



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

Sisters of St. Joseph look back on 50 years devoted to the Peru Mission

If you ask Sister Nora Kelly of the Sisters of St. Joseph to summarize the 40 years she spent living in one of the poorest countries in the world, her answer may surprise you.

"It was the best 40 years of my life," says Sister Nora.

Her words reflect the love that she and other members of her order have for carrying out God's work by helping the impoverished residents of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Peru. That devotion to serving the poor will be celebrated by the Diocese of Pembroke, as the Sisters of St. Joseph mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the mission in 2014.

Answering the call for help

In 1964, the Sisters answered the call for help from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

"When we went there, there was just a church," says Sister Nora. "The Oblate priests were in charge of the parish and they asked for our cooperation. Our priority was to start a parish school. That's what the Oblates asked of us."

The challenge was immense as the Sisters saw firsthand the grinding poverty the Peruvians endured.

"Most of them lived in straw huts. They didn't have beds or furniture of any kind."

With limited supplies, the Sisters proceeded to begin educational instruction in humble surroundings.

"In those days, it was the building materials that we needed the most. Our black boards were just cement walls painted black."

Despite this, the demand from local parishioners to enrol their children was immense.

"Everybody wanted to come to the school. It was a novelty. In the first year we had 52 students in kindergarten, grade one and two. Now, there must be some 600 children."

Sister Nora needed only look to the parents of those children to confirm how much their hard work was appreciated.

"We would go out to the families of the children to get to know them, and to find out what their needs were. According to them, the school was the best one in the country."

The other pressing concern confronted by Sister Nora and her peers was the need for a medical facility. With that, a medical clinic was established simultaneously as the school.

"We had volunteer doctors come from the town who attended to patients, especially the elderly and the children."

On occasion, Sister Nora found herself administering outside of Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Located in the Chincha Valley, Our Lady of Fatima is just one of seven parishes located in that region, encompassing a population of some 170,000 people. Because the Oblates were unable to allocate personnel of their own, it was the Sisters who stepped in.

Taking on such daunting and varied assignments is well in keeping with the goals of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

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Above, the first two Sisters leaving Pembroke.

Right, Sr. María, Sr. Nora and Sr. Gloria.





Sr. Nora Kelly and Sr. Mary Varney in Peru



Blessing the clinic in Chinchá Alta, 1965.

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Building Christian communities

"Our ministry is to go where the need is," explains Sister Pauline Coulterman. "There was a need within the parishes of that area to set up basic Christian communities. The sisters eventually pulled out of the schools and moved into doing parish work. A lot of our time was spent by our early sisters in inaugurating these basic Christian communities that are very affluent in the area right now. Whatever the need was at the time, we freed ourselves up to do that. Every one of those parishes had several Christian communities. It might be 15 to 20 people living in a sector where they come together once a week to share scripture, and to be of help to each other in times of need."

The leaders of these communities would gather once a week to receive instruction from the local parish, then deliver those messages to their community members.

"The parish goes through these Christian communities to convey the church messages," says Sister Pauline. "The leaders would receive a teaching, and then those leaders would take that teaching to the community they are responsible for."

Passing on the torch

The Sisters' work was laying the groundwork for the local populace to assume control of the institutions they had built, then moving to where they were needed next. Making this transition all the more imperative was the decline in the number of Sisters in the order in recent years.

"We let the clinics go when a hospital was established. Once we had enough Peruvians prepared to take over the school, we let that go too," explains Sister Pauline.

"At present, we have only two Sisters working there. One is quite involved with the Christian communities and preparing of the leaders, and the other one is involved in the pastoral work of the parish, which means attending to the different committees, such as the liturgy committee and the music committee."

Far from having any regrets on the diminishing role in this ministry, Sister Pauline explains that this is very much a part of the inevitable life cycle of any task they begin.

"That is always our pretext upon which we take on a task; to leave people prepared to take over. If we start something, our hope is to educate people to take that on if we are no longer able to carry it on. That is what has happened over the years. I don't think we ever left anything behind that still was not being attended to."



Sr. Gloria visiting family.



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Ecclesia is published three times a year by the Diocese of Pembroke and is distributed free throughout the diocese.

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Continuing support

Though they moved on from actively teaching at the school they founded, the Sisters were far from done with helping young people gain access to education. A scholarship program was founded to cover the costs of students attending government schools.

"We have Canadians who pay \$200 a year to sponsor a child's education," says Sister Pauline. "These children are in state schools; they're no longer in the San Jose school, which was the school we first started. When we first started the mission of the school, we had a scholarship program through the Oblates. The money helps to pay for their uniform, books, and any other needs throughout the school year."

Much of the proceeds that are raised come directly from the people of the Diocese of Pembroke. That crucial relationship has proven imperative to the success of the mission.

"We have a number of people from the diocese who support people within Our Lady of Fatima Parish," says Sister Pauline. "We mainly work within that parish, so a lot of our fundraising goes directly towards people living there, which is a population of about 25,000 people. I'm very grateful to the number of benefactors in Canada. We have 285 Peruvian children who were sponsored from Canada this year. That's a big group of sponsors just from the Diocese of Pembroke. We have a good number who are also supporting other projects over and above health and education."

Over the years, other initiatives have taken root, including water and sewage access, breakfast programs, an adult education centre, legal services, youth group programs, small business loans, and more.

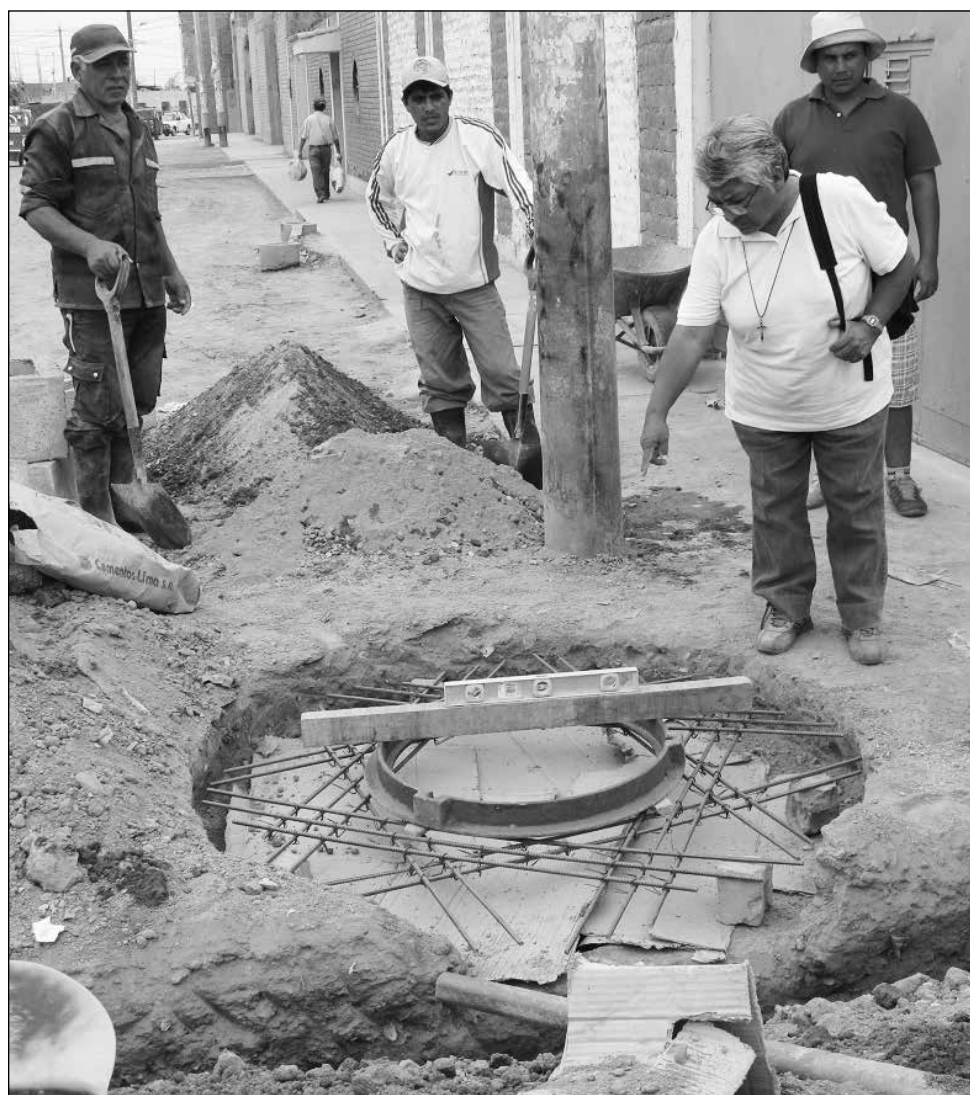
But perhaps the greatest contribution the Sisters have made with their ministry efforts in Peru is seeding the knowledge amongst the local populace to prioritize education as a means to escape the cycle of poverty.

"We have established that health and education are something that everybody needs," says Sister Pauline.

"From my experiences, the Sisters have educated families to the extent of making them understand that if they don't have their health and an education there's not much of a future to look forward to, there's not much hope. We see families that are just begging to have their kids in school. They are making every effort to put their funds towards education of their children."



Sr. María, Sr. Pauline and Sr. Gloria.



Sr. María directing a water project.

Would you like to participate in a work experience in Peru?

The Sisters of St. Joseph Pembroke invite the youth of the Pembroke Diocese to Minister to the needy of Chinchá Alta, Peru, March 8–22, 2015

This work experience will include the following:

- working with the people of the Chinchá Valley in various work projects
- an optional two-day live-in with a Peruvian family
- an opportunity to learn how to construct a bamboo house
- an excursion to the capital city of Lima and tour of the Chinchá Valley.

The cost of this two-week work experience is \$2,000 (all inclusive)

Optional four-day excursion to Machu Picchu \$1,000 extra

This is an opportunity for those from age 16 to 30

Maximum 12 students will be accepted

Applications due May 30, 2014

The application form and a \$500.00 deposit, payable to "Sr. Pauline Coulterman", must be mailed to the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office, 188 Renfrew St., PO Box 7, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X1

For an application or more information please contact one of the following representatives:

Yvette Bourque, 613 732-7933 x 208
yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com

Sr. Pauline Coulterman, 613 732-1306
pcoulterman@yahoo.com

Yvonne Sklepowicz, 613 432-6725
theskleps@gmail.com

In thanksgiving for twenty-five years of priesthood

This coming summer I will celebrate 25 years of ordination to the priesthood. Some of my classmates have been speaking of this off and on for the past couple of years, but the anniversary has seemed to arrive out of nowhere and caught me off guard. I am sharing the anniversary of my priestly ordination with many classmates spread throughout the United States. Many of these priests I have not seen in 25 years. Closer to home, I was ordained with Fr. Gerard McMahon of Peterborough Diocese and here in Pembroke Diocese I share the anniversary with Fr. Steve Ballard and Fr. Tim Moyle.

Anniversaries are special moments. They take our minds back to these wonderful events that have been so important in our lives and, without fail, the celebration of an anniversary brings our minds to God who has granted to us so many blessings. This has certainly been the experience I have felt in these past days as I was reflecting on what I would write for this article in Ecclesia. If one realization seems primary it is the knowledge that God's goodness is beyond comprehension. I pray that all who read this article, especially those who struggle with crosses in their own lives, may share this knowledge and experience.

