



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

Celebrating a special ordination day

June 24 will mark a momentous event in the Diocese of Pembroke as we are invited to witness the ordination of several deacons into the ranks of the priesthood. This is truly a time of great celebration for our faith community. Those who will be ordained were kind enough to share a few thoughts as they prepare for this great occasion.

Deacon Justin Bertrand



What degree will you acquire upon the completion of your studies at the seminary, assuming this is your final year of study?

I have just completed a conjoint degree from St. Augustine's Seminary and the University of Toronto. This means that the program of studies I have completed here at St. Augustine's Seminary (a 5-year theology program) gives me basically two degrees that are awarded at the same time. The title of this conjoint degree is S.T.B MDiv. The S.T.B refers to a Sacred Theology Baccalaureate (which is an ecclesial degree in Theology). The MDiv stands for Master of

Divinity, which is a Professional Masters Degree (this degree is a secular/civil degree that permits church ministers to be qualified for public ministry in the Church). Both of these degrees require that the person entering them already has a Bachelor's

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Deacon Stephen Helferty



Assuming this is your final year in the seminary, what degree will you acquire upon completion of your studies (or have you already done so)?

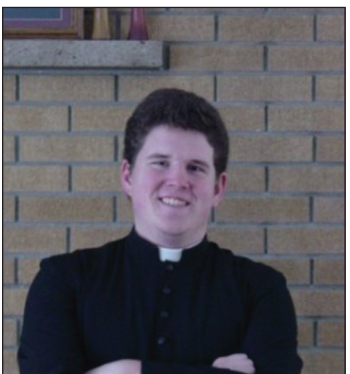
Having completed my studies in April, I will receive a Bachelor of Theology degree (STB, an ecclesiastical degree) as well as a Master's of Divinity degree (MDiv, a civil degree) at the convocation ceremonies in November at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Could you share some reflections on seminary life? Any particular aspect that you will miss?

My time at both St Philip's Seminary and St Augustine's Seminary has been an opportunity for growth. When I departed in 2010 for the seminary, my knowledge

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Deacon Michael Lund



What degree will you acquire upon the completion of your studies at the seminary, assuming this is your final year of study?

I am actually going to be returning to Rome next year to complete my STL (Licence in Sacred Theology). I'm in the dogma program at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, although I live at the North American College, the American seminary here in Rome.

Could you share some reflections on seminary life? Is there any particular aspect of seminary life that you will miss?

Seminary life is quite unique. In some ways, it is like going to university, because we are sent to study the various aspects of the faith, so that we might be able to teach and promote the faith in an intelligible, reasonable manner. However, intellectual formation is only a part of our formation.

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Deacon Anthony Burchat



What degree will you acquire upon the completion of your studies at the seminary, assuming this is your final year of study?

To be honest I've never really looked into it. It will be the same degree as Justin and Stephen.

Could you share some reflections on seminary life? Is there any particular aspect of seminary life that you will miss?

Absolutely. There are many aspects of seminary life which I will miss when I leave. First and foremost will be the fraternity with my brother seminarians.

Even though we don't always get along or agree on everything there is a bond which develops between young men who focus their lives on a common goal. In this case the common goal is the glory of God and a life spent serving his Church.

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Brief history of diocesan ordinations

Up to the arrival of Bishop Mulhall in the fall of 2007, all ordinations were held separately in the parishes of the candidates. Since 2008, all ordinations have been held at St. Columbkille Cathedral—together if there was more than one in any given year. The only exception was an ordination at Madonna House in Combermere.

Over the last 54 years there were:

- 5 ordinations in 1965
- 4 ordinations in 1969
- 3 ordinations in 1963 and 1984
- 2 ordinations in 1962, 1968, 1986, 1994, 1997, 2005 and 2014

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Deacon Justin Bertrand

degree, and thus the three years before my entry into St. Augustine's Seminary I completed a B.T.T. Bachelor's of Thomistic Thought at St. Philips Seminary. Thus, by the end of things, I have three degrees—two bachelor's, and one professional masters degree.

Could you share some reflections on seminary life? Is there any particular aspect of seminary life that you will miss?

There are many aspects to life in the Seminary. There is a regular life of prayer, the studies, the fraternity with other seminarians from across Canada and other English-speaking countries. Overall, seminary is a unique yet profound experience. One of the things I think I will miss most about leaving the seminary will be the many friends I have here. Not that I will no longer see them again, but leaving the supportive structure of the seminary into full time ministry means that I must - in a way—leave some friends behind, so that new friendships may be developed.

How are you personally preparing yourself for your ordination?

Lots and lots of prayer! Seriously, apart from practical considerations, the main thing I have been doing to prepare myself for this commitment with God and the Church is prayer, reflection, reading the Sacred Scriptures, and taking the time for the Lord to form my heart and to prepare it to serve His people the way He wants me to.

You will be ordained with several other deacons this spring. How conscious are you of how momentous this occasion will be for the Diocese of Pembroke?

I don't think it has hit me yet. However, I do know this Ordination will be a grand day for our Diocese, and most especially, a grand day that proves the Glory and power of God, who has worked such wonders in the hearts of those of us who will be ordained.

Deacon Stephen Helferty

of the faith and of the church was weak, and I did not desire to be a priest. I learned so much in my first years, and my vocation was fostered at St. Philip's. I began to desire to be a priest, to follow my vocation.

I think I will miss the company of the other seminarians the most. There are many different personalities in the seminary and everyone has his own background, but I have made some very good friendships over these years, and now we need to part ways to go out to the places we are sent by the Lord. However, I am blessed to be entering a great Presbyterate in our diocese, and also to be one of several young priests and ordained for Pembroke.

How are you personally preparing yourself for your ordination?

Right now, my parents and I are working closely together on many details which need to be planned for the ordination itself and for the first solemn mass of thanksgiving the next day. Most of my other preparations for the priesthood have been through the seminary programs. We do a five-day silent retreat at the seminary before departing in April. This final year, I will take the opportunity to make a general confession during the retreat—a confession of my sinfulness throughout my whole life in the Sacrament of Penance. This is a powerful spiritual preparation for any important step in the spiritual life.

You will be ordained with several other deacons. How conscious are you of how momentous this occasion will be for the Diocese of Pembroke?

June 24 will be an exciting day for me, but it is an exciting day for the entire diocese. It has been a long time since the Bishop of Pembroke ordained this many men to the priesthood. Given the current shortage of priests, with many pastors running two parishes or even more, it is exciting and hopeful to see that young men are still answering the Lord's call.

Deacon Michael Lund

We also have to deepen our spiritual lives through prayer, spiritual direction, retreats, and reception of the sacraments. We have to be formed on a human level, as well, with good "people skills", so that our preaching and ministry may be more effective. And we are also formed as pastors, filled with a love for the people of God and a desire to serve them and draw them ever closer to Christ. These four pillars of formation are vital for a future priest; if any of these are lacking, his ministry will suffer. So, seminary is not just taking classes, but rather is a place where we come to be formed in all areas of our life so that we might be happy, holy, helpful priests.

One particular aspect I will miss is the camaraderie with my fellow classmates. I've formed some great friendships here over the years, and while these friendships will continue after our time in seminary, I will certainly miss being able to interact with them every day.

How are you personally preparing yourself for your ordination?

I've been preparing myself for this awesome gift of the priesthood in different ways. First and foremost is prayer, striving to grow ever closer to Christ, so that I might more worthily carry out the ministry He is giving me. I will be making a retreat during Holy Week as a more intense time of spiritual preparation for that ministry. There are also some practical considerations, such as practising Mass, confessions, and the Sacrament of Anointing, so that I can preside at these events with greater confidence once I'm finally ordained. Other than that, I'm carrying on with my studies, trying not to get too distracted by the excitement and anticipation!

You will be ordained with several other deacons this spring. How conscious are you of how momentous this occasion will be for the Diocese of Pembroke?

Having this many priests ordained in one year is a great blessing for any diocese, but especially for one as small as ours. God is blessing us in a wonderful way this year. But just because we have this many this year, doesn't mean that we don't need more! I'm sure there are more young men out there in our diocese whom God is calling, but it's up to them to respond, and I would encourage them to at least give seminary a try. Rest assured, God rewards those who respond to His call!

Deacon Anthony Burchat

How are you personally preparing yourself for your ordination?

