really trying to push to get more young people to not just come for the sacraments."

Father Patrick Blake of Precious Blood praised the efforts of council members and the role they play in keeping the parish family together at church events.

"It's real team work. They're so cooperative and helpful in so many ways. Regardless if it is a parish supper or garage sale, they dig right in and do their very best," said Blake, who also serves as parish priest at St. Patrick Church in Mount St. Patrick.

"It's a rural area, so people do live a good distance from each other. It brings them together and it's good for community spirit."

Having served at Most Precious Blood since 1994, Father Blake acknowledged that acquiring new priests to serve the church will be crucial in continuing to offer mass services in Calabogie.

"The challenge we face is a manpower shortage in the clergy. Priests have to double up and take on more than one parish," he said, while also encouraging all members to uphold their faith in face of this challenge.

"As Christians and Catholics, we can't lose hope. We have to be optimistic and keep going."

New seminarian Anthony Burchat

Since his youth, Anthony Burchat has had a strong connection to his Roman Catholic faith. As time went on, the Round Lake area native would discover that his role in life was to serve God.

His journey of discovery began upon graduating from Bishop Smith Catholic High school in 2004, when Burchat decided to enrol at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay.

"I was a practicing Catholic at that point, but I hadn't come alive in my faith," recalls Burchat. "My reason for going to the Academy didn't really have anything to do with my faith. It was because they did philosophy very well. I knew that if I was going to become a lawyer or a politician, I wanted to train my mind and think properly. It was basically everything and more than what I was looking for and I fell in love with philosophy. The studies there were fantastic."

However, in time, Burchat began to take charge of his faith while in attendance at the Academy.

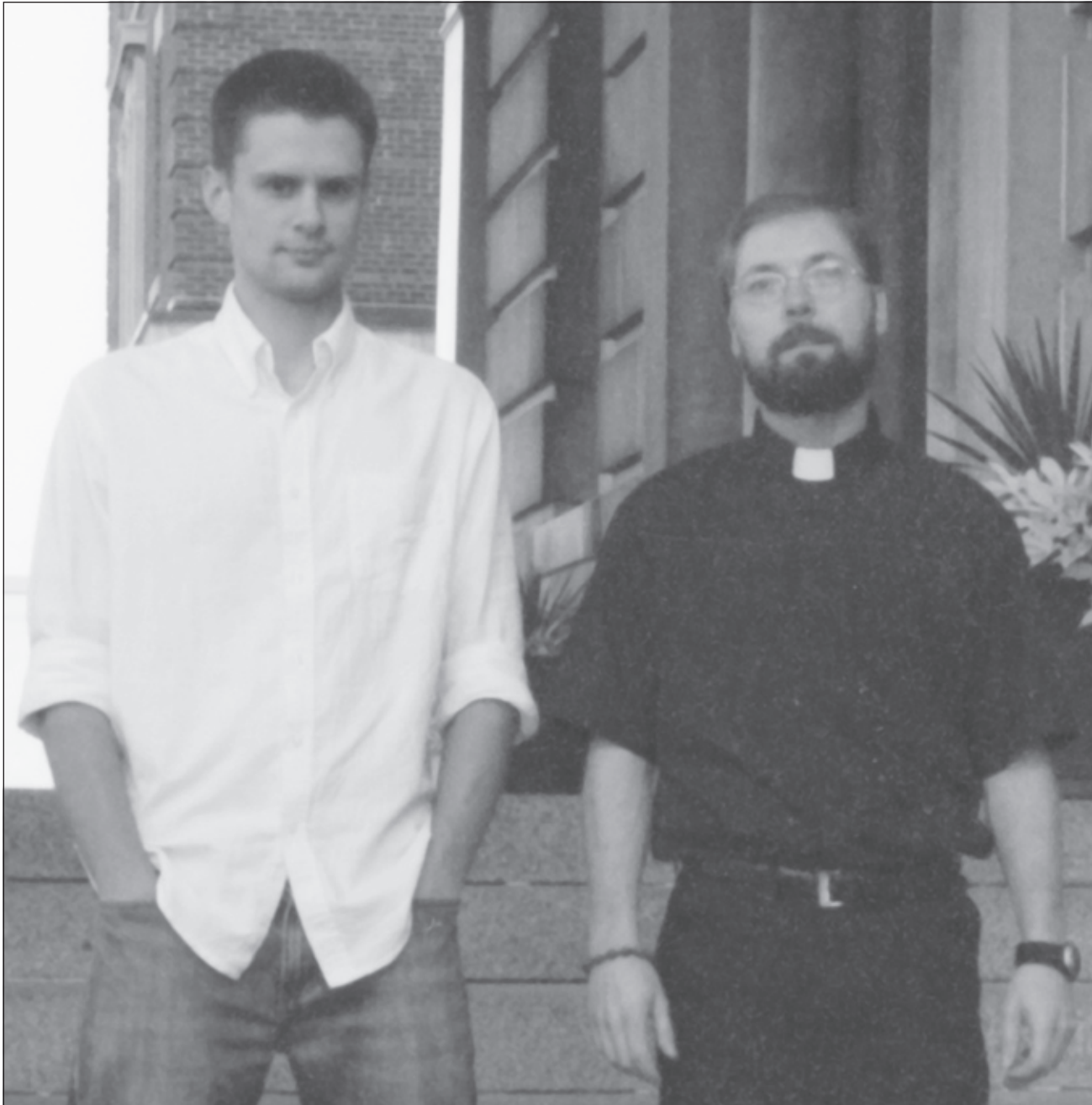
"When I was younger, I just naturally became Catholic because that's what my parents did," says Burchat. "At the Academy, my faith started to become my own."

