



Ecclesia

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

The Diocese of Pembroke celebrates a rare, quadruple ordination day

This past June 24th will be remembered by many of our diocesan community as one of the most momentous celebrations of our faith.

Despite the humid temperatures that morning, it was standing room only at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke for those who travelled from both within and beyond the diocese to witness the ordination of four deacons to the priesthood: Father Justin Bertrand, Father Anthony Burchat, Father Stephen Helferty and Father Michael Lund.

It was just the summer of 2016 that also saw the ordination of Father Peter Do. Combined, it has brought much joy to the hearts of the faithful in seeing so many answering God's call to serve in the ranks of the priesthood.

Words from the Bishop

"It is one of those moments that just inspires awe in our hearts," shared Bishop Michael Mulhall in his attempt to explain the joy one feels upon being ordained into the clergy.

"There are a lot of common things for everyone," said Bishop Mulhall.

"One is the realization of what has taken place. The belief that something is really transforming in your life, that you have been given something now to serve, and a great sense of being welcomed into a group of priests. In many ways, it is a confirmation that something has taken place that fulfills everything one has wanted to do since we were young. Now, they've reached a completion—I'm in the state, now I have to live it and perfect it. There is a great sense of thankfulness to the Lord."

It was not lost to Bishop Mulhall the significance of so many deacons being ordained. He was adamant in his belief that the vibrant faith of so many in our diocese is the wellspring of so many young people now looking to pursue religious vocations.

"The families here (Diocese of Pembroke) are what makes the difference," said Bishop Mulhall.

"The roots of the faith are strong here, and continue to be strong. There is a real dedication to the faith. That is seen in the marriages and the vocations."

He also made note of the benefit of having Our Lady Seat of Wisdom present in the diocese, where students may discover the Lord calling them to serve in a religious vocation. Located in Barry's Bay, the college offers a post-secondary liberal arts program in the Catholic tradition.



"When they go there, they see the same faith in people of the same age," said Bishop Mulhall.

"This becomes a daily experience where they are studying and starting to use their brain, to use that intellect in the questions of the faith. That's where the magic is taking place. That's the magic of post-secondary Catholic education. They've done an exemplary job. This is one of the reasons these people leaving there go out with a real commitment to the faith."

As all four priests go forward in their new roles, Bishop Mulhall offered his own words of advice.



"Go slowly in the sense of continue the good things that you've done already," said Bishop Mulhall.

"Pick up piece by piece the experiences the Lord will give you in these formative years, and allow those early experiences and the priests they meet to be precious relationships. They hold those for the rest of their lives, which helps form their priesthood; a sense of patience and zeal to just experience. If they continue that while remaining faithful to the Lord, they'll be deeply blessed with a very happy priesthood."

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Thoughts from the newly ordained priests

Father Justin Bertrand: Words cannot describe the joy I have in knowing, that from this moment on, I get to do what truly makes me happy for the rest of my life! I am excited as I begin priestly ministry, and I look forward to every moment I am blessed to spend loving God and His Church. I feel thankful for all those who have supported me on this journey to priesthood because I did not make it to priesthood alone; it took a lot of support, prayer, friendship, and God's grace. In short, I am happy to be where I am, and I look forward to see how the adventure of life unfolds!

Father Stephen Helferty: What a great gift it is to be able to share in Christ's Priesthood! The four of us have done a lot of work and made a lot of preparations for this moment, but the sine qua non is the action of the Father, who has called us, and the action of the Holy Spirit who has given us the gift of sharing in the Son's mission. My ordination probably marks the most important moment of my life, and I am excited to begin serving the people of God.



Father Anthony Burchat: It was a great day from start to finish. From the weather to the ceremony, everything went very well.

Father Michael Lund: The ordination was a moment of great joy and peace, and those feelings have stayed with me in these weeks since then. I'm keenly aware of the gifts and graces that God has bestowed on me all throughout my life, particularly in the seminary. And I'm thankful for the generous prayers of the people of God in this diocese which have strengthened and will continue to strengthen me as I begin my ministry as a priest.



Message from the Bishop

My dear faithful,

In the autumn of 2005, the diocese held a Faith Formation Symposium. Much time and effort was given to discuss evangelization and the teaching of the faith in its various forms. The reflection, dialogue and research that followed this Symposium led to the presentation of a Diocesan Policy on the Sacramental Initiation of Children, which was published for the diocese at Pentecost of 2009. This policy was the fruit of extensive consultation and since that date, great strides have been taken to implement the central themes of this policy. The cooperation and generous service of our priests, parish catechists and parents has been an edifying experience for me.

For many years, the parishes of the diocese situated in Quebec have undertaken a full program of catechetical training and formation. The absence of catholic schools created a vacuum for which the Church developed new approaches to the Catholic formation of young people. This experience has served as a wonderful template and example for the parishes in Ontario that have adopted the diocesan policy at a later date. The unique nature of our diocese has allowed these very different experiences to assist each other as our diocese grows towards a more effective and life-giving catechetical program.

I would invite all parents and parishioners to read once again the Diocesan Policy on the Sacramental Initiation of Children. This will serve both those who will be newly acquainted with the policy because of the growth and development of their children and also for those who wish to become reacquainted with the rich experience of making Christ known to all those on the journey of life.

As we begin a new year in our parishes, I have asked Deacon Adrien Chaput, the Diocesan Director of the Office of Faith Formation, to make plans to visit each parish in the diocese in order to become even more acquainted with the programs used in other locations. He will also offer the assistance of the diocese in this essential ministry of sacramental formation. I hope to be able to make some of the visits with him as my schedule permits.

It has been a pleasure for me over these years to work with the priests and to come together to an even greater appreciation for the work of evangelization and catechesis. Our Catholic schools, where they exist, play a precious role in providing a Catholic environment and offering the new elementary religious instruction, which is being developed by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. It is an exciting moment in the life of our parishes to have these resources available for us in our ministry.

The most important resource granted by the Lord to this diocese is the people who have accepted the invitation to become involved in the ministry of catechesis. For many priests, parents and catechists this has been a life-changing experience. The richness of this experience is the person about whom we speak. Jesus Christ is the true focus of our prayer, our teaching, our catechesis and our Catholic witness. When we speak and testify to Jesus in our lives, we ourselves are being drawn into an even deeper relationship with Christ.

For this reason, I have repeatedly stressed the need for our parishes to catechize. A parish that does not catechize is like the racehorse that is not allowed to run. A healthy parish is a parish that speaks of Christ to others. This is a ministry that cannot be delegated, but must be lived at the heart of a parish community so that it becomes a source of growing holiness for all the faithful of the diocese.

I wish to express my deep thanks to those who have dedicated themselves to this essential ministry and I trust that this year will allow for us to meet on a parish level to continue the growth of our program.

In Christ,
+Michael Mulhall
Bishop of Pembroke

Diocesan appointments

Fr. Justin Bertrand has been appointed Parochial Vicar at *Paroisse St-Pierre*, Fort-Coulonge, St. Elizabeth Parish, Vinton and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission, Waltham.

Fr. Anthony Burchat has been appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Renfrew, and Most Precious Blood Parish, Calabogie.

Fr. Stephen Helferty has been appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Pembroke, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, LaPasse, and Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Westmeath.

Fr. Michael Lund will return to Rome for one year to complete his theological studies.



Ecclesia is published by the Diocese of Pembroke and is distributed free throughout the diocese.

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Produced by Pappin Communications: www.pappin.com

Articles, letters and photos are welcome. All items will be considered.

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In Memoriam: Father Michael Costello

Genuine person, dedicated priest, great friend.

This is how the late Father Michael Raymond Costello will be remembered by those who knew him best. On June 23, 2017, Father Costello passed away at the age of 81.

It was only recently that Father Costello marked his official retirement from the priesthood on November 1, 2016. The Arnprior native had served over 50 years as a priest, almost all of that time serving the good people of Pontiac County at various parishes. He was also a teacher and a chaplain at Pontiac Community Hospital in Shawville.