As ordination approaches I have been narrowing the focus of my life around everything which I should know and do prior to ordination. They say an execution date focuses the mind, and an ordination date does something similar. The care of souls is a heavy weight to bear and it requires preparation of mind and heart to do well.

You will be ordained with several other deacons this spring. How conscious are you of how momentous this occasion will be for the Diocese of Pembroke?

Four ordinations would be a good day for any Diocese, but for a Diocese of our size four ordinations in one day is a great thing.

All are invited to the ceremony, which will be held at St. Columbkille Cathedral, on June 24, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., presided by Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke.

Message from the Bishop

My dear Faithful of the Diocese,

*O blessed Rome: consecrated by the glorious blood
of the two prince Apostles of our Church.*

This is a phrase from a beautiful Latin hymn prayed on June 29 for the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. It invokes in prayer the memory of both St. Peter and St. Paul who were martyred and buried in Rome during the First century. For this reason, the City of Rome has always held a central place in the hearts of all pilgrims, a sacred location to pray at the tombs of the great Apostles and to visit the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome and successor of St. Peter.

After Easter, the Bishops of Ontario will be making their ad limina visit to Rome. This is an ancient custom initiated well over thirteen centuries ago and more clearly defined in the following centuries. The tradition asks that Diocesan Bishops travel to Rome after a period of years in order to make a pilgrimage to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, and to inform the Holy Father of the conditions of their diocese.

These visits have a special and beautiful meaning. The pilgrimage makes evident the mysterious communion that exists between the Church of the Diocese of Rome and its Bishop, Pope Francis, and the Church of the Diocese of Pembroke. In this communion, the successor of St. Peter is given a primary role by the Lord. "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." This primary role given to St. Peter and his successors including our present Pope Francis, is to preside in charity over the other Churches, like the Church of Pembroke. The pilgrimage also constitutes an opportunity for the Holy Father to exercise an essential component of his ministry of service. Pope Francis, the pastor of the universal Church, communicates with the pastors of the particular Churches such as the Diocese of Pembroke. In this way, the Bishop is able to share with him the joys and sufferings of the dioceses while at the same time sharing in the Holy Father's solicitude and care for all the Churches. In this way, the communion and unity in the life of the Church is strengthened and renewed.

The sentiment of the Holy Father for the concerns for all the Churches is expressed most beautifully by St. Paul. In writing to the Church in Corinth, St. Paul speaks of his many sufferings for Christ—his great labours, imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks, sleepless nights, long journeys experiencing hunger, thirst and cold. But above all of these sufferings for Christ, there remains the greatest—the daily pressure upon him in his concern and solicitude for the Churches founded by the preaching of his missionary journeys. This helps to describe the real bond that exists between the everyday affairs of our lives in the Diocese and the ministry of the Holy Father. And through the Holy Father this bond is extended to the Catholic Church throughout the world. We are able to share his care and solicitude for the Church suffering in China, Syria, Iraq and in many other locations. This aspect of his ministry for us is a wonderful thought by which we can focus our prayers for him.

This communion is based on much more than sentiment, good feeling or common agreement. It is founded on the reality of the mystery of the Church, a mystery that makes present today in each of our lives the communion of the Apostles chosen by the Lord. This communion comes from the Lord as he shares within the nature of his Church, His Beloved Bride, a mirror of the communion that the Son shares with the Father. "May they be one Father as we are one."



This will be the first visit by the Bishop of Pembroke since 2006 and the first pilgrimage that I will make as your bishop. The Bishops of Ontario will meet with the various offices of the Holy Father's ministry and have an opportunity to meet together with the Holy Father.

I will make my pilgrimage to Rome with these sentiments in my heart. It will be an added joy to make this pilgrimage in the days following the celebration of Easter. This celebration is entrusted in a special way to the Apostles and their successors to be celebrated for the life of the local Churches. I look forward to praying and celebrating Mass at the tombs of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and carrying your own prayers with me. I will also offer Mass at various other Basilicas and Churches in Rome to carry the special charisms of the Diocese. At the Basilica of St. John Lateran, I will offer Mass for the people of the Diocese; at the tomb of St. Peter, for the intention of our priests and seminarians; at the tomb of St. Lawrence, for the deacons of the Diocese; at St. Mary Major, for the religious of those in consecrated life; at the tomb of St. Paul, for our catechists and teachers. Please allow the Holy Spirit to join your own prayers with those which I will offer. I pray that this will be a moment for me and for all of us to renew our love and prayer for the Holy Father Pope Francis and pray that the Lord may preserve him in his ministry.

+ Michael Mulhall
Bishop of Pembroke



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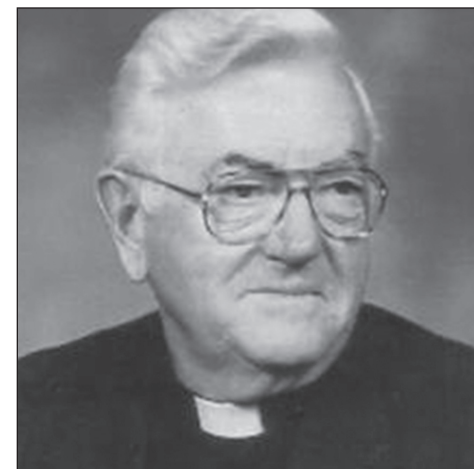
In memoriam—Reverend Douglas Morris

Father Douglas J. Morris passed away at the Pembroke Regional Hospital on February 15, 2017, in his 91st year. Born in Sheenboro, Quebec, in 1926 to the late Joseph Morris and Hilda Perreault, he was predeceased by his siblings Lawrence, Joan Greenough, Jean Bourke, Andrew, Mervin and Patrick.

Father Morris studied at St. Augustine Seminary, Toronto, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 6, 1954. He enjoyed being a spiritual leader to the people in the parishes of Pembroke, Arnprior, Campbell's Bay, Stonecliffe, Portage-du-Fort, Bristol, Renfrew, and Douglas. During the celebration of his 60th anniversary of ordination, he stated that being able to assist people

in understanding more about the good Lord's presence in their lives had been very rewarding. Father Morris was well known for carrying out the ministry of the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, both in Ottawa and Pembroke.

A Rite of Reception was held at the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Pembroke, on February 17. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 18 at the Cathedral of St. Columbkille, Pembroke followed by a reception at Holy Name Annex. Interment will take place in the Priests' Plot at St. Paul the Hermit Cemetery, Sheenboro.



In memoriam—Monsignor Ambrose Pick

Monsignor Ambrose Robert Pick passed away on Friday, February 24, 2017, at Marianhill long-term care facility in Pembroke. Monsignor Pick was born in Barry's Bay on June 7, 1928, to the late August Pick and Anne Rumleske. He was predeceased by his sister, Dorothy Billings and his brother, Leonard Pick.

Monsignor Pick attended elementary and high school in Barry's Bay. He later attended St. Michael's College and St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. He was ordained to the Priesthood on April 27, 1955, at St. Hedwig Church, Barry's Bay by the Most Reverend William Joseph Smith.

He was appointed Prelate of Honour of His Holiness Saint John Paul II with the title of Monsignor on May 18, 1986.

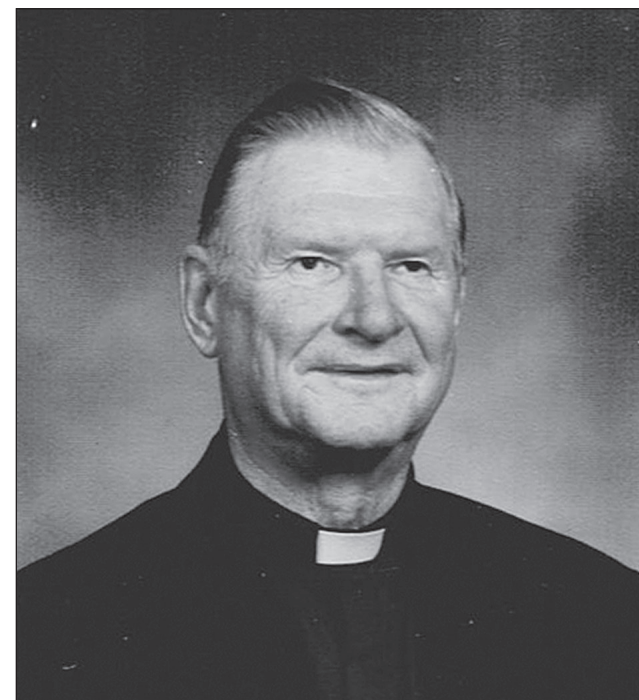
After his Ordination, he served as Parochial Vicar at St. Hedwig Parish, Barry's Bay for nine years before moving on to other parishes throughout the diocese (St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Stonecliffe, St. James Parish, Portage-

du-Fort, St. Edward Parish, Bristol, St. Casimir Parish, Round Lake Centre and St. Hedwig Parish, Barry's Bay). Parishioners of Polish descent in Barry's Bay and Round Lake Centre appreciated his ability to celebrate Mass in Polish.

