



# Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

## Sharing the love and mercy of Christ

Members of the Diocese of Pembroke were blessed with the presence of Catholic Evangelist Anthony Gentile. The Long Island, New York, resident presented five speaking engagements in our diocese.

On Thursday, October 23, he addressed more than 200 people as keynote speaker at the Renfrew County Right to Life "Celebrating Life" dinner at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall. On Friday, October 24, Gentile visited St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew in the morning and Bishop Smith Catholic High School in the afternoon, speaking to more than 600 students in total. Gentile was also the guest speaker at a Friday evening diocesan youth/young adult event and at an adult day retreat on Saturday, October 25, both at St. Columbkille Cathedral.

Gentile recalled how his journey to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ began with his downfall into darkness.

"In fifth grade, I started with a lot of anger that led to a lot of fighting," said Gentile.

"It took a turn for the worse in sixth grade. That's when I was first introduced to heavy metal music, pornography and drugs. That's when I started to get into anything. I just loved that lifestyle. It was hanging around with that crowd that got me into drugs and alcohol abuse."

Far from appeasing the inner turmoil within him, his adopted lifestyle would only continue to lead Gentile to spiral further into despair.

"The anger got worse. I was constantly getting into fights. I really started to make conscious decisions to not do what my parents were asking me to do. At this point in my life, it wasn't the typical adolescent disobedience; I genuinely hated my parents. I really saw them as oppressive authority figures. I really started making decisions that were against everything that I had been brought up to do."

Gentile continued down this road of negative indulgence for many years. It was not until the unravelling of a relationship that he finally confronted the aimlessness of his world.

"For the first time in my life I saw the consequences of my sins. This was when I was 23 years old. Right there, at that very moment, everything lost its lustre. I realized at that moment that I was hurting people. I



*Catholic Evangelist Anthony Gentile speaks at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke.*

started looking back at my life and realized how many people I had hurt. There was no peace; no matter how high on drugs I got, I didn't have that satisfaction. Then I realized there's got to be something out there that is bigger than our actions. I realized there's got to be something bigger than sex and drugs to give us peace."

In striving to save himself, Gentile eventually returned to his Roman Catholic faith. However, it was far from achieving an immediate expulsion of the lingering demons within him.

"It was a progression. When I first had that conversion experience, I really didn't want to do much. I went to confession for the first time in 14 years, but I still wanted to get high. The priest told me to control my temptations, but I'm sitting here in my room surrounded by pornography magazines and drug paraphernalia. How am I going to escape this?"

In due course, he began to purge himself of such vices, then acquiring a position as a sacristan at his local parish. It was there where Gentile would first really begin to embrace the rays of a new and divine dawn.

"This job was perfect for me. I was in a church eight hours a day. I was hanging out with priests all day long. I needed this; being away from the faith as long as I had I soaked up everything like a sponge. A lady gave me a book entitled *Theology of Body for Beginners* by Christopher West. Once I started reading it I finished in six hours. Something in my heart changed that day. I must have read it six times that first week I had the book."

As it turned out, West, a noted Catholic author and speaker, was scheduled to make a speaking engagement in Connecticut. To say the experience of listening to West was life-changing for Gentile would be an understatement.

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"I'm listening to this man talk and I'm in tears. This had changed my life," recalled Gentile, who approached West after his speech. It was during this conversation that West offered to give Gentile several books and CDs. This single act of kindness awoke a fire within Gentile that burns brightly to this very day.

"Right there in my mind I connected the Gospel with saving lives. I realized what the Gospel had just done for me. I realized how this man had just saved my heart. Right there and then I knew that this is what I am going to do for the rest of my life. I'm going to lay down my life story to others because there are so many people in this world who are what I used to be."

In getting his start with speaking engagements, Gentile received a helping hand from his very own father, who owns a Catholic religious goods store.

"As part of his ministry, he puts together events such as Catholic conferences. The first time I spoke was at a

shrine on Long Island called Our Lady of the Island," recalled Gentile, explaining that it was his father who encouraged him to speak publicly about his trials.

"At first, I was like maybe. I wasn't really sure how to talk about it. I was afraid to get up in front of a bunch of good Catholics and expose my heart to these people. But I did it. I did not pretend to be anything other than what I was."

His blunt delivery of his past sins had the desired effect in emboldening Gentile to share his story with as many people as possible. Appearances at youth groups and church parishes followed. In due course, he became an in-demand speaker at larger gatherings, including a variety of national Catholic conferences in the United States.

Ever conscious of his own struggles, Gentile made it clear that the key to guiding wayward Catholic youth back to the loving fold of the greater Catholic community is to make them understand that God is ready to embrace them with his eternal love.

"I found that there is a storm brewing when it comes to the young adults in this world. They've lived in this crucible of self-seeking pleasure and selfishness. They've tasted the fruit of this culture of death that John Paul II called it. My goal when I talk to young adults is to get them to unlearn what they have learned. To get them to realize that most of the time, in their brains, they have come to an understanding of the Catholic Church that is completely false and fabricated by the mass media. The heart of a young adult is so ready to jump and give its all for love. What I try to get at is to show these young adults that they can give their hearts to the Church. That desire in your heart for goodness and truth was put there by God. This thirst for holiness is there for a reason because God gave it to you."

To learn more about Anthony Gentile, please visit his website at <http://www.anthonygentile.net/talk-topics.html>

## Message from the Bishop

My dear priests, religious and faithful of the diocese,

Greetings to each of you in the Lord. May the thoughts and reflections expressed in this edition of *Ecclesia* bring us closer to Christ and to one another in our daily pilgrimage of Christian life.

### Year of Consecrated Life 2014–15

Each of us will remember that Pope Benedict asked the Church to celebrate a Year of Faith in 2012–13, which marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. I remember fondly these celebrations and the opportunity I had to reflect with you in many parts of the diocese throughout that year.

In this same context, Pope Francis has asked that the Church begin a Year of Consecrated Life on November 29–30, 2014, which is the First Sunday of Advent. This Year will be celebrated throughout 2015 also in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and more precisely the publication of a document concerning the adaption and renewal of religious life on October 28, 1965.

During our recent Plenary Meetings of the Conference of Catholic Bishops in September, the bishops had an opportunity to reflect with several representatives of consecrated life on the challenges and joys found in Canada today. I am thankful for this time of reflection on such a fundamental aspect of the life of the Church, because the Lord never ceases to call young men and women to a special vocation of consecration to His life. And that call continues as we write and read this brief article. I hope to share more fully with you on this gift in future months both celebrating the lives of the many forms of consecrated life in our diocese and calling forth the renewing energy which consecrated life gives abundantly to our families, parishes, hospitals and schools. May our prayers and thoughts renew our response to this magnificent invitation from God.

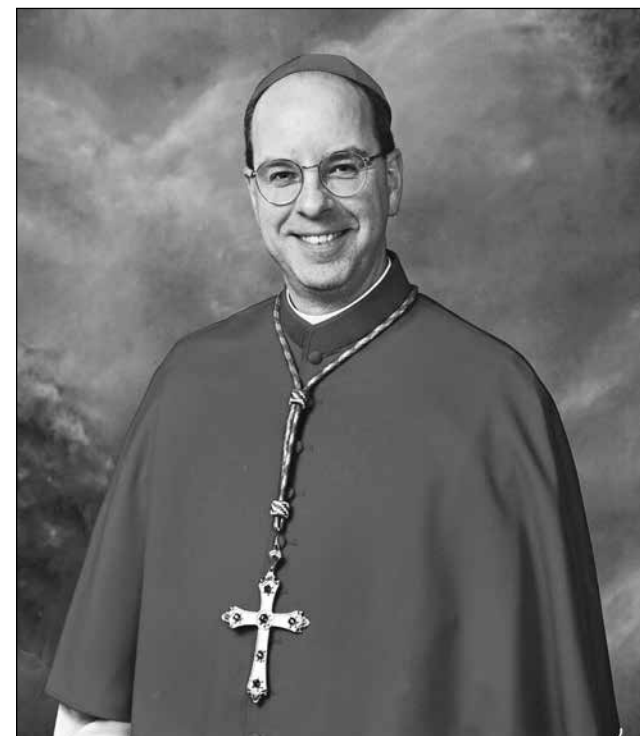
### Synod on the Family

The following is a quotation from a recent talk given by Pope Francis.

*"Evening falls on our assembly. It is the hour at which one willingly returns home to meet at the same table, in the depth of affection, of the good that has been done and received, of the encounters which warm the heart and make it grow, good wine which hastens the unending feast in the days of man. It is also the weightiest hour for one who finds himself face to face with his own loneliness, in the bitter twilight of shattered dreams and broken plans; how many people trudge through the day in the blind alley of resignation, of abandonment, even resentment: in how many homes the wine of joy has been less plentiful and, therefore, also the zest—the very wisdom—for life. Let us make our prayer heard for one another this evening, a prayer for all."*

Pope Francis spoke these beautiful words during the prayer vigil before the opening of the Extraordinary Synod on the Family. At regular intervals since the end of the Second Vatican Council, the Synod has been a gathering of bishops from around the world to share with the Holy Father the pastoral challenges experienced in local dioceses, parishes and communities. From these gatherings, the Popes since 1965, have presented documents to the Church which have been instrumental for the appreciation and dissemination of the Council's teachings for all believers. These documents have had a profound effect on our development and appreciation for catechesis, the mission of the laity, priestly formation, the sacrament of reconciliation and the eucharist and the new evangelization.

Now Pope Francis has called an Extraordinary Synod on the pastoral challenges of the family, recognizing the importance of the family in human life and the teaching of the faith to each new generation. It was during the



prayer vigil before the Synod of last October that Pope Francis made this beautiful reflection. At that time he also extended to each of us an invitation to prayer for the Synod now and through the coming year. The second part of the Synod will be held on the same subject in October 2015.

The beauty of the gift of married life and the nurturing presence of the family are lasting and fundamental components of human life. But this beauty is not separated from the tragic reality of many people's lives which we encounter in our own families, our friends and parish communities. With this dynamic in our hearts we pray that the Lord will richly grant to his Church the disposition of holiness and the instruments necessary for a fruitful ministry to families today.

