



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

Celebrating a Holy Year of Mercy

The global Catholic community is celebrating an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy extending from December 8, 2015 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception), to November 20, 2016 (Feast of Christ the King). The jubilee year is meant to help us understand the ways in which God's great love manifests itself in our daily lives. It provides a special opportunity for us to be healed by God's mercy and to offer mercy to others.

In convoking the jubilee year, Pope Francis said, "The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope."

'Extraordinary' Jubilee

The first jubilee for the Catholic Church was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. A jubilee is a special year called by the church every 50 or 25 years to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The last Jubilee celebrated by the church was in the year 2000.

A Jubilee Year is accompanied by special celebrations for the entire Church. The most notable of these include the opening of the Holy Doors, pilgrimages to walk through the Holy Doors, and special indulgences granted to the faithful who participate in the Jubilee.

A Jubilee is "extraordinary" when it is proclaimed outside the usual time to commemorate an outstanding event.

Pope St. John Paul II called for a Holy Year in 1983 to commemorate the 1950th anniversary of the Year of Redemption (the death and resurrection of Jesus in the year 33 A.D.).



Grade 7 confirmation candidates with Bishop Michael Mulhall at the opening of the Holy Doors of Mercy at St. Columbkille Cathedral, in Pembroke on December 8, 2015.

Pope Francis called for the current Holy Year dedicated to divine mercy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. He has called for the Church to focus on mercy in a special way during this time: "It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy."

Mercy

"Merciful Like the Father."

In calling for a year of mercy, Pope Francis stated that mercy is a central function of the church, and asked the church as a whole and each of us individually to be nonjudgmental, and to show merciful love.

"The Lord asks us above all *not to judge* and *not to condemn*," stated the pontiff. "If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgment, he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister."

When we show mercy to others we are imitating God's mercy shown to us.

The faithful can attain the gift of indulgence—the removal of temporal punishment for sins committed whose guilt has already been forgiven—if they meet certain conditions and perform certain works.

Year of Mercy events in our Diocese

- The Book of Mercy was placed in each parish. Everyone is invited to record your act of mercy in it. All books will be returned to St. Columbkille Cathedral for the closing Mass on November 20.

October 1, 2016 - St. Faustina live production at Festival Hall, Pembroke
November 20, 2016 - Closing of the Holy Doors of Mercy, St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke

Did you know?

- The 2015–2016 Jubilee is the thirtieth in history.
- In just the first two months after the jubilee was launched (December 2015 and January 2016) nearly 1.4 million people took part in Year of Mercy events in Rome.
- More than 1,000 priests from all over the world were commissioned on Ash Wednesday as "missionaries of mercy" with special authority to forgive sins.



Diocese of Pembroke Ordinations 2016

Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them, so that they may serve me as priests.

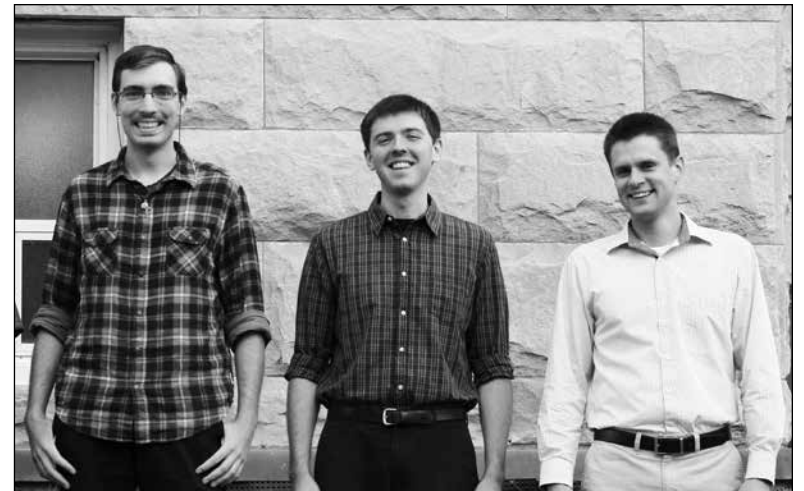
– Exodus 29:1

Bishop Mulhall has announced the following:

Deacon Peter Do (Deep River) will be ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke. Deacon Peter returns to our diocese after a year in Rome where he attended the Pontifical Theological Faculty Teresianum.

Justin Bertrand (Ile-du-Grand-Calumet), Anthony Burchat (Round Lake) and Stephen Helferty (Douglas) will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke. Justin, Anthony and Stephen will return to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto in September for one more year of study before being ordained to the priesthood.

Please join us in praying for the men from our seminary community who will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood and Transitional Diaconate this year. Thank you for supporting them as they prepare to devote their lives to the service of Christ and His Church.



Pictured to the left, Deacon Peter Do (Deep River). Above, Justin Bertrand (Ile-du-Grand-Calumet), Stephen Helferty (Douglas) and Anthony Burchat (Round Lake).

The Holy Year of Mercy: Some suggestions for living it well

By Fr. Michael Smith

The Holy Year of Mercy promises to be a great grace for God's People. Here are some suggestions based on the Corporal (i.e., bodily) and Spiritual Works of Mercy, so that we can benefit from this year of grace. I would suggest choosing one work of mercy from each of the two categories, especially one that involves a struggle, and really focusing on it for the year. This can be a challenge! Speaking personally, I am decidedly not good at some of these works of mercy. How about you?

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty: If I am the mother or father of a family, this is something I do every day. I can do it intentionally, knowing that I am participating in the mercy of God.

Other suggestions: I could re-examine how generous I am to the less fortunate, and especially how my words and actions concerning social issues impact on those who are most vulnerable. Am I on their side, or do I gravitate toward privilege and power?

Clothe the naked: If there is an item of clothing that I have not worn in over a year, I can give it to a rummage sale or second-hand store, but only if it is in good condition. If it is not, then it is not good enough for the poor, and ought to be used as rags.

Welcome strangers: I can be more hospitable by making an extra effort to be kind to those who knock at my door. I can treat everyone with dignity, whether in person, on the phone, or online. I can examine my attitudes with regard to immigration and the refugee crisis.

Visit the sick: This speaks for itself, especially if I know someone who is sick, whether in the hospital or at home.

Visit those in prison: This can be difficult if there is no prison nearby, or if I do not know anyone in prison. But if I do know someone, it is not impossible.

There are other kinds of prisons: I can make a point to listen at length, for example, to someone who is imprisoned by fear or hopelessness. Some people are "imprisoned" in their own homes! I can visit a shut-in.

Bury the dead: I can swallow my feelings of discomfort and go to the wake and/or funeral of someone I know, or of a family member of someone I know.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Instruct the ignorant: If I am a teacher, I can approach my vocation with a new focus, realizing that my daily work is a participation in the mercy of God.

I can become a catechist in my parish.

I can volunteer as an instructor in an area in which I am competent.

When someone asks me a question, I can answer simply and directly if I know the answer. If I do not know the answer, I can look it up or seek advice. Most of all, I can recognize that, in many areas, I am one of the ignorant who needs instruction!

Counsel the doubtful: There is a certain kind of doubt that is a normal and intermittent passageway in the journey of faith. When someone expresses doubt, I can be empathetic and encourage the person to trust God.

Admonish sinners: If someone I love is acting in a way that can only lead to grief, I can risk my relationship with him/her and urge a change of direction.

When I am corrected by someone else, I can receive the correction graciously.

Bear wrongs against you patiently: ... by not dwelling on those wrongs. Instead, I can have it out with the person and clear the air. If there is something I cannot change, I can wait patiently for the ability to accept my helplessness in the situation.

Forgive: I can do this, if not once and for all, at least one day at a time. I may not feel good about the person who has wronged me, but at least I do not want the person to suffer.

Comfort the afflicted: ... especially by listening.

Pray for the living and the dead: ... especially at Mass, and especially for those who have no one to pray for them.



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Bishop's Message

This year, Pope Francis has declared a Holy Year of Mercy. A part of the celebration is the opening of a Holy Door in many Churches throughout the world. The Diocese of Pembroke has five Holy Doors in our churches in Barry's Bay, Renfrew, Mattawa, Fort Coulonge and the Cathedral in Pembroke. We are invited to pass through the Holy Door to mark our movement from death to life with Jesus.

This Jubilee Year of Mercy marks a very special time of grace in our lives. As you know from your reflections and works of mercy, the parish family and community will continue to provide a precious place where the members of the diocese can share the challenges and the special joys of living God's manifold mercy.

On the occasion of the Jubilee of the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II offered to the Church an explanation of the importance of the Holy Door. It applies seamlessly for us as we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

"The sign of the Holy Door 'evokes the passage from sin to grace, which every Christian is called to accomplish'. Jesus said: 'I am the door' (Jn 10:7), in order to make it clear that no one can come to the Father except through him. This designation, which Jesus applies to himself, testifies to the fact that he alone is the Saviour sent by the Father. There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus, the one and absolute way to salvation. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth: 'This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter' (Ps 118:20)."

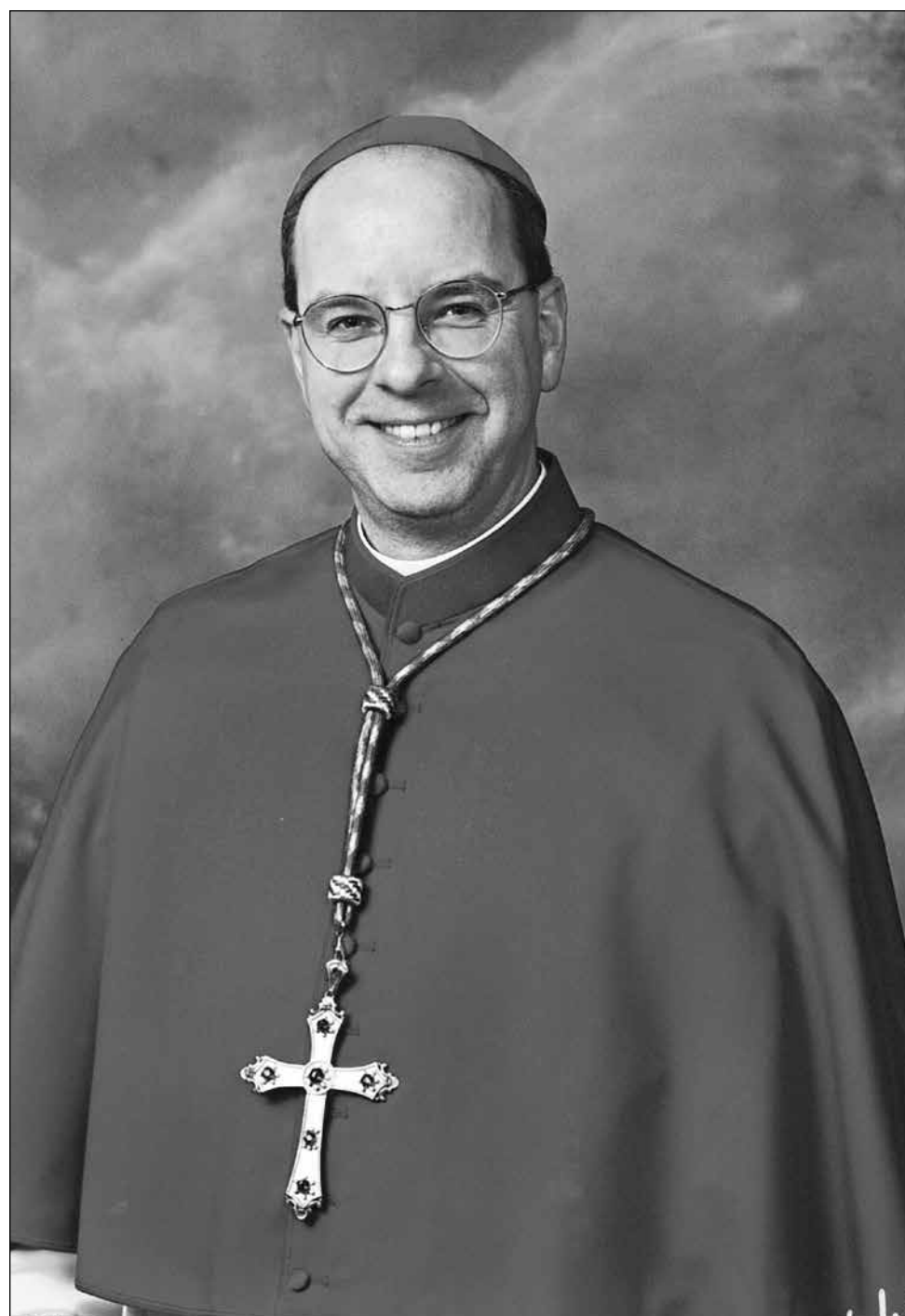
"To focus on the door is to recall the responsibility of every believer to cross its threshold. To pass through that door means to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; it is to strengthen faith in him in order to live the new life which he has given us. It is a decision which presumes freedom to choose and also the courage to leave something behind, in the knowledge that what is gained is divine life (cf. Mt 13:44-46). Through the holy door Christ will lead us more deeply into the Church, his Body and his Bride. In this way, we see how rich in meaning are the words of the Apostle Peter when he writes that, united to Christ, we too are built, like living stones, 'into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God' (1 Pet 2:5)."

It would be fitting to ask ourselves: how often does the reality of God's mercy enter into the consciousness of my life? For all those who desire to live the spiritual life, the Lord's mercy occupies our thoughts to some degree each day of our life. But this regularity can sometimes lead to complacency. And so, it is truly providential, that the Holy Father has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that prompts each of us individually and as a diocesan family to reflect more profoundly of the rich gift of Mercy.