At the time of his 60th ordination anniversary in 2015, Monsignor shared that he carried fond memories of each and every parish served, "Everywhere I went were good people, great parishioners, and I was very happy."

Monsignor Pick retired from full-time parochial ministry in September 2002, but was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish, Wilno for a short while in 2005 after which he took up residence at Marianhill.

A reception was held at St. Hedwig Church on Monday, February 27 and the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial presided by His Excellency Michael Mulhall was celebrated on February 28. Interment will follow in St. Hedwig Cemetery at a later date.



Lenten Reflection

By Anda Sprudz

Saturday, April 8, was a bright and clear spring morning and when I entered the St. John Chrysostom parish hall in Arnprior, many people were already in chairs at a number of tables, spread like rays from the focal point. Others were chatting as they grabbed a muffin or two and enjoyed a cup of steaming coffee or tea. It was nearing 10 a.m. and a Lenten Day of Reflection, hosted by the Knights of Columbus (KoC), was about to start.

For a number of years the Knights of Columbus have hosted a Lenten retreat at St. John Chrysostom in Arnprior, open to the men of the diocese. Pastor, Fr. John Burchat, as Chaplain to the Knights of Columbus, invited Father Howard Chabot to lead this year's Lenten Day of Reflection, which, for the first time, was open to both men and women, with great representation from several diocesan churches, not just St John's. The warm atmosphere was reminiscent of a reunion, with quite a few men and women chatting with those they knew

over many, many years from either the ranks of the Knights or the CWL, or simply from other diocesan or specific church events. The day was spread between the hours of 10 and 1:45, with reflections interspersed with musical interludes, stretch breaks, and an amazing lunch of hamburger soup and sandwiches made by the KoC, with helping hands from the CWL.

Ron Grenier from St. John's acted as Day of Reflection emcee—and both introduced the speaker Fr. Chabot, and (dare I say, his well paired musical side-kick) Deacon Adrien Chaput, and thanked them sincerely to close. From the very beginning it was clearly evident that Father Chabot and Deacon Adrien have also known each other and worked together on many retreats over a number of years. Father Chabot is a genial, jovial and spirited speaker, who is quick to add a touch of humour as well as a well-aimed poignant comment. Deacon Adrien provided a moving musical guitar accompaniment for the songs that interspersed Father Chabot's talk—songs led in his warm, confident

voice, and with which participants gladly joined in, as compiled song sheets with lyrics were on all the tables. Deacon Adrien was quick to comment and heap praise on the participants for their wonderful voices, and readiness to add to the day by singing, since singing was prayer set to music. One mellifluous memory for me was the time we spent singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Eucharistic Adoration. In his presentation Father Chabot stressed God's boundless mercy, in a beautiful tie in to the recently ended year of mercy. He also delved into ideas surrounding the theme of Jesus Christ, our loving, gentle shepherd. We listened intently, pondered on where we saw ourselves in the stories told, in the excerpts from the Bible, in the modern day parables, and within the arms of an all-loving God.

This special Lenten Day of Reflection provided great scope for contemplation, as we were invited to recognize our need to continually ask ourselves where and how we can mirror God's abundant love and mercy in our daily lives. How about you?

Four Scripture passages for the spiritual life

By Fr. Michael Smith

No two people have identical spiritual lives. Still, there are patterns that one can identify despite the variations among individual temperaments and backgrounds. The Paschal Mystery (the death and resurrection of Christ) is the overall pattern of our spiritual journey.

The Scriptural passages that I shall quote below can serve as a road map, or guideposts, that indicate to us the main features of the journey.

“...for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

– Colossians 3:3

As well as being a series of historical events in the life of Jesus, the Paschal Mystery (death and resurrection) is also a dynamic that we live out again and again in this life, well before going into the next life, although it comes to its completion in the next life. The itinerary of the spiritual life corresponds to death, resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Sooner or later, in the life of each of us, there is a kind of death that takes place. It can take the form of some great loss or suffering: the loss of a loved one, or of one's job or career, or of one's health. For many people, this “death” occurs in midlife, but it can happen sooner. It is not just that we have lost “something”; rather, it seems as though a part of us, even an earlier “self”, has died and cannot be brought back to life.

Who is the “I” that died? It is our old self, our public identity—our biographical sketch, if you like. This self is artificial, like a mask. We build up this surface identity so carefully during early adulthood, and then it falls like a house of cards.

At the very core or centre of our being, however, there is a deeper identity, a deeper “I”, that is “hidden with Christ in God.” It is not the same “I” who has died. It is we, ourselves as we really are, as we are known and loved by God, ourselves as children of God, ourselves with whom Christ has identified. This is the basis of the “resurrection” we then experience, even in this life.

“...and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”

– Galatians 2:20

The initial experience is a kind of death. Yet, even there, there is an inkling of what has not died. “Your life is hidden with Christ in God.” There is this deeper self that is known and loved by God, and it remains even after many things in life fall apart.

The next breakthrough is the realization, on the level of experience, that we are called not only to believe in Christ and to follow Christ, but also to be identified with Christ. Christ identifies with each one of us. There is a kind of identity of ourselves with the risen Christ, even though our personal identity does not disappear.

The Scriptures tell us this, but we often do not notice it. In the parable of the Last Judgment, the king says, “I was hungry and you gave me food...” (Matthew 25:35). Jesus identifies with the least of his brothers and sisters. A major discovery in life is to realize that we are among the least; we are poor; we are the little ones. Our human limitations and vulnerability bear witness to this. Jesus identifies with us.

Jesus also says, “I am the vine, you are the branches... apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). The life of Christ is our very life.

“It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” The “I” that no longer lives is the surface “I” of our personal biography, our selfish self.

Christ lives in us on a deeper level. This indwelling is not something we invent. Rather, it is something we discover as already present.

Who is the Christ who lives in us? It is the Risen Christ, the eternal Christ, the Christ who existed in union with the Father before anything was created—this is the Christ, died and now risen, who fills the whole universe, and who makes his home in us if we only make him welcome.

St. Augustine speaks of “the whole Christ”. He means Jesus of Nazareth, yes, but with him, all God's people. The whole Christ includes YOU. At the same time, you continue to be you.

With this awareness, we come to experience prayer as Christ praying to the Father in us. We become one with that act of prayer. It is a theological truth, but also an experience.

With this experience of identity comes realization that the real life we have is indestructible. This Christ-life always was and always will be. It is eternal life. It is our life. It begins in this life, but our death does not change it. “For the Christian, life is changed, not ended.” Eternal life begins here on earth. We live in the life of God even amidst the trials of this life. Our life, our real self in God, is indestructible.

“God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

– Romans 5:5

Even before any charisms or gifts, there is a deeper presence of the Holy Spirit in us. “God's love has been poured into our hearts...” We discover, over time, a capacity to love that we hadn't known was there, and that certainly doesn't come from us. We learn, through painful experience, to forgive people who have hurt us. We even learn to love our enemies. We wonder how it is possible to love our enemies until we surprise ourselves by actually doing it.

Forgiveness, love of enemies: these are two examples of how the indwelling of the Trinity impacts upon the external world. It changes relationships. It heals self and others. It has the capacity to transform an entire environment.

“Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?”

– 2 Corinthians 13:5

The question is not so much whether Jesus Christ is in us as it is whether we are aware of it. In this life, we are all only marginally aware. We are all beginners.

Meeting diocesan priests from afar

Our diocese is blessed to have several members of the clergy who come from various locations from around the globe. The Ecclesia will be publishing a series of introductory articles on these priests for our readers to learn about.

In this edition, Reverend Father Moses Amarachukwu Nwosu has agreed to tell us a little bit about himself in his own words.

My name is Reverend Father Moses Amarachukwu Nwosu SMMM (Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy).