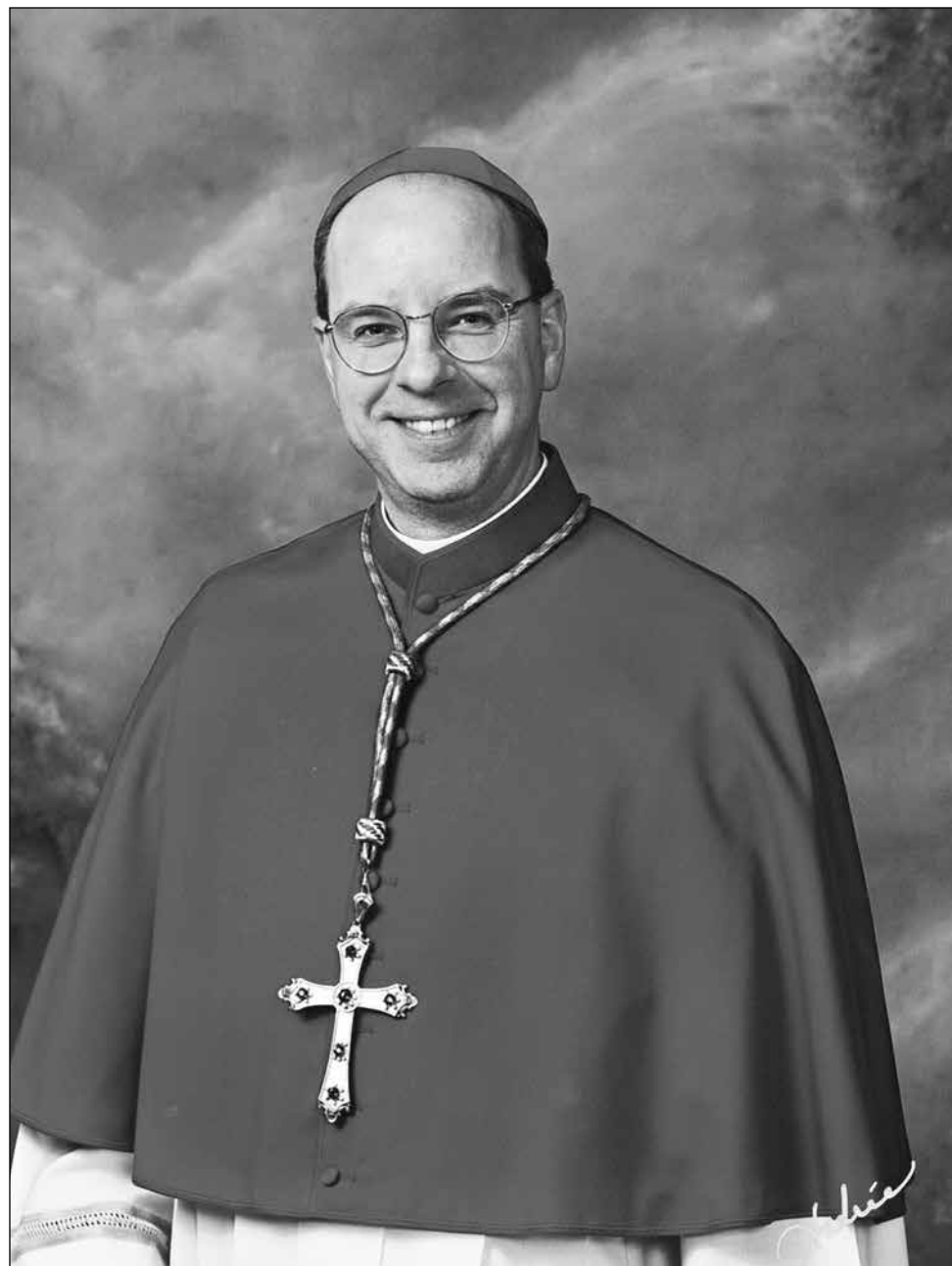
Even though I have felt a strong calling to the priesthood throughout my life, the living of the priesthood over these years has given to me a deep appreciation of both the gift of the priesthood and the magnificence this gift is to the world. I was drawn to consider how often I have been the instrument of Christ's priesthood over these years and, more importantly, how often I have been the one who has needed the priesthood lived in other men to sustain me, nourish me and reconcile me to the Father. As these experiences expand upon one another my appreciation of the priesthood grows ever greater.

My thoughts have also returned to the many people who were instrumental in my years of preparation for the priesthood. On my prayer card for my ordination I had printed a prayer that my uncle, Fr. John Hickey, had printed on his prayer card of ordination in 1951. "O Jesus, bless his parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, friends and all others who by prayer and sacrifice have helped him to become a priest." Often I renew that prayer when I make my thanksgiving after celebrating Mass. I often think of how the prayers and communion of the faithful departed have been a source of strength for my vocation in the present moment.

And to think of how many people the Lord has allowed me to meet in these 25 years as I ministered as a priest. My mind travels from the professors who guided my studies, the priests and people of St. Mary's Parish in Huntsville, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hastings, my superiors during my years of service to the Holy See in Rome many bishops, priests, and religious men and women from missionary countries who were involved in my ministry, and the figure of Pope John Paul II who will be canonized shortly after my writing this reflection.

As we look back, we all seem to have this wonderful ability to remember the years when we lived here or there and the years we were assigned to various tasks. This is certainly true for religious women and men and parish priests. My priesthood has included two years of theological studies, eight years of service to the Holy See and 15 years of pastoral ministry. But the list of assignments is so barren in comparison to the memory of the people who embody the events that mark 25 years. These people were almost always the messengers of special gifts from the Lord. For me, my loving thoughts of these people mark the moments in which I was taught, when I was given a wonderful example and inspired by a way of life. As priests we are granted a beautiful invitation into the lives of people in all the broad range of human experience. It has been an overwhelming gift to see the work of God in the lives of these people and it is this reality that grants such satisfaction to our vocation.

I have deliberately left to the last my thoughts regarding these past years that I have been blessed to experience as your bishop. Not knowing exactly what to expect



when I was named Bishop of Pembroke has made for an added element of novelty to the fulfilling experiences of these years. As we know so well, these years together in Pembroke have included great turmoil and scandal with the abuse problems we have suffered. But, in the midst of these sufferings that have come upon us, I have counted these years as the most fulfilling of my priesthood. Maybe this has to do with the added invitation the episcopacy offers to allow me to live in the mystery of the Church, but it has once again been the people the Lord has allowed me to meet that has marked the graces of these years.

To my brother Bishops I owe a great debt of gratitude for their example, welcome, advice and fraternal support. To my dear religious and consecrated men and women, I thank you for your prayers and your support during these years. The heritage of religious dedication that you have offered to the people of this diocese continues to be a precious testimony. I pray that it will continue to abide with us.

To you my dear faithful of the diocese I express my deepest thanks. Your example of faith, your welcome, and your seemingly ceaseless invitation to me to minister as a bishop in your midst has taught me how to be a bishop. And how much I still need to learn from you. I pray that we may experience many years together and that the Lord will teach me how to be a Good Shepherd and ever ready to give my energies for you.

Finally to my brother priests. I express words of thanks that are heartfelt. I never cease to be edified by your generous ministry, your brotherly affection, and your priestly gift to me and the beloved people we have been called to serve. This example, I pray has allowed me to be a better priest and has drawn me closer to the Lord in these years together. Please continue to pray for me and know of my love for you and for the precious gift of the priesthood that we share.

† Michael Mulhall
Bishop of Pembroke

Reflections— Father Pat Tait

This past February, members of the Diocese of Pembroke bid farewell to Father Patrick James Tait who passed away from this earth at age 66.

Father Ryan Holly was kind enough to share some reflections on his brother priest and friend. He was at Father Tait's side during his last moments before ascending into God's embrace.

It was during his years at St. Peter's Seminary that Father Holly first met Father Tait. A year after his ordination, he would work at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke for six years, discovering first-hand what kind of a man Father Tait was.

"It's one thing to be friends with a person, but then to live and work with them, there may be some apprehension, but not with Father Tait," says Father Holly. "In my first years after being ordained, it was a joy to be with him because he loved the priesthood so much. He was definitely the kind of example that you learned from just by observation. He was a wonderful friend; he was an absolute gem of a pastor to work with in those years at the Cathedral. He was a patient and easy going gentleman by disposition."

Father Holly noted how working with Father Tait left a lasting impression on him in terms of his devotion to prayer and in socializing with persons outside of church functions.

"For Father Tait, he took his devotion to prayer very seriously. It was something I saw in him often. For all the pastoral activities we do as priests, he certainly was very faithful to the liturgy of the hours, the celebration of sacraments, and the time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"He certainly had a sense of where priests should be in terms of being present with people. Not just doing the duties they were required to do, but in attending wakes, funerals, anniversaries, and other community events. He had a great instinct that a priest should be visible and out and about in the community."

When he did have time for himself, Father Tait would look to spend time with his brother priests.

"Being together with other priests was one of the ways he relaxed. He drew a lot of strength by going to visit his brother priests. Those very simple things in life brought him a lot of joy."

In his homily at Father Tait's funeral, Father Patrick Dobec recounted the devotion of Father Tait to his calling.

"With all the gifts of his personality, with his strengths and overcoming his weaknesses, he continued to 'Feed the Sheep' ascending to the altar of God daily, preaching the Word, giving Christ's Body and Blood to the faithful, celebrating the other Sacraments, and providing guidance and care to God's people. He was an attentive chaplain to the Catholic Women's League, and was solicitous in his care for the sick, especially through his ministry to our local hospitals and nursing homes."



During the weeks of his brief illness, Father Tait was surrounded by the support of his brother priests, extended family, and friends. Despite the severity of his illness, Father Tait upheld his unwavering focus to celebrate Mass and prayer.

"Every day we went to celebrate Mass together," says Father Holly. "Even when he was experiencing moments of great pain, one of the things I observed

was how faithful he was to the liturgies of the hour, even when he was at Shalom during his final days. He was faithful to prayer right up until the end. What a privilege and a consolation it was for us to be able to with him, where we would have moments to pray together. That brought him great consolation. For those who were with him, it was indeed the same."

The Diocese of Pembroke is planning a road trip to attend the first ever...

STEUBENVILLE SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCE – TORONTO JULY 4–6, 2014

Don't miss it! Register now—Only 55 spaces available (first come, first served)

Must be entering Grade 9–12 in fall of 2014

Cost \$300 per person (incl. conference, meals, coach bus, hotel accommodations)

Deposit of \$150 required to secure your place. Also, include cheque for final payment of \$150 to be post dated no later than May 15.

To do: Fill out Diocesan waiver form (signed by youth & a parent) and include payment. Forms are also available at all Parishes and High School Chaplaincy offices. Make cheque/s payable to "Diocese of Pembroke".

Send to: FLYMO -188 Renfrew St., PO Box 7, Pembroke, ON K8A 6X1

Questions, need forms e-mailed, or more info?

Contact Yvette Bourque:

613-687-1937, or yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com

Sponsored by the Family Life & Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Pembroke

Parish Profile

St. Andrew, Killaloe

The faith community at St. Andrew parish in Killaloe continues to be a vibrant gathering of the faithful who remain dedicated to celebrating the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"To me, it is very rewarding," says Parish Council chairperson Isabel O'Reilly on being involved with the council. She has been a member of the parish for 40 years and has served on the council for 15 years.

"I don't see it as work. I see it as the spirit of camaraderie and just being Christian like. To get together with the other council members and the parish priest, it's just such a good feeling."

According to available records, Father Michael Byrne was the first priest to visit the Killaloe area, celebrating Mass at the residence of a Patrick Garvey in Sligo. A chapel was built in 1897. However, due to a rapid growth of church attendees, the diocese ordered that a new church of adequate size be constructed. Bishop Zephirin Lorrain blessed the cornerstone on July 8, 1899, with the full structure completed sometime before the turn of the century. On October 26, 1901, St. Andrew's was officially elevated to a parish. Currently, Father Grant Neville is the parish priest, also overseeing Our Lady of Angels parish in Brudenell.

The annual Parish Supper is the primary fundraising event for the church. But just as important is the opportunity the gathering affords to church members and visiting guests to socialize with one another.

"This fundraising event has become widely known for its hosting skills, its great food, and the fact that the community works so well together to ensure success. It's becoming more popular as the years go on. It's not a day of work, but a day of fun. We have live music, and that's always a big draw. People will come and have a meal, then sit at picnic tables and listen to the music. There are also games and a white elephant sale. People drop off items they no longer need, or want to donate to the parish."

Like many other parishes in the diocese, St. Andrew has seen its share of renovations. Most recently, upgrades were made to accommodate those with mobility issues.



"Based on the known fact that we are an aging population, together with the mandate of provincial regulations, it was evident that some type of mobility assistance was necessary," says O'Reilly. "That led to the decision to install a ramp/lift/elevator, as well as a wheelchair accessible washroom."

Other improvements include the installation of a new heating system that replaced the boiler heating apparatus, a new steel roof, and repairs to the bell tower that houses the church bells.