Finally I wish to thank all of you who offered congratulations and prayers on the occasion of my anniversary of priestly ordination last summer. Your prayerful support is a gift beyond words and I am deeply thankful to you and to the Lord for you.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

† Michael Mulhall  
Bishop of Pembroke



## Parish Profile

### St. Edward the Confessor, Bristol Mines, Quebec

The members of St. Edward Parish in Bristol, Quebec, continue to prosper in their faith. Accompanying them in their journey with God is Father Mike Costello, who has had the privilege of serving the Catholic community here for 29 years.

"You can imagine the number of people I've dealt with in the '70s who are no longer with us. That's the reality, but you still have those ties with the families. I've had a great experience of warm friendships with many of them," says Father Costello, who also serves as parish priest at Paroisse St-François-d'Assise in Lac-des-Loups and St. Mary parish in Quyon.

As early as 1833, Protestants from the North of Ireland and Scotland settled the area, attracted to the area in part due to the quality farm land. Catholic families followed in the 1840s. Clergy from Calumet Island saw to the spiritual needs of the people in this region from 1847-1854, followed by the pastor based in Portage-du-Fort.

In 1861, the first chapel at the mission of St. Edward was built under the supervision of Father Bouvier, though construction would not be completed until a decade later. The land for the chapel was donated by local settler Louis Roy. The structure was blessed by Bishop Joseph-Bruno Guigues in 1872. Priests based in Portage-du-Fort continued to minister to parishioners in Bristol Mines for many years to come.

Father John Sullivan had the honour of announcing to the faithful that St. Edward could become a full-fledged parish in June of 1928, officially achieving this status on July 17 that year. Parishioners soon set to work constructing a permanent residence for Father Sullivan, who became the first parish priest. The rectory was completed in January of 1929. Other improvements in the years to come included the expansion of the church basement, which serves as the parish hall, and the establishment of a parish library. St. Edward's Separate School was built on the parish grounds in October 1960, though it would eventually close due to declining enrolment.

Father Costello was first appointed to the church in February of 1973. It was the start of a 14-year tenure at the parish, where his chaplaincy work extended to the Shawville Hospital. He also served as a teacher at Victoria Avenue Roman Catholic High School in Shawville, instructing students in a variety of subjects that included religion, history, economics, and English. Father Costello returned to St. Edward's in 2000.

This past spring and summer saw some new modifications made to the church.

"One of the things we made possible was a room off to the side of the sacristy, where we installed a handicapped washroom and handicapped accessible side entrance. They did not have that for years, so that was a nice upgrade," says Father Costello.

"The bell has not rung in years. It had worn out," adds Father Costello, noting that proceeds for the bell repair were raised from the parishioners. "We just got that repaired, and folks are enjoying that. They hear the bell ringing at mass time. The church was also painted this summer again, so I'd say the church is in pretty good shape."

Like many other parishes in the diocese, the local parish council plays an imperative role in ensuring the church continues to function and prosper.

"Anything that I have suggested in terms of renovations or other matters, has been received very favourably by the parish council," says Father Costello.

"They are very helpful in the life of the parish. Whatever is needed, they're ready to contribute."

One particular event that brings the parish family together is the annual fall Christmas tea and bazaar.

"It's approached with great enthusiasm, and they do quite well in raising proceeds," says Father Costello.

"It gives us a little extra if we want to do something for the missions. Like every parish, you have an outlook beyond the parish boundaries. For example, we've been donating to the diocesan program in Peru."



The parish also has a Faith First program that prepares children of the parish for First Communion and Confirmation, and is blessed to have an excellent organist and choir. "Their music ministry is most appreciated," notes Father Costello.

Suffice to say, the years at Bristol Mines for Father Costello have been incredibly prosperous in terms of friendship and serving the spiritual needs of the parish.

"It's a very harmonious situation for me," says Father Costello. "I've thoroughly enjoyed it, and I'm still enjoying it. I'm in my 53rd year in the priesthood, and I'm still going strong. I love the priesthood and I love the people I serve."



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## Saint Profile

# Our Lady of Guadalupe: Feast Day December 12

By Deacon Adrien Chaput

Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of all the Americas, continues to invite God's people to acknowledge the comforting words spoken to Juan Diego just outside of Mexico City in December 1531. "Am I not your mother?" she asked. This marked the real beginning of the evangelization of the Aztec people, drawing them away from a religious belief that included human sacrifice to the Sun God and opened them to the Christian faith.

The opening of the New World brought with it both fortune seekers and missionaries seeking to convert the Native population. One of the early converts was a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego. One day while Juan was walking through the Tepeyac hill country in Central Mexico, he encountered a beautiful woman surrounded by a ball of light as bright as the sun.

Speaking in his native tongue she identified herself, saying, "My dear little son, I love you. I desire you to know who I am. I am the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God who gives life and maintains its existence. He created all things. He is in all places. He is Lord of Heaven and Earth. I desire a church in this place where your people may experience my compassion. All those who sincerely ask my help in their work and in their sorrows will know my Mother's Heart in this place. Here I will see their tears; I will console them and they will be at peace. So run now to Tenochtitlan and tell the Bishop all that you have seen and heard."

Juan went to the palace of the Bishop. The Bishop, although cordial, was hesitant to believe and demanded a sign from Our Lady. Juan returned to Our Lady and the Mother of God sent her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses. Our Blessed Mother arranged the flowers in Juan's cloak and told him to show no one until he reached the Bishop.

Juan ran all the way. When he arrived and met with the Bishop he opened his cloak and roses cascaded to the floor filling the room with their beautiful aroma. As the roses fell the picture of Our Lady also appeared on the cloak. The Bishop fell to his knees before the miraculous image.

It is said that the image of Our Lady was striking, and the symbolism was primarily directed to Juan Diego and the Aztecs. The image portrayed a beautiful young Indian maiden that radiated love and compassion. Her hands were folded in front of her in prayer. Her eyes reflected what was in front of her, her rose dress, adorned with a jasmine flower, eight petal flowers, and nine heart flowers symbolic to the Aztec culture, of an Aztec princess. Most importantly was the black maternity band, jasmine flower and a cross that is present in the image. The black ribbon was

worn by Aztec women to signify their pregnancy. The inclusion of this ribbon tied in a bow was a symbol of hope to the conquered people.

Although such fibre garments would usually disintegrate within twenty years, this miraculous image has been preserved in Mexico for over four-and-a-half centuries. It has defied all attempts to give a natural explanation.

Our Lady's request was fulfilled and a Chapel was built on December 26, 1531, in the place where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego. This was just two weeks after our Mother's marvelous appearance. The Sacred Image of Our Lady was moved from the Bishop's oratory to the new Hermitage at the foot of Tepeyac Hill. The first Basilica was completed in 1709, and the Sacred image was installed above the high altar for everyone to venerate.

Our Lady's visitation had a great impact on the lives of the Aztec people and brought a tidal wave of conversions. The few missionaries that initially met resistance became overwhelmed with requests for the Sacrament of Baptism. Over the next seven years, eight million Aztec Indians converted to Catholicism. What a great miracle.

Altogether, 25 popes have officially honoured Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pope Saint John Paul II visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, 1990, 1999 and 2002. On his visit in 1999 during his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe he declared the date of December 12 as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent. During that same visit he entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born. She is called Our Lady of Guadalupe Protectress of the Unborn.

On July 31, 2002, Pope Saint John Paul II said during his Homily it is "With deep joy I have come on pilgrimage to this Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Marian heart of Mexico and of America, to proclaim the holiness of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, the simple, humble Indian who contemplated the sweet and serene face of Our Lady of Tepeyac, so dear to the people of Mexico." On that day he canonized Juan Diego as a Saint.

As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, we remember Mary's motherly concern for us. Each of us has a role in bringing Christ to the world. Our Lady carried Jesus in her womb. We carry Him in our hearts and share His love, mercy and compassion with everyone we meet. Whatever our age, gender, race or background, we are to shine the light of Christ for everyone to see. May we continue to ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for us and all God's people.



*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

### Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Immaculate and Perpetual Virgin of Guadalupe, you appeared on Mount Tepeyac to reconcile mankind to God. Plead and intercede with your Son Jesus that a bond of Holy Love is formed between all humanity and God.*

*You left your image on the cloak of Juan Diego, using a humble vessel to bring your Grace into the world. Imprint on our hearts the virtue of Humility, dear Mother, and use us to Bring others to your Son*

*Your miraculous Image given at Guadalupe was filled with Symbols that brought the Aztec People to Christianity. Pray for us, dear mother, that our lives Will be symbols of Holy love, Converting those around us.*

*You proclaimed yourself our mother and protectress when you appeared on Mount. Tepeyac. Take us into your maternal heart, dear Mother and Protect our faith.*

**Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us!**

**Saint Juan Diego Pray for us!**



# The Steubenville Toronto 2014 experience

By Yvette Bourque

Forty-one participants from the Diocese of Pembroke attended the first Steubenville Toronto on July 4–6, 2014, “GOD IS” *Isaiah 12:2*.

We have waited a long time to see a “Steubenville” youth conference in Ontario and, after many years and much hard work by the Archdiocese of Toronto, especially those in the Office of Catholic Youth and the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, it finally happened. What an outstanding job they did in putting this event on in Toronto. I have attended many youth conferences over the years between Cornwall, Ontario, and Steubenville, Ohio, and I have to say this was the best one yet. It was an amazing mix of great music, speakers and entertainment. Everyone in our group felt as though we were at a Catholic Rock Concert on the Friday evening. On Saturday night, we were led right to the feet of Jesus with a full evening of Eucharistic Adoration. It was very moving and powerful for approximately 2,500 youth who filled the Mattamy Centre.

A common thread throughout the weekend was that if you are a practising Catholic, daily prayer is not an option. It’s what we do. Runners run, swimmers swim and Christians pray. So simple, yet so difficult to practise with all the distractions of daily life.

On Sunday morning the guys and gals had separate breakout sessions. During the girls’ session the speaker, Jackie François, spoke of her journey to find “Mr. Right” and how she almost settled for “Mr. Wrong”. She trusted God and put her decisions in His hands through specific and intentional prayer and active listening. She spoke of her own struggles with chastity and how she later attended a Theology of the Body Seminar... the very place she would meet Mr. Right, who just happened to be a former seminarian.