I am the second child and second son of eight. My place of birth is Benin City, the capital of the present-day Edo State in Nigeria, West Africa. After the civil war in Nigeria, my parents relocated to a different city called Umuahia, which is the capital city of Abia State, Nigeria.

I received my first Holy Communion and Confirmation at the age of 12 in 1978 and joined the altar boys' association that same year. As an altar boy, I held four key functions (labour master, chief sacristan, vice president and president general) respectively for the 12 years I served as a member.

Besides altar boys associations, I was an active member of Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement of Nigeria. I participated actively with this movement till I left Nigeria in 2003.

At the age of 22, it became very clear to me that I had vocation to the priesthood. I took my first simple vow on September 19, 1992, at St. Finbarr's Parish Umuahia, Abia State. I had my Solemn Vow on December 14, 2000, ordained a deacon on December 16, 2000, and priestly ordination on July 14, 2001, at Mater Dei Cathedral Umuahia by His Excellency Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji, the Bishop of Umuahia Diocese, Abia State, Nigeria.

As a missionary, I go to wherever the church needs me for service. That is exactly what brought me to Canada since January 2005. My religious congregation—Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy—have a contract with the Diocese of Thunder Bay. I was among the second group that went there for missionary work and served seven years and seven months!

What I find most challenging (about living in Canada) is winter driving in snow storms and freezing rain during the weekends, and the difficulty in speaking the North American accent.

The three parishes (St. Matthew Parish in Madawaska, St. Ignatius Parish in Maynooth, and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Whitney) I am serving have their uniqueness and I do enjoy them.

Generally, what I enjoyed most is their faith and dedication to the church, and the annual parish supper respectively organized by each parish.

Edge youth program flourishing at St. John Chrysostom in Arnprior

By Carmelle Pilon

Members of St. John Chrysostom parish in Arnprior are striving to bring the youth of our diocese together in an effort to not only build their self-esteem, but also to provide a bridge that brings them closer to Jesus Christ.

"It takes a team to do any ministry in a parish," said Carmelle Pilon, a coordinator of the Edge youth ministry program at St. John Chrysostom.

"Whenever I have approached Father John Burchat with an idea to start something, I have always said that it would only happen if we can get a team together."

Edge is a youth ministry program for middle school aged children based on Lifeteen, a Eucharistic-based program by the Roman Catholic Church directed towards bringing youth and their families closer to Jesus Christ.

"It is set up over a three-year cycle," said Pilon.

"Each year contains three large units: The Creed, Liturgy and Morality. There are also music CDs and online resources that come with the program. It is aimed at grades 6-8, although we run it for grades 5-8. The reason for this is that we run a K4J (Kids for Jesus) program for JK-grade 4. We couldn't leave the grade 5s out and so included them in the Edge group. This has worked out very well."

As Pilon explained, the Edge program is critical to ensuring that Catholic youth have access to programs that help empower their faith.

"I think many people have wanted something for our youth for quite some time," said Pilon.

"We did have a girls' Challenge Club for a number of years—lay consecrated women of Regnum Christi used to come to the area and run this program. They were awesome, but things changed and they were unable to continue."

"When I asked my own two girls what made the difference in their faith journeys over the years (one is now a lay consecrated with Regnum Christi and the other has a theology degree and is spending time at Madonna House right now) they both said it was the girls' club, the retreats they went on and the camps they attended that were organized through the club, throughout middle school and high school. This was a real motivator for me to do something for our youth."

But Pilon is not alone in overseeing the program, relying on a dedicated team of volunteers who make the ministry work.

"Tracey Jeror and myself are the two coordinators," said Pilon.

"We plan the meetings and make sure everything flows through the evening. Sometimes we do a little intro to the theme or introduce an icebreaker or run a short activity. Father John gives the short talks. This has been a blessing, since he can wing just about everything. The odd time when my daughter Caroline was home, he would ask her to do it, which worked out very well and provided a change."

"Chris Coady runs the sports or other games when he is able to come. Otherwise Father John or our high school volunteers do. We have three high school volunteers who help with the games, including the icebreaker at the beginning of the evening."

"Last but not least, Teresa Coady (Chris' spouse) coordinates all the meals with the CWL. Since we hold our meetings after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on the second and fourth Saturdays, we need to feed our youth! The meal is a social time that the kids love and the food is always great! Teresa gets CWL members to sign up and they bring it in and serve it. The parish covers the expenses. Many CWL members, and sometimes along with their husbands, help out. So, you can see how it is a team effort."

Pilon went on to detail how the average ministry event unfolds.

"We always start with an icebreaker. This is most often a simple game that the high school youth leaders come up with," said Pilon.

"We then have dinner. This may not seem like an activity, but it is actually a crucial part of our meeting. The youth love it and the socializing that occurs at this time is very important. A youth group needs to be above all a gathering place, a safe space, somewhere where kids feel welcome no matter who they are. It also provides the



Youth from grade 5 to 8 participate in the Edge youth ministry program at St. John Chrysostom parish in Arnprior.

opportunity for young people to meet other young people who share the same faith. So, dinner is a very important part of our meeting."

"Following dinner we go up to the chapel where the theme of the evening is introduced and the talk takes place. We may watch a video, share in small groups, have a short prayer experience, present funny commercial skits and even plant seeds as a hands-on experience of God's creation. The activities here are varied, but what is important is to meet the youth where they are at. We have not yet had any intense sharing in groups since all of this is very new to them. Some come to church with their families, many don't. Most have very little background in the faith, if any."

"The last part of our meeting is the sports and/or games. This is perhaps the most popular part and very important as well. We usually go over to the parish hall where they play ball hockey, soccer or other games. Father John also joins the game, which is actually really good for them—a priest playing ball hockey! They love it! If we don't have the use of the hall, it is usually a game of hide and seek in the dark in the church basement, which is very popular."

"The dinner and sports activities are not in the Edge program, but they have always been part of our youth evenings over the last few years. I believe they are crucial to the success of the evening. Also, we are hoping to do some sort of apostolic project before the end of the year. Again, it is not in the program, but it was in last year's program and we believe it is also an important element that grabs the youth, so to speak. Making a real difference in the world and in other people's lives is something most young people aspire to do. This is where many discover their identity as children of God, start to realize they are part of a bigger family and even begin to discern what God is calling them to."

Ultimately, the success of the program relies not only in providing a fun and welcoming atmosphere, but in showing youth the invaluable role each and every one of them plays in our greater Christian family.

"One parent told me that her daughter, though not particularly athletic, enjoys the sports part of our meetings because, unlike school, the kids just all have fun," said Pilon.

"There is no competition—it doesn't matter whether you are a strong player or not. This to me says a lot. It is the spirit that exists amongst the youth that makes the whole difference. When they come together they are so happy to see each other. It is impossible to not notice the energy in the room."

"They are learning about their faith, yes, but what I believe is even more important is that they are experiencing what it is to be part of a Christian community, a community where each one is accepted as she or he is, where each one is valued, where the love Christ has for each one of us is evident. If we want them to eventually come to know Christ personally—and isn't that the ultimate goal of any youth group—they must first see it and experience it in those around them."

The program is open to all youth in our diocese. For more information, please contact Carmelle Pilon at carmellepilon@hotmail.com

Chosen

By Orianne Dyck

This year at Our Lady of Lourdes, the “Chosen” teen faith formation program was offered for teens in grades 8-10. Chosen is an engaging program that offers teenagers both catechises and community. Starting right from the story of Creation, a team of the most dynamic and relatable Catholic speakers in today’s North American youth ministry walk teens through Salvation History, Prayer, Discipleship and the Sacraments on video, challenging them to discover the keys to a truly happy life. The videos are presented along with dynamic games, readings, take-home challenges, small-group discussions, and everybody’s favourite—snacks! Our groups at Chosen have really built themselves into a community where the boys and girls can discuss issues relevant to them openly and safely, grow with and be supported in their faith journey by their peers and leaders, and enjoy themselves in the process.

The session this year ran from February through May on Sunday evenings. If you know a teenager who is seeking happiness and fulfilment, would like a safe and welcoming environment in which to discuss big questions and learn pivotal truths, or who would like to have some fun and meet new friends on a Sunday evening, we would encourage you to invite them to Chosen. We are so blessed to have a dynamic program that lets our teens know that they matter—that they’re known, chosen, and beloved by God.



