



Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



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EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

Easily, one of principle virtues of our Christmas heritage is selflessness — the ability to set one’s own interests aside in favour of the needs or welfare of another, and of the community.

I’m beginning to wonder whatever happened to selflessness. Where did humility and charity go? What put an end to the common good?

Strident protests, toward the end of the summer, with people screaming that their civil liberties are trammelled by whomever asks them to wear a mask in the beer store or tells them not to gather in large numbers on the beach, are a bit hard for me to comprehend. Yet such demonstrations landed on the evening news more than a few times.

Nevertheless, our love of neighbour should encourage us to suppress, to some extent at least, our personal concerns in favour of the good of those around us. “Go the extra mile”, the Lord tells us (Mt. 5:41 — the sermon on the mount), “turn the other cheek” instead of acting like you’re mortally wounded.

Perhaps the reason I find these bad examples so troubling is that I live in a veritable utopia, where such self-centred behaviour is rarely, if ever, seen. Few people protested when we had to stop gathering for public Masses back in March, although many genuinely felt it was a terrible burden. Since we have returned to Sunday Mass together, some have made their feelings known about masks and hand sanitizer, but have not tried to force their views on others — at least not in my presence. When I asked for volunteers to help as ushers and with cleaning the church after each Sunday crowd, plenty stepped forward. Also beyond the limits of our own property, I find everyone patient and polite in lineups at the bank or the post office. Maybe I just go out at the best time of day and things get nasty when I turn my back. But I don’t think so.

In This Together

Why can’t it be like this everywhere across our country? And beyond?

How I would like to see the world full of patient, polite and helpful people! The Lord urges us to love our neighbours. Surely this includes the attitude of setting our own preferences aside, at least when needs and legitimate wishes of others may arise. Then (getting around to the point) those needs and wishes will surely include health and safety. We are called, I believe, to accept that there is a tiny little virus in circulation, which could really do great harm to our relatives and neighbours, a bug we cannot see, feel or taste; and the polite, respectful, Christian thing to do is to “go the extra mile” for the good of the people around us.

At the risk of sounding like I’m pandering to the boss, I want to publicly applaud the Bishop and all who work with him to try and keep the people of this diocese safe. These people have given heroic effort, and countless long hours, in sorting through the mountains of info coming from Health Units, all levels of government and many other sources. I am glad beyond words that they distilled the necessary bits for me, so that I didn’t have to make up the rules for selfless love of neighbour in my own parish.

How wonderful it is to work together for the common good! ☩

Fr. Raymond Rick is Pastor of St. Paul’s Parish in Lakefield and Editor of the Herald.

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NEXT ISSUE

— Advent 2020 —

will be distributed to the parishes in mid-December 2020

Submissions must be received at the e-mail address below by the middle of November.

Stories and photos of events from every parish and organization in the diocese are welcome. Photos should be sent as attachments, not embedded in a text document, and the bigger the image file the better. Submissions as PDFs often do not reproduce well. No contributor to the Catholic Herald is remunerated in any way.

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NEW
email address

Summer of 2020

a quick review

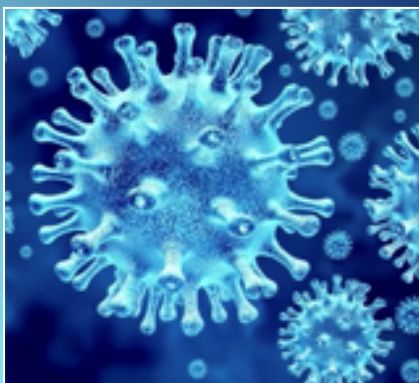


It has been a remarkable summer in this pandemic year of 2020, but no less so than the winter and spring. The summer season dawned as we reopened our churches on June 20/21 and as it ends, we are praying and hoping that no other closures will be on the horizon, despite a worrying upward trend of COVID-19 cases in our province.

Perhaps I could share a few thoughts, unconnected or joined only by a slender thread, in what amounts to a summer recap, or a review of the past few months.

•The reopening of our churches went remarkably smoothly. Yes, there was a lot of work to make it happen, there were a few hiccups here and there, and some anxieties in the early going; but on the whole, it was a surprisingly smooth exercise. People have been understanding of the various protocols and restrictions and have done their best to cooperate. I wouldn't say there was a stampede back on the first weekend or two, but we have seen steadily climbing numbers of the faithful; and it's understandable that those in a high-risk population may be slow to make the return to church. I wish to thank the priests and deacons, our Diocesan staff, our Reopening planning committee and the many parish volunteers for making the return to church as safe and hassle-free as it could possibly be.

•It has been such a blessing to tape and broadcast the Mass from our Cathedral each Sunday, through the kind assistance of Cogeco/Your TV. They presented the Mass on their channel each Sunday up until Labour Day and provided a You Tube link for us to use on our Diocesan website. They really lived up their billing as "community television," and so many of you have told me how appreciative you have been of that broadcast. Although Your TV has concluded their weekly broadcast, we are rapidly getting the equipment in place to transmit the Mass from our Cathedral on the Internet. We will continue to tape and broadcast through You Tube for the time being, and this equipment will also allow us to stream the Mass live at some point. We will be exploring every option going forward, especially as we master the technology. I want to acknowledge the many parishes that took efforts to livestream or broadcast Masses or who reached out to their



people with other social media resources. Who knew we would all become TV producers and Internet content providers?