Burchat also spent time in residence at the Madonna House Apostolate, a religious community of lay men and women located in Combermere. The decision to go there came about after consulting with his uncle, Father John Burchat of St. John Chrysostom of Arnprior.

"He (Father Burchat) had gone there 20 years ago when he was thinking of becoming a priest," explains Burchat. "I had mentioned to him that this was occurring to me, that this was something God was calling me to and he recommended I attend before applying to the seminary. What had started happening to me at the Academy in terms of coming alive into my faith started going to a different level when I was at Madonna House."

Burchat eventually returned to the Academy in Barry's Bay for an additional year of schooling, then pursued his degree in philosophy at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario, graduating in 2009. Following this, Burchat would spend some time in the work force. His time in school and working in the private sector provided a period of reflection for Burchat on the inner struggles he developed about whether a religious life was his true calling.

"The ironic thing was, I went to Madonna House dead sure that I was going to become a priest," says Burchat. "My time there made my discernment that much more difficult in the sense that I became more mature as a person, so there were parts of me that started fighting with myself. As I got out into the world and worked and looked at what it would take to follow my degree and become a lawyer, for example, it really started to become more and more clear to me that none of these things would make me happy. I enjoyed my time working, and you do have a lot of free time to spend with friends, partying and doing all the things that young people like to do. But it really started to hit home that this wasn't really what I wanted to do with my life."



Seminarian Anthony Burchat and Father Michael Goring.

Soon after determining that his life was meant to serve God in the clergy, Burchat began the gruelling process of applying to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto.

"Having serious academics behind me certainly helped," admits Burchat reflecting upon the initial battery of seminary testing he endured. "Writing tests for six hours is never fun, but it's a lot easier when you've done it before."

Now in his first year of seminary life, Burchat praises the array of candidates enrolled there.

"The one thing that I was pleasantly surprised about with seminary life is the calibre of young men who are here," observes Burchat. "It's a really solid, very intelligent group of guys."

Going further, Burchat observes that it is his belief that a new wave of young people are now stepping forward to embrace the priesthood vocation.

"I think that the worst is behind us as far as vocations go," says Burchat, explaining the demographic shift taking place at the seminary. "The young guys coming in now are all around 25. They're even starting to get a few cases of guys who left high school and joined the

seminary. It is very encouraging to see so many other young men who have God working in their lives the same way he is working in mine."

Seeing the influx of a new generation of seminarians only emboldens Burchat when it comes to challenges the church is currently facing.

"The state of the church in the west is depressing, there's no question about that," he says. "In some ways, it's going to get worse when the majority of priests start retiring. But at the same time, that's a challenge we know we're in for. We know we're not going to have an easy life as priests. Knowing that, it is inspiring to know you have a challenge to work towards and a good bunch of guys to do it with."

Now set on his path, Burchat still has several more years ahead of him in the seminary. However, this summer will see him return to the Ottawa Valley for a respite of sorts from his studies.

"This summer I'm going back home to work for my dad on the farm," says Burchat. "After sitting for long periods of time for eight months straight, I can't wait to split some wood."

The importance of being a welcoming and inviting parish for children, youth and young families

By Jason Dedo

Several years ago during a visit to my wife Tina's grandparents, my family arrived at a small English-speaking Catholic church in the heart of Trois-Rivières, Quebec, for Sunday Mass. We had three small children at the time. Upon entering the church, we chose a pew near the middle, but before we could sit down, an elderly woman greeted us and encouraged us to take the children to a crying room, which, she said, was full of toys.

The crying room was at the entrance of the church far away from the assembly and Mass. Since we have never been comfortable in crying rooms and prefer to participate with the assembly, we politely declined and as the mass began, we quickly realized that by far, we were the youngest people in the congregation. There did not appear to be anyone else there under the age of 50 and there were no children or youth. There could not have been more than 20 people in a church that could easily hold several hundred.

Although this woman's intentions may have been good, it may serve congregations well to stop and think about such a scenario. Here was a congregation struggling in numbers and participation with a precarious future. A new young family comes through the doors and what happens? They are encouraged to sit in a crying room away from the congregation.

I don't think it is shocking to anyone that in many parishes in our Diocese and in Canada for that matter, the presence of young people and young families is waning. It would seem that most people who refer to themselves as "Catholic" from birth to age 40 have little or no connection to the local parish community on a regular basis.

Given these realities and for various reasons, many parents (and grandparents!) still seek out the church for the sacraments for their children regardless of their connection to a parish. These times of seeking and connecting give parishes an excellent opportunity to welcome back "lost sheep" to the fold. But how often do parishes take the opportunity that is before them in these instances?

When I am before a group talking about the sacramental initiation of children or ministries involving young families, I always tell them that if there is nothing at our parishes for children or young families, why would they come back? We are already "competing" with other family activities such as hockey, and other Christian churches in our areas often have very effective ministries for youth, children and young families.

When we invest in programs, ministries, activities and supports for children, youth and young families, we are making an investment for the future. They are, after all, the future generations of the church!

With regard to being welcoming and inviting to youth and young families, our parishes would do well to consider the following questions:

- Do young families find a welcoming and inviting parish when they walk through our doors? Or, do they feel judged or receive a "cold shoulder" because

we haven't seen them in awhile or at all? (Remember the father's greeting of his estranged son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son?)