STEUBENVILLE TORONTO

Summer Youth Conference, July 28–30
Theme: ELEVATE

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 2017 or who will be graduating this summer. \$275/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 June 20 or until all spaces are taken up.

**The Office of Faith Formation and the
Family Life Youth Ministry Office invite
you to a special Eucharistic Celebration**

THE FEAST OF SAINT COLUMBKILLE

**Location: St. Columbkille Cathedral
188 Renfrew Street, Pembroke**

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Date: Friday, June 9, 2017

**All are welcome to this special gathering as we
join in prayer and thanksgiving to God for the
Patron Saint of our Diocese.**

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

Saying no to euthanasia

Recently Father Ryan Holly and Deacon Adrien Chaput visited the Zones of the Diocese of Pembroke to share an important message on “Saying no to euthanasia” and “Saying yes to the Sanctity of Life.” Below is the response of one who attended the Barry’s Bay session.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Presentation

By Maxine Dombroskie

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, I had the opportunity to attend a presentation on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide by Fr. Ryan Holly and Deacon Adrien Chaput. The presentation was being held in the hall of St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish in Barry’s Bay, with a good number of people in attendance (a 45+ year old crowd). However, I personally felt this was a presentation that needs to be heard in every parish, by all men’s and women’s groups (CWL, Knights of Columbus, etc.) and in the schools in our diocese and beyond. Especially our high schools, colleges and universities, as this generation will be making the decisions for our care in the future.

I was impressed with the information that was presented that evening in a fashion that could be easily understood by all in attendance no matter what the education level was. We were able to watch a clip from a documentary about Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide in Denmark and its effects and after-effects on those remaining. As this was moving, it was also very disturbing! Canada has already had over 740 deaths since the passing of this Bill in Parliament in June 2016. Denmark, in its first year, had 11 deaths. That is very disturbing, because at this rate where are we going, and now that Pandora’s box has been opened, how will it ever be shut again?

This is one of those issues trickling in the back door again, making us feel like we are in full control of our lives, but really we are not. We are being fed this information that it is our right to die when we choose in order to eliminate our needless suffering. Our suffering has its purpose! Whether it’s to bring a family closer together, sharing our pain to help someone else cope with theirs or prayer for those in need. It makes you wonder who will be safe in the future. What are the implications of those who feel they should get their inheritance now and not have to wait? If your spouse dies and you are depressed and alone? What about when you get tired of your children? So many implications that are dreadful! What about the clergy, doctors and other health care professionals! So many changes that can affect their lives and professions and they don’t get to have a voice!



Father Ryan Holly and Deacon Adrien Chaput presented “Say No to Euthanasia” on February 8 in Barrys Bay.

This is information that should be presented and discussed repeatedly. Not just in 2017, but over and over until it is heard and taken seriously. Medical science has worked so hard to help those who can’t conceive, to help us manage and cure our illnesses and diseases, and to control our pain. Now all those advances are being thrown out the window! I encourage everyone to listen to this presentation when the opportunity arrives—it sure makes you aware of things you never imagined!

I thank Fr. Holly and Deacon Chaput for taking time from their busy schedules to share this important message.

Parish profile

Paroisse St-François-d’Assise, Lac-des-Loups

Parishioners of Paroisse St-François-d’Assise (St. Francis of Assisi) in Lac-des-Loups continue to devote themselves to their faith. The parish is administered by Father Olivier Engouté and André Brossard, parish services coordinator.

In the 1840s the first settlers of Irish descent made their way to the region (formerly known as Wolf Lake) in the hope of finding fertile land to farm. More families of French descent also settled in this area in the 1860s.

Priests from the parish of St. Cecile de Masham were the first to establish missions. They first held mass at a school house erected on September 1, 1888. It continued this way for next five years until a chapel was constructed and named Mission St-François d’Assise (St. Francis of Assisi).

In October 1894 Father Isidore Garon of the Diocese of Ottawa was appointed as the first pastor of both St. Sophie (10 miles north in East-Aldfield) and Mission St-François-d’Assise. His stay was brief, but it was during his time that the parish was erected, in 1895, with St. Sophie as the main church and St. François as a subsidiary mission. Father Garon was replaced by Father Basil Ducharme in 1896. By this time, there were some 58 families in the area.

Father Ducharme initiated the construction of a rectory at the church, though he did not stay long enough to see its completion. Father Joseph Henri Forbes served next from 1901–1904, followed by Father J. Octave Faucher from 1904–1907. He left due to ill health, and was replaced by Father J.T. Côté who remained until 1910. He was then replaced by Father Pierre Joseph Pontbriand that same year.

It was during Father Pontbriand’s tenure at the parish that it was discovered the church was leaning to one side. Upon further inspection, it was determined that to correct this would come at great expense to the parish. It was decided that the construction of a new church would be the best course of action. A cinder block wall was erected on July 21, 1939, situated on land just opposite of the old church. This new structure also included a sacristy and a basement. Key to the success of this new structure was the voluntary labour contributed by Father Pontbriand and parishioners, especially Zéphirin Mayer.

On August 27, 1939, Bishop Charles Leo Nelligan officially blessed the cornerstone of the church. For Father Pontbriand, it was his crowning achievement in 30 years of service to the parish. He retired in 1946.

Later on, a priest’s house was also constructed. The old church was eventually demolished and a convent for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Ottawa was built in its place. Both churches in Lac-des-Loups and East-Aldfield had their sanctuaries remodeled in accordance with the requirements of the Second Vatican Council.

St-François-d’Assise was a twin parish with St. Sophie, the main Church, until 1948, when Father DeBont left the rectory in East-Aldfield to live in the new rectory built in Lac-des-Loups. St-François d’Assise then became the head church. St. Sophie was closed and demolished in 2009.

Last year saw the renovation of the church roof. Helping with the cost were the annual donations made to the church by dedicated parishioners.

Though they are not alone in facing the challenges that many rural parishes must contend with, those who still attend and embrace their faith are an inspiration for all in the diocese.

With thanks to Father Joseph Legree, author of *Lift Up Your Hearts*.

A concern for the people of Peru

By Sister Pauline Coulterman

On February 1, I travelled to Peru with seven women from the diocese: Janet Argo and June Brayshaw from Mattawa, Madeleine Godin, Pembroke, Marie Piche, Corbeil, Diane Veilleux, Killaloe, May Sequin, Callander, Ontario, and Lorna Roel who returned to Peru for her fifth mission experience. I returned from Peru in mid-March. Just before I left Chinchá, the Southern coast of Peru started to experience mudslides from the heavy rains in the mountains. Now, the whole coast of Peru, including Lima, has had its share of mudslides.

Weeks of rain in the mountains of Peru have caused rivers across the country to rise and people to flee from their land. Several cities have declared states of emergency.

Seventy-two people have been killed and thousands more forced to evacuate by intense rains and mudslides which damaged 115,000 homes and destroyed more than 100 bridges in Peru's worst floods in recent memory.

"We are confronting a serious climatic problem," said Peru's president, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, in a broadcast to the nation "There hasn't been an incident of this strength along the coast of Peru since 1998." (The Guardian, Peru, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/peru>)

The disaster—which came after a period of severe drought—has been blamed on abnormally high temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, and fuelled criticism that the country is ill-prepared for the growing challenges of climate change.

Over the past three days, the downpour has burst river banks, created mudslides, collapsed bridges, closed roads and forced school suspensions in swaths of the west and north of the country.

"The water came up to our knees, the only thing we could do was run for our lives and to try and keep calm," said Moran, a local, in the battered home she shared with five siblings.

Even the capital city, Lima, where a desert climate means that rain is rare, was lashed by a downpour



which flooded outlying neighbourhoods. Lima has been without drinking water service for almost a week.

The government has deployed the armed forces to help police control public order in the 811 cities that have declared an emergency. Authorities say that troops have been deployed to the worst affected areas and helicopters are at work rescuing those trapped by the waters.

The Peruvian government said more than 60,000 people have been displaced and several cities have declared states of emergency.

Those that survived have lost what belongings they own: "Everything, everything is unusable, the furniture. There's no bed, nothing inside. Everything is filled with water. There's no place for the water to go," declared one victim.

The rains have overwhelmed the drainage system in the cities along Peru's Pacific coast and the health ministry has started fumigating around the pools of water that have formed in the streets to kill mosquitoes that carry diseases like dengue.

"The prices for foods have gone up, as well as for water and other basic necessities," said Sara Arevalo, a mother of five who was shopping at a market in northern Lima.