•Besides being the summer of COVID, it was the summer of cataracts for me – or the summer of cataract surgery. I began to notice vision loss in my right eye around Christmas which rapidly advanced through the winter. I forget the technical name, but these were "fast acting cataracts," not the kind that take years to do their worst. Treatment was a bit delayed in view of the pandemic (and more complicated because of it) but I was blessed to have two surgeries a week apart in July. That line from Amazing Grace "I was blind but now I see," has never been so meaningful! I do not cease to give thanks to God for my restored vision, and to the many of you who expressed your prayers and best wishes for me and my recovery.

•The work of the Church goes on, and in mid-September, we welcomed two new priests to Peterborough from the Diocese of Enugu in Nigeria, Fr. Isaac Ogwu and Fr.

Michael Nneji. It was no mean feat for them to get here and, given the conflicting and ever-changing information about travel restrictions, I wasn't sure they would make it through all the checkpoints. But they arrived and safe and sound, and promptly began their two-week self-isolation at St. Luke's rectory in Downeyville. My sincere thanks to Fr. Balonwu Okpe who quarterbacked the arrival of his two confreres from Enugu, and to Fr. Israel Oruebi, who very graciously vacated his rectory at St. Luke's to give them a landing pad! Fr. Michael will be assigned to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains and Fr. Isaac to St. Joseph's in Bowmanville. Please pray for their good health and blessings in their priestly ministry.

•I am writing these thoughts on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows: September 15 and close to the Herald's submission deadline – sorry Father Rick! On this feast when we remember our Blessed Virgin Mary whose heart was pierced with a sword of sorrow, I cannot help but think of Pope Francis' prayer to the Blessed Mother, beseeching her intercession in the time of pandemic. "We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin." Through the Virgin Mary's prayers and by the grace of God, the Church will continue its mission even in these challenging times. Faith, hope and love are not only theological virtues, they are the best antidote to discouragement. ☩

+ Bishop Daniel J Miehms
Bishop of Peterborough

PERMANENT DEACONS: Rite of Institution to the Ministry of Lector



Lectors are lay ministers given the task of approaching and proclaiming the Scriptures during the Liturgy. The Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass emphasizes that: “In the hearing of God’s Word the Church is built up and grows”. Unless the Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed well, the foundation will not be laid for what follows in the Liturgy of the Sacrament. The readings within the liturgy serve to nourish and sustain the Body of Christ.

During the rite of institution, the bishop gives the Bible to each candidate and says, “Take this book of Holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people ... Jesus Christ made all things known to us and then entrusted his Church with the mission of preaching the Gospel to the whole world. As readers and bearers of God’s word, you will assist in this

On September 26, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, Most Reverend Bishop Miehm officially instituted our candidates for permanent diaconate as Lectors.

According to the Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons, “Before anyone may be promoted to the diaconate, whether permanent or transitory, he must have received the ministries of lector and acolyte, and have exercised them for an appropriate time”, so that he may “be better disposed for the future service of the word and the altar”. This September, Chris Borsellino from the Mission of St. John Parish in Kirkfield and Robert Vandenberg from St. Michael Parish in Cobourg were instituted as Lectors.

Code of Canon Law 1035 §1: “Before anyone may be promoted to the diaconate, whether permanent or transitory, he must have received the ministries of lector and acolyte, and have exercised them for an appropriate time.”





mission, and so take on a special office within the Christian community; you will be given a responsibility in the service of the faith, which is rooted in the word of God. You will proclaim that word in the liturgical assembly ... Thus with your help men and women will come to know God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ, whom he sent, and so be able to reach eternal life.”