Donna Biggs, Administrative Assistant of the Diocese of Pembroke Chancery Office reaffirmed the dedication Father Costello had for his parishioners.

"Father Costello was the epitome of how a priest loves and serves his parishioners; he was very special," said Biggs, adding, "He would invite his choir and CWL members over for a meal at his place. I don't know of any other priest who did that. Simply a beautiful person! He will be greatly missed."

Monsignor Bridge was a long time colleague and friend to Father Costello.

"Father Costello and I first met in June of 1965 when we were both assigned to St. Alphonsus Parish, Chapeau, and its missions," said Monsignor Bridge.

"At the time, Father Costello was serving in Waltham as weekend assistant, as teacher at St. Mary's Teachers College, Chapeau and Vice-chancellor. Father was in Chapeau on the weekends and two days during the week."

When time allowed, the two would make it a point of joining one another for various activities. In particular, it was hosting family and friends at his cottage that

Father Costello would show off his culinary skills.

"Besides skiing together a few times during the winter months, every summer seven of us would take an extended boat trip on the Ottawa River or on the Rideau River," said Monsignor Bridge.

"They were memorable events! And, of course, there were many, many invitations to his rectory and especially to his cottage (Fort William, QC), where he enjoyed having company and preparing a meal for a group of hungry friends. He was known to prepare a gourmet meal for 7 or 8 people in record time with what seemed to be an effortless venture."

It was in such settings that Father Costello aspired to bring joy to those around him.

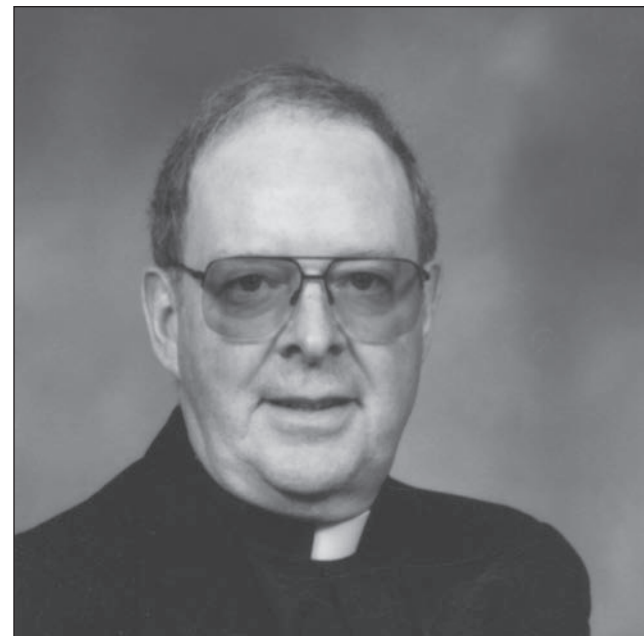
"Father Costello was a genuine person with an exceptional sense of humour," said Monsignor Bridge.

"On all occasions, he was himself. No 'show' or 'pretence'. These traits of character endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him and associating with him."

"His genuineness was also evident in the manner in which he was faithful to his Christian and priestly commitment, lived out especially in his ministry to the sick during his many years as chaplain at the Pontiac Community Hospital."

Upon becoming ill, Father Costello was first hospitalized at the Pembroke General Hospital. It was there that Monsignor Bridge would visit with his longtime friend as often as he could.

"When he was first hospitalized in Pembroke, I visited him regularly and twice a day on many occasions," said Monsignor Bridge. Father Costello was seen by specialists in Hull, but spent his final days in Shawville.



"Because of the distance involved, my visits were not as frequent in Hull and in Shawville. My last visit was a couple of days before he died."

For all who had the pleasure of knowing him, particularly at the parishes where he served, they can take to heart that Father Costello aspired to ensure they were not alone in both the highs and lows that all of us inevitably endure in this life.

"It was always a joy to be able to reach out to the parish, to people's lives, and share both their joys and sorrows," Father Costello once stated.

Donations in Father Costello's memory to the Holy Name of Mary Parish, St. Edward Parish or St. Paul the Hermit Parish Restoration Fund, or the Shawville Hospital would be appreciated.

In Memoriam: Father John Affleck

For those who knew Father John Orval Affleck best, he will be remembered not only for his dedication as a counsellor, but also for his manner of helping people to see themselves as created in the image of God and, as such, loved and lovable for whom they were.

Father Affleck passed away on June 16, 2017, at St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Pembroke at the age of 72.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, his family moved to Petawawa where they participated actively at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. It was only last spring that *Ecclesia* profiled Father Affleck on the occasion of his 40 years of service as a priest. That article detailed the special influence of Father Francis Kennedy that helped inspire John along the path to serve as a priest. His love for what he considered his "home parish" also led him to request that his funeral rites be celebrated there.

Long-time friend Father Howard Chabot recalled the very first time he met Father Affleck. "I first met John when he was beginning to discern his vocational call," said Father Chabot. "He was a constable in the OPP at the time and I remember meeting with him at the old A&W on Pembroke Street East and sharing with him stories about seminary life and my first year of ministry. He entered the seminary that September. We kept in touch and our friendship deepened over the years. He also served with me as an assistant in the year prior to going to Zürich for further studies."

As a priest of the Diocese of Pembroke, he was passionate not only in his faith but in the varied studies he pursued that ultimately led him to establish a private practice as a psychotherapist in Ottawa. It was there that Father Affleck assisted others in finding inner peace and a closer relationship to God through the soul. During the twenty years that he lived and worked from his office at the John Paul II residence, he still managed to assist his fellow pastors within the diocese when needed. He was a regular weekend visitor to many different parishes.

"John loved his work and he was very committed to his clients," said Father Chabot. "He was a sensitive person with the gift of being able to empathize with others and show compassion. He was an excellent counsellor. He would always ask the right questions of himself and of others—questions that would lead into the deeper areas of the soul to find there the compassionate image of God."

"His work deepened his own faith and his love for the Priesthood" Father Chabot observed. "He had a great love for the Eucharist and he saw it as the place where one could always come just as they were, bringing with them anything and everything to find reconciliation and mercy. He firmly believed with St. Paul that 'nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.'"

Archbishop Marcel Gervais, Emeritus Archbishop of Ottawa and a long-time friend of Father Affleck,



delivered the homily at Father Affleck's funeral. He made note of the special aura that emanated from Father Affleck.

"It was a good thing for us to have John among us; it was healing to be touched by him," said Archbishop Gervais. "Like the woman in the Gospel who touched Jesus' cloak (Mark 7:33) and felt power come from him. Something like that often happened with John. He was a blessing for many of us."

Memorial donations can be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph missions.

Parish profile

Ste-Thérèse, Témiscaming

Where once it was a remote pioneer settlement, Paroisse Ste. Thérèse/St. Theresa's Parish in Témiscaming is today a shining example of the fortitude of the community's faith that endures to this very day as a modern Roman Catholic community.

In 1836 members of the clergy first ventured to the Lake Témiscaming region, populated mainly by aboriginals and a small group of French and Irish settlers. It was Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal who dispatched Fathers J.B. Dupuis and Louise Charles de Bellefeuille, both members of the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice, to establish a mission post.

Despite the presence of the missionaries, the mission did not see robust growth. By 1880, only 13 families resided in the community known then as Long Sault.

Father Edmond Gendreau of the Oblate of Mary Immaculate would lead the charge in establishing railway service to Long Sault in the mid-1880s. It was also during this time that a chapel was erected, with construction first started in 1886. However, it would not be completed until 1891 when Bishop Narcisse Zephirin Lorraine blessed the structure on September 6.

The construction of the Kipawa Mill in 1918 saw a significant increase in the population that prompted an enlargement of the chapel. Then in 1919, Father E.A. Letang became the first resident priest of the parish. By 1930, St. Theresa's Church was constructed. It was also around this time that the Grey Sisters of the Cross arrived to provide education to the children of the parish.

In 1955, Father J.A. Latourelle arrived at St. Theresa's and went on to play a major role in the spiritual life of parishioners for many years. His first endeavour was to renovate the church, starting with the sanctuary, followed by the construction of a church bell tower.