It was interesting to note, as I was listening to Jackie’s story, the reaction of the Food Services people preparing the next meal for participants. They would hurry to get their work done and then stand along the railings watching and listening intently to this incredible story. Jackie was talking about the little miracles and “God-incidences” that led her to her soul mate, Bobby. I couldn’t help but say a prayer for them, men and women alike, that they would be touched by something, anything Jackie was saying. I prayed that something would be changed in them and they, too, might try to pray and listen to God regarding their relationships. I prayed that the Holy Spirit would move in, if any little crack opened up for Him to enter into their lives. Who knows what seeds were sown where on those three days, but God is good and puts specific people at specific places for a reason.

Anyone wishing to learn more about Jackie and Bobby’s story or to read more about chastity and following Jesus through their ministry can go to [jackieandbobby.com](http://jackieandbobby.com). What an amazing story!

The following are some comments from some of the youth who participated:

*“Steubenville was the best experience I’ve ever had and the closest I’ve ever felt to Jesus and my mom. Thank you, Yvette, for taking the time to be there for us all and organize the trip! This trip has changed my life for the better! God bless and thank you.” –Susanne*

*“My experience at ‘Steubie TO’ was incredible and life changing. I had never been to a youth conference before and to have my first experience at Steubenville Toronto was amazing. It was awesome and it will forever hold a place in my heart. (Not to mention all the friends I made). Anyway, I hope I can go again and enjoy another conference/adoration.” –Ethan*

*“Steubenville was an awesome and powerful experience that gave me a chance to meet so many new people who share a love of God. I was really amazed to see so many like-minded youth all drawn together to worship Him! God is... so good!” –Delaney*



## Diocesan High School Retreat

# UNSTOPPABLE

February 13–15, 2015

CSC Jeanne-Lajoie High School, Pembroke

Main Speaker: Bishop Michael Mulhall

Youth from grade 8 to 12 are invited to spend a weekend growing in faith and friendship with youth from around the diocese and beyond. See your parish or High School Chaplaincy Office for registration forms. For more information or to receive a registration by e-mail contact the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office at [yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com](mailto:yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

ANNOUNCING... Steubenville Toronto 2015  
August 7–9

# LIMITLESS

To register for a spot on the bus, please contact the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office at 613-687-1937 or [yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com](mailto:yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com). Space is limited. If you are interested in a fantastic leadership training week leading up to this event, please contact Yvette Bourque at 613-732-7933 ext. 208.



## World Meeting of Families Philadelphia, September 22–27, 2015

Archbishop Charles Chaput has extended an invitation to families all over the world to attend the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The theme will be “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive”, inspired by the early Church Father, St. Irenaeus, who wrote “the Glory of God is man fully alive.”

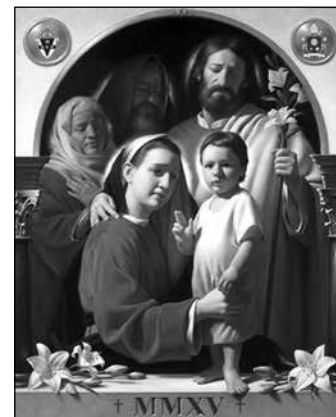
The global World Meeting of Families was conceived in 1992 by Saint John Paul II “to look at strengthening the sacred bonds of the family unit.” The first meeting took place in Rome in 1994. The event takes place once every three years in a different country.

The World Meeting of Families will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from Tuesday–Friday, September 22–25, 2015. There will be Daily Mass, Devotions, multiple breakout sessions and keynote speakers.

The impressive roster includes nearly 100 renowned speakers. From Baptist to Jewish to Lutheran, 24 percent of the Congress presenters will represent other faith traditions and 30 percent of presenters are from outside of North America. Leading the program are keynote addresses from Father Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, Rector of Mundelein Seminary, and host of CATHOLICISM; His Eminence, Seán Patrick Cardinal O’Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston; Helen Alvaré, Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law; Dr. Juan Francisco de la Guardia Brin and Gabriela N. de la Guardia, renowned Panamanian doctors; His Eminence, Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila; and His Eminence, Robert Cardinal Sarah, President of the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum”, Archbishop Emeritus of Conakry, Guinea. Although a few breakout session speakers are still being confirmed, the majority of speakers and presentations for the Congress has been finalized and can be reviewed at <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/about-the-event/speakers/>.

The focus will be on the family and poverty, the family and addiction, the family and children with disabilities, the loss of a spouse, the effect of divorce and co-parenting, health and wellness as building blocks to preserving the family, creating real intimacy between husband and wife, the challenges of raising children, the role of grandparents, the parish as a support community for families, and similar themes.

The Family Life and Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Pembroke is planning to form and prepare a group to attend this epic event. Families, couples and individuals who are interested in attending should contact Yvette Bourque at (613) 732-7933 ext. 208 or [yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com](mailto:yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com). Host families will welcome you into their homes in Philadelphia to keep costs down and plans for childcare are in place at the event. Some funding is available. For more information on this event, go to [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org).



### World Meeting of Families Prayer

*God and Father of us all,  
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
you have made us your sons and daughters  
in the family of the Church.*

*May your grace and love  
help our families  
in every part of the world be united to one another  
in fidelity to the Gospel.*

*May the example of the Holy Family,  
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,  
guide all families, especially those most troubled,  
to be homes of communion and prayer  
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Peru mission— proof of God’s love

*By Orianne Dyck, Participant*

This coming March, 12 youth and young adults have the amazing opportunity to travel together to Peru on a mission trip! As we start our preparations for this journey, a question that we keep getting is: Why? Why do you want to go on a mission trip to Peru?

A mission trip to Peru certainly holds the promise of an adventure! An adventure of goodwill. Which, really, might seem reason enough in itself. But for most of us, there is a calling to this mission that lies a little deeper.

In one of their more recent songs, the band For King and Country has a refrain that says: “Let my life be the proof / The proof of Your love.” I think that all of us preparing to leave for Peru together are hoping that our actions during this adventure will be that proof of God’s love to people who are struggling, half a world away. That we might be able to offer the compassion and hope that someone living in a less fortunate country might need to discover the proof they need of that love. And, perhaps just as importantly, I think that we all quietly hope that through this adventure, we might discover a piece of that proof for ourselves in the faces and hands of those we go to help, who we know will challenge us to see the world in a new light.

So, why do we want to go on this mission trip to Peru? To share and discover the proof of God’s love. To leave that love there, and to bring it back with us here. That is the kind of exchange that can change the world.



*The group is holding donated blood pressure machines and cuffs to take to Peru. In the picture are, top, left to right: Jessica McCluskey, Griffin Sylvestre, Yvette Bourque. Middle row: Ryan Connaughan, Johanna Dwyer, Shavaun Donohue, Mikhaela Meeling, Lauren Middlemiss, Orianne Dyck, Elizabeth Thorlakson. Front row: Sr. Pauline Coulterman, Carter Campbell, Stephanie Rae, Michael Moreau, Deacon Adrien Chaput. Missing is Yvonne Sklepowicz.*



# 25-year anniversary of student participation in Dominican Republic mission

Twenty-five years ago, a decision was made to offer the youth of our diocese an opportunity to see first-hand the struggles of the poor in the Dominican Republic. For those who have made the journey, it became a life-altering experience.

"No student or adult can make this journey without having some form of life-altering experience," says Father Bill Kenney of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Pembroke.

"You simply cannot see the poor of the Dominican Republic without having an experience that profoundly changes your outlook on life and on the world, especially our relationship with those in the Third World."

The Dominican Republic Experience (DRE), as it is known, offers students from both Bishop Smith Catholic High and St. Joseph's Catholic High School the opportunity to visit the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception mission in Yamasa. There, students are provided a first-hand opportunity to learn of the struggles of persons living in poverty, deliver badly needed aid, and absorb the rich culture of its people. Local families willingly open their homes to participants to reside in during their visit.

"The journey of the past 25 years began with a conversation with Sr. Cecelia Turcotte (known to the students as "Sr. C."), says Father Kenney in recalling the first steps that were taken in founding the program.

"She was a wonderful person who belonged to the Grey Sisters and the Grey Sisters had two places in the Dominican Republic where they were helping the poor in that country. What developed from that conversation was the hope that students could have a different experience that would help them to understand the needs of others in our world, especially the poor. It was also hoped that through this experience the youth would come to realize just how blessed they are to live where they live and to realize their own call to help others who have less than themselves."

Father Kenney himself readily admitted how profound the experience was for him, reinvigorating his attention towards the needs of the poor.

"I have and continue to put a good portion of my charity towards the poor of our world," says Father Kenney.

"I also see in the poor the great joy they have without all the "things" that we have. I realize that the greatest joy in life is our loving relationships—a lesson that many take back from their experience. I have also come to realize that this journey that began 25 years ago is very much of God's doing. It has continued to change and grow even though I have not had any great involvement over the past 18 years of this great experience. It is also with gratitude that I recognize the many wonderful directions that have come from this journey that began with a conversation 25 years ago."

Peggy Dunne, high school chaplain at Bishop Smith Catholic High and DRE coordinator, will pass



*Phil Pilon (SJCHS), and Danielle Schardt (BSCHS) visiting with a family after they painted their house*

the torch of leadership to Mark Conrad, a teacher and member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

"I have had the great joy to have been involved for about twenty years and have seen the experience influence the lives of many students and staff," says Dunne, who will remain in her position as school chaplain.

It was Dunne's first trip to the Dominican Republic that motivated her to become immersed in the annual endeavour.

"My first journey to the Dominican Republic (DR) became a pivotal point in my life," says Dunne, recalling how she first became a participant in the program.

"The desire to be a part of the DRE began for me when I first heard the stories of those who had gone there before me. I saw a presentation at my parish and I knew that I had to go there to see these places and meet the people. It was the first year that the group stayed in homes with families—which has been amazing. The people of the DR became a part of my life from that moment onward. Their warmth and openness, their joy and sorrow along with their great faith have stayed with me for all of these years. All of our lives are impacted and enriched by the experience."