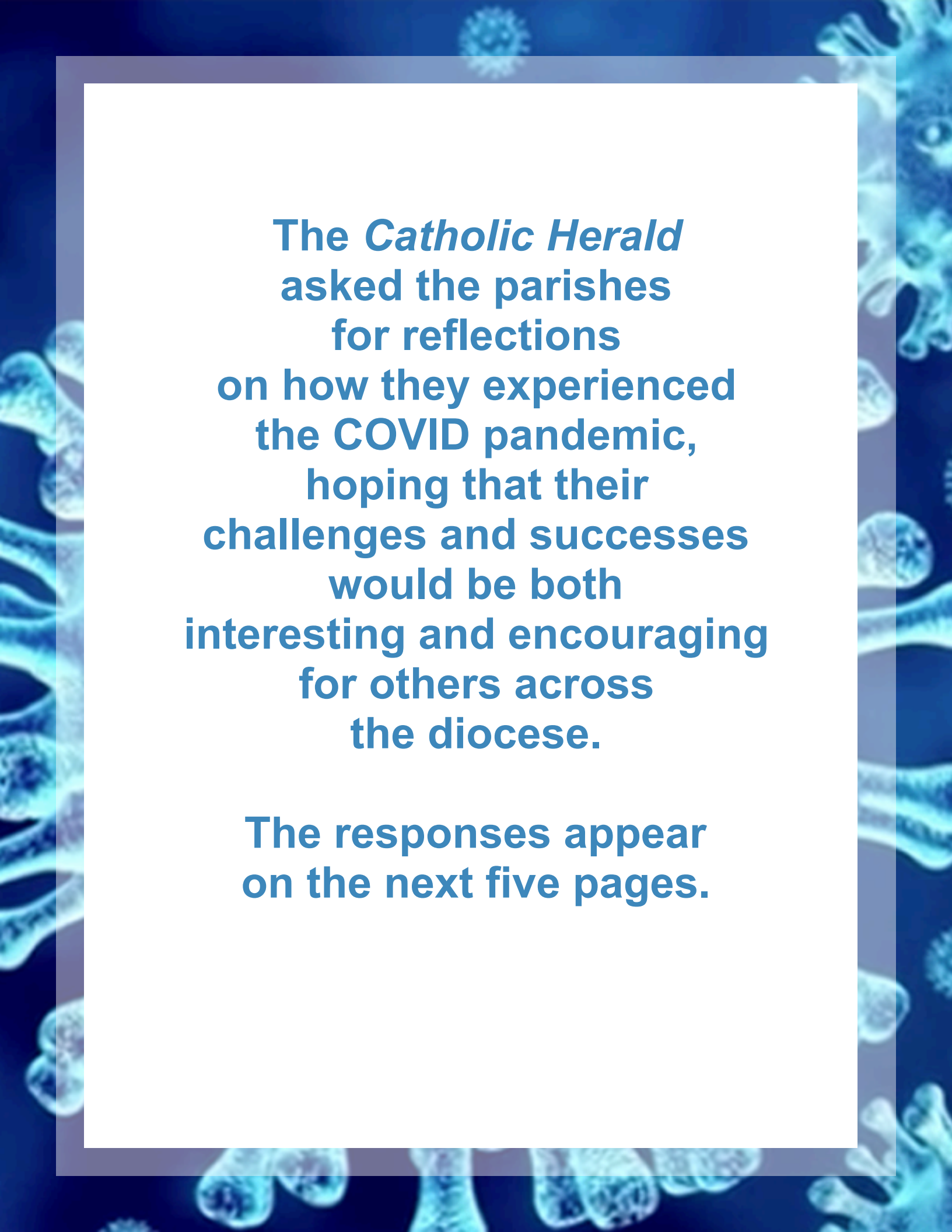
As the rite of institution closes the bishop counsels the candidates, “In proclaiming God’s word to others, accept it yourselves in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Meditate on it constantly, so that each day you will have a deeper love of the Scriptures, and in all you say and do show forth to the world our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

The formation program preparing these candidates as permanent deacons to serve the Diocese of Peterborough is proceeding into its third year. Candidates will continue to study online theology courses with other diaconal candidates from across Canada and the USA at The McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. These candidates also meet one full Saturday per month (via Zoom during these Covid-19 days) to pray and study with local theologians, lay ministers, parish priests, canon lawyers, serving deacons and the bishop.

This year candidates will focus on pastoral ministry and the skills necessary for service as deacons in the Peterborough faith community.



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Permanent
Deacons,
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The *Catholic Herald* asked the parishes for reflections on how they experienced the COVID pandemic, hoping that their challenges and successes would be both interesting and encouraging for others across the diocese.

The responses appear on the next five pages.



from Lindsay to Immaculate

— Fr Stephen DeCarlo



Nothing in seminary prepared me for handling the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020. As I watched the news get worse and worse, I was stunned to have to witness myself getting affected by the massive shutdowns taking place everywhere, including in Lindsay where I was stationed.

I distinctly remember the eerie feeling of putting signs on the church doors informing people that Sunday Mass was cancelled, of celebrating it privately in an empty church, and of seeing the empty parking lot just when Mass would have happened. It was a chilling reminder of the forsakenness that the people of Israel felt whenever they fell into trouble or whenever they fell into enemy hands.

Everything I had going on was cancelled; youth ministry, sacramental prep, school visits, prison ministry. I also didn't see my parishioners on a regular basis anymore except for the ones who would stop by the rectory to drop off donations. I felt like a priest without a parish. I would wake up, say my prayers and celebrate the Mass privately, and go to my office and work at what little duties I had. I eventually made a mini-retreat by having Holy Hours and doing more intense spiritual reading. I was able to focus on celebrating the Mass more devoutly, not having been pressed by time. Holy Week and Easter were wonderful but weird at the same time, as I had never experienced the liturgies so empty of people before. It reminded me of the ancient Advent chant *Rorate Caeli*,

"Be not angry, O Lord, and remember no longer our iniquity: behold the city of the Holy One is become a desert: Sion is become a desert: Jerusalem is desolate: the house of thy sanctification and of thy glory, where our fathers praised thee."

I also used the time to take up an old hobby: skateboarding! I did so as a video for Catholic Education Week and found that I still had my old skills, however rusty they were, and getting back on the board became natural. I slammed a few times (which means that I fell off my board) and took some painful injuries, at one point bruising my rotator cuff, but overall it was a great

experience.

Eventually public Masses were restored and I felt like a parish priest again. Despite the admittedly awkward public health measures that we had to put into practice in the church, it was such a joy to be present to the people again. A diocesan priest works his ministry for the people and it is his parishioners that give him his shepherd and spiritual father identity.

At the same time I was preparing for my transfer to Immaculate Conception Parish in Peterborough as the administrator. I am glad that I was able to do so with some resemblance of normal in the parishes. We couldn't have much of a send-off but the Lindsay parishioners still came by to wish me well. The parishioners at Immaculate welcomed me into their parish and it has been a great welcome. I am grateful to the people of both Lindsay and Immaculate for their support of their parishes and for their prayers.