Several religious societies were also established during his tenure, including Knights of the Altar, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, Legion of Mary, Dom Goretto Clubs, Altar Society, La Societe St. Jean Baptiste, Children of Mary, Le Cercle Ave Marie, Catholic Women's League and Le Cercle des Fermières.

Father Latourelle was made Monsignor in 1963. He continued to be a presence in the parish until his passing on June 30, 1973. The year prior to his death was tumultuous with the closing of the Consolidated International Paper Mills in 1972. Special services were held to pray from the re-opening of the town's major employer. Their prayers were answered when the pulp mill eventually re-opened under new ownership.

In the decades since, the spiritual community has continued to prosper. Today, Father Fortunatus Rudakemwa is the parish priest, and is assisted by the parish council.

"As established by the Canon 536 (Canon Law Code) the Christian faithful members of this council, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their



Photo credit to Ville de Témiscaming



Photo credit to Pierre Racine.

office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity," said Father Rudakemwa.

"The parish is also endowed with a finance council in which selected parishioners assist in the administration of the goods of the parish."

While the church itself has not seen any major repairs in recent times, the parish hall has seen

renovations completed to the kitchen, while tables and chairs were given new felt pads and protection against rust. The parish hall pavement was also repainted.

The parish will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first residential priest at the parish in 2019.

50th Anniversary— Father Bob Wild

Reprinted in revised form with permission. Original version printed in Restoration, a newspaper of Madonna House, Combermere, ON.

On May 20, 2017, Father Bob Wild, Madonna House, celebrated 50 years in the ordained priesthood. He shared a few thoughts on this special occasion, beginning with a few facts of his life.

“I was born in Buffalo, N.Y., attended a Jesuit High School, a Franciscan seminary, a Trappist monastery, and a Carthusian monastery. I spent four years as an assistant priest in a Buffalo parish. (At present, I am writing a book on vocational stability!) I joined Madonna House in 1971 and have had the privilege of editing a number of Catherine’s books, as well as writing some of my own. I’ve written two books on G.K. Chesterton who has been one of my mentors over the years.

I’ve given a number of retreats to priests in Canada, the US, Sri Lanka, and Africa. At present, I live at Vianney House, our retreat centre for clergy, where I help with giving clergy the rest and relaxation they so deserve.”

Father Bob shares that when he was stationed in the house in England for 6 years, they were invited to a 60th celebration of a priest friend. He was seated next to him at the main table. During the course of the meal he asked him, “Father, what would you say was the most joyful, the most meaningful part of your priesthood?” He thought for a moment and then said, “Bringing people to Jesus Christ.”

“Nobody has yet asked me that question, so I asked it of myself. My answer is not the same answer that Father gave, but close to it,” says Father Bob.

Very early in life he read the famous quote from Leon Bloy, “The only tragedy in the world is not to be a saint.”

“That sentence illuminated my whole life: the goal of human existence is union with God. If you achieve that, you achieve everything; if you miss that, you miss everything.”

He goes on to explain, ‘professionals’ are involved in helping people towards many goals in life—to become better teachers, scientists, business executives, doctors, and so on. Priests are ‘professionals’ in a way. (Webster: engaged in one of the learned professions.) Priests are learned in theology and the spiritual life.

“And so, we can help people achieve the goal of goals: union with God. Thus, my whole life has been involved in guiding and helping people grow in their union with God, which is their eternal destiny. What other kind of vocation or ‘profession’ could give as much meaning and satisfaction to anyone!”

Father Bob notes that a favorite theme of Pope Francis is accompanying people. He notes how the Lord accompanied each one of us during our whole lives no matter what spiritual state we were in. He was always there, accompanying us along our way, guiding us to ever greater truth and union.

“As a priest, I’ve been privileged to be involved in this accompanying of others in many ways. I couldn’t count the number of counselling sessions I’ve had, confessions heard, or the number of homilies given. And then there are the thousands of Eucharists celebrated, the countless Communion distributed, and the many anointings for healing.

A major part of my own personal priesthood has been the ministry of the written word. At a very early age I was amazed at the marvelous effects of writing: that you could write your thoughts and many people could read what you thought. During my whole priesthood, I’ve been led to use writing as another way of accompanying people, or guiding them along their path to union with God. I often think of people sitting quietly somewhere and reading what I have written. In a real way, I am present to them as they read my thoughts. In this way, I’ve accompanied many people I will never know in this world.

And besides all these external ways of accompanying people, I think the presence of a priest can have *unknown spiritual effects*.”

Father Bob recounts that at his 25th anniversary, a woman came up to him and said: “Father Bob, know that if you’ve done nothing else in your priesthood, you have saved my life.” And she walked away. He had no idea who she was, much less how he had saved her life! But he saw it as a lesson from the Lord that he uses our priestly presence in ways of which we are unaware.

“I thank the Lord if my priestly presence has been a blessing in the lives of those who are reading this. So much of life is hidden and unexpressed. I’d like to thank the Lord for any way in which my life—unknown to me—has been a blessing.”

Many of my friends over the years have been married couples with families. I think everyone needs to give life, to be fathers and mothers. But this can be spiritual as well as bodily. I have been blessed with sons and daughters whom I have raised in the Lord for many years of their lives. They are among the greatest joys of my priesthood.”

And what has he learned personally from being a priest?

“It’s impossible to put it in a few words, but here’s a brief attempt. By trying to understand Jesus and the people he gave me to serve, I’ve come to understand something of what it means to be a person, a human being, a man. My priesthood has led me into the depth of who I am and who I have been created to be.

On occasions like this, I have especially the young people in mind. They need to see that—by the grace of God, and that’s the significant phrase—*by the grace of God*—perseverance and fidelity in our vocations are possible. That it’s possible to *keep* our promises—even for a whole lifetime.

I invite you to join me in thanksgiving for my own vocation and fidelity. I pray that you continue on your own journey to union with God, giving special thanks to the priests in your life who have accompanied you.”

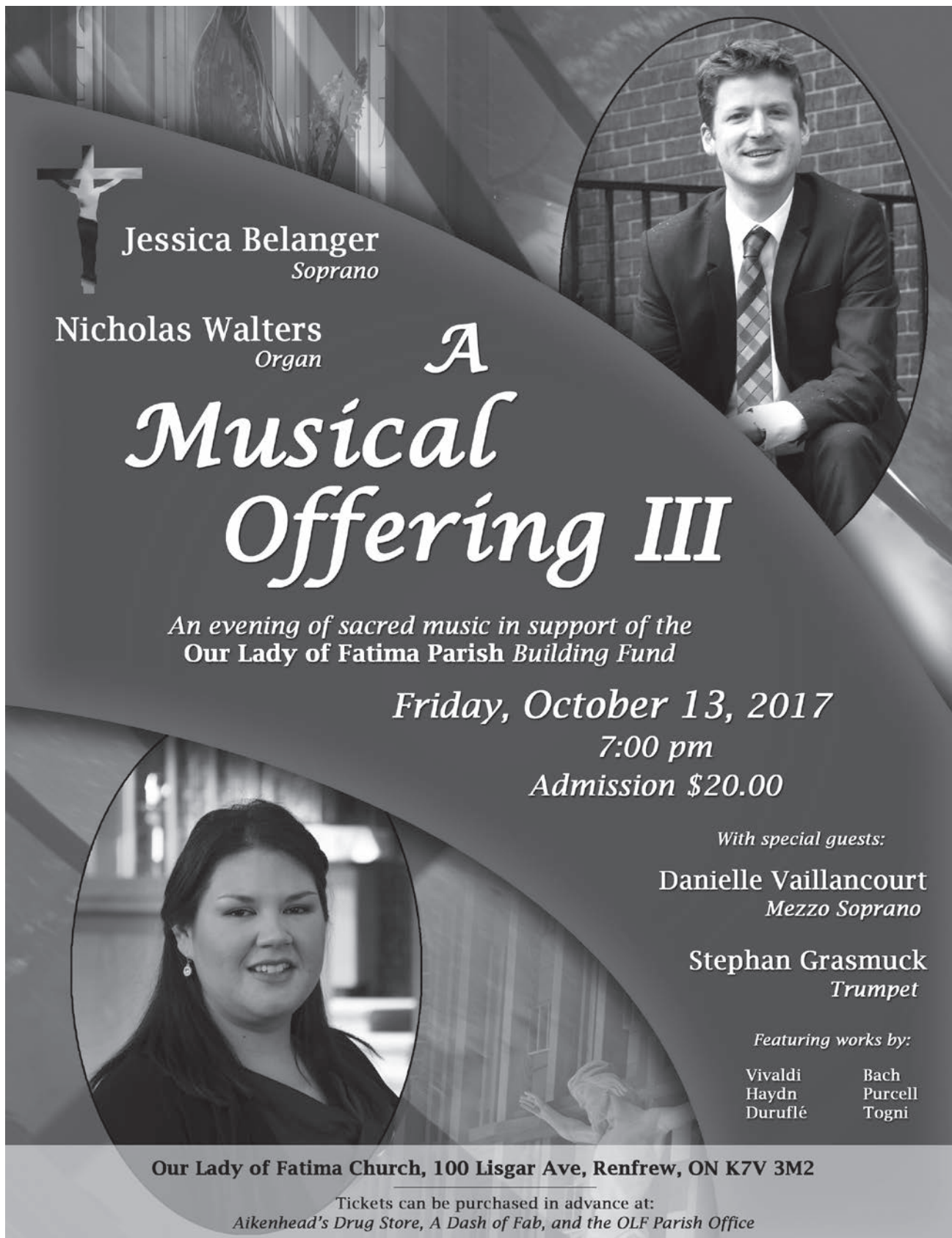
A special musical event at Our Lady of Fatima Parish