- Consider the Sunday liturgy... Are babies and children welcome in the assembly? Is the liturgy family-focused? Is there anything in the homily for youth, children or young families? Is there a children's liturgy of the word ministry during mass? Are children and youth encouraged to participate in the liturgy as greeters, collectors, servers, gift bearers or in the music ministry? Along with the aforementioned ministries, are youth encouraged to be lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion?
- Is there a parish youth group or activities for youth?
- Are sacramental initiation sessions offered in such a way that the children, families and young people are not just acquainted with the parish and church, but also invited to be regular and participatory members of the Sunday Eucharist and faith community?
- Are parish masses, meetings, sacramental initiation sessions and other events held at times that are convenient for young families?
- Does the parish offer any family- or youth-focused social events after mass or otherwise?
- Are there formation opportunities at the parish for families, children or youth?
- Do we, as parishioners, go out of our way to greet new or returning families and share with them our joy at their choosing to be part of our faith communities?
- Consider the celebration of the sacraments... Does a parish have an effective baptismal preparation program that calls families to participation in the faith community? Are new members of the faith community baptized on a Sunday afternoon without the presence and support of other members of the faith community? Or, do we baptize during the Eucharistic liturgy so the family and newly baptized can be introduced, welcomed, supported and prayed for by the other members of the faith community? When we baptize during the liturgy, we are also following the liturgical norms set out from Vatican Council II that call for a celebration of the sacraments during the Eucharistic liturgy, following the example of the RCIA—the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (*General Directory for Catechesis* #s 59, 90). Is the celebration for first reconciliation during the time of a regular parish communal celebration of the sacrament with the other members of the parish, or is it at a time when the rest of the faith community is absent? Do we celebrate first Eucharist and confirmation at the Sunday liturgy so the faith community can witness and participate in the celebrations and welcome the new fully initiated members?
- Does the parish have some sort of welcoming or "welcome back" committee to attend to the needs of new or returning families?
- Do we try to find ways to partner long-established parishioners with newer members or children (mass buddies, CWL prayer buddies, adopt a senior/young family, etc.)?

- Are decisions at the parish council table made with the needs of children, youth and young families in mind? Are young families and youth represented on parish councils?
- Is the parish communicating effectively with families, youth and children in the community? Do we take the time to ask them what they think, what their needs are and listen to them?
- What are we doing at the parish to specifically pray for and support families, children and youth?
- Many children and youth enjoy and excel at "hands on", practical tasks. Do we invite children and youth to help with the parish supper, spring clean up, coffee and muffins after mass, etc.?

I will admit that there are sometimes no easy answers to many of the issues that surface in this article. However, we owe it to our youth, children and young families to look ahead rather than back and ensure that they will find, for many years to come, parish communities that are inviting and welcoming. As a friend of mine once told me: "I always wanted my children to be as comfortable in the basement of our church as they were in our own basement at home". And isn't this what we all want for young families, youth and children—to realize that their parish is their spiritual home and that they are always welcome in their spiritual home?

MORNING WATCH



Join the faithful from across
the diocese for All-night
Adoration of Jesus

Saturday June 2–Sunday June 3, 2012

4:30 p.m. Mass to 11:00 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
Deep River, Ontario

For more information, or to book an hour of adoration, please call the parish office at 613-584-3696.

youth

in the diocese

Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network (CCYMN) and the National Youth Leaders Conference

By Yvette Bourque and Bill Richmond

After Canada hosted World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, the Church in Canada recognized the desire and need for diocesan and eparchial leaders of youth ministry to gather for the purpose of sharing gifts and ideas, collaborating, networking and supporting one another while recognizing the uniqueness of their individual ministries.

The first gathering of diocesan representatives took place in February 2004 in the Diocese of London, Ontario, with representatives from 10 diocesan youth ministry offices. It was a humble beginning and the CCYMN was officially born. Now, each year the network meets in a different part of Canada and attracts 20 to 40 Directors of Youth Ministry Offices from across Canada. Every second year a Youth Leaders Conference is added for all coordinators, ministers and leaders of youth to gain training, support and networking opportunities.

This past March, the Archdiocese of Ottawa held the annual network meetings and the weekend Youth Leaders Conference. At the director's meetings, Fr. Tom Rosica C.S.B., Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation and Canada's official representative of World Youth Days, spoke to the group regarding issues and ideas around past and future World Youth Day events. As coordinator of WYD 2002 in Toronto, now 10 years in the past, Fr. Rosica is planning a commemorative, instructive and collaborative event July 8–13 in Windsor, Ontario, for representatives selected from each diocese as a way to mark the 10th anniversary since WYD in Canada. There was much excitement about this event as an opportunity to empower those young adults who have been touched by World Youth Days in the past and who are involved in the New Evangelization in some way.

The weekend Youth Ministry Leaders Conference boasted three powerful keynote speakers namely Archbishop Prendergast of Ottawa, Archbishop Smith of Edmonton, and Archbishop Paul-André Durocher of Gatineau. The theme for the conference was "Be still and know that I am God."