"These projects were completed with the assistance of loans from the diocese at a very reasonable rate, and the Parish Council is very happy to report that all loans have been paid in full."

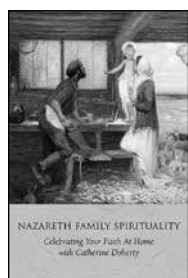
Despite the challenges our faith is facing in attracting young people to worship, St. Andrew parish still sees the presence of young people at sacramental occasions.

"When it comes to first communion and confirmation there seems to be a good number of younger people. They come from St. Andrew's school, and from other schools in Round Lake and Brudenell. It's important to know that the faith has been passed to the next generation."

Mass times for St. Andrew parish are Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.

Book review: A book for families—and others, too

by Suzanne Atkinson



Nazareth Family Spirituality: Celebrating Your Faith at Home with Catherine Doherty
edited by Fr. Blair Bernard,
MH Publications, 1-888-703-7110
230 pages, \$15.95

In page after page of her writings, as well as in hour after hour of talks and teachings, Catherine Doherty spoke about the Gospel as it was lived in Nazareth, the village home of the Holy Family, where Jesus spent thirty years of hidden life.

In this book, we find a collection of these reflections, some never before published, as well as liturgical customs and traditions to help bring Nazareth alive in Catholic families and homes.

The titles of its five sections tell us specifically what this book is about: "Nazareth Spirituality for Your Family," "Wife, Mother, Foundress: Catherine's Meditations on Marriage and Family," "Handing on the Faith Through Celebration: Family Customs and

Traditions for the Church Year," "Questions Parents Ask: Q. & A. with Catherine Doherty," and "'Till Death Do Us Part': First and Last Things in Marriage and Family."

Before she founded Madonna House, Catherine was a married woman who knew the challenges of family life, and she had a heart for families.

The friendly, conversational tone of *Nazareth Family Spirituality* draws you in to experience the heart of Nazareth, and it gives you the feeling that Catherine is alongside you offering encouragement and love.

Early in the book, Catherine states, "We go to Nazareth, that hidden little village and live with the Holy Family to become whole again. Here we learn about the little things done with great love, perfectly, for the love of God."

Nazareth is a place where growth in holiness and love of God through ordinary everyday life can transpire. And Catherine connects the various aspects of Nazareth to modern Catholic family life.

These reflections can be an inspiration to young couples as well as to those who have been married for many years. This book can also be a resource for study for them, individually or in a group.

My own adult faith life has been profoundly formed by the words of Catherine Doherty. When I was a young wife and mother trying to live out my vocation, her words sang in my heart.

Her winsome way of putting things—even deep spiritual truths—gave great encouragement to me as I sought to live "the duty of the moment" and grow in my understanding of Nazareth.

In this book, the traditions from Madonna House are presented in such a way that they can be easily adapted to Catholic homes, and over the years, our family has followed many of these customs. Through such things as food and decorations, these customs have brought to life the richness of the faith.

Nazareth Family Spirituality is a treasury of love, wisdom and celebration from the heart of Catherine Doherty. It is a treasury that presents a way of passing on the faith that is accessible and vibrant. Through it, families can find healing and joy.

The author attended Cana Colony at MH in 1996 and the Nazareth Family Retreat in Combermere in 1992. Since 2003, her family has been part of the core team of families that hosts Nazareth Family Retreats at Dominus Vobiscum, a family camp north of Montreal. Nazareth is, naturally, very close to the heart of her family.

Father Douglas Morris, 60 years

Though retired, Father Douglas Morris continues to remain active helping the Diocese of Pembroke where he can. May 6 marks the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Morris retired from being a full-time priest about nine years ago, last serving at St. Francis Xavier in Renfrew. A native of Sheenboro, Quebec, he now resides at Marianhill in Pembroke.

"I still do some work almost every day at the Marriage Tribunal here in Pembroke," says Father Morris. "I go in almost every afternoon. We do the initial interviews with people who are applying for an annulment. I started doing this full-time in September of 1987."

As he explains, almost all priests at the parish level will have to assist with the tribunal works at one time or another.

Having worked at a variety of parishes throughout his tenure, Father Morris shares his thoughts on the role of the parish priest over the years.

"The parish priest had to be the spiritual leader of the people in his parish. He had to radiate that pretty clearly. Today, parishioners are very astute and they don't mind asking you questions of some opinion you expressed."

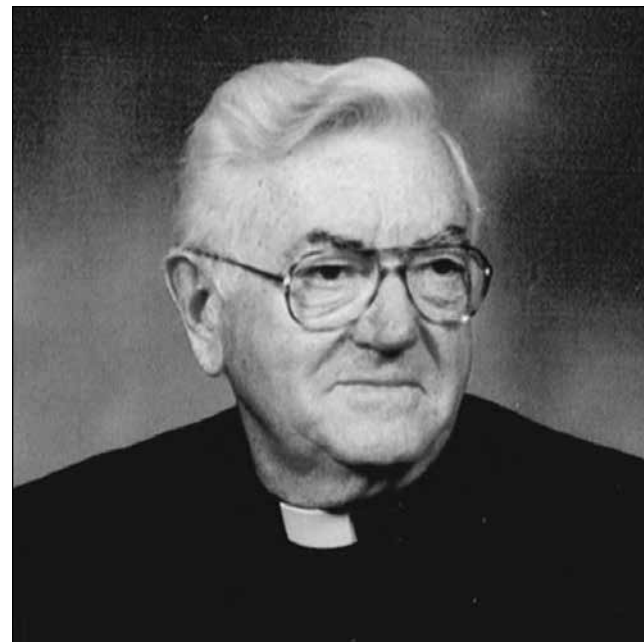
Father Morris admits that the varied duties of being a parish priest did not leave him with much time to pursue other interests.

"When you are a parish priest, you're pretty much working full-time, especially if you are in a relatively small parish where there's no assistant. That can be pretty taxing," says Father Morris, adding what he enjoyed most in serving God's people.

"It was to be able to assist people in understanding more about the good Lord's presence in their lives in an active way. To be with them in their joys and sorrows, to encourage them to keep moving forward no matter what life hands us. Life doesn't always deal us a pleasant hand, but we have to cope with it, whatever it may be. I found that to be of a pastoral assistance to the people to be very rewarding."

Reflecting on his years studying at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, Father Morris says it was at that holy institute that he knew God was calling him to serve.

"I distinctly recall the night before I left to go to the seminary my mother and I were milking the cows. I said to my mother 'Don't dispose of any of my things.'



She said, 'You don't plan on staying there, do you?,' and I said, 'No, I don't'. However, when I went to the chapel on the first evening at the seminary, the thought just struck me very forcefully that this was the place for me. I knew that was where the Lord was calling me."

As the Diocese of Pembroke prepares for the ordination of more priests, Father Morris is more than willing to share his advice with those who will soon join the ranks of the priesthood.

"Keep your prayer life up and keep it up every single day."

Fr. J. Kenneth O'Brien, 40 years

Ordained by Bishop Joseph Raymond Windle at St. James the Less in Eganville on May 11, 1974, Father J. Kenneth O'Brien will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. He is currently assigned to Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish in Combermere and St. Francis de Sales Mission Parish in Latchford Bridge.

A native of Clontarf, south of Eganville on the Opeongo Line, Father O'Brien knew from a very early age he was destined to serve God.

"Bishop William Smith confirmed me at St. Joseph, Esmonde, Ontario, and he asked us what would be the next sacrament we were going to receive," recalls Father O'Brien. "All the other kids that were confirmed with me said 'Matrimony', but when he came to me I said 'Holy Orders.' That answer wasn't prompted by anyone, it was just in my head. In high school, I went to see Bishop Smith and when I went into his office and he said, 'You told me that when I confirmed you.'"

Father O'Brien began his training for the priesthood at Resurrection College in Kitchener pursuing philosophy. He studied there for two years, before moving on to St. Peter's Seminary in London to complete his Theology studies.

Life in the seminary was a time of transition to adulthood and establishing friendships for life.

"I really enjoyed my seminarian life. The priests there kept telling us, 'Gentlemen, these are the best years of

your lives.' Right from the beginning, you were standing on your own two feet; they treated us as adults. You got a key to the back door, and you were totally responsible for your own actions; for example being in chapel for prayer in the morning or Celebration of the Eucharist. I made some very good friends, and to this day, we can still just pick up the phone and wherever we finished off talking from before, we just carry on."

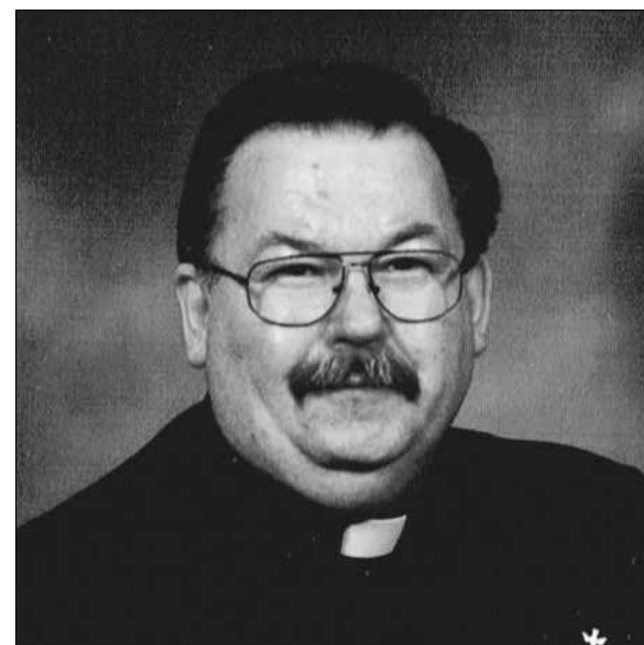
Having overseen a number of parishes, Father O'Brien shares what he thought stood out most in being a parish priest.

"The one big thing is to respond to all people; to be with them in the good times and the bad. We were taught by our spiritual director and confessor at the seminary to always stay with the faith of the people. In the rough times they will pray for you if you ask, and in the good times they will celebrate with you. The people are the servants of God and we are their servants."

He also notes the need to engage young people in order to bring them closer to God and the church.

"They are the church of the future! The challenge today, especially with so many, is that they do not practise their faith, so we speak with them and make the liturgies available to them through our Catholic school system."

It was just two years ago that Father O'Brien had the privilege to visit both the Holy Land and the Vatican in Rome, both of which left a lasting impression upon him.

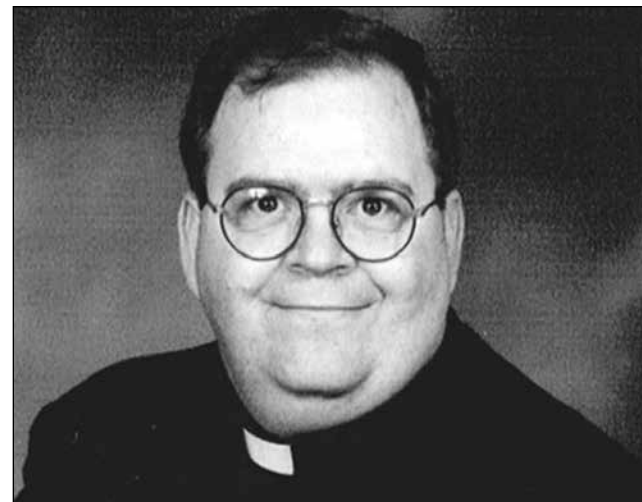


"We went to the Holy Land for a week, then a week in Rome. To visit the Holy Land, to use my expression, 'was an experience that knocked my socks off.' To walk in the footsteps of our brother Jesus was a wonderful experience."

Just as his group was about to leave, Father O'Brien and his companions received an unexpected surprise. "Our plane was supposed to fly out Friday and was postponed until Saturday. Bishop Douglas Crosby (Diocese of Hamilton) arranged a tour; we were shown the office of the Secretariat of State (Holy See—Vatican City) and the white door leading to the Holy Father's apartment and given a private tour of the Sistine Chapel."

Father Tim Moyle, 25 years

Father Moyle was ordained May 13, 1989, and is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. He is at present the pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau, St. Joseph Parish of St. Joseph's and St. Paul the Hermit Parish, Sheenboro.