On Friday, October 13, 2017, Renfrew natives Jessica Belanger and Nicholas Walters will present *A Musical Offering* fundraising concert at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Renfrew. This is the third time Belanger and Walters take to the stage to perform time-honoured classics of the sacred music repertoire, including the Benedictus from Haydn's Little Organ Mass, The Lord is My Light by Francis Allitsen, and *Ich forge dir gleichfalls* from Bach's St. John Passion. Walters will showcase the 3-manual Casavant organ at the church with a performance of Maurice Duruflé's stirring Prelude et Fugue sur la nom d'alain. He will also realize the Five Liturgical Inventions by Victor Togni, who was a prominent musical figure in the Pembroke area during the late 1950's. "Victor Togni was an active organist and composer in the Ottawa Valley and his musical legacy continues to this day," says Walters. "Victor served as the Assistant Organist at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome before immigrating to Canada and working at several notable churches in Pembroke, including St. Columbkille's Roman Catholic Cathedral and Calvin United Church. It's very exciting to present these works for organ, especially given the local connection of composer!" Belanger and Walters will be joined by their friends Danielle Vaillancourt, mezzo-soprano, Michael McSheffrey, baritone, and Stephan Grasmuck, trumpet, who all hail from the Ottawa Valley and are highly distinguished musicians in their own right.

Walters says: "It's wonderful to be reunited with my friends to present another sacred music concert at OLF. The quality of the repertoire that we've chosen, coupled with the high level of musicianship of my colleagues, is sure to make a lasting impression. It's also a great pleasure to return to the organ at OLF which, with its impressive assortment of tonal colours and large dynamic range, is truly the king of instruments in this area."

Proceeds from this concert will be used to offset the cost of the new church elevator, which will enable senior members of the parish full access to their parish hall on the lower level of the church.

Belanger gives the final word: "Having the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the life and longevity of this parish church, through music, is a great gift for Nick and I. Please come and support this church in its fundraising efforts!"



Jessica Belanger
Soprano

Nicholas Walters
Organ

A Musical Offering III

*An evening of sacred music in support of the
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Building Fund*

Friday, October 13, 2017
7:00 pm
Admission \$20.00

With special guests:

Danielle Vaillancourt
Mezzo Soprano

Stephan Grasmuck
Trumpet

Featuring works by:

Vivaldi	Bach
Haydn	Purcell
Duruflé	Togni

Our Lady of Fatima Church, 100 Lisgar Ave, Renfrew, ON K7V 3M2

Tickets can be purchased in advance at:
Aikenhead's Drug Store, A Dash of Fab, and the OLF Parish Office

Cormac pilgrimage 2017: What is the kingdom of heaven like?

It was the focal point of the homily during the Sunday morning Mass held at the Shrine of St. Ann during the 79th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann in Cormac.

"The asking of the question is already answering a desire within our hearts to reach that kingdom, to make it present in our world, to make it present in our own life," said Most Reverend Michael Mulhall, Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke.

Clear skies and warm temperatures greeted the hundreds of faithful pilgrims who attended the mass. The triduum officially began with a Thursday evening mass, followed by a Friday and Saturday evening mass. A group of pilgrims also took it upon themselves to walk to the shrine from Our Lady of Fatima parish in Renfrew.

The Most Reverend Christian Reisbeck, Auxiliary Bishop to the Diocese of Ottawa, who led the Triduum before the Sunday celebration, was the guest homilist for the Mass of Healing held at the shrine Sunday afternoon.

It was during his homily that Bishop Mulhall told that it is no easy task to grasp the unimaginable glory that is the kingdom of heaven.

"Very often when we read these gospels, we reflect on the kingdom of heaven that the Lord teaches us about," said Bishop Mulhall.

"It's a mystery beyond our comprehension. We have a grasp of it, we have foretaste of it, we see it in our lives, we see it in the lives of other people. But to capture it the way we would understand something else is impossible for us."

"The reason being is because the kingdom is so great

and the mystery is so profound. Jesus way of teaching is to say it is like this: it is like a treasure in a field. It is like a rare diamond or pearl or something that is found from one searching."

In doing so, these images that Jesus provides can be used as a point of reflection within our own lives. It thus becomes what Bishop Mulhall called "a beautiful goal."

"How do I become rich? How do I play hockey better? How do I catch more fish? But to ask 'What is the kingdom like?' is to have already this position within one's own heart that is leading towards the good and towards God himself."

Bishop Mulhall went on to explain that in asking that all too important question can provide a trail for us to follow, that will lead us closer to that very kingdom being a reality in our lives.

"The reality that we can live in our lives, to experience the kingdom, to allow it to become more and more powerful in my life, dominating my life, and recognizing the difference when I walk away from the kingdom and how much I miss it and want to go back," said Bishop Mulhall.

He also drew a parallel to the pilgrims in attendance at the Shrine that have come to ask for St. Ann's intercession into their lives.

"We have something in our diocese, a beautiful pilgrimage that takes place, that allows us to express our love and to beg the intercession of St. Ann, the Blessed Mother, St. Joachim and so many others to enter into our lives, to grant graces that the Lord knows we first need to ask," said Bishop Mulhall.

"Just as we ask what is the kingdom like, the Lord



wishes us to come and ask for the graces that are so fundamental in our lives. Graces and answers and gifts that are given, that answer fundamental questions of suffering in the lives of so many people."

Next year will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann.

The rich tradition of the St. Ann's Pilgrimage

By Tom Holly, Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council of St. Ann's

I think there are several reasons why Pilgrims continue to come to this tiny village in the Ottawa Valley on the last Sunday of July for the past 79 years.