The grinding poverty that many citizens of this developing country endure is perhaps the most moving image that participants will carry with them. Helping

to soothe this bleak reality is the unflinching faith the poor have in God.

"Meeting people who live in extreme poverty, with nothing but their faith and the charity of others to keep them alive is life changing," said Dunne.

"Putting names and faces to the people, sharing with them through attempted conversations and being able to relieve some of their suffering with the aid we bring changes you. Once, when we were visiting a very poor area, we met Benoit, a Haitian slave who had been cutting sugar cane for many years. His years as a cutter and the starvation he had experienced left him very ill. He greeted us with his beautiful smile as he held out to us two sugar canes. These canes were all he had to eat and he was giving them to us. We were told that we had to accept them or it would be an insult to him. It was so humbling to accept his gift. We were moved to tears by the heartfelt blessing he bestowed on us. His absolute faith in God was palpable. We knew we had been blessed by one of God's saints. For myself and all those with me, it was a moment we will never forget."

As Dunne completes her transition, she extends a special recognition to Roger Perry, a retired teacher from Bishop Smith Catholic High School and mentor to Dunne in her role as DRE coordinator. An early

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pioneer of DRE, Perry played a vital role in laying the groundwork for what it has become today.

"Under Roger's leadership it grew into its present format with students from both of our high schools, accompanied by RCCDSB staff, living in the homes of our Dominican friends. He worked tirelessly to ensure the trip's survival."

For Conrad, his introduction to the DRE was not as a direct participant, but that of a parent supporting one of his children who chose to participate in the program.

"My first involvement with the DR trip was that as parent when my oldest daughter was selected to go in 2003," says Conrad, a native of Petawawa. He has taught at Bishop Smith since September of 1999.

"I helped out a little in terms of fundraising and slowly got more involved as the years went on. Roger Perry, who was leading the journey then, continually coaxed and prodded me into getting more and more involved, for which I am eternally grateful, until I went as a teacher participant in 2005. Since then I have travelled with the DR group four more times.

Conrad is all too aware of the challenge that awaits him in assuming the role and responsibilities that Dunne held during her tenure. As it turns out, he'll have some help in his new role.

"Her (Dunne's) shoes are a little too big for me to fill completely," says Conrad.

"Prior to this year, Peggy coordinated most of the fundraising, student preparation, flight details, and correspondence activities. With my duties as a teacher, I am taking over the role of preparing students, correspondence with the Dominicans, ordering medicines and arranging flights, etc. A fellow teacher, Tara Crossman, who heads up our Social Justice group at Bishop and who is leading the group going down to Yamasa this year, is coordinating all fundraising activities for the group."

Like Dunne, Conrad's encounters with the poor of the Dominican Republic have been profound.

The "poor", as we like to call them, are not objects or some faces we might see on TV or in the media," says Conrad.

"They are you and me put into extremely difficult situations through little fault of their own. They have the same problems as we do: stress, loss, frustration, loneliness, and anxiety. And they have these identical issues in their lives while starving, or while watching their loved ones starve or die due to the lack of basic medical care. They do, however, possess something we here in Western society appear to be lacking—joy. Not to mix up with happiness: a joy only God could provide. They have an unceasing willingness

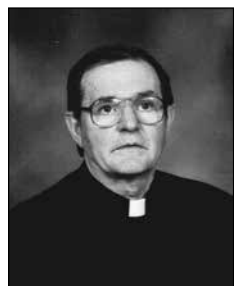
to be hopeful, caring and loving to each other and to us. Wherever we went in Yamasa, whether it be meeting with those lined up for hours at the free clinic, those we meet while delivering Friendship Kits (bundles of food) to the desperately poor in the barios (poor neighbourhoods) surrounding Yamasa, or those of Haitian descent in Antonci (a former slave camp called a batey), we were and are continually greeted with a warmth, and love that brings one to tears."

In looking ahead to the next visit to the Dominican Republic, Conrad encourages students to apply, while advising on what makes an ideal candidate for this spiritually uplifting experience.

"For any student contemplating applying to the DRE, I would say do so," says Conrad.

"The list is long and many students do not get the opportunity to go on this journey. I tell students work now to do things to help out in the community. The adults who select students choose candidates based on character. Does this person display those characteristics of helping those in need, being inclusive to all, and trying to live out the Beatitudes? You would be pleasantly surprised to know how many do, which makes our selections each year extremely difficult."

## Reverend Nil Antonio Clifford Guillemette Priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pembroke



The Reverend Nil Antonio Clifford Guillemette, priest of the Diocese of Pembroke, died at the Pembroke Regional Hospital on Thursday, September 11, 2014. Father Guillemette was born in North Bay on March 22, 1943, to the late Antonio Guillemette and the late Blanche Pigeau. He is survived by his sister Vivianne Buckner (Dennis) of Pembroke, and his brothers Richard (Claudette) of Ottawa, Léo (Debbie) of North Bay, Conrad (Louise) of North Bay, Pierre (Carmen) of North Bay and many nieces and nephews. Father Guillemette attended elementary schools in Grand

Désert and Bonfield, high school in Bonfield, *Collège Saint-Jean-Vianney* in Montreal, St. Paul University and St. Paul Seminary in Ottawa. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1971, in *Sainte-Bernadette* Parish, Bonfield by Bishop J.R. Windle. Father Guillemette then served as parochial vicar at Holy Name Parish in Pembroke, St. Ann Parish in Mattawa, St. Theresa Parish in Temiscaming, Tee Lake and Kipawa. He was then appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau and Missions, of St. Theresa Parish, Temiscaming, Tee Lake and Kipawa, Saint Bernadette Parish in Bonfield, *Paroisse Saint-Pierre* in Fort-Coulonge, Davidson, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Waltham, St. Elizabeth in Vinton, St. Charles Borromeo in Otter Lake, and Paroisse

Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Pembroke until his retirement in January 2013. He then resided at Marianhill in Pembroke until his hospitalization.

Father Guillemette was involved in many services on the diocesan level, among them being the Office for Vocations, the Finance Council, the Council of Priests, the Quebec Provincial Religious Heritage Committee, the Cursillo Movement, etc. From 1996 to 2011, he was Episcopal Vicar for the French Sector of the diocese.

Father Guillemette lay in state in *église Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, Pembroke. The Mass of Christian Burial was presided by His Excellency Michael Mulhall on Monday, September 15 with interment at a later date in the family plot in North Bay.

## In memoriam—Jean Anderchek, former Pastoral Associate, St. John Chrysostom Parish, Arnprior



Jean Susan Anderchek of Kinburn passed away at home on October 25, 2014, at the age of 70, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on February 16, 1944, Jean (nee Newmaster) will be remembered by those who knew her as a lovely, caring, sincere and faithful person.

She generously shared her kindness of spirit and love of God with her parish community while serving as the pastoral associate at St. John Chrysostom for

many years. Her close friend and mentor, Sister Nancy Wilson, also passed away this year.

"When Sister Nancy and Jean both realized that their time would be limited, they both pondered with me who would welcome who into the New Jerusalem, the Holy City not built by human hands," noted Father Patrick Dobec in the homily he gave on October 30.

Father Dobec described Jean as someone who was very organized, knew what was important in life, and was a faithful friend.

"Jean was a woman of faith and a dear friend of God," said Father Patrick Dobec.

Father Jack Lau, a close friend of Jean's, emailed Father Dobec pointing out what a gracious, faithful, creative, open and caring woman she was.

She is survived by her husband Lorne, sons Ron (Anne), and Wayne (Angie King), both of Kinburn. She is the cherished "Nana" of Emma, Kathryn and Jack Anderchek and Jonathan Tasse, and dear sister of Janet Pommer (Art) of Listowel, and Shirley Sivyver (Ted) of Kitchener. She will be fondly remembered by the Anderchek family, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated in St. John Chrysostom Church, Arnprior, on October 30, with interment to take place at a later date at St. Casimir's Cemetery, Round Lake.



# Tribute to Sister Nancy Wilson

I love the poor.

Those four simple words were a pronouncement of the unending love the late Sister Nancy Wilson of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul had for the less fortunate of our community. Though no longer with us, Sister Nancy left an enduring legacy in how we can all strive to live our lives better as Christians.

Born in Perth, Ontario, on July 22, 1932, she was the fourth of ten children of Ruberta Mary White and William Alfred Wilson. Initially, a career in nursing was the path she would follow. However, upon personal reflection of pursuing a life in service to God, Sister Nancy answered the call and joined the Sisters of Providence on February 2, 1952, making her First Profession of vows two years later.

"Nancy loved the charism, spirituality and mission of the congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul," says Sister Irene Wilson, who would go on to join her sibling in the Sisters of Providence herself six months later.

"Part of that was expressed in her love of the poor—those who were materially poor, emotionally poor, or spiritually poor. Like St. Vincent, St. Louise de Marillac and our early sisters, she expressed her love for Jesus in those who suffered. She also found the poor were less complicated—they had a greater simplicity, which appealed to her."

Sister Wilson soon began to pursue a life-long passion for education as a teacher, starting at St. Joseph's Arnprior in 1954. Two years later, she obtained her teaching certificate from the Toronto Teachers' College. For many years afterwards, Sister Wilson worked at a variety of schools scattered throughout eastern Ontario. This also included tenure as principal of St. Joseph's in 1975. Paralleling this was her commitment to acquiring further education herself, earning both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master of Theological Studies. Sister Nancy also served as General Superior of her order from 1985 until 1989.

"She was always open to new ways of making the teaching attractive and interesting and fun," says Sister Irene, noting that her sister remained vigilant to ensure economically disadvantaged students received the proper assistance when needed.

"It was a privilege to watch and be part of the development of young minds and hearts. Her greatest joy was to help those who came from less privileged families through extra attention, as well as some needed books or other things that the family couldn't afford."

Many of her years in Arnprior were spent pursuing her pastoral ministry at St. John Chrysostom Parish, a passion that earned her the recognition of being the longest serving pastoral minister in the diocese. It was here where Sister Wilson became a vital pillar in parish life.