The greatest need of the people is drinking water, food, sleeping mats and in a number of cases basic medicine to treat wounds.



Sisters Maria and Gloria go each day to the plazas' where the people are living in tents and where they have set up soup kitchens, to bring what they can and to see what the basic needs are and do what they can to search out means to attend to the need.

As many of you may know, we are no longer organizing regular pilgrimages to Peru, but I am open to organizing a trip for anyone wishing to visit the country for the purpose of meeting Christ in the Peruvian People. You may wish to see how the diocesan funds have helped the people of Lima and area, or visit Chinchá Alta or tour Machu Picchu or some other interesting site in Peru.

I want to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to spend a week or two visiting the families in our Mission of Chinchá Alta, Peru. Come and be a part of that mission experience. Sisters María and Gloria are always happy to have friends from Canada come and visit them and be a part of their living situation for a short time.

I invite you to give thought to February 2018. Every year I travel to Peru on the first Monday of February and return in March with the last of the visitors. If you wish to support our mission in Chinchá Alta or help at this time those suffering from the floods, you can send your support to:

The Sisters of St. Joseph,
1127 Pembroke St. W., Pembroke, ON K8A 5R3
c/o Sr. Pauline Coulterman

Newest Chaplaincy Leader: Angela Watson

Beginning in September 2016 with the new school year, Angela Watson took over the role of Chaplaincy Leader at Bishop Smith Catholic High School (BSCHS). This follows an 11-year career teaching Religious Education at the high school, which she continues to do.

"I am excited to take the faith initiatives from teaching Religious Education and apply them to the whole school," she states, adding, "There is a nice harmony between the two."

For her, the role is about evangelization, being a witness to faith and living it out in front of the students and fellow staff members. As well, she notes there is a sharing component—spreading the gospel message to

the students through activities and learning.

It is a matter of "meeting the students where they are at in their faith journey—they are all in different places," she says.

Responsibilities of the chaplaincy role include facilitating school Masses, organizing workshops and retreats that are age/grade specific, and generally guiding the faith formation journey of students.

Being new to the job, and excited to see faith unfold in the school, Watson is grateful for the support she has received.

"My job in the school is supported and uplifted through the support of the diocese. It is wonderful to have a priest presence in our school."



Special celebration at Our Lady of Fatima

This May will see members of Our Lady of Fatima parish in Renfrew celebrate the 100th anniversary of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fátima, Portugal.

“Our parish is under the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima whose feast is celebrated on May 13,” said Father Ryan Holly of Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

“This feast has a unique importance to the universal Church this year because 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the Blessed Mother to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. The supernatural events of 1917 have had an important place in the devotional life of many Catholics over the last 100 years and the Shrine in Fatima, Portugal has become a place of fervent pilgrimage.”

It was on that day 100 years ago that the Virgin Mary first appeared to Lúcia Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto. She would appear again to the children next month on June 13, the feast of St. Anthony, who was also the patron of the local parish.

As word spread of the appearances of the Virgin Mary, thousands began to gather at Fátima. This resulted in the children being intercepted and taken into custody by provincial authorities prior to August 13, when the Virgin Mary was supposed to appear to them again. They were eventually released, with the Virgin Mary appearing to them on the 19 of that month.

She would appear three more times, the last being on October 13 of that year. It was on that day that The Miracle of the Sun occurred, witnessed by tens of thousands in attendance.

To this day, thousands of the faithful make the pilgrimage to Fátima to pray to the Virgin Mary.

During the May 13 weekend, a special 3-day parish mission, known as the Triduum, will be held prior to the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.



Photo credit: © José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro / CC BY-SA 3.0

“A parish mission is akin to a retreat for a parish and all those who attend,” said Father Holly.

“We will welcome Father Brian J.T. Clarke, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, who will preach two reflections each day of the mission, on May 10, 11, and 12. Each day, there will be Mass with an extended homily at 9 a.m. and sung Vespers and homily at 7 p.m. It is meant to be a time of spiritual renewal, a deepening of devotion all focused around the celebration of the sacraments and the prayer of the Church.”

One of messages the Virgin Mary delivered to the children was to dedicate themselves to the Holy Trinity and to the praying of the Rosary. For modern-day Catholics, that call to prayer is imperative to bringing us closer to God.

“All devotion to the Blessed Mother leads us to deeper friendship with Jesus Christ,” said Father Holly.

“Mary and the Saints are our family who are already in heaven, and yet, when we pray with them, we join together in offering our worship to God. That is such a consoling part of our profession of faith: ‘I believe in the communion of saints!’ Those who are brought into deeper faith through their affection for Our Lady of Fatima are renewing what is essential for all Christians: to open our hearts wider to Christ’s call to conversion of life and the liberating power of the Gospel. This is made visible by the call to lead lives rooted in the sacramental life of the Church, prayer and charity.”

Join the 79th Annual Pilgrimage at the Shrine of St. Ann in Cormac

This year’s Triduum will be Thursday July 27–Saturday July 29.
The Pilgrimage will take place on July 30, 2017.

CHRISTIAN RIESBECK, CC (Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa) will be our guest speaker for the Triduum and the Mass for the Sick at 2 p.m. on Sunday. His theme will be “Evangelical Hearts”.

OLSW approved to offer a bachelor's degree

By Maria Reilander, Senior Development Officer,
Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom is pleased to announce that it has been approved to offer a bachelor's degree. Word was received from the Ontario Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development on January 28, 2017, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, a beloved school patron, that OLSW has been granted provisional degree-granting status. The consent to grant a Bachelor of Catholic Studies Degree lasts for an initial period of six years, subject to certain conditions, such as OLSW's commitment to the development of a four-year honours program; this had already been a goal of OLSW's long-range planning committee in the service of educating future generations of well-rounded, informed Catholics. Our Lady Seat of Wisdom anticipates receiving final consent in April 2017, and is preparing to award its first bachelor's degrees at the Commencement to be held on April 29.

This is tremendous news for our diocese and for Catholic higher education in Canada and beyond. There is now a local Catholic college in the beautiful Ottawa and Madawaska Valleys where people can

grow in knowledge and their faith, and also receive a bachelor's degree. In fact, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom is the only private Catholic liberal arts college in Canada that is known for its emphasis on the traditional liberal arts, its strong student life program, and its fidelity to the Church.

Set on the shores of Lake Kamaniskeg, Barry's Bay, OLSW is distinguished by its close-knit community and attention to the individual. The personal attention students receive, as well as the restorative beauty and peace of the area, provide an ideal environment for learning. OLSW grads have stood out positively among their peers at other institutions where they have gone on for further study.

Along with its Bachelor of Catholic Studies degree, OLSW will continue to offer one-, two-, and three-year certificate programs, which give students a rigorous formation in the skills of critical thinking and communication. The core disciplines are history, literature, theology and philosophy, but music, languages, mathematics and natural science form part of the program as well. The degree offers a strong foundation for further studies in a large number of

areas, whether in law, health care, education, media, Church ministry, or simply life-long learning.

With more than 400 alumni from OLSW's first 16 years of Catholic liberal arts teaching, OLSW boasts a remarkably high alumni satisfaction rate (97% according to 2015 Alumni survey). The OLSW Alumni Association stated the following: *"The Alumni Association sincerely congratulates Our Lady Seat of Wisdom on the achievement of degree-granting status. Every single name on our ever-growing Association membership list is a testament to the quality of education our alumni know they have received at OLSW. We are delighted for this monumental new step in our alma mater's history and we look forward to continuing our efforts to assist OLSW in renewing contemporary culture in Christ."*

OLSW would like to thank all those who have supported this mission throughout the years, especially our friends throughout the diocese who have played a vital role in bringing the school to where it is today. The faithful commitment of many individuals to authentic Catholic education has allowed OLSW to grow steadily from a fledgling community to a thriving institution with a recognized degree.