The opening of the Holy Door, whether that of the Cathedral or another designated church, marks a place of pilgrimage for the faithful, all of us, God's Holy people. The pilgrimage to the Holy Door is "a sign of the deep desire for true conversion," which the Holy Spirit instills in our being. As Pope Francis has beautifully explained, not all of the faithful will be able to make a pilgrimage to a Holy Door. For those in prison, the very threshold of their cells becomes a Holy Door of true repentance and mercy. For the sick and elderly confined to their homes, may the works of mercy of God's people open true unseen doors in the reality of their earthly pilgrimage. May these corporal works serve as places of pilgrimage for "true conversion". And even the deceased through the mystery of the Eucharist and the bond of pray with us on the pilgrim way, may they be granted the grace of the Jubilee indulgence.

Let us pray that the physical movement through a holy door helps us to make a similar move in our interior life. Like the physical movement into the church, an interior movement will take me through a door to a place; we cross a threshold to a place within us where we meet Christ.

An ancient predecessor as Bishop of Rome, St. Leo the Great spoke of the central place of mercy in the very life of the Trinity. In his homilies to the people of Rome on the occasion of the fast and collections for the city's poor, he spoke of the dialogue in the very essence of the Trinity, a dialogue of Father and Son in the presence of the Holy Spirit. This essentially for St. Leo is a dialogue of love which, since the fall of man, has found its true manifestation as a dialogue of mercy. How consoling it is for us to reflect upon the fact that the very dialogue between the Father and Son is a dialogue of mercy towards his fallen creation and, in particular, towards fallen humanity. But the dialogue does not remain interior. It moves out of itself into the great expression of God's mercy towards humanity.



The Easter mysteries that we recently celebrated make this outward expression of God very clear. Jesus, through his birth, life, suffering, death and resurrection, is the very mercy of God.

"Lord guide us in your gentle mercy". Lord guide us gently into the mystery of your mercy, lead us to the experience of your presence given to the prophet Elijah. When the Lord wished to make his presence known to the Prophet in the Old Testament, Elijah experienced first "a wind so strong that it was splitting mountains", then an earthquake and finally a fire. Though the Lord was the creator of these great physical powers, he chose to make his presence known to Elijah in the gentle breeze at the mouth of the cave.

"Lord guide us in your gentle mercy". Guide us not only into the frail reality of our lives where we need conversion and healing, but also guide us gently to the foot of the cross with the beloved apostle and your Holy Mother. Here, even in the midst of the reality of human suffering, let us experience your gentle mercy. Learning its beauty, let us resolve to return again and again so that our hearts may be so transformed that a world starving for intimacy and intimate mercy may see your divine call in the witness of our lives.

My dear people, during this Jubilee Year of Mercy may the graces showered upon you through his Holy Church bring you consolation and peace.

+ **Michael Mulhall**
Bishop of Pembroke

Religious Orders in the Diocese of Pembroke

Pope Francis stated, during an assembly of 120 leaders of men's religious orders on November 29, 2014, that consecrated persons are "gifts that enrich dioceses. The involvement of religious communities in dioceses is important."

Throughout its history, the Diocese of Pembroke has benefitted from the presence of a variety of religious orders—groups of men or women religious involved in our parishes, hospitals, schools, communities and charitable activities.

Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph have been present in our diocese for more than 100 years. In that time, their devotion to bettering the lives of others should inspire us all in how we live as Christians.

"Really that is not a difficult question for me to answer; it is without a doubt the opportunity of being with, journeying with and loving so many people," is how Sister Kathleen O'Neil responded when asked what she found most satisfying as a Sister of St. Joseph. A native of Brantford, Ontario, Sister O'Neill has served as the local leader and administrator at the Pembroke Motherhouse for the last three years.

"Without being a Sister I would never have had this joy. I carry with me so many people who are alive and dead. I loved my work as a chaplain and educator, but much of my most rewarding time was at the bedside of a dying person and their family. I have been immensely privileged and humbled to be with people, giving them a sense of God's great love for them. I do believe my friends and sisters and family who are with the Lord continue to guide me and strengthen me for the journey."

The Sisters of St. Joseph were founded in Le Puy, France in 1670. Father Jean Paul Médaille, a Jesuit missionary, founded the order by gathering six women who dedicated their lives ministering to the poor. Though their congregation did initially blossom, the French Revolution would see their convents shuttered and their members dispersed. In more tragic scenarios, some Sisters were imprisoned or executed.

It wasn't until 1808 that Mother St. John Fontbonne, later to become Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, re-established the congregation in Lyons, France. At the behest of Bishop Joseph Rosati, based in the United States, the Sisters sent forth their first contingent of missionaries to the diocese of St. Louis, Missouri, in 1836.

Among the brave souls who first ventured to the New World was Mother Delphine Fontbonne, niece to Mother St. John. She would go on to found the first Canadian congregation in Toronto in 1851. From there, further congregations were established in Hamilton (1852), London (1868), and Peterborough (1890). Sisters from the Peterborough congregation, at the invitation of Bishop Patrick T. Ryan, were the first Sisters in the Pembroke diocese in 1910.

Bishop Ryan had explicitly requested the presence of the Sisters to oversee the distribution of Catholic education to the children of the diocese. Subsequently, rural schools were opened in Douglas and Killaloe (both in 1915), followed by Mount St. Patrick in 1916.

In a letter authored to the Mother General in Peterborough, dated September 9, 1920, Bishop Ryan lobbied for the diocese to have its own independent branch of the Sisters of St. Joseph. His request was granted, with 14 Sisters choosing to remain in the region and an additional 13 sent from Peterborough. A farm located west of Pembroke, on the shores of Allumette Lake, served as their first Motherhouse.

In the decades that followed, mission convents were established in various communities within the diocese on both sides of the Ottawa River. The Sisters oversaw the educational needs of students attending Catholic institutions. However, their ministries were not solely restricted to our region.

In 1964, the Sisters received an invitation from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to collaborate in missionary work in Chincha Alta, Peru. A total of five Sisters were dispatched to Peru, who oversaw the construction of a medical clinic and school by 1965. In time, women native to Peru joined the order, two of whom now continue the work that was started all those years ago.

In 2012, The Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamilton, London, Peterborough and Pembroke amalgamated, now known as the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada. As with their predecessors, the Sisters continue to focus on a wide

Members of religious orders take some form of vow or promise. Typically there are three: poverty, chastity/celibacy, and obedience.

Beginning with this issue, *Ecclesia* will feature the local orders, their history, charisms (unique spiritual or ministerial focus, i.e., emphasis on prayer, poverty, health care) and special events. In this issue, we highlight the Sisters of St. Joseph.



range of important social issues that include poverty reduction, combating human trafficking and the resettlement of refugees.

They have also championed environmental issues and the need to co-exist with our ecosystem in harmony.

"Integral ecology requires an understanding of the connections between economic, political, social, cultural and ethical issues," explained Sister O'Neill.

"To reflect this moment in our time, our Retreat Centre in Cobourg has been renamed as St. Joseph's Ecology and Spirituality Centre, giving the primary focus on ecology. We cannot say that we are women of love and reconciliation if we do not care for all God's creation. There are many small and big steps that we can take, but if we are not aware, shame on us! One of my great gifts living here in Pembroke is to have the Ottawa River right out our back door. God's beauty is all about us."

Upon completing her studies in the Registered Practical Nurse Program, Sister O'Neill worked in the nursing field for one year at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton before joining the order.

"The Director of Nursing and my instructor was a Sister of St. Joseph who asked the question if I had considered becoming a Sister," recalled Sister O'Neill.

"I love the Sisters here in Pembroke and am blessed to be among them," said Sister O'Neill on her tenure here in our diocese.

"Prior to my moving here I did not know these Sisters, but today I consider them my sisters and friends. Much of my ministry here in Pembroke I like, but I cannot say I will ever get used to the long, cold winters!"

This September, the Sisters of St. Joseph will hold their Chapter of Affairs and Election. This will see the election of leaders who will plot out the future of the congregation for the next four years.

"This is a huge moment in our history," said Sister O'Neill.

"Chapters prepare us for the next four years of living together and looking out to see what are some of the challenges of our world. We will set some directions of what we would like to focus on and, of course, the environment will be a big part of our discussion together. Since our amalgamation, we do not know all of the sisters in the same way we would in our own region, so that calls for a leap in faith and trust, as we will elect a new leadership team to guide us. Even if we are aging, we are still moving forward into a future filled with hope and new possibilities."

YDISCIPLE at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Pembroke

Fr. Scott Murray is heading up the new YDisciple youth ministry program at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Pembroke along with other faithful volunteers from the parish who wish to help high school teens learn more about their Catholic faith and grow closer to Christ. This program takes place in the homes of the youth participants rotating on a weekly basis. Small groups of similar age youth are formed keeping guys and gals in their respective groups. The content of each gathering is preplanned and ready to go for the leaders. All it takes is about 15–20 minutes to review the material. YDisciple is an online resource that can be accessed through Formed.org and contains videos from some of the most well known youth speakers in the U.S.

“When Fr. Scott, first spoke to us about YDisciple we had a lot of questions about the logistics of it, but now that it’s up and running we’re so grateful and feel very privileged the boys are having this opportunity to grow in their faith and be formed in authentic Catholic teaching. They will undoubtedly be strengthened to face a world where false notions and challenges abound. YDisciple also takes the boys beyond the superficial and gets them thinking about the deeper issues of life, which is important for all of us. The small group setting allows the boys to feel comfortable and, while the discussions are confidential, we are told they speak openly and are supportive of one another. The fact that the boys and girls do separate studies is also good because they can focus on masculine and feminine topics from their own unique perspectives. The last, but not least thing we really like about YDisciple is that the boys are being exposed to two wonderful male role models, two strong men of faith. Their dedication to this

ministry is a wonderful example of commitment and we feel truly honoured to see them every Sunday night” says Dianne Sinclair, parent.

The program is not meant to replace the parent’s role to form youth in their faith, but rather to support them in it. Youth need many people in their lives conveying the same message as their parents about the Catholic faith. Parents have the opportunity to view the sessions online anytime they wish and are given leading questions to ask after the session is over so that they can continue the dialogue. The beauty is that even if you didn’t have a small group running in your parish, parents can go through the sessions with their own kids in their own time.

One male youth said, “We’re a band of brothers and we’re all bound through Christianity. It’s informative and I’ve learned a lot”. And finally, “I’ve made new friends and get to explore deeper into my Catholic faith and I really like the food!

“Together, we talk, play games, watch informational Catholic videos, have discussions, and explore new aspects of our faith together. Many of our teens have shown remarkable commitment and keenness. The program and discussions have introduced them to so many new ideas, and church teaching and, likewise, as leaders, we have had the privilege to learn alongside the teens as they challenge us to look at things from new perspectives. We all feel so blessed to be a part of this journey!” remarks Orianne Dyck, YDISCIPLE leader.

To find out more about this amazing youth ministry model, please contact Yvette Bourque at the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office: 613 732-7933 ext. 208 or yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com.

Theology of the Body for teens at Bishop Smith Catholic High School

By Yvette Bourque, Family Life & Youth Ministry Office, Diocese of Pembroke

Whitney Charbonneau’s grade 9 Religion class was selected for a first-time trial run with the *Theology of the Body for Teens*, which is a dynamic faith formation program for teens and pre-teens in Catholic schools, parish youth ministries, Religious Education, Confirmation, and home school settings. Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and relevant references to the culture, it goes beyond traditional chastity programs by connecting the two hottest topics on the planet—God and sex.

With Saint John Paul II’s compelling vision for love and life, and in a language youth understand, *Theology of the Body for Teens* answers the questions teens and pre-teens have about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they are uniquely created for greatness.

The program is a 12-session course that is run once a week by teacher Angela Watson, Fr. Scott Murray and myself. It began just after the start of semester II and will continue until May 30. Students enjoy the ice breaker activities, which relate to the topic being discussed that day, and are provided plenty of opportunity to ask questions anonymously as some of the topics are sensitive.

The hope is that other religious education teachers could be trained to deliver this course in the future. Through class discussions and hearing where the students are at, it is quite clear to me how the current culture is shaping their opinions and ideas on God, sex and many other issues. It is an important message of truth to get out to the students at the appropriate age. Just how we will do this is the challenge and will require further discussion and planning.

We are thankful to Principal Clint Young for granting permission for this trial run at the school.



Yvette Bourque, Whitney Charbonneau, Angela Watson and Fr. Scott Murray

STEUBENVILLE TORONTO

Summer Youth Conference, July 22–24

Theme: THIRST Romans 5:8

Youth are invited to register for one of the 24 spaces available to attend with the Diocese of Pembroke, Family Life and Youth Ministry Office. This is an incredible weekend for youth who are entering Grade 9–12 in September 2016 or who will be graduating this summer.

\$250/per person (all inclusive). Accommodations and conference will be at the UOIT Campus in Oshawa. Forms are available by contacting Yvette at yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com or 613-732-7933 ext. 208.

Go to www.steubenvilletoronto.com for more information. Simple and effective fundraising ideas will be given to those who require financial assistance. Please inquire about the LEAD program if interested in a five-day pre-Steubenville leadership camp.

Deadline to register is May 30 or until all spaces are taken up.