"Sister Nancy was a fixture at St John Chrysostom when I arrived, being involved in so many facets of

pastoral activity—often a familiar face in the church as a liturgical facilitator empowering laity in their ministries, but also stepping in when someone couldn't be there, not to mention greeting parishioners on their way out after Mass," says Anda Sprudz, current pastoral assistant at the parish who moved to Arnprior in May of 2002.

"I envied the many more years that two previous pastoral assistants, Elaine Gibson and Jean Anderchek, had had in working with Sister Nancy, and recognized the deep friendships and shared understanding forged in this time. She had the gentleness of the family grandmother, who could actually tell children preparing for their First Communion that she had taught their grandparents, or had been at their baptism or the baptism of their parents, perhaps later being their parents' teacher or principal. As I got to know her better, I became well aware that though she could play that kindly grandmotherly role as befit her age, behind her eyes also shone a steely determination, with a depth of intellect and wisdom from education and wide experience, as well as a passionate heart for all those in need."

It was that unyielding display of faith and love that made Sister Wilson a role model for all in embracing God's love and striving to live life in accordance to the doctrine of our faith.

"In my presence I never saw her treat any parishioner or someone seeking assistance with anything but a dignified respect, no matter how she herself was treated prior to that or in return," says Sprudz, recalling Sister Wilson's efforts in not only helping the poor of Arnprior, but granting her friendship and time to them.

"Her generosity of spirit in helping those in need, and those who sought advice was known by many beyond the parish community. Before the creation of other ecumenical faith organizations in Arnprior, Sister Nancy had developed a network of individuals and groups donating and distributing furniture to those who came in need, and when in the office, was ready to listen to those who had no one else to listen to them." Despite her hectic schedule, Sister Nancy made time to visit with those who were most close to her, whether it was with her sibling Irene, or with family and friends.

"Sister Nancy and I visited every time we attended meetings or other gatherings at the Motherhouse," recalls Sister Irene.

"We always went home together to visit our parents in the summertime when they were living. Usually we spent Christmas and Easter together when possible. After our parents died, we visited our brothers and sisters and their families together. We both enjoyed seeing new places, reading, watching movies, etc. We were especially blessed in belonging to the same religious congregation; this gave us a wonderful opportunity to share similar interests and mutual friends."



In 2010, Sister Nancy returned to Kingston to reside at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence. There, she held the position of Coordinator of the Marian I Community and was a member of the Process of Membership Committee until her departure into God's embrace on November 13, 2013.

In his homily at her funeral, Father Patrick Dobec, who served for many years as parish priest at St. John Chrysostom, extended his gratitude in all that Sister Nancy shared of herself.

"I thank you for being the good and faithful friend that you were for me, grateful that I will continue to have the benefit of that friendship in a new and even more wonderful way," said Father Dobec.

"You were there for me in both good times and difficult moments, in laughter and in tears. You were often, for me, the human face of the providence of God. Even in her illness, she continued to teach me important spiritual truths. The second reading from Romans mentions it already, 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.'"

It was during his homily that Father Dobec remarked how often he heard Sister Nancy say "I love the poor." In the final span of her life, Sister Nancy once again reminded those in her presence that to embrace the least fortunate of our peers is to embrace Christ himself.

"I was reminded how she saw Christ in the suffering and the needy all through her life, as all of us are called to do, remembering the words of Jesus—'In so far as you did this to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me,' said Father Dobec.

"Having received the fortifying grace of the anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion she looked up at me and whispered in a weakened but audible voice: 'I want to go soon... I am at peace.'"

# Refurbishing Cathedral's historic stained-glass windows

To any who have visited St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke, it is, perhaps, the majestic stained-glass windows that epitomize the divine aura of this holy sanctuary.

To the naked eye, the windows may seem to appear in healthy order. In reality, time has taken its toll. Efforts are currently underway to repair the windows, ensuring these magnificent works of art remain intact for future worshippers to come.

"The necessity of refurbishing the windows has been recognized by various authorities and lay people for over the last ten years," said Father James Beanish, parish priest at St. Columbkille.

"At present we have two stained-glass windows refurbished. One was donated by the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Pembroke and depicts Pope St. Pius X distributing communion to children. The second was donated by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, showing a scene of St. Marguerite d'Youville serving the poor and the sick. There are ten full-sized windows in total, each covering approximately 90 square feet. All were painted by Guido Nincheri and installed in the Cathedral in 1954. We have allowed up to 10 years for the refurbishing of the stained-glass windows and the exterior protective storm windows. This way the cost of the project can be spread out. Michael Blank, a local stained-glass artisan from Wilno, has been placed in charge of the refurbishing, and this has helped to keep the costs down and the quality of the workmanship high."

Guido Nincheri was born in Prato, Italy, in 1885, immigrating to Montreal in 1915. He is credited

with producing over 100 stained-glass windows and frescoes in churches throughout eastern Canada and New England. The devout Roman Catholic was cited by Pope Pius XI in 1933 as the church's greatest artist of religious themes.

Father Beanish explains that funding for the restoration effort will come from a variety of sources throughout the diocese community.

"For example, the one originally donated by the Knights of Columbus has been paid for out of the generosity of the Knights, and the one donated by the Grey Sisters has been refurbished by the Sisters," he notes.

"There are several that were donated by individuals, and I hope that by contacting their descendants some funds may be raised to refurbish those windows. Some of the windows were donated by the diocese and I expect the diocese will provide the funds necessary for those. Still others will be financed through bequests that have been left to St. Columbkille for such purposes and through donations of parishioners and visitors who appreciate the beauty of these windows."

A decision was also made to dedicate one of the windows to Father Patrick Tait who passed away this past February.

"The window being refurbished in honour of Fr. Pat Tait is a stained-glass window that was originally donated to the Cathedral by the Catholic Women's League and shows a scene of the Annunciation," explains Father Beanish.

"Since Father Pat was Chaplain to the CWL for many years and Rector of the Cathedral for 18 years,



it made sense to many to do something to reflect our appreciation for his service. Father Pat also had a great devotion to Mary and I'm confident that he would have been pleased."

For those interested in making a donation to the restoration effort, please contact the St. Columbkille parish office at 613-732-8513.

## To serve in hope

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor. This international organization was established in the Pembroke area in 2007. Members aim to serve with love, respect, justice and joy, recognizing Christ in anyone who suffers.

Society members respond to individuals and families within the community assisting with personal contact and material support. The words on our logo "*serviens in spe*" mean "*to serve in hope*". It is our Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of this hope.

St. Columbkille Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Pembroke Council at present operates St. Francis Cupboard in the lower sacristy of Cathedral Parish in Pembroke. Here, our brothers and sisters are offered nutritious meals three days each week and enjoy a time of friendship together. Our local conference has also helped persons in need of food or financial assistance with rent, electricity and heating costs. Saint Vincent de Paul is a local charitable organization that does home visitations to allow our brothers and sisters to speak about their needs and to

be met with the dignity, love, respect and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ within their home setting.

The Gospels relate many stories of the Lord's love for the poor and the suffering. They also recall his invitation to his Disciples to follow in His way. This same invitation is made to every one of us today. Perhaps this very article can be the Lord's call for you to serve His Little Ones in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

At this time we are in need of volunteers who can help with the work of our Society. If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, we would welcome you to contact us or to come and experience a day with our members. We also welcome groups of youth from the parishes as well from our schools accompanied by their leaders or teachers. Saint Vincent de Paul serves meals on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays at 11:30 a.m. with preparation beginning earlier in the day. We provide training to our volunteers and are flexible in working with your busy schedule. To experience a day with our Society please contact the Saint Vincent de Paul office at (613) 732- 9058. If you

are unable to volunteer and would like to help our Society financially we welcome your support. With winter approaching there is sure to be an increase in requests for assistance. Financial donations may be sent to the **St. Columbkille Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, P.O. Box 7, 188 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6X1**. Income tax receipts will be issued for amounts of \$10.00 or more.

We always welcome your prayerful support for our ministry and our Vincentian members, as we continue to provide for our brothers and sisters who are in need. Remembering the words of Jesus: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

May God bless you for all your support and kindness, and for answering His call.

**Deacon Adrien Chaput**  
Spiritual Advisor for St. Columbkille Conference  
Of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society  
Pembroke Council





## Annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré

Thanks to the local efforts of long-time parishioner Frances Dagenais, residents of the diocese continue to have a way to worship at one of the most important shrines in Canada.

For the last five years, Dagenais has organized the Ontario side of the Pembroke Diocese annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. The Pembroke Diocese is part of a greater number of dioceses that journey to the shrine collectively, including Ottawa, Gatineau, Mont-Laurier, Alexandria/Cornwall and Kingston.

The Basilica is a sanctuary dedicated to Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, located along the banks of the St. Lawrence, 30 kilometres east of Québec City.

Behind the great statue where pilgrims and visitors kneel and implore Good Saint Anne, we find the consecrated chapel of Saint Anne. This is where a relic of Saint Anne is exhibited, which was given to the Shrine by Pope John XXIII.

The first statue of Saint Anne, brought to New France by Bishop (now Saint) Francois de Laval in 1662 and worshipped by pilgrims for centuries, is placed on the left, in front of the Saint Anne Chapel altar.

From the beginning of its construction in 1658, the first small chapel dedicated to Saint Anne has attracted the attention of many visitors and faithful. The first miracle through the intercession of the grandmother of Jesus healed a crippled man named Louis Guimond. To this very day, tens of thousands visit the shrine every year with attendance peaking on July 26 during the Feast of Saint Anne.

As Dagenais recalls, she first visited the shrine in the 1970s.

"I was working in Montreal and I wanted to see all the different places in Quebec," says Dagenais, a member of St-Jean-Baptiste Parish.

For awhile the annual pilgrimage from our diocese (Ontario side) came to a halt. It wasn't until Dagenais saw a notice in her parish bulletin announcing the 136th annual pilgrimage, that she promptly called Mike Budge (volunteer director of the annual pilgrimage for the Shrine) in Ottawa querying as to why there was no bus available for pilgrims from Pembroke.

"The reason why, he told me, is because we don't have anyone in Pembroke to coordinate, or am I speaking with her?" recalls Dagenais. Dagenais's predecessor was Sister Rita Bowers, CSJ, who had retired years ago.