Archbishop Prendergast spoke on the conference theme "stillness". He said that he makes use of blogs, and Facebook and uses an iPhone. He is reminded that everything can be used for the glory of God, and bring us closer to Him, but it can also take us away. St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, said that we should embrace something if it brings us closer to God, and discard it if it draws us away from God. On Mondays, his day off, he unplugs from the Internet to provide some silence. He spoke of St. Patrick, and how it was during the quiet moments in the meadow that he was still and began to learn of God. Technology can be a thing that distracts

us and prevents God from speaking to us. He invited the audience to unplug and enjoy silence, especially before the Blessed Sacrament, and to enter into a spiritual communion with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus is present in the host. The grace that Jesus won for us on the cross is available to us. Jesus wants us to sense His presence everywhere—the tabernacle, the monstrance, the poor, the person that came to talk to you. He invited the audience to imagine themselves at the foot of the cross and imagine what He would say to them. "I forgive you; I love you; you are mine; go in peace." He invited those present to go out confidently and boldly before the Father, and be frank with Him with their fears and concerns, citing Jesus' agony in the garden as an example. However, in the end, they must follow Jesus' example and say, "Not my will, but thine be done." The Archbishop's talk was followed by Eucharistic Adoration at St. Patrick's Basilica.

The heart of Archbishop Smith's message on Saturday was to get back to the New Evangelization and bring youth to experience Christ and not hear words about Him. We must be attentive to the direction that Jesus gives. We must be new in method—to invite young people through the door of faith—but Jesus is the one opening doors and creating opportunities. He suggested that because of the crisis in authority/trust we must reach out to touch and heal, admit that the church has done wrong, but that it is also the mystical body of Christ. The church can never be defined by the mistakes of a few. We must create safe environments, examine the sincerity of our witness. With the economic crisis, we must rethink how we live with one another. With the family in crisis, we must announce the truth of marriage, sexuality, life—Jesus is a friend, he's part of our family. With social media, we must foster community and communion, help youth to understand real relationships. Finally, we must announce Jesus in ways people understand, e.g., adoration, World Youth Day. The message of the world is pleasure, whereas our message is a message of joy that lasts, a presence, a communion. He ended the talk with the quote from John Paul II, "Jesus Christ is the answer to the question that is every human life."

Archbishop Durocher spoke on Pope Benedict's apostolic letter "Verbum Domini", concerning the word of God in the life and mission of the church. His talk was based on quotes that he took from the work. "The proper human response to the God who speaks is faith... whereby we give our heartfelt assent to the truth which has been revealed to us and we commit ourselves entirely to Christ." Mary symbolizes that openness to God and to others. There must be a harmony of faith and reason.



Fr. Réal Ouellette and parishioners from the Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Deep River.

True interpretation is not only a work of reason, it's reason held and nourished by faith. The proper understanding of scripture belongs to someone who has both understanding and faith. We need to live it and meditate it. We shouldn't go to confession without reading scripture. Go back to the word of God. Our worship and prayer, in its various forms, must give due space to the proclamation and hearing of God's word, and utilize silence. We must examine the ordinary activities of Christian communities in parishes, associations and movements to see if they are truly concerned with fostering a personal encounter with Christ. Catechesis must be imbued with the attitude of the gospel through the text itself. The catechism, which uses and refers to the scripture texts, must lead us to the word of God. Parents are the first to proclaim God's word to their children. Eucharistic adoration must be complemented by the prayerful reading of scripture. We should read and pray the scriptures of the Mass before and after. The word of God should be the root of our spiritual lives. What does the Biblical text say? What does the text say to us? What do we say to God in response? What change of mind, of heart, and of life is God calling me to? We're called to speak the word of God. The first Christians saw their missionary preaching as a necessity rooted in the very nature of faith. We need to respond to the call. The laity are called to exercise their own prophetic role, derived directly from their Baptism, and bear witness to the Gospel in their daily life. So many of our baptized brothers and sisters have not been evangelized. It is indispensable through witness to make this word credible, lest it appear merely as a beautiful philosophy or utopia, rather than a reality to be lived. The building of the city of God must involve justice—to change the world—and truth. At the heart of the gospel is to make everyone our neighbour.

In summary, the main message over the course of the weekend was that evangelization must be the purpose of our work with young people. We need to enrich ourselves through our study of scripture and silence before the Blessed Sacrament. We must be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and invite young people in through direct invitation, through the crises that pervade our world by speaking out and reaching out, and with a message of joy, of the presence of God, and the purpose of the Gospel.

Attending this conference from the Diocese of Pembroke were Fr. Réal Ouellette and parishioners from the Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Deep River, as pictured above.

High school retreat

There is no shortage of social distractions and pressures that young people today must face. Such exterior influences can pose a challenge for those who seek to uphold Christian values in their daily lives.

This past February saw a gathering of youth from across the diocese and Ottawa area to celebrate and reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ.

"The diocese offers this retreat to help the parishes in their efforts in youth ministry," explains Yvette Bourque, Director of the Family & Life Ministry Office of the Diocese of Pembroke.

"There are not a lot of parishes that can offer youth ministry programs. It's a time for youth to gather with other people who are trying to live their faith and to have the support of a larger group. It's also an opportunity to discuss the challenges of living their faith day to day and to encourage them in their faith journey."

More than 80 participants took in the weekend-long event held at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew where a wide range of activities took place. It is overseen by a team of volunteers through the Family and Life Ministry Office.

"We have a small diocesan youth ministry team who plans the retreat. This team is made up of high school youth, young adults and a few adults. They're all volunteers," explains Bourque.

There were numerous highlights throughout the weekend. Youth members had an opportunity to participate in Eucharistic Adoration. Displayed in a

monstrance, the consecrated host is displayed for worshippers to adore the presence of Jesus Christ.