FORMED.ORG, A Catholic tool for learning the faith

Formed.org is a new website for Catholics to assist in their faith formation. This site gives you Catholic programs of all kinds such as scripture studies, marriage enrichment programs, youth ministry, the basics of Catholicism, Symbolon, baptismal preparation, and the list goes on. There are also Catholic movies, talks and e-books for everyone in your family to use right in your own home via the internet. Browse this website and learn your faith, then pass it on to your children. The Diocese of Pembroke has purchased a subscription for a one-year trial that can be used by anyone within the diocese until September 2016. It can be purchased by individuals for a small monthly fee or by individual parishes or a zone of parishes. Please follow the instructions here to get into the site. For questions, please contact Yvette Bourque at yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com

Step 1 – Go to www.formed.org

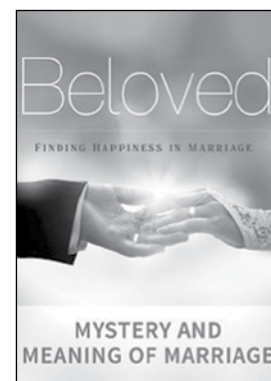
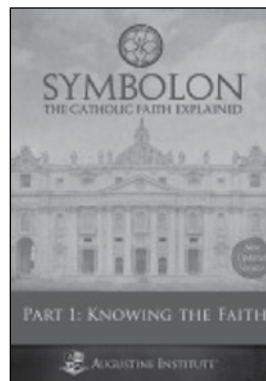
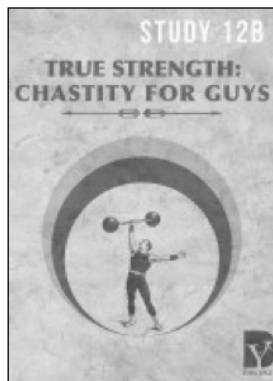
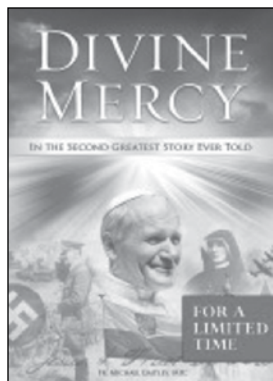
Scroll down to bottom of page, look for “Does your parish already have FORMED?” Enter Parish pass code CYN27A. Press “Submit”.

Step 2 – Now create your profile

Enter your name, etc., as prompted, but you must choose a city in the U.S., so select any U.S. city and state. Select a five-digit zip code of your choice. Once you select a password and type it in you will be into the site.

Step 3 – Now the next time you go to Formed.org, you just click on the top right button “LOGIN”, type in e-mail and password and you will be into the site.

If you have questions, please contact Yvette Bourque at yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com or 613 732-7933 ext. 208.



Saint Profile

Saint Faustina Kowalska

By Deacon Adrien Chaput

Saint Faustina Kowalska is a model for Catholics during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Known as “the Apostle of Divine Mercy” her feast day is celebrated on October 5.

Through the private revelations of her visions, the great message of God’s mercy and the Divine Mercy Devotion has been spread throughout the world.

Saint Maria Faustina had taken deeply into her heart the Gospel message from St. Luke 6:36 “be merciful even as your heavenly Father is merciful.”

As a child growing up, she was known as Helena Kowalska, the third of ten children born on August 25, 1905, to a devout Catholic family in Glogowiec, Poland. Her life of prayer embraced opportunities of spending time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and daily mass.

She had a great love for the poor, just like our Lord, and it was very apparent as she lived her life.

Helena told her parents that she felt called to enter religious life, but her father would not grant his permission for her to do so, because he considered that she was too young. Instead, she then took a position as a servant.

One night she experienced a vision of Christ’s suffering that touched her deeply, and her desire to become a nun intensified. She soon left her job and entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Helena took the name of Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament.



She served as a cook, gardener and doorkeeper in Krakow and several other community convents. The sisters liked her, but did not appreciate or understand her deep interior life, which included visions and prophecies.

On February 22, 1931, Sister Faustina experienced a new and life-changing vision of Christ. She saw him wearing a white robe and raising his right hand in blessing with his left hand resting on his heart from which flowed two rays of light. Jesus told her, “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the prayer, *Jesus, I trust in you.*”

Faustina was not a painter, and had difficulty trying to convince the sisters of her community about the truth of her vision. She met with her spiritual director, Father Michael Sopocko, and shared that the vision was real. He found an artist to create the painting that was named *The Divine Mercy* and shown to the world for the first time on April 28, 1935.

Father Sopocko also encouraged Sister Faustina to record her visions in a diary. During one of those recordings she wrote, “Jesus said I was His secretary and an apostle of His divine mercy.” Jesus asked Faustina that the first Sunday after Easter be declared Mercy Sunday, the “Feast of Divine Mercy”, a day when His graces would flow in an extraordinary way to all those who asked for them. He told Faustina: “*I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of Mine toward the souls of sinners. Let no sinner be afraid to approach Me*” (50).

“I promise that the soul that venerates this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory” (48).

In another recording our Lord said, “*You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.*” Saint Faustina spent the rest of her life spreading the message of Divine Mercy.

On September 13, 1935, Sister Faustina had an awful vision that a destroying angel (“the agent of divine wrath”) was about to strike someplace in the world. She began praying, begging him to put off the punishment until the world did penance. At first, her pleas seemed in vain, but later she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Christ’s grace in her soul. Again she began to plead for the world in words that welled up out of the silence of her soul:

“Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us” (475).

Sister Faustina’s prayer request was answered and the angel was prevented from carrying out the chastisement. The following morning, Sister Faustina heard these words from within: “*Every time you enter the chapel, start reciting the prayer which I taught you yesterday*” (476).

Later, she was instructed in the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy: “*This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days, on the beads of the Rosary, in the following manner: first of all, you will say one Our Father and Hail Mary and the I Believe in God. Then, on the Our Father beads, you will say the following words: ‘Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, for our sins and those of the whole world.’ On the Hail Mary beads you will say the following words: ‘For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.’ In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: ‘Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world’*” (476).

In 1938, at the age of 33, Sister Faustina died of tuberculosis. Saint Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina as a Saint on April 30, 2000. Here is part of his message on that day of celebration.

“Faustina, a gift of God to our epoch, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: CHRIST JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU”.

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"With the Lord There is Mercy" Psalm 130

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Saturday, July 30, 7 pm
Mass and Homily given each evening by Father Chabot

Sunday, July 31 Celebrations
11:00 am – OUTDOOR MASS at the Shrine
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Dynamic Faith Formation Program in the Diocese of Pembroke: Symbolon

By Deacon Adrien Chaput

People seeking a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith are expressing praise of a religious education program in use at St. Columbkille Cathedral Parish in Pembroke. "It's just what I have been looking for" said one participant in the Symbolon program, which was initiated in the parish during the season of Advent 2015 with the first five sessions and continued through Lent 2016. "It has given me an appreciation of what is at the root of my Catholic faith... and it's so enjoyable in the way it's presented" said a woman who attended the weekly sessions. "It gives me a lot to think about," added one of the men.

Symbolon, a Catholic Faith Formation program from the Augustine Institute, engages people to go deeper in their faith personally and as a whole parish. Its goal is to transform adults on all levels in how we think, how we pray and how we live our lives by immersing us in instructions about the Word of God and our Catholic Faith. Twenty sessions take you through the story of the Catholic faith and include topics such as Sacred Scripture, Salvation History, Jesus, the Church,

Mary & the Saints, the Sacraments, Catholic Morality, God's Plan for Human Sexuality, and Catholic Social Teaching.

This program contains guides for leaders and for participants, as well as engaging video content aimed at teaching us more about our Catholic faith. This program can be presented by DVD or on the internet site. Access can be purchased on Formed.org

You may wonder how Symbolon will benefit your parish, as well as you personally. At the Office of Faith Formation we believe that Symbolon can be used to increase your understanding of your Catholic Faith and to evangelize to others. Symbolon may be used for:

- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) – 20 Catechetical sessions to help catechumens and candidates grow in their understanding of what we believe and profess in the Catholic Church.
- Catechist formation to help draw new members of your community to grow in knowledge and a better understanding of their faith. This may help them to be more comfortable in either assisting Catechists or becoming a future Catechist in their parish. It also

may help Catechists to share the Catholic beliefs and teachings more effectively with others.

- Sacramental ministers such as Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, etc., to grow in their ministry with a greater understanding and reverence in their ministry.
- Parents in their role as primary educators of the faith by leading their children in the ways of faith, learning more about the sacraments and helping their children to become Disciples of Christ.
- Men's and women's groups in their gatherings can grow in their understanding of the faith by sharing, discussions and prayer.

At St. Columbkille Cathedral we have completed the first 10 sessions. We look forward to continuing during Advent Season in 2016 and Lent 2017. This has been a great experience and the comments have been very positive. I believe that Symbolon would benefit you personally and your parish. If you have any questions or would like help in trying to get Symbolon started please contact me at 613-732-7933 ext. 206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com

Divine Mercy Sunday—April 3, 2016

By Deacon Adrien Chaput

Large numbers of the faithful of all ages attended Divine Mercy celebrations at the Cathedral in Pembroke. The afternoon service offered a time of reverent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament with hymns of adoration and the singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, led by St. Columbkille's Cathedral choir.

The event was organized by The Office of Faith Formation and the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office as one of several celebrations held in the various zones of the diocese.

Divine Mercy Sunday – the Sunday after Easter – is based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus.

Guest speaker Father Denis Lemieux from the Madonna House Community in Combermere spoke about the message of the Divine Mercy devotion. He said "God is all merciful to us—in everything He is for us ... He is so vast and great and we so small. What can we give Him who holds the heavens and the earth in His possession? So the Divine Mercy is the Divine Love, and since we read in the Bible that God is Love, it follows we can say that God is Mercy—or as Pope Francis puts it so well: "The Name of God is Mercy."

Father Denis proposed that "there are two basic ways to live out the Divine mercy devotion in our lives.

First, we are called to trust God, praying 'Jesus I trust in You'... and because we trust God's mercy, we will do whatever He asks of us, ever ready to say 'Lord your will be done in my life totally.' Secondly, we live out the Divine Mercy by being merciful ourselves."

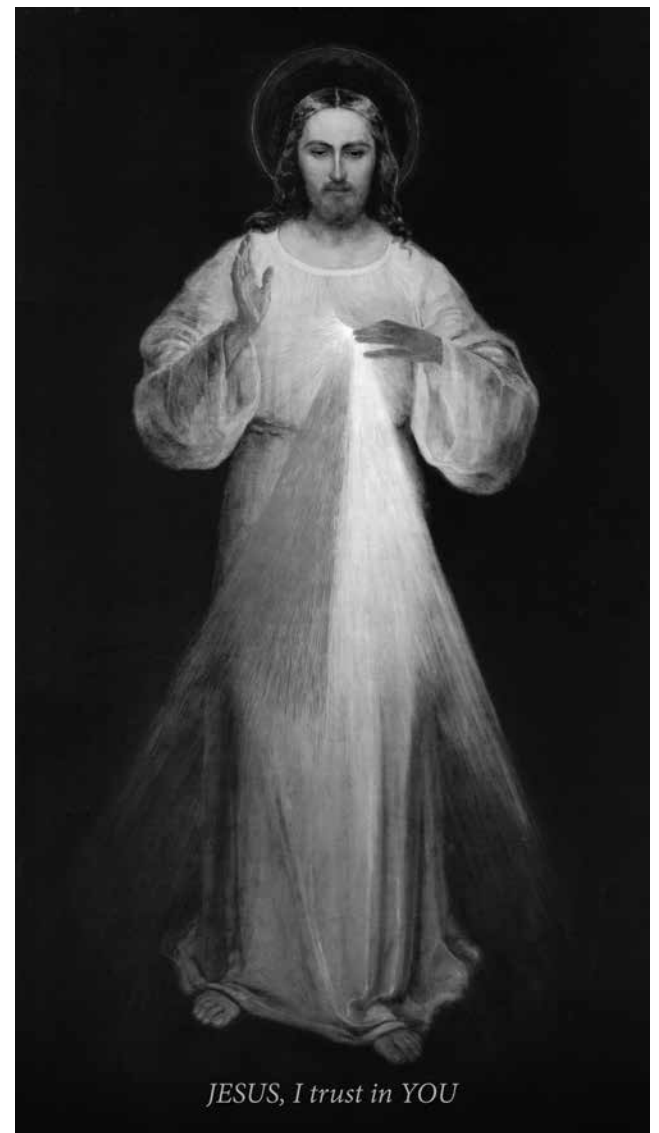
"This is very important," he said, recalling the Beatitude. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. I believe that we come to know the mercy of God primarily by our efforts to practice mercy towards one other."

In a variety of ways and with practical examples, Father Lemieux encouraged the congregation to proclaim the Gospel by the manner in which they openly received and shared God's loving mercy throughout this Jubilee Year.

The following prayer recited as part of the service offers a point of focus for those entering into the devotion:

"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen"

Original painting of the Divine Mercy (by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski in 1934). This image was done with Sister Faustina's instructions.



Welcoming new members in our faith

During the celebration of the Easter Vigil at St. Columbkille's Cathedral, four new members were welcomed into our Catholic family. Anna Pouls, Ted Winter and Kristian Burger were fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Dr. Scott Murray made his Profession of Faith and received the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Their reception into the Church followed a period of study, prayer and discernment that began in September 2015 through the process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, commonly called the RCIA. The participants met on a weekly basis with other Catholics to study, pray and discern as they explored the Catholic faith. This process of study and preparation is available in many parishes throughout the Diocese of Pembroke. Through them, others have chosen to enter into full Communion with the Catholic Church.

We congratulate and welcome these new members into our Catholic Family of Faith.



Seated, left to right, are catechumens Ted Winter, Dr. Scott Murray, Kristian Burger, and Anna Pouls.