"He said if you can get 10 people or more, I'll have the bus stop at your location. I got about 20 people to go."

At present there are two buses available for pilgrims, one leaving from Fort-Coulonge and the other from Pembroke.

This year saw another group of pilgrims make the journey to the shrine, joining countless numbers of pilgrims in celebrating the 140th anniversary of the annual pilgrimage, which was founded by the Diocese of Ottawa in 1874. As in years past, the annual pilgrimage offers an opportunity to become reacquainted with fellow pilgrims, make new friendships, and embrace the joy of participating in such a spiritually uplifting event.



"It is a prayerful time," says Dagenais. "When we first get on the bus, it's about 4:30 in the morning, we're half awake. We then make stops in Renfrew and Arnprior. By then, everyone is up, singing and reciting the Rosary."

Upon arrival at the shrine, attendees check in to their hotels. From there, a variety of celebrations are held at the shrine. First-time pilgrims are instantly in awe of the Romanesque exterior. The interior, with some 240 stained glass windows, offers a truly majestic aura. Ten ambulatory chapels offer an atmosphere of solace to worshippers seeking spiritual enlightenment. But perhaps most apparent is the array of crutches adorning the two pillars at the back of the basilica, a testament to those who have been healed by Saint Anne's intercession.

"I look forward to organizing the annual pilgrimage next year, God willing. I hope I can do it for a few more years. I would really like to see more young people and children," says Dagenais, noting it is important for young members of our diocese to know more about the grandmother of Jesus, Saint Anne.

To commemorate the 140th anniversary, a commemorative history book of the annual pilgrimage was written by Mike Budge and Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R. For a donation of \$10 you can obtain a copy by contacting Frances Dagenais at 613-732-2235.

## Stillpoint House of Prayer—25th Anniversary

As we recognize the 25th anniversary of the founding of Stillpoint House of Prayer, let's go back to the beginning.

In the early 1800s this dwelling was known as the "Stopping Place". Portageurs ran their logs down the Madawaska River before the railroad was built. As a 22-room log residence, owned by the McCrea family, the "Stopping Place" offered gracious hospitality to all. In addition, it always reserved rooms for the priest, the doctor, and the schoolteacher.

The "Stopping Place" also became the centre of religious life in the community. As early as 1838, before local churches were established, Mass was offered in the McCrea parlour. Following Mass, breakfast was served to the priest since fasting before receiving Eucharist was the tradition.

The late Bishop Ryan, former pastor of Renfrew, loved this setting and "often sought solace from Episcopal cares in the quietude of the place and the association of old friends and true."

The McCrea Inn continues to be a "stopping place" where people experience the "quietude" of the current Stillpoint House of Prayer, which the Congregation

of the Sisters of St. Joseph bought in 1989. It was completely renovated and officially opened on July 9, 1989.

In 2009, the 20th Anniversary was celebrated with well over 100 guests welcomed. They enjoyed a Service of Thanksgiving led by Father Pat Blake, pastor of Precious Blood Church in Calabogie. Addresses were given by Sr. Mary McGuire, General Superior of CSJ, Pembroke, and Sr. Betty Berrigan, current Director of Stillpoint who spoke on behalf of the founder, Sr. Maria Mousseau, and herself. Guests also enjoyed a variety of music, and testimonies from several people who had been guests at Stillpoint. And no celebration is complete without the pleasure of good food, of which there was an abundance.

This past July, the 25th anniversary was celebrated quietly at Stillpoint with a Mass of Thanksgiving by Jesuit Father Bill Ryan for staff and a few guests.

As a House of Prayer, Stillpoint is a place of peace, presence, silence, solitude, and stillness. It welcomes all who desire some periods of time away from the everyday bustle of activity that can so easily consume

us today. Stillness and silence are critical to the existence and strength of Stillpoint.

Over the past 25 years, Stillpoint has seen an abundance of guests staying for varying lengths of time. Many religious come for an annual retreat; writing groups come for a work week; church groups come for planned weekend programs; church boards come for leadership weekends; Christian groups come for conducted seminars, complete with worship and praise; and individuals come to relieve stress, to listen to God, to find direction for their lives, to learn coping mechanisms through spiritual direction, and to find peace with themselves and God. Everyone leaves expressing gratitude for this sanctuary, this "still point" in the storms and trials of their lives, and *always* receiving a blessing they didn't expect. As well, they, themselves, are blessings by their presence and prayer in this holy place.

We can be reached at: [www.stillpoint.ca](http://www.stillpoint.ca)

Email: [inquiries@stillpoint.ca](mailto:inquiries@stillpoint.ca)

Phone: 613-432-2791

Stillpoint House of Prayer, 3031 Calabogie Rd., RR1, Burnstown, Ontario K0J 1G0

## St-Jean-Baptiste Day celebrations

For parishioners of St-Jean-Baptiste in Pembroke, June 24 is not only a day to celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, but also an important social occasion to recognize the enduring richness of their French culture.

"It's a celebration of French-Canadian identity, but in our parish it is a religious celebration explicitly," says Father Michael Smith. He has served as parish priest at St-Jean-Baptiste since September of 2013.

"For many European peoples, the Solemnity of St. John the Baptist has a long history. In many European countries, the feast is associated with the beginning of summer. Also, St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of French-Canadians, whether they live in Canada, or wherever else they may reside in the world."

This year saw a special Mass held at the church, followed by a dinner at the Centre culturel francophone de Pembroke that was organized by the Centre Lajoie des aînées, aînés, a Francophone senior citizens organization, and Le Club Richelieu, a French-language service club based in Pembroke. Also represented at the event was the Fédération des femmes candiennes-françaises.

In past years, the local celebration was normally held outdoors at Riverside Park on the weekend prior to June 24. This year, however, the decision was made to hold the event on the very day.

"The Sunday before June 24 this year is the Feast of Corpus Christi," explains Father Smith. "You can't have a celebration for John the Baptist on the Feast of Corpus Christi. It's two major feast days clashing."

In her address at the dinner, Centre Lajoie president Michèle Plath told attendees that the Centre culturel was a place where true friendships had developed and were nourished over the years. She stressed the fact that the Centre was indeed a social centre where friendships and family values were nourished.

She also commented on the significance of the annual holiday.

"St. Jean Baptiste (day) recalls our Francophone roots and history since the arrival of the French in the

New World. The steadfastness of our ancestors, their courage and our own efforts to safeguard our traditions and our beautiful language are reasons to command the respect of everyone."

Lucile Tourigny, president of the parish council, has been a member of the parish for more than 50 years. For her, the annual celebration is vital in both reaffirming their faith and their French identity.

"First of all, it is the patron saint of our parish," says Tourigny. "It's also about the culture and language. It really is about celebrating your roots. You always look for occasions where you can get together to speak your language."

Also in attendance was Monsignor Douglas Bridge, Vicar General of the Diocese of Pembroke. He noted that the occasion has added importance given the small population of French-speaking residents in the Ontario portion of the diocese.

"Here in Ontario, in areas where Francophones are a minority, it is a very important feast. As a minority, the occasions to have celebrations such as this are few and far between," he notes. "The French community in Pembroke is small, but they always manage to pull off the celebration."

Monsignor Bridge made special note of the enduring legacy of previous generations to ensure both their culture and faith continue to persevere to this very day.

"The origin of the feast comes from our ancestors who came from France. There is a great devotion to St. John the Baptist in France. Our forefathers who came to New France brought with them their customs and traditions, along with their devotion to St. John the Baptist. It really is an occasion to appreciate what we have as a culture."

Monsignor Bridge also explained how the Centre culturel, constructed in 1989, has played a pivotal role in providing a gathering place for the Francophone populace to both socialize and organize various events. But perhaps most importantly, it provides a realm where the French language continues to thrive.



**Back row, left to right: Lucile Tourigny, parish council president, Michèle Plath, current president of Centre Lajoie des aînées, aînés francophones de Pembroke, Father Michael Smith, parish priest. Front row, left to right: Monsignor Douglas Bridge, Vicar General of the Diocese of Pembroke, Rita Lévesque, past president of Centre Lajoie des aînées, aînés francophones de Pembroke.**

"These people are just wonderful and great organizers. The Francophonie is centred right here in this building. Before this building, it was in the church. It really has been a bonus to have a building where people can get together during the week and play cards and have a lot of fun."

"The occasions to speak the language are few. Being inundated in an English-speaking population, you can easily forget your language. If you forget your language, you forget your culture. If you forget your culture, you forget your ancestors."

## Reflection on one year in Pembroke

*Sister Joan Cronin, General Superior of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception*

As we move toward early autumn, I am reminded that I have returned to Pembroke one whole year to serve on the Leadership Team of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

The role of the General Superior on this team is about placing one's entire self at the service of the members of this Gospel community. In fact, a great benefit has been to join the 'good company' of our Sisters in community.

Together we continue to enter a process of change that carries our past into the promise of the future. By 2016, the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will have ministered in and from the Diocese of

Pembroke for 90 years. Our Sisters continue to invest themselves where their talents and passions call them. A number are involved in spiritual direction, retreat work and the Church's liturgical life at many levels. Collaborating with other groups, our Sisters serve marginal populations, engage in opposition to trafficking, sexual exploitation and destruction of the environment.

Locally, we continue to collaborate with Health Care Services, as well as Catholic Education.

The silence and solitude accompanied by the wide open space of the Ottawa Valley keep us connected to Jesus' instruction to the synagogue official, "Fear is useless. What is needed is trust." (Mk 5:36).





## New cross marks original Allumette Island church site



Sunday, July 13, 2014, marked a special remembrance for descendants of the first Catholic families of St. Alphonsus de Liguori Parish on Allumette Island. One hundred and seventy-five years ago the roots of the present St. Alphonsus de Liguori and other parishes nearby were established on the shores of Paquette's Rapids across from present-day Waltham.

Allumette Island was initially inhabited by the Algonquin First Nation. Samuel de Champlain is the first European known to arrive in the area in 1613, when he met grand chief Tessouat. Records also show that Father Daoust was the first missionary to set foot on the island in 1634.

In 1818, the Hudson's Bay Company brought people from Europe and lumbermen began clearing the land and settling on the island. Travelling missionaries visited Catholic families to celebrate the occasional Mass.