Members of the clergy also attended the event to celebrate Mass and make presentations.

Aside from their focus on faith, participants also had the chance to strut their musical and singing skills via the Saturday evening talent show.

"The talent we see across the diocese is unbelievable," says Bourque. "Most of the adults who helped out with the retreat sat there and said 'Wow, I can't believe how much talent these young people have.' The talent show is always a highlight."

Skits are another highlight of the retreat. "The skits often introduce or end a talk and help explain, in a humorous way, the topics of the retreat. They always say they love the skits," says Bourque. "I am grateful to Pia Dimayuga and Angela Richmond of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Deep River for creating and performing all the skits for this retreat."

As always, coordinators take the time to garner feedback from participants on their impressions of the retreat, now in its third year, as the weekend comes to a close. Perhaps the best confirmation of their efforts is the growth in attendance.



Father Réal Ouellette addresses participants at the Diocesan Youth Retreat held February 3–5, 2012, at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew.

"Each year it keeps growing and growing," says Bourque. "Word gets out after they attend and have a good time. They realize it is a fun time, along with learning about their faith."

Building on those achievements will ultimately fall onto the group of volunteers who strive to see the event take place without interruption.

"The volunteers work hard," says Bourque. "Our team is so small that if we were to lose a few people, we would really be in a tough place. It's a lot of work. Some of them will even take a day off of work on the Friday of the retreat to get everything ready. I'm very grateful to them."



The theme of the retreat was the "Armour of God"—Ephesians 6:10-18. Participants wore "helmets of salvation" and the "armour of God".



BANCROFT—OUR LADY OF MERCY. One of the highlights of Holy Week, April 1–7, 2012, was the inspiring Living Stations of the Cross Pageant by the young people.

First Step Options

Pregnancy can be both a blessed and a trying time for any woman. But when complications arise, the emotional toll can be overwhelming.

Whether it is an unplanned pregnancy, adverse prenatal diagnosis, or miscarriage, having an outlet where unconditional support is provided to those in need is crucial. First Step Options and Support Services of the Upper Ottawa Valley is just such a place, offering an array of services related to pregnancy issues.

Formerly known as Pregnancy Support Services (PSS), the group was just recently renamed to First Step Options (FSO). According to Executive Director Greta Landry-Masseau, the name change came about with the goal of nurturing a younger demographic in need of help.

"At that time, our client base consisted of primarily 17 to 23 year olds," explained Landry-Masseau. "The new name is an attempt to capture younger teens who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy."

In addition, there was a concern that individuals suffering from post abortion stress may assume that FSO would not offer assistance.

"We expanded our post abortion recovery education (P.A.R.E.) services and felt that to answer the phone with PSS may result in an additional wounding or hang up," said Landry-Masseau, adding that despite being a Christian entity, the FSO prides itself in providing assistance to any person in need of assistance.

"We serve all denominations," she said. "We are a Christian organization, which means we hold ourselves to a higher standard and have open arms in encompassing and loving everyone. However, our primary focus is on education and providing the facts they need."

Having that information is critical in preparing a young person with the potential consequences of their decision, particularly when it comes to having an abortion.

"If you go to a hospital for any kind of operation, there is always a pre-op appointment," said Landry-Masseau. "But for girls having an abortion, there is no pre-op appointment. They have no idea what their body is going to go through. They have no idea of the emotional trauma they may feel afterwards. We very clearly explain to them when they come that we do not refer for abortions because we are not a medical outlet, but that their best interests are what we have at heart."

The FSO also strives to offer assistance to males in need of guidance when it comes to the array of emotions they are experiencing surrounding a pregnancy with which they are involved.

"We're told that males want to disappear from a pregnancy situation, but that is not what I have seen in Renfrew County," said Landry-Masseau.

"The guys are coming with their girlfriends and they don't know what to do, what they're supposed to say, or how they are supposed to feel. They don't want to desert their girlfriends, but really don't know what their role is. We help them verbalize their concerns and fears."

Parents feeling overwhelmed in a scenario where their child is pregnant can also seek out assistance from the FSO.

"We have both parents and grandparents come to us. It can be tricky because we do uphold an oath of

confidentiality. I am not going to talk to mom about what her daughter just told me," said Landry-Masseau.

Support also extends once the childbirth is complete. Home with a Heart is a 12-week program that assists young mothers in developing skills in areas such as parenting, homemaking, and financial management.

The centre has also made an effort to engage young people within both the public and separate schools about the services FSO offers.

"We do presentations in the schools about healthy relationships that take place in gym class, religion class or parenting class," said Landry-Masseau. "We also invite parenting classes from the high schools through the teachers to visit the centre and talk to the students about their options."

Although based in Pembroke, the centre has assisted clients from across Renfrew County and beyond. Landry-Masseau emphasized that the FSO

team is here to assist, and invited those youth in need to not hesitate to contact them.

"You owe it to yourself to get the facts before you make a decision that is going to affect you for the rest of your life," said Landry-Masseau. "Get a friend to come with you. If you don't have transportation, we'll get you here."

FSO is a registered non-profit organization located in Pembroke, affiliated with the Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services. If you think that you or someone else you know may need the services of First Step Options, please call 613-635-7440, or email at info@firststepoptions.com. Located at 337 Murray Street in Pembroke, the office is open from Monday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday evenings. You are asked to make an appointment in advance prior to arriving onsite. More information is also available at their website, www.firststepoptions.com/PSS/Welcome.html.