Father Steven Ballard, 25 years

Ordained by Bishop Joseph Raymond Windle at Our Lady of Fatima in Renfrew on May 20, 1989, Father Steven Ballard will be celebrating his 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood.

Born and raised in Renfrew, Father Ballard recalls his time serving the church in his youth where his path to the priesthood began.

"In terms of my call to the priesthood, certainly that began when I was a young child and particularly after I became an altar server," says Father Ballard. "I think specifically of Monsignor Adrian Flynn, my long-time parish priest, who was such a dedicated pastor and who was a great influence. Likewise, the kindness and support of Bishop Windle was very impressive and constant. I remember after being ordained to the priesthood that Bishop Windle pulled me aside and said something to the effect that I should not see him as some kind of 'boss'. He didn't want me to have that kind of image of him. He was very supportive and encouraging always".

Father Steve first served at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pembroke, proceeding then to St. Francis Xavier parish in Renfrew from 1990–1997. It was during his appointment there that Father Ballard began his studies in Canon Law.

"I always had an interest in the law. My mother would tease me when I was a young lad saying that I would either be a lawyer or a priest—I think it relates to the 'Ballard' capacity to talk! Studying Canon Law was something I was very interested in and it was Bishop O'Brien who provided this opportunity. I will always be grateful to him for that." Father Ballard acquired his Master's Degree (*Magna cum Laude*) and received his Licentiate in Canon Law from Saint Paul University in Ottawa. This was no small feat.

"I was commuting between Renfrew and Ottawa, which involved some very early and snowy mornings. I was doing this at the same time as my normal parish workload. Returning to class was a wonderful experience. The diversity of our professors, including many of whom had written well-known texts that we used in our seminary

training, was very enlightening". Father Ballard was part of a group of canonists who toured many offices of the Vatican (the Curia) where they received informative presentations concerning the work of the church around the world. "The highlight of the course was the opportunity to have an audience with (Blessed) Pope John Paul II. It was very special". This opportunity came again in 2001.

Father Ballard first served as an Auditor, then later as a Judge for the Ottawa Ecclesiastical Tribunal. He was appointed as Chancellor, Judicial Vicar and a member of the College of Consultors for the diocese in 2003. He held these positions for a three-year term and left the office in the weeks following his mother's death.

Reflecting on his more recent parish assignments, Father Ballard notes the attention and time needed to address property issues.

"Like most parish priests, there has been a necessary concentration on renovations and repairs. We did a lot of work renovating the rectory in Chalk River, while also serving as parish priest of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Stonecliffe. At Holy Name of Jesus, the first day I moved in, I was told in a joking manner that at some point we would need to put a new roof on the Annex. I wanted to faint! Eventually, when the water let loose in many places, we were engaged in a complete renovation of the Annex, the kitchen, the washrooms, the Food Bank for about a year and half, involving many parish volunteers. It was thoroughly exhausting, but we got it done!"

In July of 2013, Father Ballard and his parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows had to contend with damage to the church property and grounds as a result of the microburst wind storm. Through it all, it was the parishioners who stepped forward when they were needed.

"The people have been wonderful at every parish where I served," says Father Ballard. "They know that when the chips are down, and things need to get done, they are always there to jump in. Their faith and generosity always inspires me".



Though such matters as building maintenance are unavoidable, Father Ballard emphasized that serving God and his people is always foremost in the minds of priests.

"Every priest's heart centres on serving the people. The heart of our ministry is in being an instrument of God. With our own limitations and challenges, you do your best to serve God's people in a kind, loving and authentic way, reminding them of the presence of God even in the midst of the fog. The privilege of walking with people in the midst of a variety of life experiences is a special privilege. As I like to say, we are all trying to find our way. Joy comes with serving those in need and we are blessed in being welcomed into people's lives at very key moments".

Father Ballard shared the following remarks on his own walk in serving God.

"In a diverse and complicated world, it is easy to lose focus and become caught up with titles, power, notoriety, popularity, influence or treasure. All of these are like feathers in the wind. If I was talking to a newly ordained priest, what I would say is this: ultimately now is the time for you to hop into the water. Trust in God and trust that you are where He wants you to be. Remember that there are wonderful people in every place, and be yourself. You will grow and change as time unfolds and there will be many surprises, but that's okay. As I strive to keep my eyes on the Good Shepherd, my vow to God remains the same: I will try to serve to the best of my ability and I will try not to get in your way".

Deacon Don Smith, 10 years

Ordained by Bishop Richard William Smith at St. Columbkille Cathedral May 22, 2004, Deacon Don Smith will be celebrating 10 years of diaconate service this year. He is part of the pastoral team at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Renfrew.

"My first profession was that of a high school English teacher for 32 years, and I absolutely loved it," says Don. "In 1974, I became aware that I had a vocation, but the question was what to do with it." Don consulted with the late Fr. Murray Tardiff for spiritual guidance in garnering clarity as to where and how God wanted him to serve. "Fr. Murray was my mentor and a very close friend. It was he who suggested that I pursue the Permanent Diaconate. In 2000, Bishop Brendan O'Brien sponsored us into the four-year program".

During the years of formation for the diaconate life, it was stressed to all candidates the need to find a ministry to the poor, however one defines poor. "I became involved with both of the drug and alcohol rehab centres here in Renfrew and, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I found where I belong. When you enter any kind of ministry, you are led by the Holy Spirit."

"I also have a non-denominational bereavement support group in the parish, and I have found that this ministry intertwines with some of the work I do

at the rehab centres because their losses are many. This ministry has taken on a life of its own."

Deacon Don says that he has been very fortunate to have had two wonderful pastors on this journey. His first pastor, Fr. Peter Proulx, prepared the congregation at St. Francis Xavier for his diaconate involvement and he was totally accepted in the parish after ordination. Don learned a great deal from him, as well, and Fr. Peter was most supportive when Don established the bereavement group. He has a new pastor now, Fr. Kerry Brennan, and is very involved in the life of the parish. Both pastors have given him lots of preaching time, as well as Baptisms, Liturgy of the Word, weddings and funerals. The response from the congregation has been very positive.

A very crucial source of support for Don has been Nancy to whom he has been married for 48 years. She also participated in the four-year formation program with him. This is also her journey. Their two grown children and families are also supportive of him. Nancy pursues the ministries of her own baptismal calling and has always been actively involved in parish life. Several years ago she helped to establish an outreach ministry in the parish to take Sunday Eucharist and a friendly visit to the sick and shut-ins. Three years ago she established a Prayer Shawl Ministry that gifts



hand-knitted prayer shawls to the sick and those facing life-changing circumstances. To date, 84 shawls have been given, and yarns used are purchased through the generous donations by parishioners.

As for what the future will hold for him and for his service to the church, Deacon Don notes that he will continue to allow the Holy Spirit to guide him wherever he is needed. "I expect it will evolve further and with the help of the Holy Spirit, Nancy and I will be ready and willing to journey together."

Deacon Niilo Kuisma, 10 years

Ordained by Bishop Richard William Smith at St. Columbkille Cathedral on May 22, 2004, Deacon Niilo Kuisma will be celebrating 10 years of diaconate service.

Married and the father of three children (six grandchildren), Deacon Kuisma was born in Finland. His family immigrated to Canada in 1951, settling in Thunder Bay, Ontario. A career in the mining industry would see him reside in various communities across the country for most of his adult life. Of Lutheran faith, he made the decision to convert to the Roman Catholic faith while residing in Sudbury in 1994.

"After about 25 years of watching my wife's faith (Roman Catholic), and seeing all of our children baptized and confirmed into the Catholic faith, I thought about joining the faith," says Deacon Kuisma.

"There was an RCIA program starting up at St. Andrew the Apostle Church. I lived just up the street,

so I decided to check it out. I joined the program and decided I wanted to be Catholic. I was confirmed into the faith on April 15, 1995."

As for his journey to becoming a deacon, Deacon Kuisma recalled his time living in Elliot Lake where he saw the work deacons carried out.

"There were a number of deacons in the Elliot Lake community. I was very interested in the role they played in the church and community. Sometime after that, I started thinking about becoming a deacon."

In 1997, he acquired employment at Atomic Energy Canada Limited—Chalk River Laboratories, establishing his residence in Deep River. It was during a visit to St. Patrick's Basilica in Ottawa where Deacon Kuisma knew that he was being called to serve God.

"It was like the Lord led me there," recalls Deacon Kuisma. "There was a poster on the wall announcing an intake for deacons. I looked into it, then spoke with Father Kenney and Bishop O'Brien. I started the program in 2000, and it was just a wonderful journey."

The first five years of his service saw Deacon Kuisma residing in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. Due to a shortage of priests, he assisted parishes in various communities.

"I practised prayer services, baptism preparations, confirmation preparations, funerals, and marriage preparations. My wife and I ran a number of programs while we were there. The churches were largely run by the parishioners. They had a great community there. It really gave me an opportunity to put my diaconate skills to practice."

Now assigned to Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Deep River, Deacon Kuisma has fully immersed himself into the parish community, taking on a variety of duties.

"We love living in Deep River," says Deacon Kuisma. "The parish here is just wonderful. I've worked with a number of priests while I've been here and I thoroughly enjoyed working with all of them. I preach at least once a month, sometimes more. I do communion services when Father Sirosky is not available."

He also continues to assist those who wish to pursue the same path he took to becoming a member of the Roman Catholic faith.

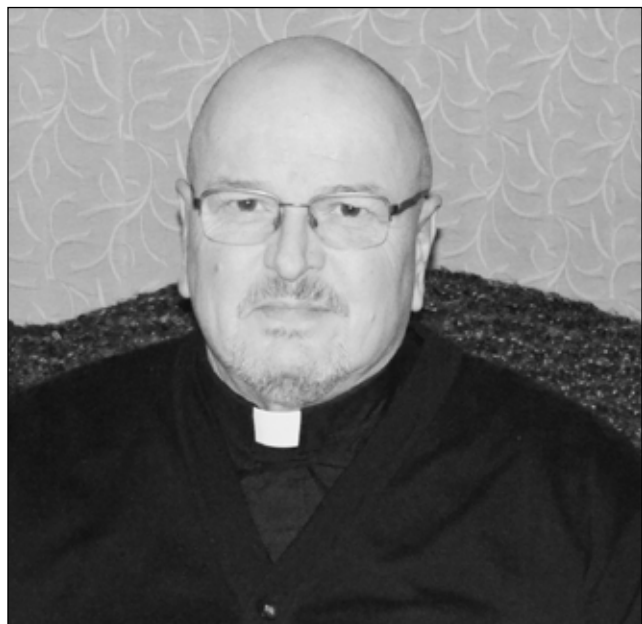
"I've been involved with the RCIA ever since I was ordained. I still do work with them if there are new candidates who want to learn about the faith."

Reflecting on his role in serving God, Deacon Kuisma notes how critical the support of his family was.

"It wouldn't have happened without their support. Just for my formation program alone my wife was an integral part of that. My children have all been supportive of me. They've all been part of this journey, in one way or another."



Deacon Kuisma, far left, and Deacon Smith, far right, were ordained by Bishop Richard William Smith on May 22, 2004.



A reflection on my time in the office of faith formation

By Jason Dedo

In September of 2006 I began my ministry working in the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation. It was certainly a different world for me, having been in a classroom full-time for almost 10 years previously. Although there were many new adjustments to be made, I enjoyed the challenges of having to learn new material in order to make presentations, driving around our expansive diocese and trying to provide assistance to parishes and Bishops when needed.

Very quickly, I began to really enjoy working with adults on a regular basis, something I had not been used to in my previous position as a high school religious education teacher. I started to appreciate the privilege and blessing of being able to share in the faith journey of other adults and families and to share with them my own journey of faith.

It was also during these years that my former pastor, Fr. Terry Sirosky, invited me to serve as a catechist in my parish. Being able to minister to many children and families and to share their journey towards celebrating the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and Eucharist has been a source of richness for my personal faith formation and lifelong learning. I am also grateful for the many years of study I have undertaken in the Doctor of Ministry Program at St. Paul University in Ottawa and the opportunity to receive theological formation concerning the vision

and teaching of the Church concerning catechesis, and the initiation process in particular. Together, these practical experiences and theological formation have helped me immensely to serve in my ministry in diocesan faith formation.