By 1836, an organized effort was initiated and a chapel was eventually built at Church Point near Paquette's Rapids—strategically placed in the centre of the vast territory along the Ottawa River between Portage-du-Fort and Stonecliffe.

Father Hypolite Moreau was in charge of building St. Alphonsus de Liguori Parish/Saint-Alphonse-de-

l'Île-aux-Allumettes in 1840. It was constructed of logs 30x40x14 and consisted of 18 benches and a vestry. An adjacent graveyard received both natives and new settlers until 1872.

A disastrous fire swept the island in 1853, destroying homes and the poor little church. Through time the location of the church and cemetery were lost.

During construction of the new Lynch Bridge between the Island and Waltham in the 1950s, construction workers found indications that there had been a cemetery there at one time. A cross was erected to mark the area, but had since deteriorated, although the cement base can still be seen.

Through the combined efforts of the municipal council and heritage committee, a new cross, constructed by local artist and sculptor Tommy Gaudette, was erected at the location of the original site along Highway 148. It is dedicated to the Catholic families who persevered for their church and to serve as a headstone for the unmarked graves in the first cemetery at the site of the original St. Alphonsus de Liguori.

Father Tim Moyle, Monsignor Douglas Bridge and Father Jim Beanish offered blessings and prayers.

*Photo courtesy Peter L. Smith, Pontiac Journal*

## Why Advent is my favourite season

*By Fr. Michael Smith*

When I say that Advent is my favourite liturgical season, I am not at all suggesting that Advent is the most important season. Easter is the most important feast of the year, and the Easter season is the most important season. Why, then, do I love Advent?

In Advent, the readings and prayers of the liturgy, and the whole spirit of the liturgy, give voice to humans' longing for God. The mood is one of joyful expectancy.

What are we waiting and hoping for? The answer often given is, "the coming of Jesus at Christmas," but that is only partly right. If we look more closely at the Advent liturgy, we see that there are three levels to our waiting and our hope. Each of these levels can rightly be called, "the Coming (*adventus*) of the Lord."

This may come as a surprise, but there is hardly a mention of Christmas in the first two-and-a-half weeks of Advent. The focus is on the second coming of Jesus. What does this mean? It means that Jesus promised that he would come to Earth again: not in human weakness, as he did the first time, but with his divinity and resurrected humanity fully manifest. Rather than coming to reconcile the world to the Father, he will come to bring the Kingdom of God to its completion. This will mean the end of the struggle between good and evil, and the final victory of good: the triumph of life over death, and the triumph of love over hatred. Some people speak of the second coming as something to dread, but that is not the message of the Gospels, nor is it the message of the Advent liturgy. If we are doing

what we can, by God's grace, to serve God and others in this life, and if we trust in God's mercy, then the second coming is something to long for. "Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

From December 17 to 24, there is a shift in the liturgy: from the second coming to the first, the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. The gospel readings at Mass focus on the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. Here, we are presented not with an almighty Saviour coming in glory, but with God among us in the weakness and vulnerability of a baby. It reminds us that God comes to us not only in the fullness of his triumph at the end of time but also in our history. Like the infant Jesus, all life is vulnerable, and our world is no less precarious than it was when Jesus was born, yet God is among us. This consolation of God-among-us (Emmanuel) is highlighted in the liturgy by passages from the prophet Isaiah, especially what is known as "Second Isaiah" (chapters 40-55). Here is one of the most poignant passages: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid [...] The Lord is an everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their

strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:1-2, 28-31)

There is another, intermediate coming of Jesus. It is the Lord's visitation in our lives every day. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) expresses it well: "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. [...] The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In the first coming our Lord comes in our flesh and in our weakness; in the middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty. Because this coming lies in between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in the middle coming, he is our rest and consolation." (Office of Readings, Wednesday of the First Week of Advent)

Joyful expectation, deep desire for God, watchfulness to welcome the Lord at any moment: this is the spirit of Advent. If we live in the Advent spirit, it will enrich our lives. In particular, it will enrich our celebration of Christmas.

A blessed Advent to everyone!

*Fr. Michael Smith is pastor of Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste in Pembroke. He also works part-time at the diocesan offices as chancellor.*



## Ordinations

### Father Michael Weitzl

On June 21, Father Michael Weitzl was ordained by His Excellency Bishop Mulhall at Madonna House in Combermere.

"It was the culmination of so much preparation over so many years, and the commencement of a whole new life... a life that is not my own. This is one of the aspects of the priesthood that is very prominent in my consciousness as I begin priestly ministry (i.e., a life that is not my own)," says Father Weitzl, who is currently serving as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes (Pembroke), Our Lady of Grace (Westmeath), and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (LaPasse).

His assignment puts him into contact with people at various stages in their lives (and in their faith lives).

"I am present to the Catholic school children, the RCIA group, a Bible study, a Catholic men's group, various elderly care facilities, and the hospital, as well as the other parish activities and events. So many of my encounters with others remind me of the great need for priests today... and the great gratitude people have when a priest is able to accompany them in a moment of difficulty. I find this extremely rewarding," says Father Weitzl.

Next year Father Weitzl will complete a year of studies at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in Ottawa to help to familiarize him with the Byzantine Rite. This is important because he belongs to Madonna House, which was founded by Catherine Doherty, who was Russian Orthodox before becoming Roman Catholic.

After this year of studies, Father Weitzl will return to Madonna House to continue his priestly ministry.

"This specialization will help me to assist Madonna House in the unpacking of the rich Eastern spiritual heritage that we have been given," notes Father Weitzl.



*Courtesy of Madonna House Archives*

### Deacon Tim Foster



On September 6, 2014, Deacon Tim Foster was ordained at St-Thomas-d'Aquin Parish in Astorville by His Excellency Bishop Mulhall. He is the first Permanent Deacon the parish has had in its more than 100-year history.

Deacon Albert Benoît recommended him as a candidate. Along with Deacon Benoît, Deacon Foster includes Father Jean-Marc Raymond and Deacon Frank Martel in his "main circle of support and mentors."

In his new role in the parish, Deacon Foster looks forward to assisting Father Raymond (who tends to three parishes—Astorville, Bonfield and Corbeil), reading the gospel and preparing the homily for Mass every third week, celebrating baptisms and weddings and preparing children for confirmation and reconciliation. "I look forward to many joyful experiences," says Deacon Foster.

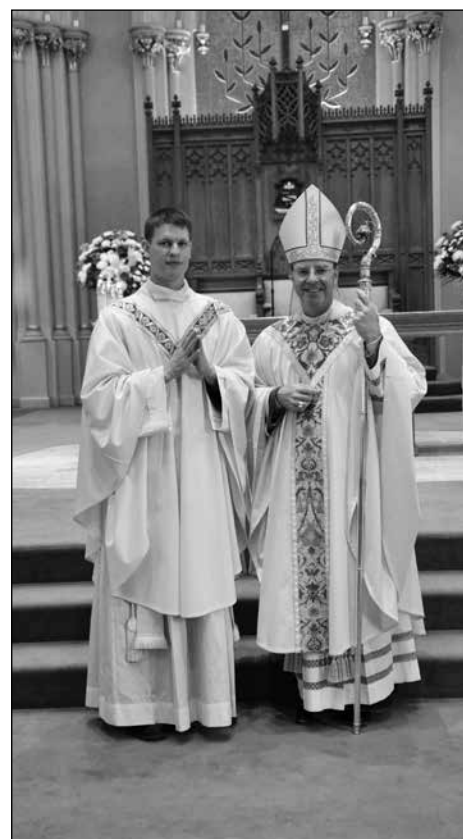
### Father Scott Murray

Father Scott Murray was ordained by His Excellency Bishop Mulhall on July 12 at the Cathedral in Pembroke, following six years of studies and formation.

Father Scott says, "The ordination was an incredible gift for me—the culmination of many years of preparation."

He notes that it was also a totally new beginning. "I am now a priest forever! There is no way, really, to express the awesomeness of that statement. As I continue to live out the ministry to which God has called me, I will grow in my understanding of the mysterious nature of Christ's priesthood, but ultimately the love that God gives to us through the Sacraments is incomprehensible. What a gift!"

Father Murray was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes for the summer. His current assignment is to finish a licentiate in moral theology at the Alphonsiana in Rome while continuing to live at the North American College. He will return to the diocese to serve in a parish in June 2015.



### Deacon Peter Do

On October 2, Deacon Peter Do was ordained in St. Peter's Basilica by Cardinal Wuerl.

"It was an incredible opportunity to be ordained in St. Peter's, to lay down my life in service to the Church not far from where St. Peter laid down his life for Christ and was martyred," he says.

Deacon Do says getting to this point has been a pretty incredible journey.

"My mom is from Poland, my dad is from Vietnam, and I was born in Berlin. We emigrated when I was two years old. We first lived in Chatham, Ontario, but we shortly moved to London, Ontario. In 2002 we moved to Deep River, where my parents still live. After high school I entered seminary. I studied philosophy for three years at St. Philip's Seminary in Toronto."

The past three years have been spent living at the North American College and studying theology at the Angelicum in Rome. For the next year Deacon Do will be working at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Arncliffe, after which he will return to Rome to complete his studies.

"I would not be here had it not been for the people who have accompanied me on this journey. I am especially indebted to my parents for raising me in the Catholic faith. I also owe a huge debt to the many friends I have made from high school and seminary who have supported me. It has been quite the journey that has brought me to where I am now, and I look forward to what the future holds in store," says Deacon Do.





## A Retreat for the Deacons

By Deacon Don & Nancy Smith

Anyone can benefit from making a retreat, but for deacons and our wives, a retreat is essential because it gives us the opportunity to step back with no distractions to make an internal journey for a period of time. It also gives us the opportunity to be together in community with each other, something that does not happen frequently given the nature of our diocese, which is spread over a great distance. As deacon



couples, we were given that opportunity August 20–22 at the Galilee Community in Arnprior and we were blessed to have Bishop Mulhall as our retreat master. At the beginning of our first evening, he reminded us that there is a difference between leisure and laziness. Leisure has purpose, and it is restorative. In ordained ministry, we need that period of restoration for ourselves if we are to be effective serving others. We began the first evening being encouraged to enter into a period of quiet so we could ponder and absorb the material from the presentations and to spend time in quiet prayer. On the second day, there was a deluge of rain forcing us to hunker down and do just that, quiet reflection, other than community prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.