- 1. Tradition.** When you talk to Pilgrims, many will tell you although they no longer live in the area they have great childhood memories of their parents or grandparents bringing them to past Pilgrimages. They, too, want their children to experience a fairly unique spiritual event. This the largest annual gathering of Catholics for Mass in the Pembroke Diocese. Our Bishop always presides at the 11 am Mass and his homily is an opportunity to connect with his flock. A great addition that hopefully will also become a tradition is the walking Pilgrimage from Renfrew. Walk the Opeongo Line is an event started by Father Scott Murray last year whereby pilgrims begin a three-day journey by foot in Renfrew. They follow the steps of the pioneers as they trek up the Opeongo Road, camping in Mt. St. Patrick and Esmond before they conclude their journey in Cormac in time for the Pilgrimage.
- 2. Devotion.** St. Ann holds a special place in the Catholic Church as the Grandmother of Jesus. The more famous St. Ann de Beaupre outside Quebec City is known worldwide for its many Miracles. While Miracles do occur at St. Ann's in Cormac, it has never been used as a promotional tool. Talking to Pilgrims will reveal stories of physical and emotional healings attributed to St. Ann. Anyone who comes to the Pilgrimage will have to admit that when they leave at the end of the day, they leave with feeling 'peace' of a special kind.
- 3. Setting.** This little village at the base of the mountain provides a perfect backdrop for a spiritual experience. Combine the beauty with the liturgical music and the beautiful Shrine under the pines and one cannot help but feel closer to God.

Next year will be the 80th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Ann in Cormac. Be assured it will be a special Pilgrimage with many Blessings. Reserve the last Sunday of July 2018 now. See you there!

A call for support

The organization of the annual pilgrimage at St. Ann's in Cormac is a year-long process. The planning for next year's Pilgrimage begins just a few weeks after the current year's event. A round table discussion includes input from everyone in the Parish.

Once all the ground work has been laid by a core group of 8 to 10 dedicated parishioners, St. Ann's relies on volunteers from neighboring parishes (especially St. James), the Knights of Columbus, Eganville Council 1549, and Friends of St. Ann from all over the Valley to help set up the grounds, serve the Pilgrims and take it all down until next year. Many members of the extended families of parishioners return to give their time and energy in the middle of their busy summer. The support we've received has truly been exceptional.

We are always looking for dedicated volunteers who would be willing to join us at our Parish meeting in May and perhaps assume a responsibility as our work force is not getting any younger and each year our numbers are at least one or two fewer.

The fact that this event, which brings so much spiritual and physical good to so many people, is able to continue is, in many ways, the first Miracle that St. Ann performs each year in Cormac.

A short reflection on the Eucharist

By Fr. Michael Smith

"We believe that the Word became flesh and that we receive his flesh in the Lord's Supper. How then can we fail to believe that he really dwells within us? When he became man, he actually clothed himself in our flesh, uniting it to himself for ever. In the sacrament of his body he actually gives us his own flesh, which he has united to his divinity. This is why we are all one, because the Father is in Christ, and Christ is in us. He is in us through his flesh and we are in him. With him we form a unity which is in God. [...] And the point is that Christ is the wellspring of our life. Since we who are in the flesh have Christ dwelling in us through his flesh, we shall draw life from him in the same way as he draws life from the Father."
-St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers (c. 310 – c. 367), quoted in the *Liturgy of the Hours*, Vol. II, pp. 779-780.

The Eucharist is the "source and summit", or "font and apex", of the whole Christian life (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium* 11). This means many things, but I shall focus on just a couple of ideas.

The Eucharist as Source

Think of all the good that Christians do in the name of our faith. Christians are active in defending

human life, in working for justice and peace in the world, in coming to the aid of those in need. In everyday life – in the workplace, at home, and in the community – Christians do an immense amount of good.

Where do we get the strength to do what we do? After all, our energies and our abilities are limited. Left to ourselves, and relying on our own strength, we would grow tired and give up before very long.

The Eucharist is the most poignant reminder that we are utterly dependent on God ("...apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5).

The life of faith, the use of spiritual gifts, and all other aspects of the Christian life have their source in the Eucharist. There is, therefore, a direct link between the life of prayer, of which the Eucharist is the apex, and the life of action, of which the Eucharist is the wellspring.

The Eucharist as Summit

We recognize Jesus as present in ordinary life, and present *par excellence* in the Eucharist. Rather than there being a contradiction between time spent at the Eucharist, this most sacred activity, and our

other, "secular" activities, the Eucharist is the apex of all our activities. Furthermore, the Eucharist enables us to recognize God all the more readily in the rest of life. It is also true the other way around: we are able to recognize Jesus as really present in the Eucharist because we have already met Jesus in ordinary life.

How is all this possible? It is possible because the Eucharist is not merely a "thing" or an object. It is a Person. Much as the Risen Jesus appeared to his disciples in various forms, the Risen Jesus comes to us habitually in the form of food.

On the natural level, the body needs food and drink in order to live. It is true in a similar way on the supernatural level. We need the Food that is Jesus, because Jesus is our life, and the life that the Eucharist nourishes within us is his own life. As St. Hilary states in the opening quote, we shall draw life from Jesus in the same way as he draws life from the Father.

On the natural level, we are what we eat. On the supernatural level, we become, collectively, what we receive: the Body of Christ, the presence of the Risen Christ in the world today.

If I can do it, anyone can: A pilgrim's reflection on walking to St. Ann's

By Emily Helferty

Anyone who knows me could tell you that being in nature isn't generally my cup of tea. I registered for the 2017 St. Ann's Walk the Opeongo Line pilgrimage with memories of last year's walk fresh in my mind. I had been unprepared in 2016 for the challenge of a 66km spiritual journey and ended up going home after the first day of the three-day pilgrimage. While my sister and brother continued on the walk to its completion, I contentedly lay on the couch at home watching *The Lord of the Rings* and sipping tea. I had not really expected to be able to finish the walk as I was not in the habit of walking long distances and have a general distaste for bugs and being outdoors. Hence, for my father, it was not a totally unanticipated car drive out to our first day destination, Mt. St. Patrick, that Friday morning. Truth be told, I had thought myself pretty lucky to be relaxing at home instead of battling the elements of nature, but after this year's walk I have gained a new perspective.

When I think about my recent experience of walking the Opeongo Line, I am reminded of the Presence of God. In the pleasant conversation with fellow Catholics, communal praying of the Rosary and Compline, and moments of silence with the Blessed Sacrament, I found peace. It was an experience of detachment from the folly of the world and an earnest effort to draw closer to the wisdom of the Lord. Yes, there was discomfort and pain, but unlike last year, I never once wished to be back home watching *The Lord of the Rings*, sipping tea. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope to do it again next year!

I have wondered recently why it is that I made it to the end of the pilgrimage this year and not last year. Both times I acknowledged that I may not be able to complete the walk, so it was not merely a matter of willpower, and I did not do long-distance walking preparation for either pilgrimage. I am convinced that the difference between my two experiences is found in the grace of God and my willingness to walk *with* Him. Last year, I thought of myself and my discomfort as I walked. This year, I experienced the walk as it happened, entrusting my time to God and my petitions to St. Ann. I believe that a walking pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that every Catholic would benefit from experiencing at least once in their lifetime—maybe even every year! Take it from someone who never camps, dislikes bugs, and before recently didn't enjoy walking in nature: if I can do it—and what's even more astonishing, *enjoy* it—anyone can.



Supporting each other on the Journey—Diocesan Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

By Orianne Dyck, participant

We are an eclectic group, us Young Adult Ministry (YAM) members. Some of us are college students, and some of us are professionals. Some introverted, some extroverted. Some single, some married, some with religious vocations. Some Leafs fans, some not...

But we have all experienced a fundamental common call in our lives—we have all heard a call to discipleship.

Last week, members of the YAM were lucky enough to be invited to attend the Bishop's talk at Madonna House on being "Called and Chosen." As a group, we went out to supper together in Barry's Bay and enjoyed some fellowship, then went on to Madonna House where we were given a tour of the place where lay men, lay women, and priests live out their call to discipleship in a very unique and meaningful way. And finally, we joined their community and other visitors to sit in as Bishop Mulhall spoke about the reality of the three most powerful words most of us will ever hear in our lives: "Come, follow me."

It was amazing to sit in this cozy wooden room full of people from all walks of life, and listen to Bishop Mulhall's walk-through of what it means to be "Called and Chosen" (peppered with all those amusing stories that our Bishop is known for). Within the talk, he reminded us of the supreme challenge embedded within this call to be both servant and friend—that is, we can no longer be *spectators* in this life of Christ. We are called to be *participants*. We are called not just to know what the gospel says, but to live it out and to share it.