I am so grateful to so many in the diocese who, over these past eight years, have given me a warm welcome and have contributed to a collaborative ministry that hopefully challenged and supported the People of God to be the mature Christian disciples they are called to be. This time of being Church—at the parish, diocesan and universal levels—is a time of great challenge, but also of great opportunity. So many people and families today are searching for meaning in their lives and are open to a greater connection with a parish family. Recognizing this reality, Canadian sociologist Reginald Bibby often asks if faith communities are interested in, and capable of meeting these spiritual needs. In so many ways, our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, is calling on us, as members of the Body of Christ, to meet families as they are.

I am thankful to former Bishop Richard Smith for inviting me to serve in the Office of Faith Formation and to the present Bishop Michael Mulhall for his friendship and support during my tenure. It has been a blessing to have worked with so many wonderful people in the Diocesan Chancery Office and at St.

Columbkille Cathedral Parish, who have become treasured friends. I will always appreciate the many kindnesses shown by them to my family and me, and I have certainly enjoyed their ongoing prayers, support and encouragement for my ministry and personal faith formation.

For the past three years, I have been called to serve part-time in the Chaplaincy Office of St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew, the school community from which I came to work for the diocese. I have grown to have a deep love for this pastoral ministry and I am hoping to continue to serve the People of God through this pastoral work, as I return to the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board for full-time duties commencing this September.

And so, I am thankful to God for the many opportunities of learning, friendship and faith formation that I have been blessed with in my years in the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. And, as I begin a new journey in serving the People of God, I look forward to more of these opportunities and I pray that I will be blessed with the pastoral gifts necessary to serve well in the ministry I am called to in the realm of Catholic education.

The Diocese of Pembroke extends a warm welcome to Deacon Adrien Chaput as our new Director – Faith Formation and Leadership Development.

From the desk of Deacon Adrien Chaput

My dear friends in Christ, peace be with you. It is with great joy that I share this message with you today. In recent months I was welcomed as an addition to the diocesan administration office. My name is Deacon Adrien Chaput and I am a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Pembroke. I was ordained May 10, 2008, by Bishop Michael Mulhall and I am grateful for God's call upon my life.

In this new role for the diocese I have been entrusted to continue to implement the programs derived by my predecessor Jason Dedo in the areas of the Office of Faith Formation and Liturgical Development. I will also further assist in developing approaches and services that will aid and facilitate those engaged in various parish ministries throughout the diocese. This assignment challenges me to continue to work cooperatively with pastors, administrators, pastoral assistants, religious, deacons, committees and those

engaged in lay ministries throughout the diocese. I have been asked to be the liaison to the retired clergy of the diocese and to assist them with any needs they may identify. I look forward to maintaining contact with my brother deacons and making available ongoing formation programs regarding our ministry within the diocese. My duties also entail support to the Office of Youth and Family Life.

My present assignment as a deacon is at St. Columbkille's Cathedral where I assist in liturgical celebrations and preach the first Sunday of the month. I prepare families for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism and baptize these beautiful children. I officiate in Celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, and the sacrament of marriage as well as funeral liturgies when required. I also provide support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Columbkille's Conference Pembroke, as Spiritual Advisor. As a permanent deacon

it is an honour to serve the Lord and his people by sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ and embracing the teachings of the Catholic Church. As Pope Francis said, "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

I look forward to working with the members of the administration team and of the various offices and ministries of the diocese, in the fulfillment of the pastoral goals and objectives set forth. I have already had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people in the diocese and look forward to the opportunity of meeting many more, as I continue to learn and develop in this new role.

**God Bless
Deacon Adrien Chaput**

Parish Anniversary

St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay

This year will mark a special anniversary in the Diocese of Pembroke. Members of St. Hedwig's Parish in Barry's Bay will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of their church.

"We decided to celebrate our anniversary with a Jubilee Year, starting June 1," says Fr. Christopher Shalla, who became parish priest in 2006. "On that day we will have a Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Mulhall presiding. Also, we will crown the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. A set of crowns, made in Poland, will be used. This icon, carved from the wood of a linden tree, was placed in the church when it was renovated in 1975."

To mark the anniversary, a photo directory of the families of the parish was made. A commemorative anniversary book, entitled "Sto Lat: One Hundred Years of Faith", has also been published. This book contains the history of the various families that have made up the parish since its foundation. Together, these publications will assist today's parishioners, particularly several newer families in the community, in coming to know each other somewhat better.

A variety of events have been planned for the Jubilee Year. Following the Mass of Thanksgiving, the Feast of the Dedication of St. Hedwig's Church will be celebrated on June 2. Later that month, on the 21st, a family day has been planned.

Other events include the celebration of Mass in the cemetery with the blessing of a monument for the children's plot, a walking pilgrimage to St. Mary's, Wilno, the parish from which St. Hedwig's was established, the celebration of our patroness' feast in October, a children's Christmas pageant and a concert of sacred music. Finally, a pilgrimage to Trzebnica, Poland, to the tomb of St. Hedwig, is being planned for May of 2015. In November of 2013, Fr. Shalla travelled to St. Hedwig's shrine in Poland to pray for his parishioners and to ask for blessings upon the Jubilee celebrations.

Prior to the establishment of St. Hedwig's, a mission church was built in 1896 under the guidance of Father Bronislaus Jankowski, then parish priest of St. Stanislaus in Wilno. Dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the wooden-framed church provided a place of worship for the growing Polish-Kashub settlers in Barry's Bay.

Eventually, Fr. Peter Biernacki (invested as a Monsignor in 1936), was given the task of constructing a permanent parish. Construction of the church began in May of 1914 and was completed in 1915. The first marriages and funerals in the new parish were celebrated in 1914 and on Christmas Eve that year the first Mass was celebrated in the new church. In due course, land was cleared for a cemetery. A rectory and a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph were built.

As the parish was Polish in its make-up, the preaching at Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments were in Polish. This, of course, meant that the pastor needed to speak Polish. As Fr. Shalla recounts: "The first three parish priests all spoke Polish fluently. Each of them was appointed to the parish for a very long time. Monsignor Biernacki, founder of the parish, was at St. Hedwig's for 44 years, practically

his entire priesthood." In 2003 the celebration of the Mass in Polish was discontinued. However, hymns continue to be sung and the rosary prayed in Polish.

Today, parish life continues to be robust, with various groups gathering to give their Catholic faith expression. Alongside the Sacred Heart League, established in 1917, to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and to act as the women's auxiliary, various other groups have emerged. In 2006 a Mission Committee was formed. It has arranged for some speakers in the parish and has raised funds to assist in various projects in places such as Peru and Poland.

In 2009, a branch of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was founded. "The members meet monthly to pray and host speakers who talk to them about various aspects of Christian motherhood," says Fr. Shalla. "It also provides an opportunity for the mothers to work together and support each other." This support is at times very tangible, as the members also assist each other in their homes when newborns arrive or assistance is needed with children.

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate have also made their presence known in the parish by offering catechetical instruction. They also established the Daughters of St. Joseph, a group that mentors girls between the ages of nine and 17, helping them grow in their faith and encouraging participation in both the church and the community. This has been accomplished through regular meetings, prayer and adoration, retreats, and visiting the elderly and shut-ins.

Recently, members of the Third Order of Franciscans have begun monthly meetings in the parish.

"We have a very active parish," says Fr. Shalla. "People here pray very well and frequently. When I arrived in the parish, we instituted Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a weekly basis. An Adoration chapel was constructed and every week between 80 and 100 parishioners dedicate at least one hour of prayer with the Lord. At present, 64 hours of adoration are offered each week." Along with this commitment to prayer, the Sacred Heart League has a night watch every First Friday of the month, with adoration from 1:00 p.m. Friday until 8:45 Saturday morning.

Another devotion and commitment to prayer is the Saturday morning Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated in preparation for the Sunday Eucharist. On some weekends, more than 200 people have attended.

The anniversary has given parishioners the opportunity to reconnect with the parish patroness, St. Hedwig Slaska. In so many ways, everyone can draw inspiration from her life. The story of her life has been composed to reintroduce her to parishioners, and a hymn, prayers, and a novena have been translated from Polish so that they can implore her help and ask her to join her prayers to theirs.

Adding to the spiritual life of the parish is the presence of students from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy. At a time when parishes contend with the challenge of attracting young people back to the fold, their participation has made for an invigorating atmosphere



during the celebration of the Eucharist. "When the students are here, they have become readers, members of the choir, sacristans, youth group leaders, and attendees of study programs, retreats, and social gatherings. When you have such a large group of young people coming to daily Mass and praying here, as they so often do during the day, they create a sense of hope for the future. Our parish, like many in the diocese, has many more old parishioners than young ones. Many of the younger people have to move away to find employment and begin their adult lives. The presence of these young people from the Academy is so wonderful to witness."

Parish buildings always seem to be in need of repair or renewal. Currently, efforts are underway to raise funds for a variety of repairs and upgrades at St. Hedwig's. "We're in the midst of raising funds to replace the front steps and put new ramps into the church and hall. The parishioners also have asked for a portico to be constructed at the entrance to the church. Furthermore, the church needs to replace the 40-year-old carpeting with new flooring, painting must be done, the wainscoting replaced, the pews refreshed, the organ revamped, and new exterior windows installed to protect the painted, stained glass windows. It is a major renovation."

Reflecting on the significance of the anniversary Fr. Shalla believes it is a time for parish members to express their gratitude to the early pioneers who cemented the foundation not only for a place of worship, but also for a community of faith.

"It's a very exciting time. I see it as a time to take a step towards a new beginning as we remember the past. I'm from the parish, so for me there's a real sense of pride in the community, and in what my ancestors and those of the parish have built here. It's a milestone that allows us to show our appreciation for the past, but also a stepping stone into the future as the parish undergoes change. The most important aspect of our Polish heritage is our Catholic Faith. It was given to us through our Polish culture and language and, even if these both fade away, our faith will continue."

Saint Profile

Celebrating the lives of St. Philip and St. James the Less

Feast Day: May 3

During the month of May the Church offers occasion to celebrate the feast days of three apostles. Two of these men, Saints Philip and James the Less, are commemorated on May 3. This is the anniversary of the dedication of a sixth-century Roman Church that originally bore their names, allowing us still to honour their memory on this date. The third apostle on the liturgical calendar for May 14 is St. Matthias, who was chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Jesus. We will focus on him on another occasion.

St. Philip and St. James the Less testify to us that they have known, seen, conversed and touched the Risen Lord.

So certain they were of what they had witnessed, they were ready to give their lives as martyrs. It is interesting to note that the very word “martyr” means “witness”.

Faithful to the command of Jesus to preach the gospel to all nations, they are usually portrayed holding the instruments of their martyrdom. St. Philip is shown leaning upon the cross on which he had been crucified. St. James is shown holding the club with which he was beaten to death.

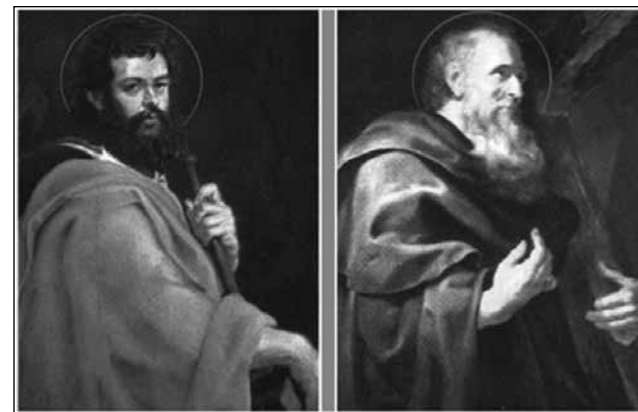
Let us look at these Holy men and their lives in dedication to the Lord.

St. Philip was born in Bethsaida, a city near the sea of Genesareth. The Scriptures recount how one day as Jesus was going to Galilee, He met Philip and said to him “Follow me.” Philip immediately responded and soon began to witness zealously and to bring others to Jesus.

One day while crossing the Sea of Galilee, Jesus and His disciples (John 6-1-12) were met by a huge crowd of people who were hungry both physically and spiritually. Jesus, ever aware of how he would feed them, asked Philip “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” Philip replied, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” Although Philip was saying it could not be done, he soon found out how Jesus would provide abundantly for the people using a child’s basket containing only five loaves of bread and two fish.

After receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the Apostles dispersed into the known world to share the Good News of the Gospel. St. Philip went to Hierapolis where he destroyed the dragon the people had been worshipping as their god. The idolatrous priests and magistrate immediately seized him and placed him in a dungeon where they cruelly scourged him and hung him upon a cross with orders to stone him to death. During this time a terrible earthquake came upon the people and the heathens ran away, as they were afraid. The Christians wanted to take him from the cross, but he requested that he be left on it after the example of his divine master. In this way St. Philip died at the age of 80 in Hierapolis, Phrygia. He is the Patron Saint of hatters and pastry chefs.

According to his biographers, St. James the Less is a brother of the Apostle Jude and originated in Cana in Galilee. He was called the Less because he



St. James

St. Philip

was a second person of that name to follow Christ. He was also called the “Just”. From his early years he never drank wine or strong drink, abstained from flesh meat, never cut his hair or used oil to anoint his limbs. He had been the only apostle to enter the Holy of Holies.

St. James was said to have made prayer so great a part of his life that the skin of his knees was as hard as that of a camel hoof.

St. James is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament.

After the Ascension he was named Bishop of Jerusalem, where in a holy manner he governed the Church for almost 30 years.

One day while preaching he was attacked by a crowd, which began to throw stones at him. They took him to the pinnacle of the Temple and cast him off headlong. As he lay there half dead, with legs broken by the fall, he lifted his hands toward heaven and prayed for the salvation of his enemies, saying “Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do.” While the Apostle James was still praying a fuller struck his head a mortal blow. He was 96.

St. James is the patron saint for pharmacists, the dying, fullers, and hat makers. Locally, he is Patron of St. James the Less Parish in Eganville, Ontario.

The bodies of Saints Philip and James rest in the Basilica of the Holy Apostles at Rome in the very church that was originally dedicated in their memory in the sixth century. These relics are counted as one of the richest treasures of the Holy City.

In their suffering and persecution these apostles confidently placed their lives in God’s care because they trusted the promise of the Risen Saviour. Let us ask these Holy Men to intercede on our behalf that we always may be faithful followers of the Lord.

We Pray:

Holy Apostles, you saw our Risen Jesus in all His glory. He said to you on the evening of the great Sunday: Peace be to you! He appeared to you during the forty days following that he might make you certain of His Resurrection. Great indeed must have been your joy at seeing, once more, that dear master, who admitted you into the number of his chosen Twelve; and his return made your love of him more than ever fervent. We address ourselves to you as our special patrons during this holy season, and most earnestly do we beseech you to teach us how to know and love the great mystery of our Lord’s Resurrection. May our hearts glow with Paschal joy, and may we never lose the New Life that our Jesus has now given unto us.

The Family Life and Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Pembroke presents:

A retreat for Catholic married couples... “Your Marriage and the New Evangelization”

SPEAKERS

Bishop Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke
Fr. Paul Burchat, Madonna House

\$80 per couple (Includes meals & accommodation)
Maximum 25 couples

Registration deadline: Tuesday May 20

May 30–June 1, 2014

Friday 7:00 p.m. to Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.–Families welcome for Mass only

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy

18 Karol Wojtyla Square, Barry’s Bay, ON

To register or for more information, please contact Yvette Bourque at (613) 687-1937 or yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com.

The Joy of Welcoming a New Member to a Faith Community

By Jason Dedo

The dynamic of my family was forever changed on February 4, 2014, when our fourth child and second son, Henry, was born. The day of his birth was one of both joy and anxiety as the delivery was challenging but, thanks be to God, both mother and baby came home healthy and happy.

My wife, Tina, has always had difficult pregnancies and deliveries. We were told during our first pregnancy that we would always have “high risk” pregnancies, as Tina’s condition was delicate and our daughter, Charlotte, was born five weeks early. During these trying times around pregnancies and births, we have had our share of anguish and alarm, but what sustained us through all of it are love, prayer and support. Many members of our families and friends have always journeyed with us as we began to welcome new life into our family and for this we will be eternally grateful. But we are also thankful for the love, prayer and support we have received and continue to experience from our faith community.

Welcoming a new member of a faith community is always an exciting time for a parish. The time of anticipation of the baptism of a new member or their full reception into the Church provides numerous opportunities for members of the faith community to be welcoming, prayerful and supportive to both the new member and his or her family. When we were a newly married couple, we were members of Holy Name Parish in Pembroke.

When we realized the grave condition of our first pregnancy, we met with our pastor at the time, Fr. Kerry Brennan, to share our concerns and to ask for his prayers. Fr. Kerry put his arms around us and prayed for us and gave a special blessing over Tina’s womb. We were both moved by this prayerful and loving embrace by a wonderful pastoral priest and it gave us great comfort and peace. We continued to enjoy the love and support of our pastor and members of the faith community of Holy Name Parish as we welcomed Charlotte and then Olivia, almost two years later, into our family.

By the time Tina was pregnant for the third time, we had begun a journey with a new parish family, St. Pius V, in Osceola. One Sunday near the end of the pregnancy, Tina was at home, too ill to venture out of bed dealing with sciatic pain and contractions, so I arrived at our parish church with my two little girls and immediately went to the



sacristy to talk with our new pastor, Fr. Ric Starks, to share with him our situation and to ask for his prayers. He first ordered me to go back home when I mentioned Tina was having contractions, but I assured him that we were used to long labours and that I was quite certain Tina would not give birth while we were celebrating the Sunday Eucharist! Fr. Ric then prayed with the girls and me, and offered his ongoing prayers for our family and we took our places with the assembly.

As the Mass began, Fr. Ric shared with our parish community that our family needed their prayers. During the Prayers of the Faithful, Fr. Ric added an intention for our family and for all families welcoming new life. After the Eucharist, many parishioners flocked to our pew to ask about Tina and the baby and to offer their ongoing prayers and support for us. I remember driving home and feeling overwhelmed at such generous offers of prayer, love and compassion from our pastor and so many members of our parish family. A short time later, our first son, George, was introduced to this welcoming parish community for the first

time. The next week, we were presented with a cross for George’s room and a card with the signatures of all the members of the parish Catholic Women’s League.

We are so grateful for the continual prayers, love and support from our parish community for our family during Tina’s pregnancy with Henry and the wonderful welcome Henry has received since his birth. In the weeks leading up to Henry’s birth we appreciated the kindness of many parishioners who sought us out after the Eucharist with food, prayer and offers of help. Since Henry’s birth, many members of our faith community have come to our pew to welcome Henry to our parish family, to congratulate us and to offer us hugs and handshakes. And it seems that every Sunday, we are driving home with a new gift for Henry.

However, the greatest gifts that any of our children, and indeed our entire family has received from the faith communities we have been members of, is the welcome and many gestures of love, prayer and support we have been given by other members of our parish families.

Deacon ordinations

Tim Foster, Astorville—March 2014

Acolyte installed in Astorville

Tim Foster was installed as acolyte by Bishop Michael Mulhall on March 16 at Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin Church in Astorville. Mr. Foster is actively involved in the parish community as a catechist and is recognized by other members for his commitment to being a team player. "We're a unit, we help each other," he says about the Astorville, Bonfield and Corbeil pastoral team.

Over the last four years, Mr. Foster has completed theology courses through the University of Notre Dame's online option, Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP), in preparation for ordination to the diaconate this fall.

Tim Foster, Deacon Albert Benoit, Bonfield, Bishop Michael Mulhall, Fr. Jean-Marc Raymond, and Deacon Frank Martel, Astorville/Corbeil.



Deacon Scott Murray—July 2014

The Diocese of Pembroke will welcome Deacon Scott Murray into the ranks of the priesthood on July 12, at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke.

Son of Joseph (+2010) and Joanne Murray, the native of Tramore now looks back on a school assignment as the first sign that God was calling him to serve.

"I did a careers project in Grade 7 on the priesthood as a job," says Deacon Murray. "It was kind of funny being drawn to it as a career. Obviously, as I progressed towards accepting the priesthood as my vocation, there was the realization that it was so much more than just a career."

In fact, throughout most of his life, Deacon Murray felt a strong connection to God and his church.

"I think from an early age I had a pretty strong call to living a more spiritual life," says Deacon Murray.

"I remember taking very seriously devotions at church, especially devotion to the Eucharist, realizing that there was something there and wanting to receive Jesus in a special way."

It wasn't until he neared his graduation from Madawaska Valley District High School that he decided to attend Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay.

"It wasn't until my last semester at MV that I decided to attend Our Lady Seat of Wisdom," recalls Deacon Murray, noting a conversation he had with Round Lake native and seminarian Anthony Burchat.

"We were both planning on going to World Youth Day. He was explaining to me what Our Lady of Seat Wisdom was and how much he appreciated the program. That really drew me in, and I decided that's what I wanted to do."

His faith would evolve to a new height.

"I really took the faith on as my own commitment, rather than something that had been given to me by my parents. I began entering a much deeper relationship with Jesus, and it has only gotten deeper."

During his last semester Deacon Murray made the decision to pursue the priesthood. Upon consulting with Father Bill Kenney (then the Vocations Director of the Diocese) and Bishop Michael Mulhall, it was decided that Deacon Murray would attend St. Philip's Seminary in Toronto to study philosophy.

"It was a very rigorous program. It's a fairly monastic life that the seminarians live at St. Philip's. I really appreciated the discipline and structure they gave me; taking on study as a cross, but also something that is life-giving. It was a powerful experience of accepting God's will because you know, in doing the will of your superior, you're doing God's will. For me, it was very easy to accept what was being asked of me."

After Deacon Murray completed his studies at St. Philip's Seminary, Bishop Mulhall chose to send him to Rome for his theological studies with residence at the North American Pontifical College. He acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Currently, he is pursuing a licence in Moral Theology at the Alphonsian Academy.

"It's been a great experience. I really appreciate the diversity. It has been wonderful to meet students from all around the world."

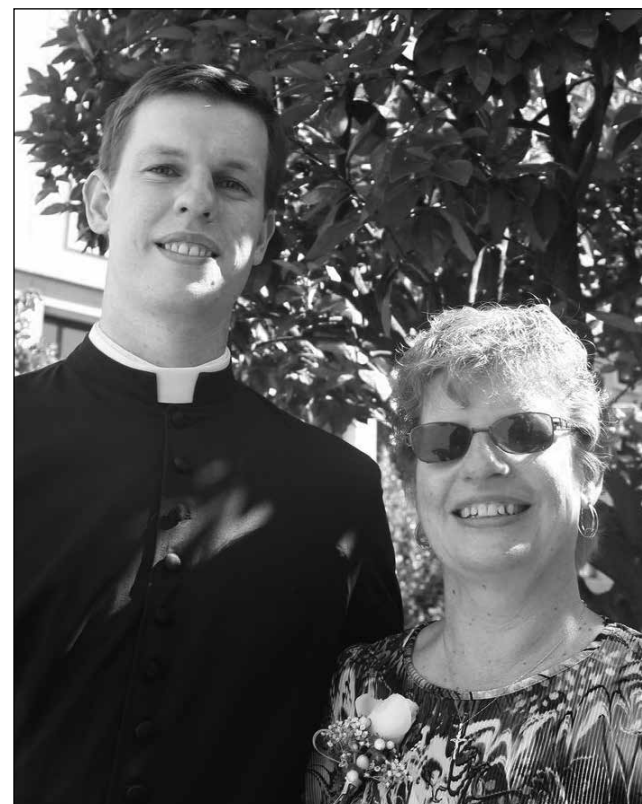
As fulfilling as his scholastic pursuits have been, Deacon Murray confesses to his anticipation in assuming his duties as an associate pastor.



"I've been in school for a long time. It's ultimately all directed to serving the people of God in the Diocese of Pembroke. I'm really excited to almost be there and take on that ministry and God's will in that way."

Perhaps the only other person who is more excited about his return is his mother.