Fr Stephen DeCarlo
pictured at Immaculate Conception, Peterborough



Coping with the Pandemic

1. I am an 86 year old great grandmother with 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. The Covid-19 Pandemic truly changed my life in ways I never imagined. Where before my life was filled with the joys and experiences of a large and loving family – who visited from their homes in Toronto, and I in turn visited them there – suddenly those wonderful times were no longer possible.

We all realized that it was necessary to follow directions for social distancing and the limiting my exposure to the virus, which for three months isolated me in my home on Baptiste Lake.

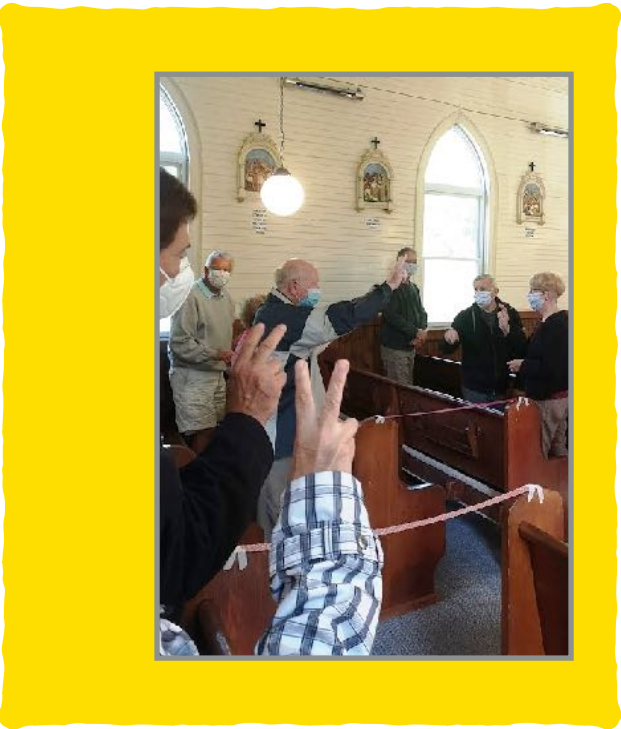
My wonderful neighbours and friends from my Parish kindly offered to pick up groceries and medications for me during this period for which I was most grateful. Father Vic Valles, our pastor, sent me copies of the “The Word Among Us” which allowed me to read the daily Masses and Meditations. While I was not able to attend Mass at our church, I found great

spiritual support and peace as I viewed Sunday Masses on TV.

It was a time of isolation but also a time to do what I had not had time to do for so many years. I began to sort and organize old photos, letters, books and special gifts which brought great joy to me as I truly saw how grateful I felt for all the wonderful experiences of love and support that have been so much part of my life. I was thankful for this time to see what really is important, and the many blessings that I have experienced.

— Diana G.

St. John Vianney Mission
(Highland Grove)



2. My life before the pandemic was very busy and I was on the go constantly.

In March of this year 2020, I was forced to slow down and take a completely new approach to life. Some things were very challenging: not being able to see my elderly mother in the Manor, not being able to see our daughter and her family from another town and not being able to attend Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist on a weekly basis. Our eyes were opened to the fact that this is reality for some people where religious freedom is forbidden.

As the weeks went by, I have come to realize that I had time to see more of our grandchildren who live close to us. I had time for a better prayer life and as a family we came together to watch religious shows and had fun doing this. My routine has changed for the better.

Things may never get back to where they were before the pandemic, but I do realize that God is looking after us. I believe there is a reason that this has happened.

– Joanne Burroughs

St. John Vianney Mission
(Highland Grove)

3. As a new family of seven, we have seen a few changes in our household during this COVID-19 pandemic. With our newest baby girl born right at the beginning of the heightened safety measures (March 19th) we experienced a fast, pushed-through stay at the hospital with no visitors, which included our four other children and grandparents. What I expected to be a quiet start to my new baby's life, while the children were at school for the day, actually turned into a homeschooling “organized” chaos. This pushed me into a role that I was not comfortable with but allowed each of us to come

continued, next page

to terms with our newfound positions and roles. It opened our eyes to try new things, to appreciate what we have and thank God for the many blessings in our lives.

Having the children at home for an extended period of time has been a true blessing. It has been wonderful to be able to spend more time with them and for them to be able to watch their new baby sister grow: to see her milestones firsthand instead of me just telling them about them when they come home from school in the evening. They have been a great help to watch her or entertain her for a few more minutes while I'm able to complete the job I'm working on.

As a family we have been able to plant a big garden. The children have seen it grow; from planting the seeds, pulling the weeds, to selling the product at the end of our driveway.

They have also been extremely fortunate to be able to go through this experience with their close cousins, another family of five children. To see them everyday and go through this time with them has been a blessing as well. Their bonds have certainly grown stronger because of the time they have been able to spend together.

As much as the pandemic has changed the world, it is nice to be able to spend time with family and enjoy the simple things in life once again.

—*Mellisa Burroughs*

St. John Vianney Mission
(Highland Grove)



4. I live in a rural setting, so isolation for me can be just that. If I choose, I could go days without seeing another person especially in the winter months. Suddenly it became something more. It was no longer safe to go to the grocery store, pharmacy, dentist or doctor. I really began to understand the severity of this pandemic when even the church shut its doors.