So, what is one profound way of living and sharing the gospel in the busy, hectic, sometimes mundane rhythm of our lives when others are not yet open to conversation or discussion? "Smile. Smile, smile, smile. The [genuine loving] smile reveals the gospel" (Bishop Mulhall).



We were definitely all smiling as we drove home from a night of good food, great company, and the profound reminder of what it means to follow Christ with our lives.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and would like to join us at our monthly gatherings, please contact Yvette Bourque at 613 732-7933 x208 or yvettebourque@pembrokediocese.com



Steubenville 2017

Fifteen youth from the Diocese of Pembroke joined with more than 2,000 participants once again this year for Steubenville Toronto. The youth conference was held July 28–30 with the theme ELEVATE, Rev. 21:5, "Behold, I make all things new". It was another faith-filled weekend with the best speakers and music ministry in North America. Thank you to our chaperones Michael Austen, Orianne Dyck, and Yvette Bourque. For information and next year's theme and dates, go to www.steubenvillletoronto.com or contact Yvette at 613-732-7933 x208.

Married Couples dinner

Bill and Grace Richmond were among more than 120 people who gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall on May 25 to enjoy a delicious meal, great conversation, and a special message delivered by a guest speaker.

“We both enjoyed the excellent dinner, meeting new couples in the diocese we hadn’t met before, and reacquainting ourselves with couples who we may not have seen in a while,” shared the Richmonds.

“It was gratifying to see Bishop Mulhall and a number of priests of the diocese who also came out to the dinner and to see their support,” stated Bill.

The guest speaker for the evening was Patrick Sullivan, a Catholic Lay Evangelist and author, who mixed humour and story-telling in his compelling presentation after dinner. He spoke to the couples about love of and for Jesus and love for one another.

“Patrick Sullivan was an excellent and entertaining speaker who discussed marriage values, as well as his own personal faith journey,” testified the Richmonds.

Afterwards, the gathering moved upstairs to the church to conclude the evening with prayer, a blessing for the married couples, and Eucharistic Adoration with music by Deacon Adrien Chaput.

Based on the success of this year’s dinner, the Family Life and Youth Ministry is looking forward to organizing the dinner as an annual event.



Youth Ministry in the classroom

By Yvette Bourque

It has been my experience that an audience that already exists and is constant is a great blessing. Our Catholic High schools offer just that, and the Family Life and Youth Ministry Office in the Diocese has tapped into this incredible opportunity.

All Grade 9 classes at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, and St. Joseph High School, Renfrew, have been receiving the new and updated Theology of the Body for Teens program called *YOU*. We began with one pilot class in the second semester of the 2016 school year and have now branched out covering all Grade 9 classes for the 2016–2017 school year with approval from both principals and teachers.

The idea began with two intentions in mind. First, it was evident that many young couples coming to the Diocesan marriage preparation program had never

heard of Theology of the Body before and many have commented over the years that they wished they had heard it and learned it back in high school. Secondly, it is an effective way to teach sexuality in light of what God intended from the beginning. It provides youth with an understanding of where they come from, who they are, how we are to love one another rightly and where we are destined to spend eternity. It has been a joy to see those questioning minds opening up and really thinking about greater things, asking questions about their sexuality and seeing them make the connection with their humanity, inner desires, and God.

I am very grateful for our small team of catechists/teachers who commit to teach this course once a week to two or three classes a day each semester. We covered 11 Grade 9 religion classes last year alone. I now have

a new appreciation for teachers. It is exhausting work, but necessary and so rewarding.

Our team consisted of Ellie and James Hrkach, Gordon Lund, Fr. Scott Murray, Fr. Peter Do, Angela Watson, Dan Parker and myself. A very big “Thank you” to all of you and I pray the Lord will bless you in abundance for giving your time and talents in this way. Please keep the team, our efforts to grow in number, and the students in prayer as we start another school year.

It is my dream that Theology of the Body will one day begin in Kindergarten. The simple programming/curriculum already exists, it just takes an open mind and willing hearts to see the importance of it. All we need is one elementary school to take it on as a pilot project and see it flourish from there. Lord, hear my prayer.

Restoring and updating St. Alphonsus of Liguori Church, Chapeau

Sitting on a quiet little side street overlooking the Culbute Channel of the Ottawa River in Chapeau, Quebec, St. Alphonsus of Liguori is a jewel among the churches of our diocese.

A visit to this beautiful place of worship will reveal a stately stone exterior and magnificent interior that features ornate woodwork extending from the pews to the vaulted ceilings. The original altar, pulpit and stained glass windows add to the ambience.

"It is a true treasure of the diocese and is recognized as such by the Quebec government as well," said Father Tim Moyle.

The church was built in 1888, with the cornerstone laid and blessed by Bishop Loraine in June of that year. It received heritage designation from the Quebec government in 2000.

As with all aging buildings, it requires ongoing repairs to keep it in good condition and the provincial government provides funding to "help protect, pass on and enhance religious heritage of historical, architectural, or artistic interest."

"Through the 'Conseil du Patrimoine Religieux', the parish has received funds to assist with the repairs to the building to the tune of 70% of the costs," noted Father Tim.

He explained this means that for the project started in 2017 involving repairs to the exterior (stonework, front steps) and interior (installation of fire alarm system), the government has provided \$327,000+ toward the work.

"We are anticipating further funds from the province next year, as we move to the repair of the roof and address some structural issues that have emerged as a part of the overall review and assessment of the building by the architects and engineers they sent to determine its state and condition." In September 2016, work began to give the church a makeover by replacing the existing side entrance. A grant of more than \$23,000 from the Federal Government—thanks to aid provided by Mr. Will Amos, MP, and his staff—allowed the installation of a wheelchair lift as part of the new office on the western side of the church building.

"Together with a new handicapped accessible washroom we can now fully accommodate people with mobility issues for the first time in our building's history," said Father Tim proudly.

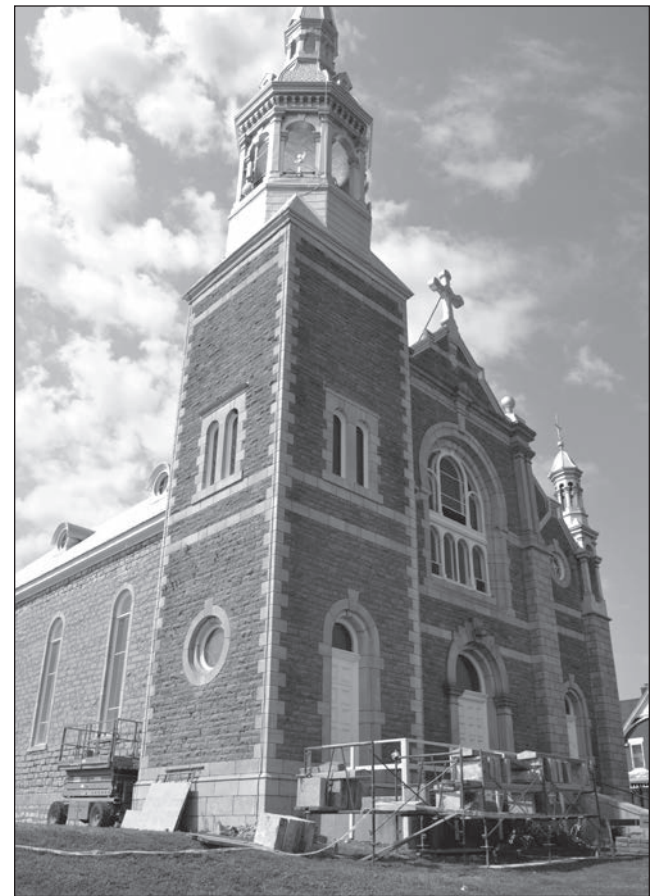
However, even with government assistance, the cost to the small parish community adds up.