Renewal of the Latin Mass

By Fr. Scott Murray

The *Extraordinary Form* of the Mass is now a regular establishment at St. Columbkille Cathedral. With the encouragement of the Bishop, Masses were celebrated the first three Saturdays of December, January, February, March, and April, including a Solemn High Mass on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada. The Latin Masses will continue to be offered most Saturday mornings at the Cathedral.

Our intention is in no way to replace or undermine the normal celebration of English and French Masses. Both forms of the Mass should enrich and sustain the faithful in their desire for deeper union with Christ.

As Roman Catholics, Latin is integral to our history and tradition. It remains the official language of the Church, and the Second Vatican Council stated in its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, that "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites" (SC, 36).

Following Vatican II there were many changes to the Sacred Liturgy which, over the past 50 years, have produced the form of the Mass with which most of us are familiar. Reform of the liturgy was an important decision of the Council. However, the Mass, as it was celebrated prior to the Council, according to the 1962 Missal of Pope St. John XXIII, was "never juridically abrogated and, consequently, in principle, was always permitted" (*Summorum Pontificum*). Pope Benedict XVI goes on to say in that same Apostolic Letter:

"There is no contradiction between the two editions of the Roman Missal. In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture. What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful. It behooves all of us to preserve the riches which have developed in the Church's faith and prayer, and to give them their proper place." (SP)

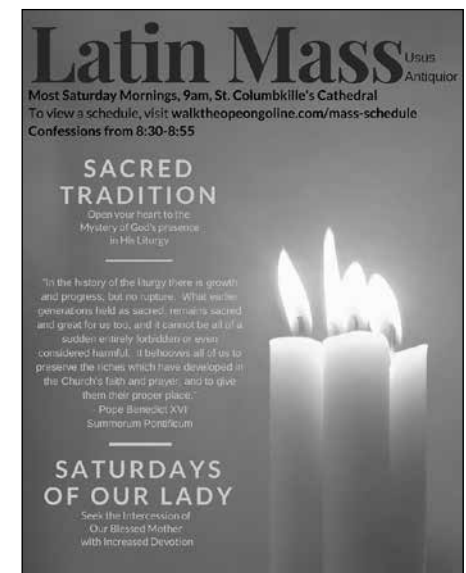
Pope Benedict's desire was not to turn back the clock and revert the Church to former ways. He is clear that the celebration of the *Extraordinary Form* of the Mass is not to become the Ordinary Form. For Pope Benedict's

complete explanation of the reasons for promoting the *Extraordinary Form* of the Roman Rite, please read his Apostolic letter, *Summorum Pontificum*.

When *Summorum Pontificum* was published in 2007, I was studying at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, Barry's Bay. Some of my friends at the Academy grew up in parishes where Mass was celebrated according to the 1962 Missal, and they were very excited about the document. It provoked many discussions, and I'll admit that I was usually on the side that argued for keeping things the way they were. This wasn't because I was opposed to Latin—I had been studying Latin for two years at that point. And it obviously wasn't because I had a negative experience of the Church prior to the Council—I was born in the 1980s. I just didn't understand the purpose of it.

Clearly, my mind has changed over the past nine years. Pope Benedict wanted priests (taking into account pastoral need) to be familiar with the *Extraordinary Form*, and I wanted to be a priest, so I decided to make an effort to become familiar with it. While I was at the Academy, I attended a few Latin Masses at St. Clement's, Ottawa, and at St. Hedwig's, Barry's Bay. When I entered seminary for the Diocese of Pembroke, I was sent to St. Philip's Oratory, Toronto. Many of the priests at the Oratory celebrate Mass using the 1962 Missal, and I was the only seminarian with prior experience of the Latin Mass, so I quickly learned how to serve. It became an important part of my life and greatly shaped my experience and understanding of the liturgy. I loved being a server at those Masses! Note, however, that even in those circumstances the norm was still to attend Mass in English. I only served at Latin Masses once or twice a week.

My love for the *Extraordinary Form* continued into my theological studies in Rome. There were opportunities to attend EF Masses and to serve, and as I approached ordination I was encouraged to learn how to celebrate Mass according to both forms of the Roman Rite, i.e., the Ordinary and the *Extraordinary*. This was much more difficult than I had anticipated. The two forms are similar in their



structure, but there are many differences in both word and action. Some of these differences are small, such as the added signs of the cross, and some differences are big, such as the language. All of these variations account for a celebration that, for most people, appears to be an entirely different Mass.

After I had been in Pembroke for a couple of months, a parishioner approached me about offering Mass in the *Extraordinary Form*. At that point, I buckled down, continued my study of the Mass, and made the appropriate preparations. With the support of Bishop Mulhall and Fr. Jim Beanish, the Cathedral was chosen as the parish for the Masses because of its centrality. Faithful from many different parishes in the Diocese have been attending the Saturday Masses, and so it only seems fitting that it continue to be offered at our head parish.

I hope and pray that this article has been helpful. The Mass, whether it is in English or Latin, should not be a source of division in the Church. The Mass is supposed to be where we enter into Communion with Christ and through communion with Him we are in communion with one another. The *Extraordinary Form* of the Roman Rite is a sacred and beautiful part of our Catholic heritage, and, thankfully, it continues to be part of our Catholic present.

St. Ann's "Walk the Opeongo Line" Pilgrimage

By Fr. Scott Murray

"The practice of *pilgrimage* has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us."

— Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 14.

At the beginning of Lent, an idea was conceived. It was the fruit of two desires: a) The desire for a European-style walking pilgrimage, and b) The desire to stay local. The answer to this second question is simple: the Ottawa Valley is awesome, full of natural beauty and fascinating history, so we should not get on a plane to go for a walk. The union of these two needs produced the idea of St. Ann's "Walk the Opeongo Line" Pilgrimage. Since its conception in February, the idea has grown into a full-fledged plan. That plan is to spend three-and-a-half days on the Opeongo Road—walking, praying, eating, learning, singing, and camping (i.e., pilgrimaging)!

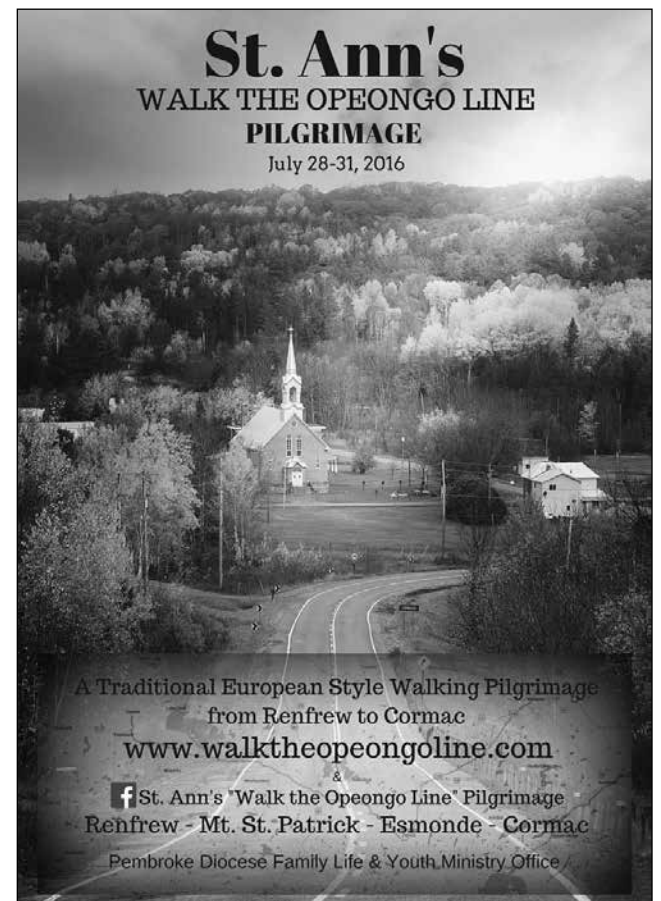
Why would anyone want to make this type of pilgrimage? We live in a society that thrives on control. Everyone is vying for his individual rights, seeking greater personal dominion, and we are forgetting the One Who really has Dominion. This type of walking pilgrimage is an opportunity to rediscover what it

means to trust in God's Providence. There are, of course, many ways to strengthen one's trust in God (e.g., keeping a journal of blessings we receive or saying prayers of abandonment to Divine Providence), but pilgrimages are particularly powerful.

St. Ann's, Cormac, is one pilgrim destination among many, but there are three important elements that combine to make St. Ann's "Walk the Opeongo Line" Pilgrimage a beautiful opportunity. 1) Pope Francis declared this year a Jubilee of Mercy. The pilgrimage will begin at Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew, which happens to be the site of one of our diocesan Holy Doors. The Pope has encouraged us to make pilgrimages to the Holy Doors, to embrace God's mercy, and to share that mercy with others. 2) The pilgrimage to St. Ann's, Cormac, has been fostering devotion in our diocese for more than 75 years. It is a unique and beautiful part of our diocesan heritage. 3) The Opeongo Road is one of the original settlement routes for what would become the Pembroke Diocese, and the parishes along the way are some of the oldest in the diocese. Almost 100 years before the Shrine to St. Ann was built, Catholic settlers walked up the "Opeongo Line" from Renfrew in search of a place to call home. The road was rough and their journey was arduous. But they persevered, establishing numerous parish communities along the way. Retracing their steps along the original route will let us experience, in a small way, the dedication, sacrifice, and faith of our forebears, and so help us to spiritually prepare for the great solemnity at St. Ann's.

To learn more about the pilgrimage, St. Ann's, and the Opeongo Road, visit www.walktheopongoline.com

A pilgrimage is not just a hike, and it's not just time away from the noise and distractions of the world. When we set out on pilgrimage, we offer our time and energy to God as a sacrifice and as an opportunity for



Him to be present to us, and when we give Him an opening, He never misses His chance to move in. I have been on many pilgrimages, long and short, and every step, every blister, every song, every quiet conversation, and every moment of silence is a gift. Thus far, God has always surpassed my expectations, and I know He always will. As Pope Francis has said, "Our God is the God of surprises!"

CWL update



Catholic Women's League members of Pembroke Diocese met on April 2 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall in Petawawa for the Spring Diocesan Meeting. Guest speaker for the morning session was Jody Anne McDonald who spoke on the **Who I Am** program designed for the mental and spiritual well-being of students. Jody Anne explained how each student learns how special they are in Jesus' eyes and they, in turn, learn to show love and gratitude to others. During the presentation, members were led through a typical lesson for a Grade 4 class, which included a prayer service and activities to reinforce the ideas. Just like students in the classroom, members were given a bookmark that read, "Who I Am makes a difference because Jesus loves me".

In the afternoon session, Bishop Mulhall spoke on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and the importance of understanding the Catholic Church's position, so we are better able to defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

In addition to the ability to defend the Catholic position on the sanctity of life, members from across the diocese will join with others for 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on May 4. This initiative by the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is meant as a witness to the sanctity of human life.

Prayer will continue to be a focus as members from across Pembroke Diocese meet for the 95th Annual Diocesan Convention on Saturday, May 28, 2016, in Renfrew at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall. Provincial President Pauline Krupa will be in attendance. The guest speaker for the morning session will be Colleen Martin, Provincial Standing Committee Chairperson for Spiritual Development, who will talk on the Mystery of Divine Indwelling. Bishop Mulhall will be the main Celebrant at the Convention Mass at 5 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Church. The convention theme, One Heart, One Voice, One Mission, and sub-theme, The Power of Prayer, have shaped the service of League members throughout the year. The Convention will be a time to celebrate and offer prayer in thanksgiving.

Parish profile

Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew 1966–2016

Born from the need to provide additional accommodations for the growing Roman Catholic community, the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima parish in Renfrew continue to embrace the tenets of their faith with great passion.

The decision to found a second Roman Catholic parish in Renfrew was driven by the robust growth seen at St. Francis Xavier in the 1940s. Our Lady of Fatima parish was officially erected on May 1, 1949, by His Excellency Bishop William J. Smith. Father Robert J. Roney served as the first pastor.

In 1962, the decision was made to begin construction of a new church that would better suit the parish family. Newly minted parish priest Father Adrian Flynn oversaw the establishment of a church, hall and rectory. A full block of land was purchased, bordered by Lisgar Avenue, Bonnechere Street, Lochiel Street and the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks.

Designed by Roger Thibault of Ottawa, the uniquely designed church, capable of holding 700 worshippers, officially opened on Easter Sunday in 1966. Bishop Smith returned to Renfrew to officially bless the building on May 29 that same year. The church bell was blessed later, on July 9, and a Casavant pipe organ was installed in September. In March 1968, stained glass Stations of the Cross were installed.

Like many of the other parishes in our diocese, Our Lady of Fatima has endured its share of renovations.

"Since my arrival in 2012 we have undergone the replacement of the entire roof," explained Father Ryan Holly.

"The parish has been very blessed with the leadership of Father Mervin Coulas and Father Brady McNamara who were continuously carrying out regular maintenance and updating of the church, rectory and property. Together with a very competent finance and property committee, they have maintained excellent stewardship of this building."

The involvement of parishioners in various capacities ensures the needs of the parish community are addressed, while providing an avenue for future endeavours.

"The pastoral advisory committee acts as a sounding board for various ideas and projects. That being said, our parish is also well served by an excellent finance and property committee, Catholic Women's League and many other volunteers who assist in the daily life of the parish."

Our Lady of Fatima parish will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding, when all those who have ties to the parish will be welcomed to return.