It became very real and I must admit a little scary. Whenever I get scared, I pray. I mean really pray. I pulled out my Divine Mercy prayers and rediscovered the sense of peace I find whenever I recite these prayers. I found a website that held a Divine Mercy service every day at 3 pm and it turned out to be a comfort to me and reaffirmed my trust in God.

It got me thinking about what I really wanted to ask for during my time of prayer. Which led me to understand I am blessed and truly have little to ask for but very much to be thankful for. Reaching out frequently to family and friends became considerably more important than many other things I valued.

As a result, I hope to spend more time learning new skills, being more productive and proactively staying connected to loved ones. Likewise, being continuously thankful for all the blessings I have received.

In uncertain times, having a belief in God and knowing that he is there for us gives hope and solace for the future and whatever that brings.

—*Pat Canning*

St. Mary's of the Purification mission
(Chandos/Apsley)

continued, next page

5. Whew! 2020 has presented our world with an incredible new challenge.

We are no longer able to travel, hug, celebrate. instead store closures, isolation, social distancing, masks and frequent hand-washing have become the norm. The isolation has been a major adjustment and the fear of the unknown has created much anxiety. The fact that it is global is a good reminder of how we are all connected, it has made our world much smaller, our family is a global family!

I was reminded of how the depression impacted and changed the lives of my ancestors; they had little money, no social media, but drew on strength from their faith, hard work and trust. I found myself grateful that my fridge was full, I could keep in contact with family and friends, through texting, skype & zoom and tv provided a source of entertainment... somewhat (there didn't seem to be many good shows). Through the wonderful expertise and guidance of our medical team, I believe the virus was prevented from being much worse. I was relieved when the government stepped up and offered assistance for the terrible setbacks we were are facing. I was pleased that concerned people reached out; we all knew in our church community that Fr. Vic was just a call away.

My strength in this journey has been drawn from my faith and trust, and the fact that we are all in this together. Nature has nourished me, given me hope and reminded me how everything has a season, everything has its time, this too will pass. And I am confident we will be more aware, more appreciative even of the little things in our lives. It was a gift to realize that with less traffic, less pollution our world seemed to start healing, the air became cleaner and wildlife became rejuvenated. This is a stark reminder that we only have one world, and it is crying.

It is with a greater appreciation that I continue on in hope and gratitude. I will be stronger, I will be more aware and my meditations and stillness will be always filled with love and an open heart filled with gratitude to my God.

— *Carmel Connelly*

St. Mary's Parish
(Chandos/Apsley)

6. What hit us?? Covid-19. Where did it come from? How does it spread? Around the world in a few weeks .How can that be possible?

In God anything is possible.

Advantages as I see them. Neighbours became more sharing. Families call more often, via phone or internet, concerned we are all abiding with the rules of safely set out for us for our protection, sending love.

Our Televisions sponsored more religious programmes. Easter we could view Holy Mass from around the world. E.G

Mass from Rome with the Holy Father. Many of our local church's used the opportunity of making weekly masses available via the internet. I received many Blessings via my computer. Prayers were shared, Bible scriptures were sent, I did not realize so many of my younger family members were relating the Corona to the Holy Book. Blessings bringing out deeper Faith.

It was very difficult for me to do conversations with my friends in special care facilities, shut in their rooms, meals delivered to their small rooms, families visited through closed windows, sign language and large printed messages saying LOVE YOU.

Time in isolation was a challenge. Month of April came feeling lonesome. Missed our church and Holy Mass.

I did not realize how much I just wanted to drive into Timmie's and share a coffee with a friend.

Grateful to our Local Food Land store, I could email my grocery order in and have a friend pick it up for me. . Mail kept being delivered. More gardens were planted this year. Friends and neighbours sharing freshness to me..

Time in isolation meant knitting, reading, and doing much catch up household chores. Canning and preserving...

May we all enjoy good health and a stronger Faith. Good things will come from all this, Perhaps this is part of our penance for our next journey,,,

— *Evelyn Mutis*

Our Lady of Lourdes
(Cardiff)





Saint Paul the Apostle Parish

Saint Jean de Brébeuf

~

Our Lady of Good Counsel

2466 County Rd 36, Buckhorn

2109 Young's Point Rd, Young's Point

It came as quite a shock, the directive to cease celebrating Liturgies with any congregation, and I had a hard time accepting it. It didn't seem possible; it didn't seem right. What brought me to my senses was a recollection of the promise of obedience that I took at ordination and which I've reaffirmed every year at the Christ Mass. My bishop gave me my marching orders and I am not going to start cherrypicking which ones I might not follow.

The command to close our doors occurred mid-March, exactly on the weekend we had prepared for a major annual fundraiser, complete with dinner and entertainment. Not only was our kitchen full of food, but we'd already figured out how to shift from a self-serve buffet to a safer, fully served meal. Still, it had to be cancelled... very last-minute. Little did we know that we would also be cancelling our mid-summer Beef BBQ, as well. We know other parishes are in the same boat, but it's still unpleasant and worrisome.

During those first three months of the pandemic, I maintained the parish's routine Liturgical schedule as well as I could, even though it was more than a little strange being alone in the church. I celebrated Masses at the usual times (except for Sunday) and, during Lent, the Stations of the Cross. Being alone, without an "audience" as it were, I had a chance to refocus on what I was doing and concentrate a bit more closely on the great mysteries taking place.

Similarly, we had two tiny weddings this spring, with just the couple and their witnesses. In both cases, they remarked on how special it felt because they weren't distracted by the congregation and could focus on what was happening in the moment.