Renfrew County Right to Life donation



Martine Kirouac (centre) from the Renfrew County Right to Life, presented a cheque for \$300 to Marianhill Hospice Palliative Care Unit on March 31. Accepting the donation are Linda Tracey, CEO (right) and Tara Hoffman, Unit Manager (left). The funds are to be used for furnishings in the unit.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

DINNER BANQUET FOR MARRIED COUPLES

THURSDAY MAY 25, 2017

6:00 - 9:00pm

\$40 PER COUPLE

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
PARISH HALL

TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED BY MAY 18TH
CONTACT: YVETTEBOURQUE@PEMBROKEDIocese.COM
(613)732-7933 EX. 208

FEATURING: GUEST SPEAKER PATRICK SULLIVAN, CATHOLIC LAY
EVANGELIST, DINNER BY ULLRICHS, ADORATION,
HONOURING COUPLES CELEBRATING SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES



Sponsored by the Diocese of Pembroke

Assisting refugees in a time of crisis

Most members of our diocese are all too familiar with the haunting images of the suffering that Syrians have endured as a result of the civil war that has engulfed their country.

But in the midst of this tragedy, members of Our Lady of Fatima and St. Francis Xavier Parishes have chosen to use their faith in helping those fleeing the conflict.

"This has been a most rewarding experience," said Joan Lemay. She has been a member of St. Francis Xavier since 1990, and currently serves as the president of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Women's League (CWL).

"Faith, hope, and love have carried us through this experience."

Lemay also serves as chairperson of the Community Life Standing Committee of the Pembroke Diocesan CWL. Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship are areas of concern in the mandate of this committee.

"In the summer of 2015, I asked Father (Kerry) Brennan, St. Francis Xavier Parish Priest, if the diocese was mounting any initiative to help the plight of the Syrian refugees," said Lemay.

"A few weeks later, Father Brennan asked me if I would co-chair a joint committee of Our Lady of Fatima and St. Francis Xavier parishes to discuss what could be done to aid the Syrian refugees. I said yes, and the journey began. Our original committee consisted of three lay members from each parish, plus the two parish priests. Frank Belanger from Our Lady of Fatima parish is the other co-chair. The committee has added a few other members since then, people who have been willing to share their gifts."

Both parishes obtained further guidance for this endeavour from Holy Redeemer Parish in Kanata.

"Through connection with Holy Redeemer Parish, which had sponsored a few families, we were asked to sponsor a young couple in their early twenties, and their year-old child, and another young man, a cousin of this couple. For immigration purposes, this is considered two families. These young people are relatives of several refugee families sponsored by Kanata parishes."

But such an undertaking is not cheap. With that, both parishes initiated fundraising efforts to acquire the necessary monetary sum.

"Fundraising was done by direct appeal in both parishes," said Lemay.

"We published a letter outlining our intent and the amount of money we needed to raise (\$40,000). The letter was distributed in the parish bulletins in October 2015. By December 2015 we had received \$30,000 in donations, and we reached \$40,000 early in 2016. Donations came not only from our two parishes, but from surrounding parishes and individuals outside our parishes. We had generous donations of a three-bedroom townhouse, rent-free for six months, furniture and appliances to furnish the house, donations of kitchen items and linens, everything that was needed to set up the household. We published regular updates in our parish bulletins to keep everyone informed of our progress, and included prayers for the safe arrival of our four refugees in the Prayers of the Faithful at each weekend Mass."

The application for sponsorship was mailed on February 12, 2016, to the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT), and was forwarded to Citizenship and Immigration Canada March 31, 2016. Later that summer, the prayers of parishioners were answered.

"In mid-August, we were informed by ORAT that Baraa, the single man, would be arriving at the Ottawa airport on September 22, 2016," said Lemay.

"We had taken possession of the rental house on August 1, and it was fully set up to receive him. Baraa arrived on September 22, and on November 1, Ammar, Wiaam and Elian, (18 months old) arrived."

"Since then we have been assisting them to adjust to life in Canada, introducing them to activities in the community, filling out required documents, setting up health care and teaching English. Unfortunately, we do not have enough students to obtain a government-sponsored English as a Second Language (ESL) program, but we have been blessed with three very generous retired teachers who are doing a tremendous job of teaching English to these young adults. The two men have found employment, one is part-time and one is full-time. Our sponsorship is for one year, and our goal is that they will be totally independent at the end of the sponsorship year."

Throughout our diocese there has been positive response to the call to help Syrian refugees find safe haven in our communities by joining the efforts of other churches. In both Eganville and Deep River, for example, parishioners supported efforts led by the Anglican church.



Walking the Opeongo Line with wisdom from Catherine Doherty

By Fr. Scott Murray

“God evidently loves pilgrims. For to some, like Tobias, he sent angels as guides. To others, like Abraham, he just said, ‘Arise and go’” (Catherine Doherty, *Strannik*, Madonna House Publications, 2000, p. 7).

Catherine de Hueck Doherty, the foundress of Madonna House, was born and raised in Russia. Her Russian upbringing obviously had an important role in her spiritual formation, which, in turn, had and continues to have an important role in Madonna House spiritual formation. The intricacies of that topic can be explored in Catherine’s many books and lectures, as well as many writings by members of the Madonna House community. This little article, on the other hand, is just a reflection on her book *Strannik*, which is Russian for pilgrim, and how it has helped me to better understand the pilgrimages that I love.

The subtitle of *Strannik* is “The Call to the Pilgrimage of the Heart” and it expresses a deeper meaning of pilgrimage that Catherine seeks, in her roundabout way, to unpack for the reader. God has placed in the heart of each human being a desire for unity, and this desire can only be satisfied by God. We may try to quench our thirst, to borrow Our Lord’s analogy used with the woman at the well, at other founts, but only Christ is the living water that wells up to eternal life (Jn. 4:1-42).

We are all called to seek true union with God. That is the pilgrimage that we all must embark upon. Many have made the mistake, according to Catherine, of thinking that life is necessarily a pilgrimage and that we are journeying toward God whether we realize it or not. She asserts, however, “We can escape this pilgrimage. We can easily forget it. We can put a screen in our heart between it and all the rest of our life. We can go after many things; we can go on pilgrimages seeking gold and silver, fame, power, and so on. But those are not really pilgrimages; they are shams” (*Strannik*, 15). The pilgrimage to eternal life, union with the Trinity (*sobornost*), is only possible through Christ. He is the key.

However, before we become true pilgrims, walking toward *sobornost* and inviting others to join us, Catherine says that we must first enter *poustinia*. Poustinia is being set apart for God. Literally, it can be a cabin where one goes to fast and pray to be purified of the things that separate us from God. Figuratively, it is entering into one’s own heart and setting it apart for God. The former assists the latter, but it is not, Catherine says, essential to *poustinia* that we go to an isolated cabin. Then, she says, “when the *poustinia* has cleansed me totally, has opened me to God and to others, when I have committed myself to God—the Lord of History, the Triune God—then I can leave all things behind and move on the pilgrimage that God has called me to” (*Strannik*, 18-19).

True pilgrims are easily recognized because their journey reminds others of Christ—of His Passion and His Resurrection: “They are truly pilgrims because God called them to this and because they have contemplated *sobornost*, in *poustinia*. Now they are making this rhythm of *sobornost*, *poustinia*, and *strannika* (pilgrimage) their way of life” (*Strannik*, 19). Catherine’s *poustinia* and *strannika* don’t require us to seek God in far off places. God is pursuing us, and so He offers Himself to us, most importantly, in the Sacraments, in Scripture, in our neighbours, and in the



circumstances of daily life. The physical *poustinia* and *strannika* should, if they are made in the right spirit, lead to deeper union with God.

Last summer 50 pilgrims set out from Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Renfrew, to spend three days on a prayerful journey to St. Ann’s, Cormac for the annual pilgrimage. Thanks to the generosity of many people, St. Ann’s “Walk the Opeongo Line” Pilgrimage was a success. There were some bumps along the way and not everything went according to plan, but that’s all part of the pilgrim experience. Catherine writes, “The pilgrim is totally open; he is not afraid of persecution. He accepts persecution because he is a follower of a persecuted God. A pilgrim is a person of pain. If he is not ready to accept pain, he cannot be a pilgrim. Pain walks with him night and day. But strangely enough, joy does too” (*Strannik*, 48).

We began the journey seeking to deepen our relationship with God, and He took advantage of the time to teach us many lessons.

One important lesson was the value of hospitality. The parishioners of each parish, Knights of Columbus councils, CWLs, the parish priests and support staff, and locals whom we met along the road all showed great generosity. Their generosity is an image of God’s generosity. With that in mind, I extend an invitation to all people who live along the pilgrimage route. If you are willing to offer a rest stop to pilgrims, please contact me by email at s.josephmurray@gmail.com or call 735-6392. For more information on St. Ann’s “Walk the Opeongo Line” Pilgrimage, July 27–30, 2017, go to walktheopeongoline.com

Photo credit: Dennis Corrigan



Pembroke Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

By Sheila Bielawski

Inspired by The Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call is the new National theme for The Catholic Women's League of Canada. It closely reflects our mission statement, "rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God". It also reflects that we are a national Catholic organization for women based on faith and service.