All the presentations were scripture-based, thoughtful, and fed us spiritually. The Bishop reminded us that Jesus Himself needed time away to pray to the Father, so we were encouraged to be with the Spirit of God ourselves to be refreshed. We were also encouraged to ponder in our hearts the mysteries that Mother Mary had to ponder in her own heart, those of faith-filled surrender to the will of God.

Thursday evening's presentation was in the chapel in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament where time was spent in adoration afterward. As Permanent Deacons, we all have a ministry of service, particularly to the poor or disadvantaged. This can vary from parish to parish depending on the need, and the specific gifts of the deacon. In his final comments, the Bishop encouraged us to go forth and serve his people. We are also to be messengers, role models and shepherds to our people. Bishop Mulhall is clearly committed to the service of his deacons and that is so encouraging.

The closing Mass was celebrated in Braeside at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. The pastors of the various parishes where the Bishop's deacons serve were also invited to attend and concelebrate. It was the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, and after the gospel we all renewed our promises to the Bishop—the promises we made at our ordination. Our wives were also asked to recommit their support for their husbands' ministry. As a group, we are grateful to Bishop Mulhall for his time, and the work he put into our retreat. He is an excellent teacher, so we came home ready and invigorated to return to our various ministries. We look forward to another retreat again next year.

## Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi

Many faithful from throughout the Diocese of Pembroke processed through the streets surrounding St. Columbkille Cathedral for the first annual Procession of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday June 22, 2014.

The day was also marked by the second annual Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi at St-Pierre Parish in Fort-Coulonge, QC.

The Feast of Corpus Christi is a time when Catholics around the world proclaim that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, and they share their love for our Lord and Saviour outside of the church in a Eucharistic procession. It is a joyous celebration through the streets accompanied by the singing of hymns.



First annual Procession of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke on Sunday June 22, 2014.

"The procession is one of reverence, peace, love and joy in the Lord," explains organizer Deacon Adrien Chaput.

Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke, clergy, members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League with their banners, children who had recently received their First Holy Communion carrying baskets of flower petals, and lay people made up the procession of about 150 people.

"We were very pleased with the response from our community to the invitation—it was beautiful to see and very moving," says Deacon Adrien.

### About the Feast—Did you know?

- The full Latin name of this feast is *Corpus et Sanguis Christi* meaning The Body and Blood of Christ
- The Feast of Corpus Christi was established to create a feast focused solely on the Holy Eucharist
- It was established in 1246 by Bishop Robert de Thorte of Liege at the suggestion of St. Juliana of Mont Carvillonand (a Belgian nun) and was extended to the universal Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264
- The Mass, the Office, and several hymns were composed by St. Thomas Aquinas on the request of Pope Urban IV in 1264
- Corpus Christi is a public holiday in countries such as Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Poland, Portugal, and Trinidad and Tobago
- In Canada, it is celebrated on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday



# Wojtyla Summer Institute for Teachers 2014

On August 7–10, 2014, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy (OLSWA), a post-secondary liberal arts school located in Barry's Bay, Ontario, hosted its fourth annual Wojtyla Institute for Teachers.

The mission of the Wojtyla Summer Institute is to advance OLSWA's mission of serving the Church by offering programs focusing on aspects of the Faith and Catholic social teaching for groups or individuals who are interested in further developing their understanding of Catholicism. Attendees from school boards and communities across Ontario were welcomed in August to OLSWA and the Madawaska Valley for this weekend conference.

This year's theme was Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope: Education and the Restoration of Christian Culture. This year's institute addressed the fundamental question: What does it mean to be human? It also considered how, by integrating truth, beauty and goodness, Christian educators play an important role in the restoration of Christian culture.

Among the conference speakers were Mr. Michael O'Brien, renowned artist and writer; Fr. Denis Lemieux, author, speaker, and priest at Madonna House; Mr. Stephen Fitzpatrick, teacher at Maryvale Academy of Ottawa; and Professor John Paul Meenan, professor of Theology at OLSWA.

An engaging opening address was delivered by Mr. Michael O'Brien on the overall theme of the conference that launched the weekend.

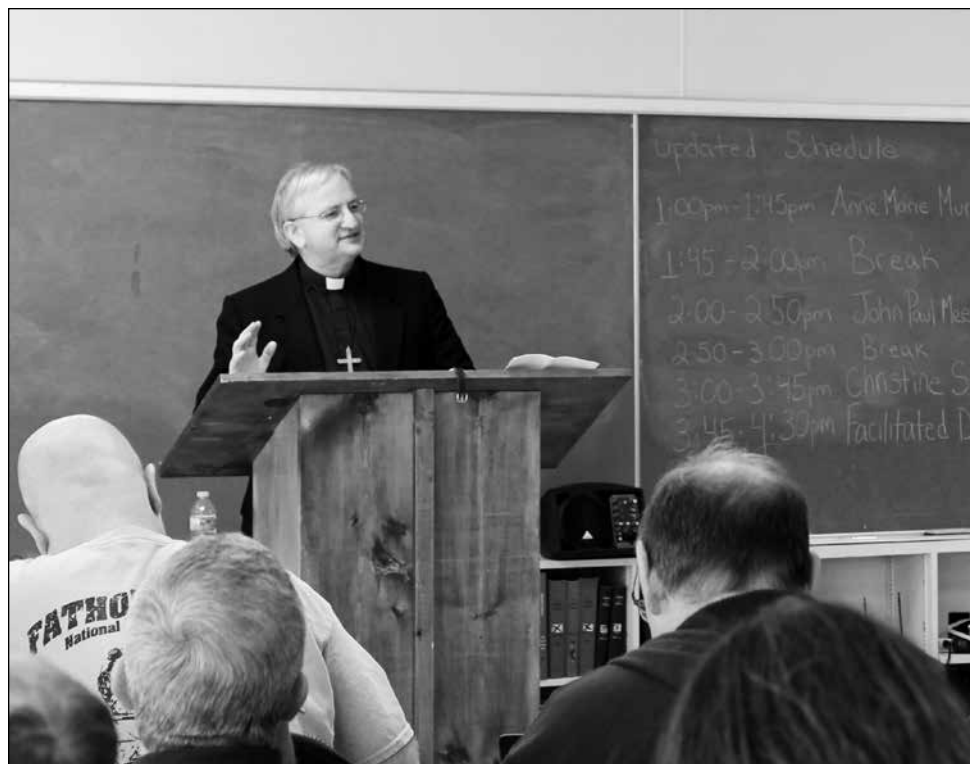
The Friday morning session was presented by Professor John Paul Meenan, who led the participants through the anthropology of the human person, as seen from the Catholic perspective. How does the Church see the human person, and how does this affect a teacher's role as an educator? Participants were led through a historical overview of the Aristotelian and Thomistic view of "anthropology" and John Paul II's personalism, with the basic distinctions in the human soul, its various powers that must be perfected, and how this applies to our role in forming young people intellectually and spiritually.

Mr. Stephen Fitzpatrick, a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College in California, and currently a teacher at Maryvale Academy in Ottawa, followed in the afternoon with a reflection entitled John Senior: Restoration through Education. Mr. Fitzpatrick recounted the unique and very successful educational methods employed by Dr. Senior as part of the Integrated Humanities Program at the University of Kansas. He offered suggestions for how teachers could apply these principles of the lived experience of the "great" and the "good" books to enliven education and to broaden the minds of students by capturing their imaginations and hearts.

The second day began with an ever-popular speaker, Father Denis Lemieux, a priest of the Madonna House Apostolate, whose address Education into Silence: The Challenge of Technology, spoke of the necessity of silence in education, especially in the midst of the near-incessant technological "noise" that distracts not just students, but also teachers. He tied this in with the Russian practice of poustinia, of retreating into the "desert", so that the silence found there could allow us truly to self-reflect. Fr. Denis emphasized the essential benefits of retreats for teachers and students, even "mini" ones for a few hours.

Ms. Anne Marie Murphy, also a member of the Madonna House Apostolate, followed with a demonstration using the educational methods of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which uses visual and tactile imagery with reading from Holy Scripture to immerse younger students into the truths of the faith. To an enraptured classroom of teachers, Ms. Murphy offered a very moving presentation on the institution of the Holy Eucharist and Apostolic succession, using the finely crafted wooden sets of the Good Shepherd, which, along with clear and simple descriptions, allow elementary-age students to truly understand the Gospel message.

The last sessions of the day were offered first by Professor John Paul Meenan, who spoke on culture in general and how culture is built up from the "top-down" by law in its various forms, and from the "bottom-up" by custom and, ultimately, by



*Fr. Denis Lemieux of Madonna House spoke on the challenge of technology and the need for silence in education in a world of distraction.*



*Participants enjoyed times of networking, socializing and fellowship.*

individual actions. Following Saint Thomas Aquinas, who taught that custom "has the force of law, abolishes law and is the interpreter of law", Mr. Meenan stressed the need to rebuild culture from our own individual actions and apostolates, whether in public or private education, or in homeschooling. Mr. Meenan explained that it is in the here and now, by the choices of individual persons, in our own classrooms, that the culture of education will be changed.

Dr. Christine Schintgen wrapped up the formal sessions with a presentation on how to teach literature at the pre-university level to prepare students for a formal liberal arts/humanities program. Dr. Schintgen emphasized that students should never feel they have "done" the Great Books, for they contain endless streams of wisdom. Teachers of younger students were recommended to focus on relevant, shorter excerpts of longer literary works, such as Homer's Odyssey, and lead their students to ask and answer questions that are relevant to them, so that they become engaged at an emotional and intellectual level in the works. They are thus prompted to delve deeper into the works as they proceed in their studies beyond high school.

OLSWA was very grateful for the opportunity to work with other Catholic educators with the common goal of forming our young people in the truths of man and God. Stay tuned for details regarding Wojtyla Institute for Teachers 2015 at [www.seatofwisdom.org](http://www.seatofwisdom.org)