I make specific mention (above) of the Stations because they have become very dear to me. Over the past few years, I've been more and more conscious of the unfathomable suffering and sacrifice of Our Lord upon the cross. I wish I could spend even more time simply contemplating this mystery! It helps me understand that my trials are pretty insignificant and I'm full of gratitude for the salvation He purchased for me/us.

My first and most urgent hope, during the COVID lockdown, was to keep my parish somehow tied together. Two things are especially worth mentioning:

- A daily email blast
- Zoom virtual chat & prayer meetings at the usual Sunday morning Mass time.

Honestly, the Zoom thing didn't take off as well as I thought it might. There were a handful of faithful parishioners who showed up at the appointed time each week, and it really meant a lot to them to be able to see each other and talk a little. That was important for me, also. But too many of our people had technical trouble: computers or internet connections not up to par, for the most part. There's not much you can do about that. And I know some folks preferred to spend the time on Sunday morning tuning in to one or another of the available live-streamed Masses.

The one Zoom experience that stands out in my mind as being especially good was our prayer hour for Divine Mercy on the 19th of April. I was amazed at how well that worked and I felt really good about it afterwards.

The email blast, mentioned above, has been a big hit. I've received far more positive feedback about that than I could ever have guessed. It goes out every morning (with rare exceptions) to every parishioner email address I can find. And no one has ever asked to be taken off the distribution list. I'm astounded! So, I include a little news and information section, a joke or cartoon, the Mass Readings of the day and a commentary on them. I've had enough people tell me how much they appreciate this connection (and especially the cartoons) that I haven't had the heart to shut it down, even though we can gather for Mass again.

The whole Zoom experience has been an adventure. Actually, it's hard to imagine how we would have conducted business without it. Not only has it allowed me to "meet" with parishioners, but also with the bishop and his staff, fellow priests, and the local Lakefield Ministerial Association. It allows for a sense of connection, even when we are isolated. The bishop hosted a meeting for all the priests a while back (a social event, not business), and a couple dozen of us took advantage of it. I was glad to see my colleagues, but it was a bit chaotic with too many people trying to talk

all at once. Still, it's a good memory.

I had thought I might do more reading during this time, but that hasn't worked out. I seem to spend a lot more time in front of the computer, mostly dealing with email.

For half a year, now, I've been hoping this crazy time would just end, but it's beginning to look like it might be with us for a while. I think we can survive; it hasn't been as bad as I had at first feared.

— Fr. Ray Rick.



Rising to the Occasion

Wayside Academy



Wow! Nobody saw this coming!

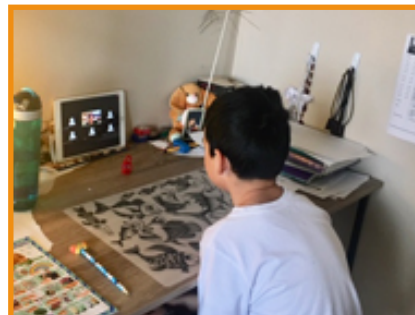
Mid-March found us wide-eyed and windswept by mandated province-wide school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And our school community, staff and Wayside families absolutely rose to the occasion! While other schools went on March Break, we jumped right into planning and executing our Distance Learning Plan. Within hours, we had a full online class schedule for every single class, Google Classrooms and a Distance Learning website created as a central hub for assignments, quizzes, materials and school/class communication.

Our teachers prepared lesson plans and sent or confirmed resources parents could pick up to facilitate their child(ren)'s education during the school disruption. And the engagement continues with supplemental online conferences such as morning rosary every school day, and spiritual group talks every Friday evening. We miss seeing the smiling faces of every single one of our students and staff. They are in our prayers and we look forward to a warm and wonderful reunion when school re-opens for the 2020/2021 school year!



"It has definitely been a different experience, but the students have been amazing and participating well! It is truly a blessing to be part of a school which leads our students toward the True, the Good and the Beautiful, of which Music is an essential part."

– Sister Mary Augustine



"I was really impressed that the Wayside community was able to break for what we thought would be an ordinary weekend, and pick right back up on the quarantine Monday with a completely new platform for our academic and social activities. I'm touched by the willingness of the students to soldier on with their studies under a totally new challenge. Most have exhibited remarkable flexibility, humour, discipline, and curiosity. Despite the fact that I have enjoyed petting my dog more, and staying in my exercise clothes most of the day, I really have missed working with all of you in person."

– Mrs. Hodges



Priest Benefit Fund Special Collection

[Rescheduled Date: November 22, 2020](#)

From the Diocesan Pastoral Centre Temporal Affairs Office

The Diocese of Peterborough Priest's Benefit Fund (PBF) is a pooled, non-registered, defined benefit that collectively invests and administrates the funds per Diocesan Policy. The assets of the Fund are segregated and held in a separate fund under the supervision of His Excellency Bishop D. Miehm, the PBF Advisory Committee, and the Diocesan Finance Council. The Diocese has been able to continue positive sustained growth of the **PBF for the needs of our retired priests and those suffering from longer term illnesses**. Between the years of 2012 through 2019 the average annual costs for retirement benefits and health care was \$455,904.00.

The care of all current and future retired Diocesan priests is vital. We kindly thank you for your past generosity in assisting in the care of our retired priests and ask you to consider continuing your support.