"We are very fortunate that Bishop Mulhall will be with us on Sunday, May 29, to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving, fifty years to the very day that Bishop William J. Smith dedicated Our Lady of Fatima Church," said Father Ryan Holly.

"In the Catholic tradition, the anniversary of dedication of a church has always been celebrated with great solemnity as a reminder that this building is truly consecrated as the House of the Lord. In celebrating the anniversary of a church's dedication we also remember that we who worship God there are to be fashioned into vessels of holiness through the consecration of our baptism."



Like all parish communities, it is the parishioners and the passion for their faith that breathes life into Our Lady of Fatima.

"The fidelity of the people in this parish is something that I thank God for every day," said Father Holly.

"Their faithfulness to Mass and the other sacraments is a great sign of vitality. All of the works of charity that they carry out in the parish all flow from their sacramental life. These good people know how to get things done and they make me want to be a better Christian and priest every day!"

The Mass of Thanksgiving for the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima will be held on Sunday, May 29 at 9 a.m. with a reception to follow. Please contact the parish at (613) 432-4351 for further details.

World Day of Prayer celebration



As one of four local faith communities coming together on Friday, March 4, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Deep River hosted this year's World Day of Prayer service. The service, written by the women of Cuba, was based on the theme "Receive Children, Receive Me". World Day of Prayer is observed in more than 170 countries and some 2,000 communities across Canada, and is open to everyone.

Fr. Terry Sirosky, Parish Priest, welcomed everyone and Ministers from the Community and Anglican Churches attended, respectively giving the Reflection and leading the Benediction.

Representatives from the Catholic, Community, Anglican and Real Hope Christian Assembly Churches took part in the service, including three students from St. Mary's School. It was a very meaningful and spiritual service. A highlight was having the school children involved in providing artwork and participating in the readings and singing. The music provided by the choir was beautifully sung and reflected the theme.

A reception in the Parish hall followed the service. Others in the parish and community provided several items from Cuba for our display table.

It was evident from the ecumenical spirit demonstrated during the service and at the reception that World Day of Prayer is a very important event in our community and we were proud to be part of it.

New Community Soup Kitchen at Our Lady of Fatima Parish

By Jason Dedo, Chaplaincy Leader, St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Renfrew

A new monthly community soup kitchen has been established through a partnership between St. Joseph's Catholic High School and Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Renfrew. Since the autumn of 2015, a community meal has been offered on the second Wednesday of each month at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall.

This initiative grew out of a conversation between school personnel and local clergy following the celebration of a school Eucharist last year. Renfrew has had a monthly soup kitchen offered on the fourth Wednesday of each month at St. Paul's Anglican Church for several years now. At present, volunteers from both soup kitchens are collaborating to share resources and ensure that a hot meal is offered to patrons two days a month throughout the year.

"I would like to say thank you to Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Catholic High School students for partnering with St. Paul's Anglican Church to host a second lunch each month for the Community Soup Kitchen. It's wonderful to see so many volunteers helping with this much-needed ministry in Renfrew," said Deanna Joe, coordinator of the longer established soup kitchen at St. Paul Anglican Church in Renfrew.



St. Joe's Hospitality and Food students Sydney Lafont, Skylar Schultz and Cassandra Monk prepare lunch in Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall.

All are welcome to these lunchtime meals. The goals of the soup kitchen are to build the ecclesial community, to feed those who are in need and to provide an atmosphere of friendship and hospitality for those who are isolated or who just enjoy a homemade lunch with friends. Currently, on average, between 20 and 30 patrons are enjoying the monthly meal at both churches.

The partnership between the school and parish is unique. The parish provides the kitchen, hall and members of the parish Catholic Women's League to assist with setup. St. Joseph's Catholic High School provides the food and servers from the Hospitality and Foods Course. Led by skilled teacher Josh Agnesi, the students prepare the food in their class and transport it to the kitchen of the church hall for final preparation and serving.

Foods class student Shawnasea O'Connor shared the following about her experiences: "I really enjoy working at the soup kitchen. Each and every person we help serve is very kind and appreciative. It's good for the students to see where all their hard work is going to, and I personally look forward to serving at the soup kitchen each month, it's a great experience with great people!"

"It is not very often that teenagers get the chance to work as a group to serve people in our community" said Brennan Trainor, Principal of St. Joseph's Catholic High School. "Yet, these young adults seldom shy away from actively participating in activities that require 'hands-on' work. To watch these individuals in action and share in our Church's Mission is a very moving experience."

Father Ryan Holly, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish added: "The work of these students is a visible sign of the corporal works of mercy, which we have been called to emulate during this Year of Jubilee."

Darlene Meleskie, Catholic Women's League President of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, also offered her reflections on the Soup Kitchen: "It has been a function which has brought the school, the community and the different faiths together working as one reaching out to those who are in need of a warm meal or friendly face to cheer them up. When St. Joseph's Catholic High School brought this thought forward, we were not sure how it would work, but I have been thrilled with how everyone has been so eager to get involved."

It is hoped that partnerships and efforts, both ecumenical and intra-church between the Catholic school and the parish will continue in offering these monthly hot meals to the people of Renfrew and area, and that they will enjoy continued success and patronage.

Catholic presence at Madawaska Valley District High School

Stephen Platt has just begun his first year in a very unique role at the public high school in Barry's Bay—he is the new Chaplaincy Leader, there to provide a Catholic presence for students. He points out that it is a one-of-a-kind situation in the province.

In 1985, in answer to a strong, faith-minded Catholic community, an agreement was reached to include Catholic education in the public school setting, rather than build a second high school.

"Parents wanted their children to have the benefit of a Catholic education," says Platt, adding that more than 50% of the area's population is Catholic.

The Wilno resident retired after 35 years of teaching, the last 18 years of which were at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke, and has previous experience as a chaplain. He is at Madawaska Valley District High School (MVDHS) one day each week.

For now, while the school undergoes construction to prepare for amalgamation with Sherwood Public Elementary School, his headquarters are in the school cafeteria. It's a situation he finds advantageous, as he can circulate amongst students and chat with them.

"I am here to make sure students know there is a Catholic presence in the school. I try to be visible," he notes. "Students need to know there is a chaplain here for counselling, above and beyond the guidance and academic counsellors," he believes.

In his role as Chaplaincy Leader, Platt also provides a "Catholic thought for the day" for each Wednesday's announcements and organizes events for students—a NET youth retreat, special speakers, a mini pro-life conference and, currently in the works, a mini Theology of the Body course. Mass takes place once a month.

He also visits MVDHS feeder schools to talk to grade 8 students, though he notes students have a full slate of required grade 9 courses and don't begin religious courses until grade 10 at MVDHS.

"A lot of young people are aware of religion. It is a source of stability for them, and they like to be able to attend a school that offers the same environment they've had all along," says Platt.

The School Board, the Church and Platt have a long-term goal to re-establish religious courses, which declined in enrolment over the years and were eventually discontinued. "It will take some time to build back up again," acknowledges Platt.

In the meantime he states "It's always a delight working with youth. The young are full of vitality and potential. They have good hearts and they want to do what's right."

St. Jean Baptiste celebrates 75 faith-filled years

This October members of Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste in Pembroke will mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of their parish.

“On Sunday, October 30, Bishop Michael Mulhall will preside at the 10:30 Mass, which will be followed by a banquet. That much is definite right now. Other ideas include a wine and cheese on Saturday, October 29, as well as outdoor games for the children,” said Parish Priest Father Michael Smith. He has served at St-Jean-Baptiste since September of 2013, and was previously assigned to the parish from September 2008 until February 2009.

It was Bishop Charles Leo Nelligan who made the decision to create the new French-speaking parish, to be located on the corner of Isabella and James Streets in Pembroke. Appropriately, it was called St-Jean-Baptiste—the patron saint of French Canadians.

“There are several bilingual parishes on the Ontario side of the Diocese in the Mattawa pastoral zone. St-Jean-Baptiste is what is called a personal parish in that it was founded not for a territory, but for a group of people: the francophones of the Pembroke-Petawawa area,” explained Father Smith.

“This anniversary is especially significant because the local francophone community lobbied many years, beginning in 1915, to have their own parish. That wish was granted on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1941. The church building was completed in 1942.”

“Francophones wanted their own parish and school in order to avoid assimilation, to avoid losing their language and culture,” added Father Smith.

“Assimilation is always a danger in a minority setting. In any parish, faith, language and culture are distinct, but never separate. Faith is of paramount importance, however. In this secularized society, people would not be involved in a parish if their faith were not important to them.”

For parish members of all ages, the celebration will be an opportunity to celebrate the efforts of those first parishioners who laid the foundation of their church that still stands to this day.

“Celebrating the 75th anniversary reminds us of the extraordinary efforts the founders overcame to obtain the French language parish and the reasons why we should be proud to be part of such a group and do everything necessary to maintain a French language parish. It makes it much more meaningful to be able to pray in your own language,” said Lucile Tourigny. A member of the parish since 1960, she has served as president of the parish council for four terms, one term as secretary, and president of the Liturgy Committee for several years.

“The congregation at St-Jean-Baptiste feels like a family to me, feels like my extended family. You can feel the welcoming atmosphere and the desire of the people to help each other. The parish has been the centre of the French-language culture in Pembroke for a good number of years. Participating in activities and group meetings gives you the opportunity while learning to socialize in your culture,” said Tourigny.

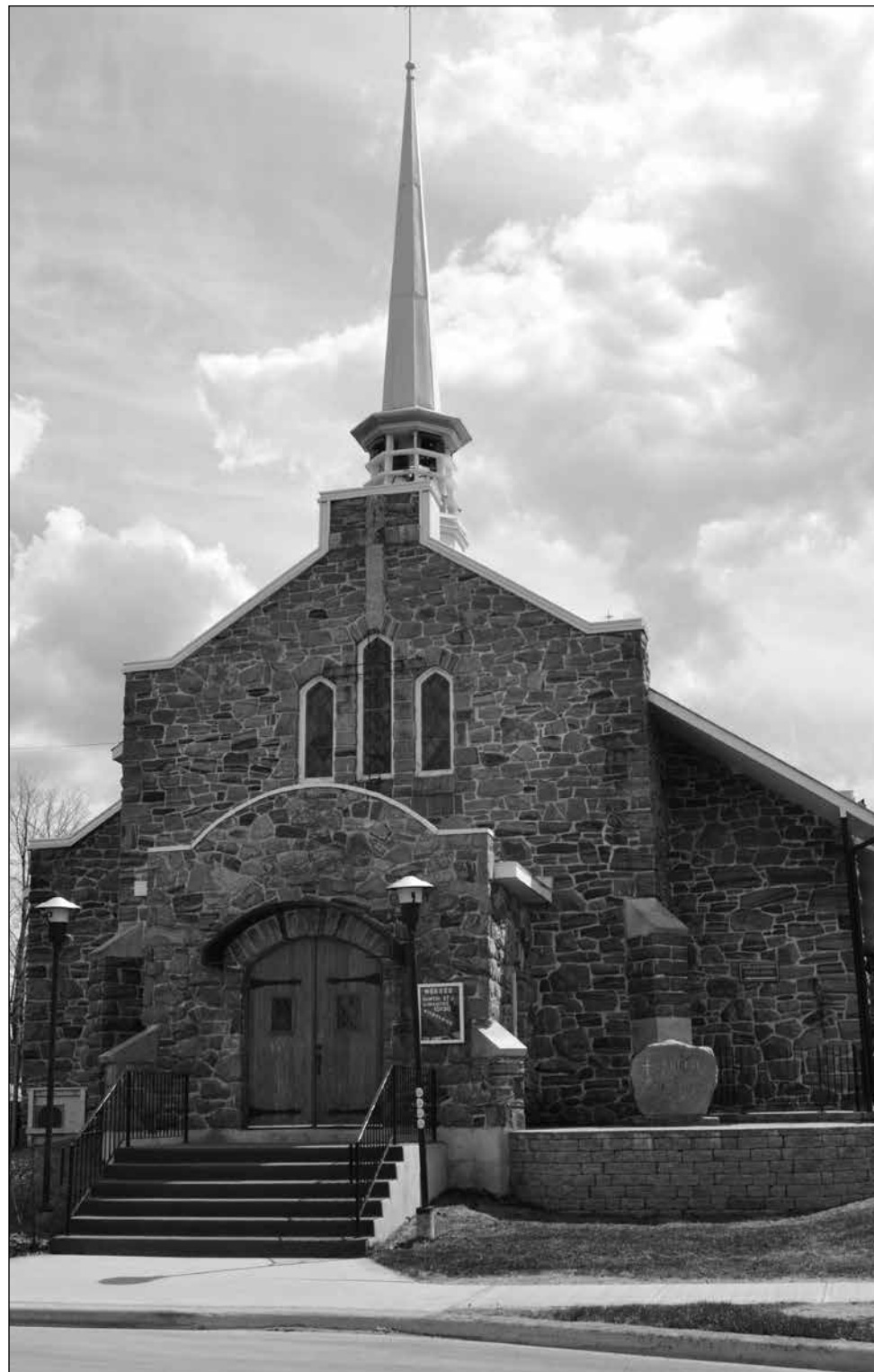
René Frappier is also a long-time member of the parish, having received both his First Communion and Confirmation at St-Jean-Baptiste.

“After 75 years, I am proud to say I still speak French fluently and attend church regularly. This is the heritage my parents passed on to me. I passed it on to my two girls and grandchildren,” said Frappier.

Though having to walk some 30 minutes to the church to serve Mass, Frappier has nothing but fond memories of socializing with friends in the parish youth group. To this day, he continues to remain active with the parish, volunteering at the annual parish supper and as a Communion minister.