Diocesan-led Peru work experience for youth and young adults

The Diocesan Lima, Peru, committee and the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office are working together to provide a unique opportunity for youth from Grade 11 up to 30 years of age to travel to Peru to work and live among the Peruvian people. In 2005, a partnership was established between the Diocese of Pembroke and the Diocese of Lima, Peru. Lima became our sister diocese in which we have agreed to help financially.

It has been six years that groups of adults have taken pilgrimages to Peru to meet and bring aid to our brothers and sisters who are spiritually rich but financially poor. It has long been a hope that one day the diocese could offer something special for our young people to travel to Peru to meet and help other

youth and families in which we have this special bond. The experience will involve hands-on work projects, meeting and living among the Peruvian people and bringing aid to many who suffer the effects of poverty in Peru that we just aren't aware of here in North America. Those participating will be hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Chincha Alta, Peru.

The first work experience is planned for February 4 to February 15, 2013, and there are only six spaces available for youth. The approximate cost is \$2,000 for a 10- to 12-day experience. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2012. Please contact the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office for forms or more information: 613-732-7933 ext. 208 or yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com.



A new “preparation journey” for confirmation

The three small rural parishes of St. Thomas D'Aquin in Astorville, St. Bernadette in Bonfield, and Sacré-Coeur in Corbeil were having a difficult time finding a confirmation program that was suited to their particular situation. To meet the challenges of distance and language, Joyce Lafontaine and Frank Martel decided to develop their own unique confirmation process, one that, in Joyce's words, “would not be instructional for the mind, but more like a retreat that would touch the heart.” She refers to the new process as a spiritual journey.

All existing programs were instructional like school, starting in September and running until June, and none seemed suitable for use in both English and French. The newly developed process has been translated into French by Father Jean-Marc Raymond. The format includes six sessions of about an hour and a half each, where youth are split into small, intimate groups with adult facilitators who share their personal faith.

Lafontaine notes that the personal faith sharing is difficult for some adults and they must become comfortable with it. “We are all evolving along the way,” she notes.

The spiritual journey begins in the first session with the enactment of a baptism. Each session begins with a group prayer and reflection before youth are split



The team who will be facilitating the journey of the confirmants of Bonfield. From left: Deacon Frank Martel, Éric Foisy, Tim Foster, Giselle Pétrin-Bérubé, Rev. J.M. Raymond, Joyce Lafontaine, Antonine Martin, Laurette Taillefer and Deacon Albert Benoît. Missing from photo is Brigitte Levac.

into smaller groups for further reflection. Sessions also include a time for hands-on artistic expression. One group created a mural during the course of the sessions, but Lafontaine notes that cutting and pasting is not for everyone, so other forms of expression such as visual art, drama or rap will be offered to the youth to ensure that all are engaged.

Another aspect of the new preparation journey that has already been tweaked is the log book in which

students were asked to keep a diary of their journey. Youth will now have the option to keep track of their journey in a format of their choice, for example, video or electronic rather than written.

Acknowledging that some students are there only because of pressure from parents, youth are asked to participate in the six sessions and then decide for themselves if they wish to proceed with confirmation at the end. They are asked to sign a contract to this effect, and parents must also sign to indicate that they will be there to lend their encouragement and support.

The preparation journey includes separate meetings with parents to inform them about the process, which have been well received. It is helpful to the youth if parents are onboard with the process.

Yet another aspect of the journey is an outreach experience at a nursing home—an opportunity for the youth to reach out and help someone in need that Lafontaine says exemplifies Jesus' teachings in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Development of the new process has already taken a couple of years and may take a couple more. Although it has had much positive feedback from both the youth participants and their parents, the new preparation journey is still being refined. Once they are satisfied with the process, Lafontaine and Martel plan to share it with the Diocese for vetting and to pass it on to other parishes.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School responds to the needs of others at Lent

Social justice initiatives were a focus at St. Thomas the Apostle (STA) Catholic School in Renfrew during the Lenten season. Students were invited to bring in their coins for a fundraising drive called “pennies for the poor, nickels to be nice, dimes to donate!” The students responded with great enthusiasm and a friendly competition developed where all classes tried to gather the most coins!

As well, once again an Easter Raffle was held to contribute to our Lenten almsgiving.

STA staff donated many prizes including an iPod touch, iTunes gift cards, DVDs, Easter baskets, athletic equipment, stuffed animals and more. The children

were invited to purchase tickets and 100% of the profits went to the Diocese of Pembroke, where funds are allocated to emergency and development projects, missionary efforts and the diocese's partnership with Lima, Peru.

With these two initiatives combined, the almsgiving/donations from students totalled \$2,117.70! Many thanks to all families for supporting our Lenten journey. Similar to Christmas time, STA has met a goal of our board: “as a Catholic School within the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board, we as a school advocate and respond to the call of the poor; both locally and globally.”

A Pembroke youth's experience of World Youth Day 2011

By Sean Gribbon

*"Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ,
firm in the faith" – Col 2:7*

That was the motto of World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain. I had the joy of attending WYD 2011, my first WYD, through the Diocese of Pembroke and I learned firsthand that the many gathered there surely live up to that motto and were strengthened in the faith by the entire experience.

A special thank you to Fr. Real Ouellette, Fr. Denis Lemieux and Keanan Hunt for leading the pilgrims for 16 days on this spiritual journey to Spain to gather with the Holy Father and the worldwide Catholic Church. Many thanks and prayers go to the faithful of the Diocese of Pembroke who helped support the pilgrims on their journey whether financially or prayerfully. Without your support, many youth would not be able to participate.