How You Can Help

- Contribute to the annual **Priest benefit Fund collection November 22, 2020** in your parish;
- Remember the Priest Benefit Fund in your will;
- Make the Priest Benefit Fund a beneficiary of an rrsp, rrif, a life insurance policy and/or a transfer of stocks and securities.
- Donations can be made to the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, care of PBF, any Diocese of Peterborough parish and electronically by credit card or PayPal on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/donate.aspx> under the Fund drop down choice "2. Care of Retired Priests".

For FURTHER information please visit the Diocesan website at WWW.PETERBOROUGHDIOCESE.ORG

We offer our sincere thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. The care of all current and future retired Diocesan priests is vital. We kindly thank you for your past generosity in assisting in the care of our retired priests and ask you to consider continuing to make a difference.

Thank you, Deb McRae
Diocesan Director of Finance, Property and Administration



Building a Culture of Vocations

by Fr. John Perdue



Navigating alongside Jesus

In March, the entire trajectory for summer in the Vocations Office changed. What a shock that was to the system! Our spring gathering of Parish Vocation Teams was cancelled (these are teams of people who help me promote a Culture of Vocations at the parish level); our plan to bring the Totus Tuus Catholic summer camp to three of our parishes was cancelled; the in-person Vianney Fair was cancelled; my Quo Vadis men’s discernment group was cancelled... what a shock! It took time, prayer and consultation to begin navigating how to continue building a Culture of Vocations in drastically different circumstances. And, as happens with any challenge navigated alongside Jesus, things have gone better than I expected!

First, we transitioned our monthly Quo Vadis group to a virtual format via the application “Zoom”. Sixteen young men signed on to meet with a priest and seminarian and to learn about the call to priesthood through the book *To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood*. An unexpected benefit was that young men from our Diocese could tune in from anywhere in the world. One of our participants joined us from Vancouver, where he is currently studying.

Next, my excellent Organizing Committee decided to move the Vianney Fair online, so we introduced the Virtual Vianney Fair, which featured recorded videos of priests, religious sisters and brothers and married couples sharing their



The Vianney Fair went Virtual this year!

continued,

next page





Young men discerning their Vocation gather for a digital meeting

Vocation stories and tips on discerning one's Vocation. The talented Duketow family, of the band *Rhythm and Grace*, composed and produced a song and music video related to Vocations called "There is Joy". It was filmed on-site at the beautiful property of Paschal and Sylvia McCloskey, where the Vianney Fair usually takes place. We will be sharing the music video again soon on social media, in case you missed it. Many thanks to my Vianney Fair organizing committee, our special guests for the Virtual Vianney Fair, and to the McCloskey and Duketow families for helping bring together a great event!

As we have moved to Phase III of the re-opening of facilities, I am looking forward to resuming in-person

meetings with young men discerning the priesthood.

Our seminarians, Peter Lukow (3rd Theology) and Peter Bissonnette (1st Theology) have returned to St. Augustine's Seminary and have completed a two-week quarantine together with the entire seminary community. Please pray for them and please pray that many other young men will be called to the priesthood for our Diocese. We need them!

Please consider joining the St. Joseph Vocation Society to pray for Vocations. As a thank you for your prayers, you will be remembered in a monthly Mass that I offer for your intentions. You can join at www.ptbovocations.ca

Thanks you, and God bless! ☩

Father John Perdue
Director of Vocations
Diocese of Peterborough

www.ptbovocations.ca
vocations@peterboroughdiocese.org
Facebook: /PTBOVocations
Twitter: @PTBO_Vocations



THE CHOIR LOFT

**Kathleen
Moquin**

On Transition

As earnestly as I navigated former academic pursuits, I was never a fan of having to write the obligatory paragraph about “what (I) did last summer” during the opening days of the school year. The summer adventures of my youth guaranteed more than sufficient material for assignment completion, but having to relate the happy details while brand-new school supplies remained sealed or unsharpened seemed a rather hasty exercise. And how, exactly, does one transcribe the wonderment and magic evoked by exploring the nearby fairgrounds during midway and concession set-up; watching your first dawn-to-dusk movie marathon at the drive-in; or perfecting your fine motor skills, daily, at the pinball arcade? Would that the teacher could have accepted a blank sheet of paper entitled, “You Just Had to Be There.”

I expect that most contributors to this *Catholic Herald* issue will have shared their impressions of and experiences during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. I am certain that readers will relate to the fears and uncertainty expressed in stories of hardship and inconvenience. Few aspects of our lives have been unaffected by the pandemic. We grieved Covid-19 losses, not only the deaths of infected individuals but also losses of income and suspension of individual liberties associated with mitigation efforts. We listened to public health officials and obeyed shelter-in-place orders. Many of us were home-schooling children while working from home. Some of us undertook responsibility for elderly parents or isolated neighbours. We traded house parties for virtual gatherings. We abandoned travel plans for personal or household projects; binge-watched *Netflix*; and learned new recipes. Courtesy of *YouTube*, we celebrated

spiritual communion at home. We located or created our social bubbles. We kept our distance, too. All while wearing a mask, because resilience is futile without a measure of consideration for our fellow pandemic passengers. We’re all in this together.