“Our 75th anniversary needs to be celebrated. Our church is the core of our community. I am looking forward to seeing parishioners who have moved away. It will bring back memories. I hope our church will survive another 75 years,” said Frappier.

According to Father Smith, the spiritual vibrancy at St-Jean-Baptiste is very much alive and well.



“There is life in the parish! There are the seniors who have supported the parish throughout their lives, and there are also young families getting involved,” said Father Smith.

“The catechism program for Confirmation is part of the reason for the younger families’ involvement. Another positive factor is that about once a month, children from the elementary school, accompanied by some staff members, take responsibility for many of the liturgical ministries during Sunday Mass. When the children are there, the parents are also there.”

Such commitment to their faith can only embolden the hope that the parish will continue to prosper for many years to come.

“What inspires me is that, especially today, devotion to one’s faith comes at personal cost,” said Father Smith.

“When, for example, young families come to Mass on Sundays, it means that they have made time for the practice of their faith in the midst of hectic and stressful schedules. It means, sometimes, that they have given up other activities in order to be there. It is not like fifty years ago, when the city or town shut down while people went to church. To be committed to one’s faith today means to make a choice: to choose one’s faith over other things, even very good things. When individuals and families make that choice, it inspires me.”

For more information on the anniversary celebration, please contact the parish office at (613) 735-6566.

Second annual fall fundraiser helps those in need

By Lance Patriquin

The Lord speaks to us in many ways. If you have faith, you are open to His direction, regardless of how He speaks to you. A complaint about music, a golf tournament, and a passage from James all led to the creation of a special fundraiser last November. The event helped three area organizations that deal directly with those in our community who are most in need.

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

This passage from James is often misinterpreted, but it is a reminder to us of our obligation to others. It is a guide for not only our almsgiving during Advent and Lent, but also for living our daily lives in faith to the best of our abilities.

The complaint about music was from the "younger generation" at a family gathering, who felt the music that the "older generation" was playing was too old. This led to discussion about how nice it would be to have a 50s/60s/70s dance with no other music played. It was agreed by the "older generation" that this would be a great idea and that it should be looked into.

Fast forward a month and many of the same people are playing golf and discussing a tournament that is held every year to raise funds for the area's foodbanks and soup kitchens. For the past four years, members at Indian River Golf Course have held a tournament to raise money for the Salvation Army, Saint Joseph's Food Bank and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The event started when Harold Edwards of Saint Luke's Anglican Church and a volunteer at the Salvation Army spoke to the members about the increased demand on these organizations to support those in need. A small

group got involved and have donated more than \$10,000 to the cause. These same people wanted to help again.

And out of these three seemingly different factors came the idea for a fundraising dance on behalf of these organizations.

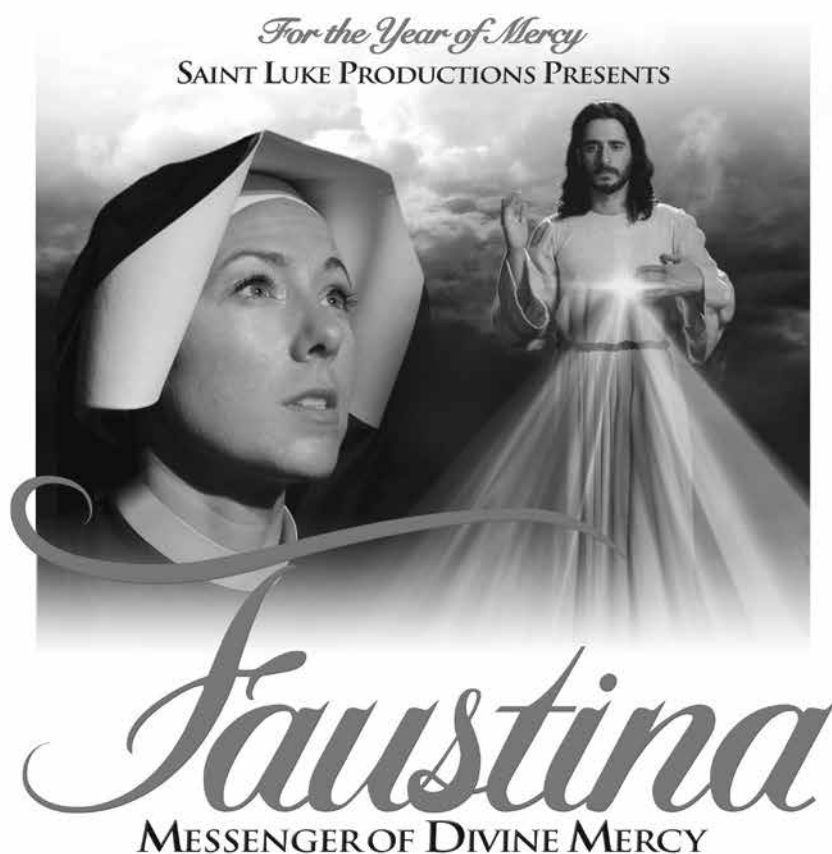
The event was held on Saturday, November 14, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Pembroke. The tickets were sold in advance and although slow at first, sales took off in the week leading up to the event, eventually selling out. To ensure that maximum profits went to the cause, almost everything was donated by families, businesses and organizations in the area. This included all of the food, the hall rental, the music, radio ads, the workers for the kitchen, all of the prizes for the dance, and many cash donations.

The night was a success not because of the costumes and great music, but more importantly, it nurtured the spirit of caring and giving in the community. Just from the ticket sales and raffles at the event, the dance raised \$4,050 to be split between the three organizations. As well, about 40 bags and boxes of food were donated. This was truly astonishing for a spur-of-the-moment idea. On top of this, the organizations also said that they received many unsolicited donations in the weeks preceding and following the event.

The dance proved a success and shone a brighter light on the great work these organizations do in our community. It also reinforced in each of those who helped with the event that it is truly a blessing to do work not for monetary gain, nor recognition, but in the peace and spiritual satisfaction that comes with living God's word and helping those less fortunate. Bolstered in the spirit of doing good and reinforced by the support, it has been decided to do this annually.

We will see you in November!

God Bless †



A LIVE MULTIMEDIA DRAMA WITH A MODERN MESSAGE OF MERCY

Saturday, October 1, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Festival Hall Centre for the Arts

401 Isabella Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5N6

Admission: \$15.00 - Suitable for Ages 13 & Up

Tickets & Information: Contact the Diocese of Pembroke, 613-732-7933

Deacon Adrien Chaput: Ext. 206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com

Yvette Bourque: Ext. 208 or yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com

Sponsored by: The Office of Faith Formation and Family Life & Youth Ministry Office

PERFORMED BY MARIA VARGO | DIRECTED BY LEONARDO DEFILIPPIS

WWW.DIVINEMERCYDRAMA.COM

Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Poland

A special 13-day Pilgrimage to Poland, celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy has been organized for the Diocese for October 17-29, 2016. Pilgrims will follow in the footsteps of three patron saints—"The Apostles of Mercy"—St. Faustina, St. John Paul II and St. Maximilian Kolbe. Taking a Pilgrimage is one of the recommended ways to participate as a member of the Faithful in this Jubilee, and what better destination than the very places where the beautiful devotion to The Divine Mercy originated?

The Spiritual Director for the trip will be Father Chris Shalla, Pastor at St. Hedwig's Parish in Barry's Bay, who has been to Poland a number of times and is greatly looking forward to returning there and sharing this experience with the pilgrim group.

The group will be accompanied by a professional English-speaking Polish Tour Director and will travel throughout Poland in a comfortable luxury coach. Daily Mass will be celebrated in different churches and chapels significant in the lives of the three Apostles of Mercy. Some highlights of the trip include: Warsaw, the Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, the Franciscan Monastery at Teresin founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe, the childhood home of St. Faustina, Jasna Gora and the miraculous image of the Black Madonna, Krakow, the Shrine of Divine Mercy and the beautiful Divine Mercy image there, the Wieliczka Salt Mine (UNESCO World Heritage site) where JP II worked in the mines in WWII, Auschwitz and the site of St. Maximilian's martyrdom, the childhood home of JP II, Zakopane, where JP II often went to hike in the mountains, and the amazing Calvary and pilgrimage site of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.

The itinerary has been designed to balance spiritual elements surrounding The Divine Mercy and the lives of our three patron saints with sightseeing and experiencing the beauty and culture of Poland. Accommodation is in central luxury hotels with all breakfasts, dinners, bag-handling and tips included.

The price per person is \$3,999 based on double occupancy. This includes all fares, entrance fees, taxes, tips, breakfasts and dinners. The only thing excluded is lunches. This will be a beautiful, memorable journey.

For more information and to register, contact Laurie Courchesne-Dooley at (613) 732-5739 or email at plcdooley@hotmail.com

Please note: Deadline for registration is July 5, 2016

New K of C Round Table at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Submitted

There is a growing presence of the Knights of Columbus at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, with a number of students, faculty and staff counted among its members. To foster the relationship between OLSW and the K of C—both on the institutional and local community levels—the Barry's Bay and Area Council 6894 recently sponsored a Round Table for members of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom who are Knights.

Round Tables work to ensure a visible K of C presence in Catholic parishes and schools, through their works of service and charity. As third-year student Sean Gribbon explained, "By having the K of C sponsoring a Round Table at OLSW, the men at the school have a great opportunity to strengthen their friendships and do works of charity that benefit the school and the community of Barry's Bay." It is also a way to introduce new young men to the mission of the Knights of Columbus: "The Round Table is a great opportunity for men to join the K of C while they are at the school," said Sean, "and after learning what it takes to be hard-working knights, they can go on to be active knights in their home parishes and serve their own communities in a unique way."

The OLSW Round Table has recently been involved in several events for OLSW and the Barry's Bay community, such as assisting with a hockey tournament, speaking with councils in the Diocese of Pembroke on the importance and mission of OLSW, and managing a parish brunch at St. Hedwig's. The March brunch was in collaboration with Council 6894, with proceeds going towards the council's Fr. Afelskie Award, a bursary for a returning student to OLSW.

The Round Table plans to grow stronger at OLSW in the coming years. As Sean explains, "It is important that OLSW and the K of C continue to develop their relationship both now and in the years ahead. Together, the two institutions can foster a unique brotherhood among the men, which will be fruitful for the local community."



Members of the Round Table on Passion Sunday, 2016.

Galilee Centre introduces Executive Director Michelle Reis-Amores, Ed. M.

By Richard Kelly, OMI, Spiritual Animator

With appreciation to Bishop Michael Mulhall for his continuous support of our renewal centre, we introduce our new ED and highlight our spring and summer programming. Sponsored by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Galilee Centre is an inclusive centre rooted in Catholic/Christian tradition, continuing the vision and mission of the OMI with the direction of Vatican II regarding Ecumenism and Non-Christian Religions. "The Sacred Council exhorts all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism." (UNITATIS REINTEGRATIO Ch. 1, No 2) "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these (non-Christian) religions ... the Church, therefore, exhorts her sons/daughters, that through dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions; carried out with prudence and love and in witness to the Christian faith and life, they recognize, preserve and promote the good things, spiritual and moral, as well as the socio-cultural values found among these men/women. (NOSTRA AETATE No 2)

Michelle's leadership in other not-for-profits has equipped her with human resources, financial and fundraising experience. With more than 25 years in the education and social service sector, she has filled a variety of positions, both as a front-line worker and in leadership roles. With her multidisciplinary studies, multilingual and a global outlook, Michelle has lived in Canadian small towns, urban centres, and outside of Canada. "These are critical times for people seeking peace, compassion, kindness and service."



She applied for the post with a desire to enhance the work that gives Galilee Centre its excellent reputation amongst people of all faiths seeking a strong spiritual connection. Galilee Centre is an oasis for gaining inspiration into a brighter future. The Galilee staff is delighted to have Michelle as part of the team. We also encourage a look at our up-and-coming retreats: **When Values Conflict: The Role of Christian Ethics in Making Decisions – Father David Perrin, PhD.** May 27–28, 2016. Cost \$225. Register by May 16.

Directed Retreat – Frs. R. Boucher, OMI, R. Kelly, OMI, Srs.: A. Taylor, GSIC, L. Germain, CSJ, M.C. Kelley, GSIC. August 3–10, 2016. Cost \$625. Register by July 20.

Galilee Experience in Discernment Silence and Prayer – Fr. R. Boucher, OMI & Sr. Mary WEHNER, SSJ. August 19–21, 2016. Cost \$300. Register by August 5.

For more information about the programs, retreats, events and sponsorships, please visit our website www.galileecentre.com or phone 613-622-4242, ext. 21. info@galileecentre.com

The Office of Faith Formation and Family Life Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Pembroke invite you to participate in the

Procession for the Feast of Corpus Christi



Please join us for the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Eucharist with Procession to follow with Hymns, Adoration and Final Benediction.

**Sunday, May 29, 2016
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
at St. Columbkille Cathedral
188 Renfrew St., Pembroke, ON**

For more information, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at (613) 732-7933 ext. 206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioecese.com at the Diocese of Pembroke.

Fr. Patrick McNulty (1931–2015)

Father Pat McNulty, priest at Madonna House Apostolate, died on December 17, 2015, at Our Lady of the Visitation – St. Mary's in Combermere, ON.

Fr. Pat was born in Huntington, Indiana, on October 23, 1931, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Wayne on May 28, 1960. He served in numerous parishes throughout the diocese.