"I wasn't thrilled that he was going half way around the world to study, but understood how important a solid foundation was so that he could enter the priesthood knowing all that is required of him," says Joanne Murray. "The last four years flew by and I was able to attend his ordination to the diaconate at the Vatican with many other family members. It was a beautiful and prayerful occasion and I was so very proud of Scott. I am looking forward to Scott's return to Renfrew County. He has the attributes and personality to become a wonderful and compassionate parish priest."



Above, Deacon Scott Murray and his mother, Joanne.

Deacon Michael Weitzl— June 2014

This summer will be a time of celebration for the Diocese of Pembroke as the ranks of the priesthood will welcome a new member to their holy order. June 21 will see the ordination of Deacon Michael Weitzl at St. Mary's Chapel in Combermere.

Growing up on a corn/soybean farm outside of Audubon, Iowa, Deacon Weitzl first began to feel the urge for a spiritual calling "towards the end of my first year at university."

It only became stronger during his second year, after he spent some time in Dominican Republic where he saw the struggles of its impoverished populace.

"I had gone to the Dominican for a semester abroad study program. I think that really helped to influence me, to see the reality of real poverty in the world. I came back from that desiring more, to really find out what God wants from my life and not just that it was going to give me a good paying job."

Upon graduating from Creighton University in 1998, Deacon Weitzl visited various religious orders in his continuing exploration of where God needed him. In due course, he made his way to Madonna House in Combermere to partake in their Spiritual Formation program.

"I went there just for discernment, certainly not to join," says Deacon Weitzl. "Six months went by and it was nice. I went home, but I really wanted to come back for a couple more months. When I did come back, I had a moment where I felt the mother of God stir in my heart and make clear that this was my vocation. And, when I would pray about it, this experience was continually confirmed."

He began his applicancy to Madonna House in September of 1999. For the next 21 months, Deacon Weitzl would undertake the life of work and prayer, while continuing to develop his relationship with God.

In June of 2001, he made his first promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Deacon Weitzl was then assigned to various Madonna House locations in Canada and Belgium, carrying out his duties in serving the poor and helping with the daily needs of the apostolate. In particular, his time working at soup kitchens in Edmonton and Regina provided an opportunity to develop a rapport with the most vulnerable of our society. The experience was a profound one.

"It is a privilege to be so trusted by God's poor. The first day they see you there is already a relationship based on their friendships with the other Madonna House people who have come in the past. You come in and already they are ready to welcome you. With the poor, there's no hiding their problems. There's something real about it, so I think it helps everyone who works with them to realize that we all need God's help and mercy. In some way, we're all poor."

Nancy Topping, then the Director of the Marian Centre in Regina, recalls with great fondness Deacon Weitzl's love for those who frequented the soup kitchen.

"The men that come to our soup kitchen are often very needy and beaten down by life. I know these men felt listened to and welcomed by Michael's sincerity and purity of heart," says Topping, recalling one particular event where Deacon Weitzl displayed his heartfelt compassion for a client who had passed away.

"One story that I remember is when one of our Aboriginal friends who came to our soup kitchen died. His family told us. Michael phoned his family and asked if he could go to the funeral home to pray by his coffin before they went out to the reserve for a service and he did that. The family was so moved by his personal love and respect for this man that they often asked for him after this and remembered what he had done."

It was also in Regina when Deacon Weitzl would become convinced of his vocation to the priesthood.

"I felt very strongly in my heart that, yes, God was calling to me to be a spiritual father as a priest. My spiritual director really encouraged me to bring this forward to the Director of Priests. Three years later, the directors discerned that it would be good that I go to the seminary."

In September of 2009, Deacon Weitzl began his studies in philosophy at St. Philip's Seminary in Toronto. With enough credits in philosophy from his days at Creighton University, he was able to complete his studies in one year. From there, it was off to Rome to study theology at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas for three years. He was ordained into the diaconate on October 3, 2013 in St. Peter's Basilica.



Still residing in Rome, Deacon Weitzl is wrapping up his studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, focusing on Eastern Christian theology.

"Catherine Doherty, the founder of Madonna House, was Russian Orthodox before becoming Catholic," explains Deacon Weitzl. "Madonna House spirituality is heavily influenced by Western spirituality, but it also has a real Eastern Christian spirituality aspect as well."

With the passing of Madonna House member Archbishop Joseph Raya in 2005, the faith community found itself without someone formally indoctrinated in the Eastern Christian faith. With that, it was decided that Deacon Weitzl would acquire this academia to ensure it continues to be made available for present and future members.

"Nobody has really been formed in Eastern Christian theology. Bishop Mulhall thought that this would be really good for the future of Madonna House to have someone who is trained."

Upon his ordination, Deacon Weitzl will be assigned for one year in the diocese. After that, he is scheduled to study for a further year at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in Ottawa.

Reflecting on his spiritual journey, Deacon Weitzl notes the tremendous support he has received from his family in Iowa.

"My family are practising Catholics, so they were really behind me. My mom and dad are just elated that God would give one of their children the vocation of the priesthood."

Recollections of Altar Serving and a Memorable Pastoral Priest

By Jason Dedo

My children enjoy altar serving at our parish Sunday Eucharist. There is a tradition at our parish of children beginning this ministry after they have celebrated their First Eucharist. I think my three oldest children looked forward to serving on the sanctuary as much as they awaited with excitement the first time receiving the Body of Christ. It is such a joy to see so many children over the years serving in this ministry and building healthy relationships with the others who exercise ministries on the sanctuary—other children and youth servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, deacons and priests.

The ministry of server is not only functional but is also symbolic as the white albs they wear are the baptismal garment and are a reminder to all the People of God of our baptismal call to holiness. The white alb the priest, deacon and bishop wear under their vestments offers the same symbolism.

Observing the happiness of my children as servers causes me to reminisce about my own experience of this ministry as a child. I, too, loved being an altar server. I grew up in Holy Name Parish in Pembroke and began my ministry of altar serving when I was about 10 years old. I remember a training session on a Saturday afternoon to introduce us newer servers to what would be expected of us with Fr. Bill Kenney, who was the assistant at Holy Name Parish at the time. In those days, only boys served on the sanctuary and I am happy this has changed over time to include girls, as my girls enjoy serving as much as my older son!

I remember wearing my alb for the first time and feeling so proud. In the sacristy, there was a sink, mirror and shelf with a glass for water and a large orange comb for taming hair before Mass—just for servers. For the first while, the newer servers didn't do much, except to process and recess with the other servers unless there was a shortage. The newer servers were supposed to observe the older servers to learn how to function in the different roles. The more experienced servers acted as processional candle and cross bearers and usually two senior servers sat on either side of the celebrant to assist him during the liturgy. Eventually, the novice servers were trusted to serve in these more active roles and I grew to love this ministry, so much so that I would often take my bike back to the church to serve for a second weekend Mass!

In those days, the candles were made of real wax and I can still smell the scent of the wax candle being snuffed out and the searing feeling of hot wax as it sometimes dripped on my hands when I didn't carry the candle straight. I also remember how strange it seemed to have to wear white gloves and to place sliced lemon and cotton balls (for washing the Chrism from the bishop's hands) on the credence table when serving for the bishop for a confirmation Mass.

There was often a call from the parish to home when there was a need for servers for weekend funerals or weddings. A call often came to Holy Name School for servers in grade 7 when there was a weekday funeral. Serving many funerals caused me to memorize the verses to *Amazing Grace* and *The Lord's My Shepherd* at a young age, two hymns that were often sung as the gathering and recessional funeral hymns.

Of the many wonderful memories I have of my time as a boy altar server, the most notable were the good, healthy relationships with the priests of the parish. Events during the past year have been cause for me to reflect on my years as an altar server and my memories have been most vivid of my relationship with Fr. Howard Chabot, who was the pastor of Holy Name Parish for my childhood

years and into adulthood. I have nothing but good memories of my time with Fr. Chabot. My memories of Fr. Chabot are of a priest who was good to and attentive to children and who was a positive influence for many children who profoundly needed an affirmative male role model in their lives.

I remember Fr. Chabot as a priest who was always happy, positive, fun and loving. He was continuously patient with us servers, even when we made mistakes and sometimes misbehaved. A gifted singer, he often encouraged us to sing the hymns, often with a little aside that he couldn't hear us! Fr. Chabot loved to joke around and a favourite trick was to come behind us and touch us on the back of ear after having gained much static electricity from walking across the carpeted sacristy. I can still hear the "snap" and feel the bite of the shock! And then we would all laugh.

Another humorous memory with Fr. Chabot was the time two envelopes were left on the counter of the sacristy after a wedding at which I was the server. One was marked "Priest" and one marked "Altar Boy". Fr. Chabot handed me my envelope after the wedding and said, "Let's open these up and see what we got." To my delight, I received a \$10 bill while Fr. Chabot showed me a \$5 bill that he received. He laughed and assured me that I must have done a better job than he had!

I remember a number of us servers being summoned to the rectory one Saturday morning to stuff and fold bulletins and then being treated to McDonald's afterwards, compliments of Fr. Chabot and Fr. Brady McNamara who was also an assistant priest at the parish. I also recall Fr. Chabot leading a retreat for our confirmation group and I remember how he captivated us with his gift of storytelling. He was generous and kind and even as a child, I was aware of Fr. Chabot aiding families who were struggling financially, emotionally or spiritually.

Because he was so gentle and inviting, Fr. Chabot made celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation a time of peace and joy for a child (and I am sure many adults, too!). He was one of those adults in my life who I constantly admired, looked up to and enjoyed being around. It was very clear to me, even at a young age, that he was a man with a committed prayer life and who loved the Lord and his parishioners, and when he said he was praying for you, he meant it. I still have in my possession three childhood treasures and spiritual gifts from Fr. Chabot—a religious medal of the Blessed Mother which my group received for our First Communion, a vial of holy water from Lourdes, France from one of his pilgrimages, and a daily prayer book.

How fortunate I was as a child to have had the faith influence of my parents, good pastoral priests at Holy Name Parish and a supportive parish community growing up. I feel privileged that I had Fr. Howard Chabot as my pastor in those critical childhood years and that he played such an active part in my faith journey. I have also enjoyed working with him collaboratively in adult faith formation programs at the diocesan level and am proud to call him my friend and colleague in ministry today. My children are now fortunate to know and admire him for his courage, prayerfulness and many pastoral gifts. I have very much appreciated his prayerful support of my family over my lifetime, especially during the challenging times.

Even in his "retirement", Fr. Chabot continues to be a very pastoral priest. To those who know him as a weekend celebrant at parishes, he continues to be a joyful presider, a gifted homilist and a prayerful presence and for sharing these gifts, many are grateful! How blessed I feel I am to have so many happy memories of my years of altar serving and my time with an exceptional pastoral priest.

Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to “Divine Mercy Shrine” in Wilno

Every year hundreds of Poles from Ontario and Quebec come to Wilno to celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy. For Poles, St. Mary church in Wilno has become “the Divine Mercy Shrine”. The left front side of the church has what is called “Divine Mercy Chapel”, which is adorned by the Divine Mercy painting that heralds from Vilnius (Wilno) in Lithuania and was painted by Anna Krepsztul. Also adorning the chapel are the icon of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy (a copy of the original from Vilnius-Ostra Brama) and relics of Blessed John Paul II and Sister Faustina Kowalska.

This year the pilgrimage, which took place on Saturday, April 26 (the weekend following Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday), was also a truly Solemn Thanksgiving for the Canonization and life of faith of Blessed John Paul II. This was a great occasion to thank God for the gift of the Polish Pope, who gave so much during his life and Pontificate to his homeland and to the world. The sanctification of his countrymen and women to a life of faith and freedom was encouragement for the “Solidarity Movement”, which brought about the freedom of the country from Communist Oppression. Blessed John Paul II’s continued call for the sanctification

of the Soviet Union can be directly attributed to the fall of the Communist Party in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Pope John Paul II during his visit to Gdynia, Poland, on June 11, 1987, also told the Kashubian people: “...I also would like to encourage you; encourage you to continue to preserve your identity while fostering family ties, deepening the knowledge of your language and striving to pass down your rich Kashubian tradition to the younger generation.”

After reflecting upon the meaning of their Faith, several members of St. Mary’s Parish came upon the idea of honouring the “life of faith” of the Founding Elders of the Community and the Builders of St. Mary’s Church. Both of these were incredible “Acts of Personal Faith” and have resulted in a church building that is a great monument to this belief and to those who undertook the task.