The group I travelled with left Canada on August 9 and arrived back in Canada on August 24. We had the privilege of visiting several famous Catholic sites in Europe about a week before WYD began. Our first stop was in Fatima, Portugal—the place where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three young children in 1917 with her urgent messages of warning, as well as hope. The second stop was visiting Viana do Castelo, Portugal, with the main attraction being a beautiful chapel dedicated to Santa Luzia (Saint Lucy, a virgin and martyr) at the top of a mountain. The third stop was Santiago de Compostela (St. James of Compostela), which featured a massive cathedral built in the 12th century and is the reputed burial place of Saint James—an apostle of Jesus Christ. The fourth stop was Avila, Spain, the home of the towering giant known as Saint Teresa of Avila—a mystic, reformer and doctor of the Church. All of these famous places showcase the history of the Catholic Church and how it raised Europe from its barbarism into a great civilization through men and women who dedicated their lives to Christ Himself.

After all of that was experienced, the group's next stop was Madrid. For the duration of our stay there, we explored the city and attended catechesis sessions held by bishops presenting the unvarnished Gospel in all its truth and beauty. We attended huge gatherings of youth at talks, concerts, and events with the Holy Father himself. A highlight was the Love and Life Centre for English-speaking pilgrims sponsored largely by the Knights of Columbus.



World Youth Day 2011—Saturday night vigil in Madrid, Spain.

Pope Benedict XVI urged everyone to not be afraid to be Catholic. He called us to both live that faith and share it by seeking Jesus Christ first: "Above all, seek the Truth, which is not an idea or an ideology or a slogan, but a person: Christ, God Himself, who has come into our midst! You rightly wish to plant your faith in Him, to ground your life in Christ. He has always loved you and He knows you better than anyone else." (*Welcome Address to Young People. Plaza de Cibeles, Madrid. Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011.*)

Guaranteed, everyone received something out of this experience. God is empowering the youth, the people of the future, to answer the call of conversion, to increase in personal holiness, and to change the world.

Every WYD changes lives. I can say that my life has been changed and it was a blessing to attend such an event. I encourage any youth 18 to 35 years of age to make an attempt to attend the next WYD in Brazil in 2013. You won't regret it. God bless you!

World Youth Day 2013 "Go and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28.19)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 23–28, 2013

The Diocese of Pembroke is planning a pilgrimage to attend this epic event. Those interested should contact the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office no later than September 28 at 613-732-7933 ext. 208 or yvettebourque@pembrookediocese.com. You must be 18 to 35 years of age at the time of travel to participate.

The theme for WYD 2013 is "Go and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt. 28.19).

Each country hosting WYD creates its own logo for the event.

"The main colours of the logo are green, blue and yellow, the same as the Brazilian flag, and the elements have a meaning: the heart is the heart of the disciple, the green on the top is the Pão de Açúcar, the mount where the Christ the Redeemer stands. The white cross is the WYD cross. In yellow we can see the iconic Christ the Redeemer, and the blue means the sea coast of Rio de Janeiro.

The logo was designed by Gustavo Huguenin, a 25-year-old from Brazil. At the ceremony he said, "For me, it is a great joy to know my job will be used in the biggest Catholic event in the world and it will be associated with a personal meeting between the youth and God himself."



Holy Land reflection

Only four days before Christmas, filled with conflicting emotions, I departed with 32 other seminarians and three priests for the Holy Land. Conflicting emotions because I was obviously excited to see the places where Jesus lived, died and rose, but it was also the beginning of another Christmas away from home. Of course, the whole group received many graces, and the experience of walking in the footsteps of Our Lord was incredible. However, there are two graces in particular that I wish to share.

The first grace was in seeing how simple and small Galilee is. The first half of our pilgrimage was spent along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where the majority of Christ's ministry took place. The sea is not much bigger than Round Lake or Golden Lake, and there are no large cities in the area. The thought that God became man and then became pastor in an area much like our own was wonderful to me. Not only do I hope to be a priest in the image of Jesus Christ, I will likely serve in a parish similar to His own! We really are from "God's country."

The second grace was the privilege of bringing the intentions of my family and friends, my parish and the diocese, our priests, and Bishop Mulhall to Calvary. Despite being so far from the people and places that I love, you were still there with me at the foot of the cross, united to Christ. Intercessory prayer does more than we can imagine, and I can't begin to express how grateful I am to have you with me on my journey to the priesthood. Thank you for your prayers and I look forward to being back in Pembroke this summer.

**In Christ, Our Hope,
Scott Murray**



Scott Murray at Qumran next to the Dead Sea.

St. Joseph the Worker

By Jason Dedo

The optional memorial of St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1. This is also International Worker's Day. The *ORDO 2011–2012 Liturgical Calendar* for Canada states that International Workers' Day "...can be a day to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work, and celebrate the role that human work has in God's plan for creation".

Although St. Joseph played a fundamental part in the early years of the life of Jesus, we know very little about him from scripture. The name of Joseph is mentioned only five times in scripture—Matthew 1: 16–24; 2:13–19; Luke 1:27; 2; John 1:45. From these few references, we learn that Joseph was descended from King David, his role in Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' birth, the encounter with angels, his protection of the Holy Family in Egypt during King Herod's reign and his return with Mary to Nazareth to raise Jesus. After the Finding in the Temple in Luke 2, Joseph is never mentioned again in scripture. In Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:55, Jesus is referred to as "the carpenter's son" and so we learn of Joseph's trade.