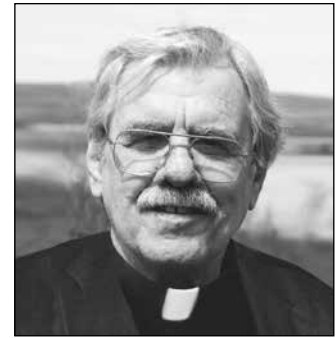
Fr. Pat first visited Madonna House in 1964. That visit was the beginning of a long relationship with its founder Catherine Doherty. He made many more visits to the community over several years and became an Associate Priest on August 15, 1969.

In 1978, he opened St. John Neumann Poustinia House, a ministry of prayer and listening, in Fort Wayne, IN, and continued there until 1991 when he returned to Madonna House. He became a full-time

member in 1993 and lived in the poustinia dedicated to Our Lady of Combermere. He spent three days in prayer and the other days serving the community in various capacities as spiritual director, retreat master and ministering to the Madonna House Associate Priests throughout the world. For many years he helped out in parishes within the Pembroke diocese as well as preaching parish missions throughout Canada and the US.

In 2008, Father Pat wrote a book, *I Live Now, Not I*, in which he draws on traditional Catholic writings and shares his personal experience.

Fr. Pat is predeceased by his parents, brothers John, Roger, Donald (Noreen), Mark (Maureen), Bernard (Paula), and sister Jane Flower. He is survived by sisters Joalys Rice (Spokane, WA); Elizabeth Ann



Huhn (Palm Beach Gardens, FL) and brother, Frederick (Fort Wayne, IN).

Wake services were held on December 20 at Madonna House St. Mary's Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 21 with internment at the Madonna House cemetery.

25 Years: Father Jim Maderak

Submitted

Jesus came with his disciples into the house. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." Gospel according to Mark 3:20-21 was the Gospel at Mass today as I begin this.

I was born December 5, 1951, the third of seven children to a blue-collar Polish father and Irish mother. My father owned Maderak Construction Company, where I worked summers, learning the masonry trade. My paternal grandparents lived on adjacent farms, where I assisted with farm chores. My parents valued hard work and the privilege of poverty.

My catholic upbringing began in what now is Kansas City, Kansas. I attended St. Patrick's grade school and proceeded to graduate from Bishop Ward High School in 1969. I attended St. Benedicts College in Atchison, Kansas, briefly. At the time of the Vietnam War, I enlisted for 2.5 years in a branch of the Navy, the Seabees, rather than being drafted. This experience taught me carpentry, concrete forming, pouring and finishing, plastering, and other building trades.

Since grade school, I had a recurring dream. In the dream, I was a priest, but had to dress as a farm laborer, while working at farms. It was a time of persecution of the Church. If I was seen celebrating Mass, the faithful laity would inform me that the authorities were coming to arrest me. I'd have to flee to another farm, as priests were being imprisoned and killed. This is when I felt called to be a priest.

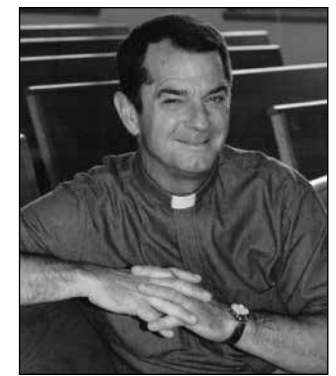
After service, a friend suggested that I visit a retreat center, "Shantivanam", in Easton, Kansas. There, I met Father Ed Hayes and was invited to be with the community to help discern my vocation. He became my first spiritual director. It was also there that I heard of a lay apostolate in Combermere, Ontario, called Madonna House. It was a community of consecrated men, women and priests. Their mission was to serve the poor and they had established mission houses in Canada, U.S., West Indies and other countries. After this experience, I began my studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, for the next year. I was not sure that the Diocesan Priesthood was my calling... And my search began...

My first visit to Madonna House was May 31, 1974. Upon arriving, I received a copy of the "Little Mandate". Reading it, my heart caught on fire! I had found my calling! I decided to join the lay apostolate of Madonna House, and took my first Promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience on December 8, 1975. I became a part of this "Family of Love" (Nazareth Spirituality). This selfless service to the poor, which was the MH spiritual life, developed in me a deep, rich spirituality, which is the fabric of who I am today. For more than 16 years, Madonna House life became a "seminary of the heart" for me. I put my desire to become a priest on hold, and got into the MH way of life. This community became my spiritual family. As a layman, I served in several "skid-row" houses in Canada. "Pain is the kiss of Christ", read a sign above Catherine Dougherty's cabin. I could relate to that! You see, in choosing this vocation, I was alienated from my biological family, who could neither understand, nor accept, my commitment. I entered my own years of inner pain and isolation.

In 1986, the community called me to pursue the seminary and I finished my studies at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. My ordination as a Madonna House priest took place on May 17, 1991. In my new role, my relationship with the community took a new direction. I served in two parishes in the Diocese before being sent to my favorite mission in Carriacou, West Indies. There I served six parishes and built a 'Poustinia' (Prayer House) on the island.

In 1998, I was called back to the Main House in Combermere. I was diagnosed with a major depressive disorder, explaining the constant negative thinking, withdrawal, gnawing emptiness and fears of rejection and of being with others, as well as being alone... I struggled with the "label" of mental illness and went on and off antidepressant medication, which was costly and stigmatizing. On a few occasions I self-medicated using alcohol to escape the unending darkness.

My depression climaxed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a fall down the basement stairs of a rectory. Following seven days in a coma, I was told by the doctor that it was a "miracle" that I survived. Had I known the mental anguish and shame I would encounter in my recovery, I may not have chosen this survival.



Five-and-a-half months of rehabilitation in a mental institution outside of Washington, DC, led to a psychic breakdown. Upon returning to Combermere, I challenged and resisted attempts to send me back to this institution. Having exhausted the MH community's attempts to help me and their patience, Madonna House dismissed me from the community and I had my priestly faculties stripped away by Bishop Smith. Years of grieving followed, having suffered the loss of my spiritual family and my spiritual vocation.

I entered the desert of my life. For the next 12 years, I struggled against my spiritual authorities, and screamed for someone to see the emptiness in my soul. My life had been stripped from me. I was without family, without a future, and several times I self-medicated myself to quiet the hell I was experiencing. I sought help through therapy, psychiatric care, AA meetings, medications, exercise and getting back to heavy construction... anything to fight the inward demons.

I settled in Ottawa, ON, to be near my psychiatrist. I began to attend Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish. I volunteered my time and construction gifts the next six years there. Still, I longed for my priestly faculties and my truest purpose in life. Once a priest, always a priest! I continued to say daily mass and live daily my Madonna House lifestyle.

In December of 2008, I decided to return to Kansas City to celebrate Christmas with my parents after their 60th wedding anniversary. I drove as far as Minneapolis, spending a couple days with my sister and her husband. I had an accident, hitting black ice on the road, totaling my truck, and leaving me stranded in Minnesota. As if one accident wasn't enough, I suffered another fall down a basement staircase and was rushed

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by ambulance to Hennepin County Medical Center for treatment. I was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, Bipolar II disorder, PTSD, and alcohol abuse. I lived, but my life was no longer in my control. The hospital mandated that I pursue recovery through a variety of different facilities for a year. The final place was the VA hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota. There I met the Chaplain, Father Dick McGuire, who soon became my spiritual advisor and sponsor. I settled into a VA-sponsored apartment complex, next to the hospital, financially supported, in part, through the graciousness of the Pembroke diocese. Shame was the fabric of my existence. I still resisted the mental health labels and grieved deeply over the loss of my life's work, being a priest. I had journeyed almost 12 years through this desert of the soul.

What helped me through this darkness was this wonderful spiritual director, Father McGuire, the Eucharistic adoration, volunteering at the VA hospital as an escort to help the sick, attending AA meetings, and finding that my relationship with my own biological family was being restored.

In 2014, Father Dick informed me that he had five brain tumours and two months to live. A week before he died, he called to invite me to "supper" the following Saturday. I had endured the past three months of despair... I told Fr. Dick that I felt my "call to priesthood" was pure illusion and delusion on my part and that I sat in the darkness of my room with no interest in anything. I asked him to hear my confession. For penance, he asked me to just hold the Bible in my hands, opening it only if I was moved to. He gave me absolution, then said: "I'll see ya at supper on Saturday!"

Desperate, I grabbed an old used Bible I had bought the day before for \$1.00. After 15 minutes I opened it at random and looked down at the first sentence my eyes fell upon: "You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedec" (Psalm 110). Tears poured from my eyes the next 10 minutes. I again opened the bible to the New Testament and the first line my eyes glanced at was "Peter, do you love me? (3x)... When you were young, you used to put your own belt on and do what you wanted; but when you are older, someone will put the belt on you and take you where you don't want to go! Follow me!" That was the gospel, chosen for my ordination!

Following our "Last Supper", in tears, Father Dick asked me to preside as priest at his funeral. Of course, I said yes to my dying friend, even though I screamed inside "I can't, because I'm suspended!"

"O ye of little faith!" Bishop Kettler of the St. Cloud Diocese asked me to be minister at the wake service for Fr. Dick.

Dick's last words to me were "Jimmy, I am going to see Jesus soon and talk to our Father, face to face about your priesthood. Just wait, and hang in there!" Six months later, on August 15, 2014, I received a letter from Bishop Mulhall of our Pembroke Diocese. It stated that he was lifting the suspension of my priestly faculties and I would be allowed to serve under the Bishop of St. Cloud. I am a "priest forever."

All I could do was cry "tears of joy" thanking God for the grace of perseverance and for all the pain, sorrow and seeming rejections I had endured.

TODAY, I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's suffering and afflictions for the sake of His Body, that is, the Church. What a mystery! I am glad to be a Missionary here from my Pembroke Diocese family and home. I thank you all dearly!

40 Years: Father John Affleck

May 1 this year marked the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Father John Affleck to the priesthood.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Father Affleck's family moved to Petawawa where his father served in the military, and they joined the parish family at Our Lady of Sorrows.

"Father Francis Kennedy was the parish priest during those years," recalled Father Affleck, noting his admiration for the man. "In this good pastor, I discovered an inspiring priest... a solid man, of fine mind, good spirit and faithful to the Gospel and the Church."

As a young man, Father Affleck worked in a variety of fields, before becoming a constable with the Ontario Provincial Police in 1967. It was during his first year in law enforcement that his thoughts turned to the potential of serving God as a priest.

"During that time the question of priesthood, the call to the vocation, became more persistent," said Father Affleck. "Visits home to Petawawa from Brantford, Ontario, where I was stationed with the OPP, provided opportunity for conversations with Father Kennedy about 'vocation'. He showed a genuine interest in my discernment to priesthood. 'Was this the Lord's will for my life?' A meeting with Bishop William J. Smith resulted in my enrollment at St. Peters Seminary, London, in the autumn of 1968."

"At St. Peters I was captivated by the study of Sacred Scripture as presented by Father Marcel Gervais (later Bishop and Archbishop of Ottawa)," said Father Affleck. "In him I encountered a man alive in the spirit. His scripture classes were inspirational, invoking the desire for further understanding. The first profound religious experiences happened midst the study of the Magnificat of Mary (also known as the Cantic of Mary) in Luke's gospel [Luke: 1:46 ff]. I well remember the long conversation I had with Father Gervais about the impact of Mary's Magnificat on my soul."

After a time of pastoral internship at St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Father Affleck did his final year of seminary preparation at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto before being ordained to the

priesthood by Bishop Joseph R. Windle at Our Lady of Sorrows on May 1, 1976.

"My family was present, many parishioners who supported me during my studies, and many priests," recalled Father Affleck of the day of his ordination. "It was a momentous day, filled with wonder. It was so much more than I could understand or grasp of God's mystery and the Lord's love."

He was first assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes in Pembroke for one year, followed by a two year term as assistant at St. John Chrysostom parish in Arnprior. It was at this point that Father Affleck turned his attention toward further religious studies.

"Following these first assignments I was granted permission by Bishop Windle to study at the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership," said Father Affleck.

"This was a formative year for me. Sister Gretchen Berg, a Franciscan nun, accepted to be my Spiritual Director for the year. During that year, my soul was stirred through Sister Gretchen's knowledge of Dr. C.G. Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and teacher of the soul. Discovering Jung's lifelong work with the soul was life-changing for me, especially his awareness that God resides in our very depth and our challenge is to go find Him there."

"At the end of this year at the Jesuit school, I spoke with Bishop Windle to explore possibilities for studies in Zurich at the C.G. Jung Institute. I began those studies in the autumn of 1982."

"The Sisters of St. Joseph's of Pembroke generously assisted me financially for my studies in Zurich. I am deeply indebted to them for their generosity."

While studying in Switzerland, Father Affleck joined the Canadian Forces, serving as a Chaplain for eight years. "I served as a Chaplain in Baden-Baden, Germany, Halifax, and Moose Jaw before returning to Germany as Base Chaplain in 1990. Being back in Europe allowed me to finalize my studies at the Jung Institute from which I graduated in November 1993."



In the winter of 1994 Fr. Affleck established private practice as a psychotherapist in the analysis of Dr. C.G. Jung's psychology. He continues to do this work at Kilborn Place in Ottawa where he resides at the John Paul II Residence.

"I have been doing this work now more than twenty years. For me, it is a joy. Its focus is on Jung's understanding of the soul as the place where God reaches us, where we find meaning in human life," explained Father Affleck. "I am most grateful to the Lord and the many persons with whom I have the privilege of doing soul work. It is with a deep sense of my own limitations that I do this work. This inner journey opens for us a renewal of meaning for our lives. When we are deeply touched by God, we can never be the same again."