St. Mary’s Parish decided to set aside and dedicate a special area of the church in the form of a side chapel. It is known as the Kashubian Chapel and includes the statue of Our Lady of Sianowo, (Queen of the Kashubian people of Poland) and an Iconic Kashuby Cross, painted in the Icon Tradition by one of our own parishioners, Mr. Janusz Charczuk, as a

special gift to St. Mary’s. Mr. Janusz Charczuk is of Polish-Kashub ancestry and our parishioner. He has a studio in the Combermere, Ontario, area and resides there.

A Wilno wood craftsman and cabinet maker, Mr. Don Burchat, adorned the chapel area with a wooden structure that resembles the “kaplica” style of Poland. Also placed here is the “Our Father” written in the Kashubian language. The Kashubian Chapel balances well with the Divine Mercy Chapel on the opposite nave of the church.

The dedication of the Kashubian Chapel and the Blessing of the Icon of the Cross took place on Saturday, April 26, during a solemn Mass in Polish celebrated by Bishop Wieslaw Szmigiel of the Diocese of Pelpin, Poland, during the Divine Mercy Sunday Pilgrimage. Though the celebration was mainly in the Polish language all were welcome to participate. The Canonization of Pope John Paul II took place the following day on Sunday, April 27, in Rome by Pope Francis.

When we embark as Catholics upon our “Pilgrimage of Faith” through our Christian baptism, we do not do so alone. We are carried on the shoulders and pillars of faith of those who have gone before us.



Above: Don Burchat in his workshop building the wooden structure for the chapel area in the “kaplica” style with Fr. Wojciech Blach.

Left: St. Mary’s parishoner Janusz Charczuk shows the Iconic Kashuby Cross he painted for the new Kashubian side chapel.

New leadership at Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke

Invited to take on the Administrator role in Pembroke by the leadership team of the recently formed Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—an amalgamation of Hamilton, London, Peterborough and Pembroke congregations—Sister Kathleen O'Neill arrived in Pembroke in September 2013.

It was a big move from Sister Kathleen's home community in Hamilton to the Ottawa Valley. Pembroke, she notes, "is a different world, but a good world."

Sister Kathleen is appreciative of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke and grateful for their warm welcome into her new home. "The Sisters really make the community, they are wonderful women who have worked hard all their lives and they have received me wonderfully," she says.

Her duties include oversight of the Sisters and their day-to-day activities, always in consultation with the congregational leadership team of CSJ in Canada.

The Motherhouse in Pembroke operates an infirmary that cares for elderly/ailing Sisters. They also take in a few others from the community when space is available.



"We have a really good staff that gives the same quality of care as for the Sisters. They provide physical care and spiritual care," says Sister Kathleen.

Many of the Sisters are also involved in the Peru Mission, ministering and bringing comfort to the poor in Chincha Alta. "These Sisters live their calling

so faithfully," notes Sister Kathleen, adding that the mission is celebrating 50 years of helping those in need.

Still others, she points out, are involved in different ways in the local community outside the Motherhouse: at food banks, in parishes and providing spiritual direction and leadership. "We are not hidden away, we help people out in many ways," says Sister Kathleen.

Sister Kathleen was very involved in her own parish in Hamilton and with hospital chaplaincy, still travelling to Hamilton occasionally to continue her work there.

Noting recent changes such as the amalgamation of the congregations, the increasing roles of associates and lay people, and the addition of the Visitation Sisters at the Motherhouse in Pembroke, she admits it's a different world, but states, "We can still make a significant impact on our world. We are aging gracefully with a spirit of faithfulness to the Gospel. Our legacy lives on."

When asked what the future might hold for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, Sister Kathleen comments there will always be change, but "God is in charge and will direct us in ways we don't think of."

Pastoral Assistant serves pastor and church

Six years ago, when she saw a need in her church, Anda Sprudz applied for the job of part-time pastoral assistant at St. John Chrysostom in Arnprior.

"I saw a need and made an offer," says Anda.

Anda began under the leadership of Father Patrick Dobec and Sister Nancy Wilson. "Sister Nancy was a very good role model," she notes.

She also acknowledges the support received from pastoral assistants in other areas of the diocese who share their experience running programs.

While not technically prepared for the position—her background is in ethnic political activism including living 4.5 years in Latvia, as well as acting/singing—Anda has experience working on staff at the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia. Her job involved many administrative duties, organization and dealing with the public, local community and media, all of which have been useful in her role as a pastoral assistant. She has also completed three Summer Institute in Pastoral Liturgy programs at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.

Before accepting the pastoral assistant position at St. John Chrysostom, she was involved there as a cantor and choir member (later becoming the choir director) and assisted with Palm Sunday and Good Friday Gospel readings.

The 100 hours-per-month position includes a mix of weekdays, evenings and weekends, organizing events, setting up beforehand, cleaning up and locking up afterwards. She reports to the priest, Father John Burchat.

There are no set guidelines for pastoral assistants. Anda points out that the job description changes to meet the vision, needs and interests of both the pastor and the church.

"For an effective work relationship, there has to be an understanding and trust between the pastor and pastoral assistant, that the pastoral assistant has skills and/or talents that the pastor can direct to serve the parish, and that the pastoral assistant will use them in a manner that reflects the pastor's direction," says Anda.

Her job, involves a large administrative component including a lot of program scheduling starting in

January for the next September but, perhaps in many ways more importantly, she is a facilitator.

"One of the things I try to do is enable and support the many strengths and gifts within the congregation through the varied adult faith education programs we offer. Hopefully I can facilitate the gifts of parishioners, to see that these gifts are brought forth and used as they should be to help in the various ministries of the parish, and in catechetics," says Anda.

The scheduling she does includes sacramental preparation classes and meetings for Baptism, Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist and Confirmation, making sure the necessary people and facilities are available for events, for example readers and music for feast days. In addition to planning retreats for sacramental preparation, and preparing the required materials, Anda enjoys sitting in on the classes.

"It's wonderful to see the interest from the children and from their parents," she says, adding that hearing back from even a couple of students makes a world of difference.

She also organizes programs for adult faith, researching topics and finding ways to interest people and draw them into the church, bringing in DVD series, such as "Catholicism" by Fr. Robert Barron, and speakers on a variety of subjects.

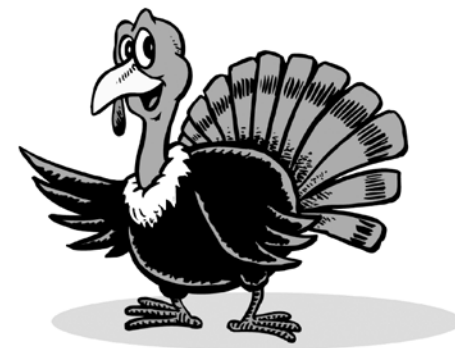
Being a recognizable, smiling face in a large parish is also a meaningful aspect of her role. "Another welcoming, familiar face is important in a large parish," she says.

"My job details have changed as the pastors changed. However, at the same time, hopefully I have been able to continue to share my belief that we all have a wonderful opportunity and an awesome responsibility to explore and deepen our faith journey," she concludes.



Father John Burchat and pastoral assistant Anda Sprudz.

Parish suppers 2014



Sunday, May 25
Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Braeside, ON
Barbecued chicken
 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Adults \$15.00
 Children under 12: \$5.00/under 6: free

Sunday, June 8
St Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON
Hot Roast Beef Dinner
Fresh Home Baking
 Take-Out & Delivery available
 Adults: \$13.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;
 Under 5: free
 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday, June 14/Sunday, June 15
St. Peter's, Fort Coulonge, QC
Supper – Sea Pie & Baked Beans
Many new games available
Hot dogs and fries available on the grounds
 St. Peter's Parish Hall
 Adult: \$15.00; 12 & under: \$5.00
 Meal starts at 4 p.m.

le 14 juin, samedi / le 15 juin, dimanche
Paroisse St-Pierre,
Fort-Coulonge, QC
Souper: Sea Pie et fèves au lard
Beaucoup des jeux
 Salle paroissial
 Repas: 15,00 \$/adulte; 5,00 \$/pour les moins de 12 ans, Repas servi à partir de 16h00

Sunday, July 13
St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay, ON
Roast Beef and Pork
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Beans, Salad, & Desserts
 Take-out available.
 Wheelchair accessible.
 Adults: \$13.00; Children 4–12: \$6.00,
 3 & under: free
 Starting at 2 p.m.

Sunday, July 27
St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON
Bonfield Church Picnic
Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies
 Games: 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.
 Meal: 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

le 27 juillet, dimanche
Sainte-Bernadette, Bonfield, ON
Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield
SeaPie; Fèves au lard; repas complet; tartes assorties faites à la maison,
 Repas: 15h30–17h00

Sunday, August 3
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. Raffle tickets. Canteen. Religious articles. Flea market opens at 11 a.m. Canteen and Religious articles at 1 p.m.
 St. Martin's Parish Hall
 Adults: \$12.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;
 Five and under: free

Sunday, August 10
St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON
Supper & Bazaar
Turkey, Ham, Stuffed Pork, Homemade Beans, Salads and Desserts
 Adults: \$13.00/person;
 Children 4–12: \$5.00
 1:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 10
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 17
Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON
Turkey Lunch and Supper
Bake Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets, Grab Bags. Air Conditioned—Take-out available—Wheelchair accessible
 Westmeath Community Centre
 Adults: \$12.50; Children (5–12): \$6.00,
 Four & under: free
 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 17
St. Hedwig, Barry's Bay, ON
Turkey Supper
Entertainment, Raffle Draw at 5:30 p.m.
 2 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Adults: \$13.00; Children 4–12: \$6.00,
 Three & under: free

Sunday, August 24
Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON
Roast Turkey, Ham & Baked Beans and all the Trimmings
 Adults: \$13.00; Children: \$6.00
 Served from 1 p.m.

Sunday, August 31
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 11 a.m.

Sunday, August 31
St. Mary's, Wilno, ON
Chicken Supper
Home-Cooked Meal
Plates served from 1 p.m.
 Adults: \$13.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00
 Mass at noon. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, September 7
St. John the Evangelist,
Campbell's Bay, QC
Turkey and Ham Supper
 Adults: \$12.50; Children \$5.00
 3 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 7
Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON
Ham & Roast Beef, Homemade salads, baked beans and pies
Raffle Tickets, Silent Auction, Bingo, Yard Sale, Book and Bake sale
Take-out meals available
 Our Lady of Mercy School Gym
 Adults: \$13.00;
 Children under 12: \$6.00
 Children 5 and under: Free
 11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
 Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 21
St. Mary's, Quyon, QC
Roast Beef Supper
 Adults: \$13.00;
 Children 10 & under: \$6.00
 Lion's Club Hall, Quyon
 3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 21
St. Columbkille Cathedral,
Pembroke, ON
Annual Roast Beef, Ham & Bean Dinner with assorted salads and homemade pies
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00
 11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 28
St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON
Turkey and Ham Supper
 Adults: \$12.00/Children \$5.00
 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Le 28 septembre
Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste,
Pembroke, ON
Repas à la dinde
 adultes: 12,00 \$/enfants: 5,00 \$
 11h30–19h00

Sunday, September 28
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 5
St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC
Turkey, beans and all the trimmings
 Adults: \$13.00
 Children 10 and under: \$6.00
 Chapeau Arena: 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, October 12
St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON
Roast Beef & Bean Supper
Take-out available.
Handicapped accessible.
Crafts, Bingo, Draws, Great Food.
 Mass at 11:30 a.m.
 Supper at 1 p.m.
 Everyone welcome!
 Adults: \$13.00;
 Children under 12: \$5.00;
 Under 5: free

Sunday, October 19
St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON
Annual Harvest Festival and
Roast Beef Supper
Crafts and draws
 Adults: \$13; Children: \$6; under 6: free
 Following 11:30 Mass until 6 p.m.
 Parish Hall

Sunday, November 2
St. Matthew the Apostle,
Madawaska, ON
Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean Supper—Raffle Tickets
 Adults: \$12.00;
 Children under 10: \$5.00;
 Three & under: free
 Community Hall, Madawaska
 12 p.m.–6 p.m.