St. Joseph is often depicted in sacred art as working at a carpenter's bench or with tools in his hand. We can assume, as was customary in those days, that Jesus learned the trade of Joseph, his father on earth.

The May 2012 edition of *Living with Christ* tells us the following about St. Joseph the Worker:

Although popular devotion to Joseph, husband of Mary, may have begun in the West as early as the 8th century, it was not until the 15th century that his name was entered in the Church calendar. Since that time, devotion to Joseph has been marked by growing enthusiasm and, in 1955, Pope Pius XII proclaimed a second feast day in his honour, Labour Day in many countries. A carpenter, Joseph exemplifies working people who are dignified by their labour and how to bring Christ to the workplace.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, is celebrated on March 19. St. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church, the principal patron of Canada and is patron of fathers, carpenters and workers.

Saint Joseph by James Tissot



Parish suppers 2012



Sunday, May 27
Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Braeside, ON
Barbecued chicken
 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Adults: \$13.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00; Under 6: free
 Take-out available

Sunday, June 10
St Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON
Roast Beef Supper and Bazaar
Famous Fresh Home Baking
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;
 Under 5: free
 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday, June 16/Sunday, June 17
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
 Children 12 & under: \$3.00
 Meal starts at 4 p.m.

le 16 juin, samedi /
le 17 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 29
St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON
Bonfield Church Picnic
Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full
Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies
 Adults: \$11.00
 Games: 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.
 Meal: 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

le 29 juillet, dimanche
Sainte-Bernadette, Bonfield, ON
Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield
Sea Pie; Fèves au lard; repas complet;
tartes assorties faites à la maison,
 Adultes: 11,00 \$
 Jeux: 13h30–18h00
 Repas: 15h30–17h00

Sunday, August 5
St. Martin of Tours, Whitney, ON
Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean
Supper—Country-style home cooking
Take-out meals available. Games for
all the family. Afternoon and evening
Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Raffle tickets.
Flea market opens at 11 a.m.
Canteen and Religious Articles
 St. Martin's Parish Hall
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;
 Five and under: free

Sunday, August 12
St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON
Hot and Cold Buffet—Turkey, Ham,
Beans, Salads and Homemade Pies
 Adult: \$12.00; Children 4–12: \$5.00

Sunday, August 12
St. Lawrence O'Toole,
Barry's Bay, ON
Roast Beef and Pork
Vegetables, Beans, Salad, & Desserts
Take-out available
Wheelchair-accessible
 Starting at 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 12
St-Thomas D'Aquin, Astorville, ON
Annual parish picnic from
1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Serving our famous Canadian supper of
seapie, homemade beans, coleslaw,
homemade raspberry, blueberry, and
and lemon pies.
Games, music, and ticket draw
 At East Ferris Community Centre,
 Astorville, ON
 Supper starts at 3:30 p.m.,
 take-out begins at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 19
Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON
Turkey Supper
Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets,
Kids' 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 19
St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay, ON
Turkey Supper
Entertainment, Raffle Draw
at 6:30 p.m.
 3 p.m.–7 p.m.

Sunday, August 26
Precious Blood, Calabogie, ON
Gigantic garage sale and barbecue
Bakery & Games
Live musical entertainment
1 p.m.–4 p.m.—free admission,
ample parking
 Parish Grounds,
 504 Mill St., Calabogie
 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday, August 26
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 2
St. Ignatius, Maynooth, ON
Parish Supper and Bazaar
Turkey, Ham and Beans
Bingo, Crafts and Draws
 Adults: \$12.00
 Children 10 and under: \$5.00
 12 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Mass at noon

Sunday, September 2
St. Mary's, Wilno, ON
Chicken Supper
Home-Cooked Meal
Plates served from 1 p.m.
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00
 17325 Highway 60, Wilno
 Mass at noon

Sunday, September 9
St. John the Evangelist,
Campbell's Bay, QC
Turkey and Ham Supper
 Adults: \$13.00; Children: \$5.00
 3 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 16
Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON
Ham & Roast Beef,
Homemade salads,
baked beans and pies
Raffle Tickets, Silent Auction,
Curiosity Shoppe,
Yard Sale
Take-out meals available
 Our Lady of Mercy School Gym
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00;
 Children under 5: Free
 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
 Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 16
St. Columbkille Cathedral,
Pembroke, ON
Annual Roast Beef,
Ham & Bean Dinner
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00
 11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 16
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 23
St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON
Turkey and Ham Supper
 Adults: \$12.00; Children: \$5.00
 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Le 23 septembre
Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste,
Pembroke, ON
Repas à la dinde et au jambon
 adultes: 12,00 \$ / enfants 5,00 \$
 11h30–19h00

Sunday, September 30
St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC
Turkey Supper with all the Trimmings
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children 10 and under: \$5.00
 Chapeau Arena
 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday, September 30
St. Patrick's, Mount St. Patrick, ON
Turkey, Ham and Beans
Bingo, games, crafts and white
elephant. Musical entertainment
 Adults: \$12.00; Children \$5.00
 1 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Sunday Mass at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 7
St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON
Roast Beef & Bean Supper
Handicapped accessible.
Crafts, Bingo, Draws, Great Food!
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00;
 Under 5: free
 Commencing at 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 14
St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON
 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

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