Still, after all these years, Father Affleck is more than happy to assist his brother priests in the diocese with weekend ministry, acknowledging that the Celebration of the Eucharist continues to be the source and summit of our faith and the source of all forgiveness as Vatican II taught. "As a priest of 40 years, I am amazed with the passage of the years. This time has passed so quickly."

"A quotation from the Jewish Prophet Micah, on my Ordination card carries great significance for me. I offer it again as a source encouragement to fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith in the Lord Jesus. It's what is asked of us:

"To act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, JB

40 Years: Father Peter Proulx

May 8, 2016, will mark the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Father Peter Proulx who currently serves as parish priest at Holy Name of Jesus in Pembroke.

Ironically, it is that very parish Father Proulx attended in his youth.

"We were very much part of Holy Name parish and school (Holy Name Catholic School)," recalled Father Proulx.

"My uncle was a priest in the diocese and two of my aunts were nuns. My parents, particularly my mother's family, were also part of the history of both the school and church. We participated in many aspects of church life as a family."

It was during his high school years that Father Proulx began to contemplate serving the church as a priest. Accepted to St. Peter's Seminary in London, he studied there from 1969–1976.

"The academics were so vibrant as we were immersed in the documents of Vatican II being published and their commentary being so interesting," recalled Father Proulx on his time at the seminary.

He followed this path in service to God and was ordained into the priesthood in 1976 at the very parish he was raised in.

Since that time, he has served at a variety of parishes in the diocese. This includes St. Ann's in Mattawa, St. Alphonsus in Chapeau, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Deep River, St. Edward's in Bristol (QC), St. Francis

Xavier in Renfrew (twice), and finally at his current posting at Holy Name.

Upon reflecting on what he finds most fulfilling about being a parish priest, Father Proulx remarked "The opportunity to become who I yet could be." He also noted his enjoyment of pursuing education and new ministry challenges within the parish ministry.

As well as being a parish priest, Father Proulx has also served as Chaplain of St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew for ten years (1989–1999).

He also provides retreats and spiritual direction with various religious communities, spurred by his time as Spiritual Director of Galilee Retreat Centre in Arnprior. Purchased by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1946, the 35-acre property was developed into a retreat and conference centre. It hosts a variety of retreats throughout the year.

Pastoral counselling is also a passion that Father Proulx pursues. In the 1980s he completed degrees at both the University of Ottawa and St. Paul University in Ottawa. In 1999 he completed his Doctorate in Pastoral Counseling at The Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana.

Beyond the borders of our diocese, Father Proulx actively participates in the study of scripture, culture and spirituality with the Judaic community in Ottawa, describing it as "invaluable in appreciating the Hebrew



Scriptures." Starting with courses he took at St. Paul's University, he transitioned to the Jewish Community Centre, studying alongside Rabbi Elly Braun.

In what he describes as a "marker event of my spiritual journey", Father Proulx journeyed to Spain to participate in the pilgrimage at Camino de Santiago in 2005 and 2015. Also known as the Way of St. James in English, Christian pilgrims believe that Saint James, one of the original 12 apostles, rests in The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, located in the northwest region of Spain. To this day, many participants will traverse the very routes taken by early pilgrims during the Medieval Age.

60 Years: Father Joseph Legree

June 3rd this year will mark the 60th anniversary of the ordination of Joseph C. Legree to the priesthood.

A native of Douglas, he was born on August 20th, 1930 at the Pembroke General Hospital.

When he was 10 years old, Father Legree contracted a severe case of pneumonia. He maintains the only reason he is still alive to today was God's intervention.

"I was pretty near death's door, but I would have to say the Lord helped me through it," said Father Legree.

He attended St. Michael's Catholic School in Douglas, then later attended St. Patrick's College in Ottawa. It was there that he would focus his studies on philosophy, eventually acquiring a Bachelor of Arts degree. It was around this time he decided to begin his journey to the priesthood.

He would go on to study Theology at the Grand Seminary in Montreal from 1952–1956.

"It wasn't easy. It was mainly French and Latin," recalled Father Legree on the challenge he faced pursuing his studies in both the languages. He did have some training in French from his time at St. Patrick's.

"But to speak it, conversationally, I didn't do it until I got to the seminary. I would have to take a lot of notes, then translate it into English."

He would be ordained by Bishop William J. Smith at St. Michael's parish in his native Douglas on the June 3, 1956. He told of how overcast skies and rain eventually turned to sunshine by the time the ordination ceremony was complete. It was, perhaps, symbolic of how all people will endure both good times and bad.

"In life, there will be dark days and sunny days and that you have to trust in God," reflected Father Legree.

From the summer of 1956 until the spring of 1969, Father Legree would criss-cross the diocese serving as a parochial vicar/assistant, administrator and parish priest at various parishes.

Despite retiring in 2007, Father Legree continued to say mass, along with funerals and weddings, from Sept 2007–May 2013.

Perhaps the most unique role Father Legree holds within our spiritual community is that of diocesan historian. Having already completed a 90-page dissertation on the diocese when he was in college, Father Legree was more than up to the challenge to compiling a more in-depth compilation later on.

"I had to travel around to the different parishes and examine the records of the parish," Father Legree explained about the six years it took to gather the voluminous amounts of records needed for what would become the defining historical source on our diocese.

Published in 1988, *Lift Up Your Hearts* is an awe-inspiring journey into the history of the diocese. Within the pages of this book are the stories of the faithful who worked tirelessly in building the many parishes that are the foundation of our faith in the region. Readers can also enjoy the in-depth profiles of the Bishops of our diocese, and explore the various religious communities/orders that have taken root over the years.

The foreword from Bishop Joseph R. Windle best describes the significance of *Lift Up Your Hearts*.

"It will be invaluable for those students of history and all who are interested in the story of our past. It will be unrivalled in precise detail. For years to come it will be a source of unequalled opportunity for many to appreciate the hopes, the tears, the trials, as well as the triumphs of our past."



Father Legree continues to be of service by instructing students at St. Michael's on a variety of subjects related to our faith.

When asked what advice he would give to those pursuing the path to priesthood in our diocese, he was adamant that maintaining a deep faith in God is essential.

"Keep your faith, even though there will be some days that seem dark and upsetting," said Father Legree.

"The Lord is with you, he is never far from you in times of doubt. He's the one that can help, provide strength and consolation in such times."

Additional anniversaries

25 years

Father Louis Lebreque

Ordained on May 19, 1991

50 years

Father Garry Cain

Ordained on February 26, 1966

Parish Suppers 2016

Sunday, May 29

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Braeside, ON

Barbecued chicken

2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.; Adults \$15.00; Children under 12, \$5.00, under 6 free; Take-out available

Sunday, June 12

St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON

Hot Roast Beef Dinner, Fresh Home Baking

Take-Out & Delivery available

Adults: \$15.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00; Under 5: free

2:00 p.m.–6 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, June 18–19

Fort Coulonge, QC

Sea-pie Community Supper by the Knights of Columbus

New format!! (Same menu);

Two sittings: 4 p.m. or 6 p.m.; Served at the table like in a restaurant; Tickets sold in advance (15\$ adult)

Contact: Carl Morin 819-683-5671

(between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. only)

samedi-dimanche 18–19 juin

Fort-Coulonge, QC

Souper communautaire de cipaille

des Chevaliers de Colomb

Nouveau format!! (Même menu)

Deux services : 16h ou 18h; Servi aux tables comme au restaurant; Billets vendus d'avance (15\$ adulte)

Contact : Carl Morin 819-683-5671

(entre 4 p.m. et 8 p.m. seulement)

Saturday, July 16

Holy Canadian Martyrs', Combermere, ON

Pancake breakfast - home baked beans, sausages, fresh fruit, toast, coffee/tea/juice and local maple syrup
CWL bake sale

St. Paul's Anglican Hall, Combermere; 8 a.m.–11 a.m.

Adults \$8, Children \$4, 3 and under free

Sunday, July 17

St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay, ON

Roast Beef and Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Beans, Salad, & Desserts

Take-out available. Wheelchair accessible.

Adults: \$13.00; Children 4–12: \$6, 3 & under: Free

Starting at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 24

St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Bonfield Church Picnic; Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies, Crafts, Bingo

Adults: \$14.00; Children 12 and under: \$7.00

Games: 1:30 p.m.–5 p.m.; Meal: 3:30 p.m.–6 p.m.

le 24 juillet, dimanche

Sainte-Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield; SeaPie; Fèves au lard; repas complet; tartes assorties faites à la maison, bingo

Repas – 15h30 – 17h00

Adultes: \$14.00; enfants sous 12 ans: 7 \$

Sunday, July 31

St. Martin of Tours, Whitney, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean Supper.

Take-out meals available. Games for all the family.

Raffle tickets. Canteen, Religious articles.

St. Martin's Parish Hall, 1:00 p.m.; Adults: \$13.00;

Children 5–10: \$5.00; Five and under: Free

Sunday, August 7

St. Andrew's, Killaloe, ON

Supper & Bazaar; Turkey, Ham, Stuffed Pork, Homemade Beans, Salads and Desserts

Adults: \$13.00/person; Children 4–12: \$5.00

1:30p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 14

St-Thomas D'Aquin, Astorville, ON

Serving our famous Canadian meal of Sea-Pie, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit pies, tea & juice.

Games, music, and ticket draw

At East Ferris Community Centre, Astorville, ON

Games start at 1:30 p.m., Supper starts at 3:30 p.m., take-out begins at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome.

dimanche le 14 aout

Pique-Nique paroissial St-Thomas d'Aquin Astorville

Cipaille, feves au lard, chou, tartes au fruit, thé et jus

Tout debute a 1:30 au Centre Communautaire de East

Ferris; Souper 3:30, Take-Out 4:30

Tirage billets 6:00; Jeux pour enfants, bingo, pennysale, crown & anchor. Tous les bienvenus

Sunday, August 21

Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON

Turkey Lunch & Supper; Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw

Tickets, Grab bags. Air Conditioned – Take-out

available – Wheelchair accessible

Westmeath Community Centre

Adults: \$15.00; Children (5–12): \$7.00,

Four & under: Free; 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, August 28

Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON

Roast Turkey, Ham & Baked Beans and all the Trimmings

Adults: \$13.00; Children: \$6.00; Served from 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 4

St. Ignatius, Maynooth, ON

Parish Supper and Bazaar. Turkey, Ham and Beans
Bingo, Crafts and Draws.

Adults: \$12.00; Children 10 and under: \$5.00

12 p.m.–6 p.m.; Mass at 11 a.m.

Sunday, September 4

St. Mary's, Wilno, ON

Chicken supper, home-cooked meal, plates served from 1 p.m.

Adults: \$13.00; Children under 12: \$5.00

Mass at noon. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, September 11

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Westmeath, ON

Turkey, baked ham, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, homemade dinner roles, homemade
pies, coffee, tea

2:30 p.m.–6 p.m.; Adults: \$15.00;

Children 12 & under: \$7.00; Five and under: free

Sunday, September 11

St. John the Evangelist, Campbell's Bay, QC

Turkey and Ham Supper and all the trimmings.

Homemade pies.

Adults: \$15.00; Children under 12: \$6.00; Toddlers free

3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON

Ham & Roast Beef, homemade salads, baked beans and pies; Raffle Tickets, Silent Auction, CWL Gift Shop, Religious Articles; Take-out meals available

Adults: \$13.00; Children under 12: \$6.00

Children 5 and under: Free

11:30 a.m.–6 p.m.; Mass at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 11

St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC

Turkey, homemade beans and all the trimmings

Chapeau Arena, 12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday, September 18

St. Mary's, Quyon, QC

Roast Beef Supper

Adults: \$15.00; Children 10 & under: \$6.00

Lion's Club Hall, Quyon; 3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 18

St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, ON

Roast Beef, Ham & Baked Bean Dinner with assorted
salads and homemade pies

Adults: \$13.00; Children under 12: \$5.00

11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25

St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON

Turkey and Ham Supper

Holy Cross Hall, 500 Isabella St.

Everyone welcome! Wheelchair accessible

Take-out available at 303 James St.

Adults: \$13.00/Children \$5.00; 11:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Le 25 septembre

Paroisse St-Jean-Baptiste, Pembroke, ON

Le souper à la dinde et jambon.

À la salle Ste Croix, 500 rue Isabella, Pembroke.

Tous et toutes sont bienvenus. Des repas pour apporter(take out) sont disponibles au 303 rue James et la salle est accessible aux handicapé(e)s.

adultes: 13,00 \$ / enfants 5 \$; 11h30–19h00

Sunday, September 25

St. Patrick's, Mount St. Patrick, ON

Turkey, Ham and Beans; Bingo, games, crafts and white
elephant. Musical entertainment

Adults: \$13.00; Children \$6.00

12:30 p.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday Mass at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 9

St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON

Roast Beef & Bean Supper

Take-out available. Wheelchair accessible.

Crafts, Bingo, Draws, Great Food.

Mass at 11:30 a.m.; Supper at 1:00 p.m.; Everyone welcome! Adults: \$13.00; Children under 12: \$5.00;

Under 5: Free

Sunday, October 16

St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON

Annual Harvest Festival and Roast Beef Supper
Crafts and draws

Adults: \$13; Children: \$6; under 6 free

Following 11:30 Mass until 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 16

St. Joseph, Allumette Island, QC

Roast beef, mashed potatoes and all the fixings,
homemade pie

St. Joseph's Community Hall; One sitting at 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 6

St. Matthew the Apostle, Madawaska, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Bean; Supper – Raffle Tickets
Community Hall, Madawaska; 12 noon–6 p.m.

Adults: \$13.00; Children under 10: \$5.00;

Three & under: Free