The focus for the League continues to be palliative and hospice care. On Thursday May 4, members across the country again participated in the '12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care'—a day for prayer in support of quality palliative care for all and the sanctity of human life.

In addition to prayer, the League is using a Quilt Project initiated by National Council, as a tangible offering to palliative care. Lap quilts and blankets are being made in many of the councils across the country.

These will be gifted to individuals who may or may not be in palliative care, but who need to be shown they are cared for and loved. Some of the quilts will be gifted on May 4 as part of the 12 Hours of Prayer. Every council has been challenged to make a lap quilt and gift it to someone in need.

Continuing with the new theme, Pembroke Diocese will hold its 96th Annual Convention in Arnprior on May 27, 2017, at St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall and Church. Hosted by the CWL councils of St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, McNab/Braeside, the convention will welcome National President Margaret Ann Jacobs who will bring greetings from National and lead a workshop on the new theme entitled *Inspired by The Spirit*. Provincial Representative Linda Squarzzollo, who holds the position of Resolutions Chairperson for the Ontario Provincial Council will also be in attendance and participate in the day.

The annual convention is a time for members across the diocese to celebrate and acknowledge their service over the past year, to pray, renew friendships, make new friends, be inspired for further service, and have fun. The business session will take place at St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall. Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. in St. John Chrysostom Church, followed by a banquet at the parish hall. Registration is required for the business session and the banquet.

The Pembroke Diocesan Council invites all women to consider becoming a member of The Catholic Women's League. It is means to grow in faith and pursue activities that bring Catholic values to the world. It provides an opportunity to offer service to our parishes and communities together with a supportive network of sister League members.

Symbolon—The Catholic Faith Explained

In recognition of the need for adult faith formation among Catholics, parishes in our diocese have been offering a number of dynamic programs in recent years. One of those programs has been Symbolon, which has been presented at St. Columbkille's Cathedral by Deacon Adrien Chaput. Beginning last year with a 10-part series called Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, it is continuing this year with 10 more sessions entitled Symbolon: Living the Faith. The program is informative and insightful, suitable for all, whether they are just starting their faith journey, well steeped in their faith, or anywhere in between.

The format of the program is primarily a video presentation. A wide range of topics are discussed including such things as "Who Is Jesus?" and the timely "Why Do I Need the Church?" The essentials of the Catholic faith are explained in a very logical manner by knowledgeable and distinguished teachers and supported by moving personal testimonies. Common misunderstandings are addressed and our faith is brought to life in a very appealing way.

After a short break, we review the evening's teaching by considering a few questions in a small group setting. This is a nice way to get to know other members of our church community and learn from one another. We believe it's safe to say most of us have had our eyes opened to some of the deeper aspects of our faith.

Years ago, at a sacramental preparation meeting, we were challenged by a wise priest who simply said, "You can't give something you do not have." We cannot hope to pass on a strong, vibrant faith in God to our children, or anyone else for that matter, if we do not have it ourselves. God set up the Church to help lead us to Him, but we must understand what our Church teaches and why before we can embrace, defend and live it. For this reason, we strongly encourage others to take advantage of any opportunity, such as attending a program like Symbolon, to grow in the knowledge and understanding of our beautiful Catholic faith.

—Fred and Dianne Sinclair

I have enjoyed the journey of Symbolon through the seasons of Advent and Lent 2015 to 2017 and recommend this program for personal and faith community development. Individuals or Parishes wanting to avail themselves of this program may contact me, Deacon Adrien Chaput, at the Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Pembroke at 613-732-7933 ext. 206 or dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com

The Office of Faith Formation and the Family Life Youth Ministry Office 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, June 18, 2017
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@pembrokedioocese.com at the Diocese of Pembroke.

Parish Suppers 2017

Sunday, May 28

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Braeside, ON

Barbecued chicken; Take-out available

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Adults \$15.00; Children under 12 \$5.00; under 6 free

Sunday, June 11

St. Francis Xavier, Renfrew, ON

Hot Roast Beef Dinner

Fresh Home Baking

Take-Out & Delivery available

Adults: \$15.00; Children 12 & under: \$5.00;

Children under 5: free

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 9

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.

Saturday, July 22

Holy Canadian Martyr, Combermere, ON

Pancake breakfast, CWL bake sale

Combermere Community Centre

8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

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

Sunday, July 30

St. Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Bonfield Church Picnic

Sea Pie; Home-Baked Beans, Full

Course Meal, Assorted Home Pies

Games: 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m., Meal: 3:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Adults \$14, Children \$6, Take-out: \$8 for Sea Pie and \$4 for beans

Dimanche le 30 juillet

Sainte-Bernadette, Bonfield, ON

Pique-nique paroissial de Bonfield

SeaPie; Fèves au lard; repas complet;

tartes assorties faites à la maison,

Repas – 15h30 – 17h00

Adultes \$14, Enfants \$6, des repas pour apporter sont disponibles: \$8 pour SeaPie et \$4 pour les fèves au lard

Sunday, August 6

St. Martin of Tours, Whitney, ON

Annual Turkey, Ham & Baked Bean

Supper. Country-style home cooking

Take-out meals available. Games for

all the family. Raffle tickets. Canteen,

Religious articles at 1:00 p.m.

St. Martin's Parish Hall, 1:00 p.m.

Adults: \$13.00; Children 5–12: \$5.00;

Five and under: Free

Sunday, August 13

St-Thomas Aquin, Astorville, ON

Annual parish picnic from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Serving our famous Canadian supper of seapie,

homemade beans, coleslaw,

homemade raspberry, blueberry, and lemon pies.

Games, music, and ticket draw

At East Ferris Community Centre, Astorville, ON

Supper starts at 3:30 p.m., take-out begins at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 13

St. Andrew, Killaloe, ON

Supper & Bazaar

Turkey, ham, stuffed pork, baked beans,

Salads, rolls, pies and desserts

Entertainment, bingo, garage sale, raffles

Adults: \$13.00; Children 4-12: \$5.00;

Children under 4 free

1:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 20

Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath, ON

Turkey Lunch & Supper

Bake/Sale Tables, Bingo, Draw Tickets,

(Lynn Dupuis 587-4897)

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 27

Our Lady of the Angels, Brudenell, ON

Turkey, Ham & Baked Beans

Live entertainment, bingo, country market

Adults: \$13.00; Children 10 & under: \$6.00;

Children under 4: free

Served from 1:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Visitors' Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 3

St. Mary, Wilno, ON

Chicken Supper

Home-Cooked Meal

Plates served from 1 p.m.

Take-out available

Elevator/Wheelchair accessible

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

Mass at noon. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, September 3

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 10

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 10

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

Turkey and Ham Supper

Adults: \$12.50; Children \$5.00

3 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 10

Our Lady of Mercy, Bancroft, ON

Ham & Roast Beef,

Homemade salads, baked beans and pies

Raffle Tickets, Silent Auction, CWL gift shop

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 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 17

St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, ON

Roast Beef, Ham & Bean

Dinner with assorted salads,

homemade pies and bazaar

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

11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

Sunday, September 24

St. Patrick, Mount St. Patrick, ON

Turkey, Ham and Beans

Bingo, games, crafts and white

elephant. Musical entertainment

Adults: \$14.00; Children \$6.00

12:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday Mass at 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 1

St-Alphonsus, Chapeau, QC

Turkey, beans and all the trimmings

Chapeau Arena: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Adults: \$15, Children under 12: \$7.00

Sunday, October 8

St. Casimir, Round Lake Centre, ON

Roast Beef & Bean Supper

Take-out available. Wheelchair accessible.

Crafts, Bingo, Draws, Great Food.

Supper at 1:00 p.m.

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

Under 5: Free

Mass at 11:30 a.m. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, October 15

St. John Chrysostom, Arnprior, ON

Annual Harvest Festival Dinner

Adults: \$14; Children: \$6; under 6 free

Following 11:30 Mass until 6:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

Sunday, October 15

St. Joseph, Allumette Island, QC

Roast beef supper

St. Joseph Family Centre

One sitting at 5 p.m.

Advance tickets only

Sunday, November 5

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