"Alas, since the office project was not a repair but a new addition, the balance of the more than \$400,000 cost required to construct it falls to the parish to pay," stated Father Tim. "In total to date,

St. Alphonsus Parish has committed to raising approximately more than \$600,000 to bring the entire building into the tip-top shape, such a treasure as its parish church."

True to the pioneer spirit of those who built the church almost 130 years ago and organized many fundraising activities to pay for it, the parishioners of St. Alphonsus are undaunted.

"So how are we going to do it? The short answer is 'any way we can!'. To date we have organized a concert and supper which realized approximately \$5,000 in profit. We are encouraging and accepting donations to help raise the funds from parishioners and friends near and far, as well. Future fundraising projects are also being planned by various parishioners to help us attain our goal as soon as possible," said Father Tim.



Saint Profile

Saint John Chrysostom, 347–407

By Deacon Adrien Chaput

One of the greatest teachers and Fathers of the early church was St. John Chrysostom. He was known as “Golden Mouth” and was acclaimed as a gifted and eloquent preacher. His Feast day is celebrated on September 13 and he is the Patron Saint of epilepsy, orators, preachers and speakers.

John was born in Antioch in the year 347 to devout parents, Secundus and Anthusa. His mother was widowed when she was only 20 years of age and she dedicated herself to educating John and his older sister in the Christian faith.

A turning point in John’s life occurred when he encountered Bishop Meletus at Antioch. He was so influenced by this earnest and mild-mannered man that he withdrew from his classical studies and devoted himself to the study of religious works and Sacred Scripture. After three years of study, he received the Sacrament of Baptism and set out for the desert to live the frugal life of a hermit.

The austerity of this lifestyle took a great toll on his health and after two years, he returned to Antioch to recover. There, he devoted his time to study for the priesthood. He was ordained in the year 386 and served in the Cathedral of Antioch for 12 years captivating widespread fame for his inspirational preaching.

In 398 he was forcefully appointed Patriarch of Constantinople and quickly became very popular with his flock through his example of preaching and courage in front of the imperial power, whose corruption and wickedness he never avoided criticizing in public. Even though his body was weak, his tongue was powerful.

This made him many enemies in the imperial family and even among his fellow Bishops. Theophilus, the Archbishop of Alexandria, managed to call a council

outside of Constantinople and had John removed from office in 403 on trumped up charges of heresy. This resulted in his being exiled to Armenia by Empress Eudoxia and Emperor Arcadius.

During this time of exile, he continued to be a great presence in the Church of the East through his many letters. He was then taken from Armenia to an isolated place along the Black Sea. There, at Comanan in Pontus, his health condition declined and following a forced march, he died some hours later proclaiming as his last words: “Glory be to God for all things.” He was venerated soon after his death.

In 438, the Emperor Theodosius II of Constantinople had John’s body returned to Constantinople. Thirty-four years later, after John’s chief enemies had died, his relics were brought back in triumph to the capital. Emperor Theodosius II, son of Arcadius and Eudoxia, publicly asked forgiveness for the sins of his parents.

St. John was later proclaimed “Doctor of the Church” because of the value of his writings, sermons and letters. Along with St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, and St. Athanasius, he is considered one of the greatest of the early Eastern Church Fathers. St. John Chrysostom’s many writings, especially homilies and commentaries on the Gospels, have had great influence on so many people over the centuries and even today.

Many parishes around the world are named after this great Saint. In our Diocese, in the town of Arnprior, the beautiful Church of St. John Chrysostom reminds us of the life of this great Saint, his great works and his prayerful of intercession on our behalf.

St. John Chrysostom has given the Church much and his eloquent words continue to speak to us today. Here is an inspirational excerpt from one of his homilies that gives us cause for reflection here and now.



Father Michael Lund and his pastor, Father John Burchat, admire the statue of the Parish Patron that adorns the baptistry at St. John Chrysostom Church in Arnprior. At the base of the statue is a honeycomb, symbol of the eloquent preacher known in his time as the “Golden Mouthed” orator.

“The waters have risen and severe storms are upon us, but we do not fear drowning, for we stand firmly upon a rock. Let the sea rage, it cannot break the rock. Let the waves rise; they cannot sink the boat of Jesus. What are we to fear? ...Let the world be in upheaval. I hold to his promise and read his message; that is my protecting wall and garrison. What message? Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world.”

St. John Chrysostom, pray for us.

St. Vincent de Paul Society celebrates a decade of service to the community

Saint Vincent de Paul St. Columbille Conference is marking a milestone. The celebration will take place on October 21, 2017, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, with Mass at 4:30 p.m. giving praise and thanksgiving to God for 10 years of serving those in need in our diocese. Our celebrant for this joyous occasion will be Bishop Mulhall.

After the Mass a delicious meal will be catered and served at 6:00 p.m. by James Woito and the staff of Dreams Catering. Tickets will be available to purchase for this event for \$25 per person. Please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at 613-732-7933 at ext. 206 for tickets.

The 10th anniversary organizing committee: Muggsie Boland, President of our Saint Vincent de Paul St. Columbille Conference, Deacon Adrien Chaput, Spiritual Advisor, Becky Chaput, and James Woito, Dreams Catering. Missing from the photo are committee members Teresa Addicott and Claire Mungham.



Meeting diocesan priests from afar

The 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, the Ecclesia would like to introduce Father Fortunatus Rudakemwa of Rwanda

Father Fortunatus Rudakemwa was born in Cyangugu in the south-west of Rwanda, located in eastern Africa. Throughout his youth, he was active in the Roman Catholic faith.

"I was born into a family who were really Catholic not only by name, but also in words and in deeds, a kind of domestic church according to the expression of Saint John Chrysostom," said Father Rudakemwa.

"The first Catholic group (movement) that I joined while still in primary school was The Legion of Mary."

Sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church, The Legion of Mary is a global lay apostolic group dedicated to the glory of God and Mary. This is achieved by focusing on social and spiritual well-being of others within parish communities, particularly towards the sick and their families. Father Rudakemwa was also involved with the Red Cross during his secondary school years.

It was during his primary years that he first heard God calling to him to serve in the priesthood. But it was also the violence that has plagued Rwanda that brought him closer to his chosen vocation.

"I remember I was 9 years old—in grade three in primary school—when I began to feel a call to the priesthood and to say it openly," said Father Rudakemwa.

"Surely, two elements underlie such early vocation. First of all, the faith of my parents and the Christian life my family conducted. The second factor resides in a social phenomenon I observed when I was child and young man. Here is the phenomenon: military authorities and security forces inspired a feeling of terror to the population."

"I had the impression that my fellow countrymen and women were happy and sincere and expressive and spontaneous only in the presence of priests, sisters and consecrated lay people. I thought that churchmen and women benefitted the human community far more than all other socio-professional categories. Growing up and studying, I had many opportunities of embracing other careers; but I preferred to remain faithful to my first and early inclination."

He was ordained into the priesthood in 1988 in Rwanda. He exercised his priestly duties in his native land for the next five years. He then travelled to Rome to study church history for an additional four years.

Due to the civil war that engulfed Rwanda in 1994, Father Rudakemwa remained in Italy for the next 20 years spending his time in study and carrying on his duties as a priest.

"It was from Italy that I moved to Canada in December of 2011," said Father Rudakemwa.

"Two factors motivated me to move to Canada. First of all, there is a good reputation that Canada has abroad. On the other hand, there is a missionary spirit. I heard people often saying that pastoral activity in Canada was challenging. I said within myself 'Let us go and see'. They were right, for cultural, historical and other reasons, pastoral activity in Canada is not easy, but stimulating. The



biggest challenge in adapting to life in Canada is surely the winter. It is too cold and too long."

Father Rudakemwa was first appointed to serve at St. Jean Baptiste parish in Pembroke in January 2012, and later assigned to Paroisse Ste-Thérèse in Témiscaming where he savours the opportunity to serve the faithful to this day. He also administers at Our Lady of the Lake in Kipawa.

"I enjoy the fact that the community is bilingual. The place is quiet, indicated for prayer, meditation and studying," said Father Rudakemwa.

A new term for the Pembroke Diocesan CWL

The Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League has chosen a new executive for 2017–2019. Under the guidance of President Carmel Rumleskie, this promises to be a great two years filled with faith, fun and fulfillment. Carmel challenges us to provide education to League members using the National theme, "Inspired by The Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call." The provincial theme for the next two years is "Homelessness" and the diocesan theme is "Promote Leadership and Increase Membership."

The Diocesan Council is busy preparing for our upcoming gatherings. The Day of Reflection will be hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Deep River on Saturday, September 23. The Day of Reflection will focus on Eucharistic Adoration.

The fall meeting will take us to beautiful Haliburton on Saturday, October 21. The trees should be all dressed up in their best autumn colours for the occasion. League Development will be the focus of our meeting with an emphasis on Community Life and Spiritual Development standing committees. We will also touch on the National Policies and Procedures and how they can influence us in our meetings.

In the words of Anne Gorman, National President-Elect and Chairperson of organization, "This is an exciting time in the history of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. As we prepare to celebrate 100 years 'For God and Canada', we rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide us on this journey."

The 100th anniversary of the National Council will take place in 2020.



Back row: left to right, Life Member Liaison, Margaret Maloney; Christian Family Life, Elaine Turner; Past-President/Historian, Pat Weller; President, Carmel Rumleskie; Community Life, Andrea Bonneau; Resolutions, Sheila Bielawski; Education and Health, Lore Coyne.
Front row: Communications/Webmaster, Bev Drouin; Spiritual Development, Irene Perrault; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Donna Provost; President-Elect/Organization, Joan Lemay; Legislation, Maureen Brennan. Absent: Spiritual Advisor, Bishop M. Mulhall and Treasurer, Pauline Hughes.

*The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Pembroke
invites you to our:*

CATECHIST FORMATION DAY

Location: Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish,
Pembroke, Ontario

Time: 09:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

When: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Who: A formation day for parish catechists,
those interested in the ministry of catechesis,
pastors, deacons, pastoral assistants and those
who serve in present ministries.

Important Gathering Call to Register

Guest speakers will be Bishop Michael Mulhall and Father
Ryan Holly. Registration is necessary. Please contact
Deacon Adrien Chaput at the Diocesan Office of Faith
Formation at (613) 732-7933 ext. 206 or [dcadrienchaput@
pembrokedioocese.com](mailto:dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com) by November 1, 2017.

The Office of Faith Formation Presents:

AN ADULT FAITH RETREAT

with Retreat Director Father Kieran Kilcommons

Madonna House, Combermere

Location: St. Hedwig's Parish, Barry's Bay,
Ontario

Time: 09:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

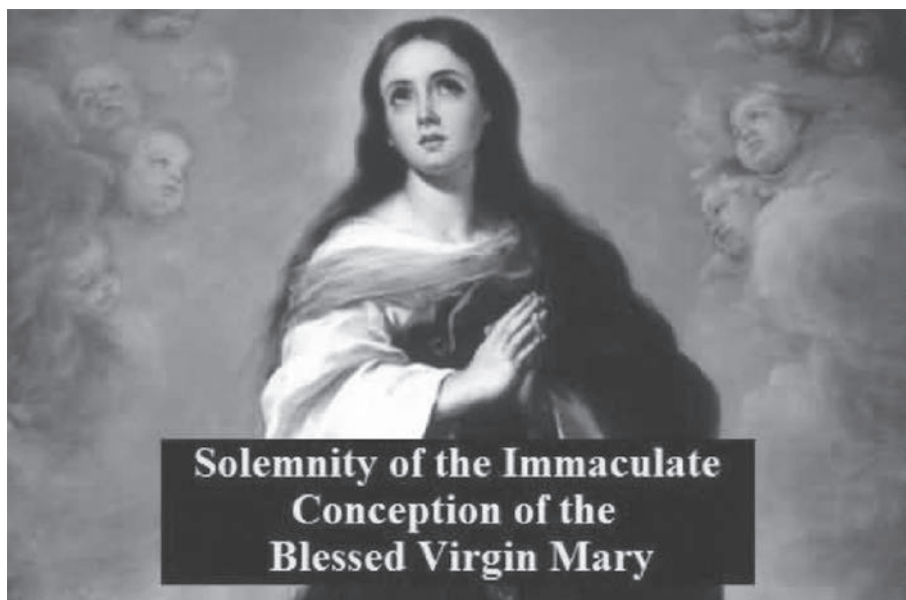
Cost: \$15.00/per person

When: Saturday, September 23, 2017

Who: All are welcome

Important Gathering Call to Register

Registration is necessary. Please contact Deacon Adrien
Chaput at the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation
at (613) 732-7933, ext. 206 or [dcadrienchaput@
pembrokedioocese.com](mailto:dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com) by September 20, 2017.



The Office Of Faith Formation and Family Life and Youth
Ministry Office Invite You to a Special Celebration for

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, December 08, 2017

Recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6:45 p.m.

**Mass at 7:15 p.m. with Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament to follow**

Please join us in Prayer for the Sanctity of Life
St. Columbkille Cathedral
188 Renfrew St., Pembroke, ON

For more information, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at the Diocese of Pembroke (613) 732-7933 ext. 206 or
dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioocese.com or Yvette Bourque at 613-732-7933 ext. 208 or yvettebourque@pembrokedioocese.com

Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage of Reconciliation

The Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage of Reconciliation with Native Peoples, organized by the Jesuits of Canada, left Midland by canoe and gradually made its way to Montreal following a trajectory similar to that of the first Jesuits to arrive in Canada. Large voyageur-style canoes paddled through Georgian Bay, the French River, Lake Nipissing, the Mattawa River, the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River to reach their destination in Montreal on August 15. They stopped over at several points throughout our Diocese including Mattawa, Rapides-des-Joachims and also on the shores of the St. Joseph Sisters' Motherhouse on Sunday, August 6, before heading to stop-overs in Portage-du-Fort and Arnprior and then further east.

Photo credit: Forever Your Memories, Portage du Fort, QC



March for Life Ottawa 2017

By Susan Dagenais, President, Renfrew County Right to Life

I have never been a big fan of crowds. Nor am I a fan of rallies, and definitely I am not a fan of marches. Why, then, was I marching on Parliament Hill this past spring amid thousands of Canadians?

Have you ever reluctantly set out to visit a dear friend in the hospital, only to leave after your visit feeling honoured to have been in the presence of such an amazing person?

Well, it was kind of like that for me.

The March was a joyful gathering of people who care for life. We walked quietly along the chosen path, our heads held high, living witnesses to the 5th Commandment.

Father Tom Lynch's words rang out in our hearts: "These marches are not just a gathering on the Hill or in front of the legislatures, but are tangible reminders that we will not surrender, that we will not go away until we have achieved the protection of all human life."

I had reluctantly set out early that morning, only to return home feeling honoured to have been in the presence of such amazing people.

I had dared to step outside my comfort zone and to participate in something that was greater than me. We all had.

If you missed the March for Life in Ottawa last spring, please mark your calendar and join us on Sunday, October 1, for Life Chain.

One of the most difficult things to do as a student is to stand up in front of one's peers. For some of us, as adults, standing in front of one's peers can still be a terrifying challenge.



Let us step out of our comfort zone this Sunday, October 1, for one hour, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. "Let us be witnesses with courage and conviction."

We will meet in the parking lot of Festival Hall in Pembroke. We will choose a sign, and then stand silently and prayerfully for one hour.

This yearly event is held in more than 200 locations across Canada!

Bring your whole family. Rain or shine. Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome!

You will be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through silent prayer.

We pray for our hearts to be open, loving, generous and understanding towards all women in crisis situations.

We pray, too, that Mary's "fiat" may give strength to all women, and that her infinite love bring healing to all.

It's never too late to step out of our comfort zone and to stand up for what we believe in, especially when our beliefs are not 'à la mode'.