It’s been six months since the World Health Organization declared a global coronavirus pandemic, and governments have begun to implement various strategies for social and economic reopening. Pending the availability of a vaccine, however, things will not soon be returning to normal. Instead, the world is transitioning towards a “new normal” and my own pandemic experiences resonate on this theme of transition. Grounded by the closure of the international border, I deposited credits on purchased travel, hopeful that the low budget airline will still be in business to honour them next year. Cancellation of seasonal subscriptions to arts events and tickets to summer concerts forced us to explore replacement virtual offerings, such as the Broadway musical, *Hamilton* that we streamed, twice, in July. In May, we abandoned elaborate plans for our daughter’s wedding to host an intimate Covid-19 affair, and I am working to become the world’s best mother-in-law. During the lockdown, I allowed my hair to assume its natural gray highlights, which was a surprisingly satisfying transition. Modified office protocols necessarily affected my medical practice, from which I retired on June 1. In the opening weeks of the pandemic, most in-office patient visits were suspended in favour of virtual patient encounters. Social distancing was maintained between physicians and remaining staff, and we were early mask-adopters. Sequestered in an office, conducting the usual medical inquiries while simultaneously concluding almost three decades of a doctor-patient relationship by telephone was a lonely and often emotionally draining exercise. I am grateful to those patients who extended their best wishes and even recognized my grey-haired, masked countenance in Sobey’s this summer.

As I continue my transition along retirement and contemplate how post-pandemic life might eventually look for all of us, I recognize God’s presence and Providence throughout this eventful half-year. I wish for the experiences of the gentle reader and the contents of this issue of the *Catholic Herald* to serve as our collaborative end-of-summer submission, “He Just Had to Be There,” because God never abandons His people:

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal (*New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition*, 2 Cor. 4:16-18). ☩

Dr. Kathleen Moquin lives with her family in Parry Sound.



Duck Decoys

FROM THE PEW

David Beresford



"If something is worth doing, it is worth doing badly." G. K. Chesterton

I collect bulk lead, or at least I should say I save lead when I find any. I have a chunk of lead pipe that I got when I was renovating a duplex apartment in East City in 1988. I am happy about that piece of lead pipe, and have managed to keep track of it over two moves, "What's in this box, Dave, lead?"

I have a plan. My lead is going to be used when I finally get a set of working decoys carved. The longer I have that lead, the more I treasure it now that it is becoming harder to find lead in bulk. I used to have a pail of lead wheel weights that I had collected over the years. Keeping that pail of wheel weights in my living room behind the TV was not wise. It seems to have disappeared – I suspect it was tossed into a dumpster. Whenever I am away working up north, my wife Theresa orders a dumpster and fills it with my stuff. Usually I never miss it, and do not even know what is gone, but occasionally treasures get tossed.

A friend of mine also collects lead and has a chunk of lead pipe that he treasures as well. He has carved over one hundred decoys – blue bills – and I think it was his example that inspired me to get started again. As part of my long-term decoy carving plan, I also have been collecting cedar and basswood logs, cedar for the bodies and basswood for the heads. I have a chunk of basswood from Gilmour Street that I got in the 1970s (1975?) from a tree that blew down. From this I take pieces, and I have made over a dozen duck heads, most of which are still waiting for their cedar bodies.



So far I have carved eight decoys, and it has taken me as many years to do so. I hollow the bodies to make them light, and screw a thin cedar board to the bottom. Because I do not want to cut into my stash of lead pipe, I bought some lead weights. These are used to make them float at the right height in the water. I hold them in place with an elastic band and adjust the weight, checking that the decoys flip right side up, when placed in the rain barrel

upside down. So far so good, my decoys all flip over quickly, and appear to float correctly.

Carving the wings is tricky, but with each duck I seem to be improving. To paint them, I use rust paint. This is now the only kind of oil paint we are allowed to buy in Canada for reasons which are senseless except to politicians. My painting is not very good, and I often console myself with the thought that these are supposed to be working decoys. As G. K. Chesterton's said, "if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly." And I have a sign in my workshop with my favourite saying: "the perfect is the enemy of the good."

So much for the easy part. The real problem for me is that all of the decoys I carve

look wrong. Other people's decoys might look a bit rustic with more or less detail, but they do look like ducks. Most of mine look cross-eyed, some goggle-eyed, some like they were clubbed on the head with my lead pipe. I keep changing how I set the eyes, trying different painting and eye material – nail heads, brass tacks, even carving eyes on the heads. And, while each eye looks perfect when looked at from the side; when I look at the front, they are distinctly cross-eyed.

All except two. One looks like it is bearing patiently with an inferior intellect, its eyes raised in derision as if I have just said something stupid. I can live with that. It is the other one that troubles me. It looks smug, as if it knows about my guilty secrets. I actually do not have any guilty secrets so my conscience is clear, but this wooden duck seems to know better. Perhaps it knows about that time I broke my dad's hammer and hid it back in his tool box, or how I used to climb the garage roof and jump off when nobody was at home. The only other thing I can think of is that time I broke the firing pin on my dad's shotgun by dry firing it. But these were so long ago, it can't be these things.

I can promise you one thing though, about this wooden duck. If it does not wipe that knowing, smug, superior look off its face, is going to be used for firewood this winter. ☘

David Beresford teaches biology at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay, and lives with his wife Theresa and their seven children on a farm near Lakefield Ontario.

2020 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

Monday, August 17, 2020

On 12 December, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church in Canada celebrates the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This project, with the approval of the Bishops of Canada, has been coordinated since 2002 by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council (formerly the Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council). This year, the reflection by the Council centres on the theme *Healing of the Earth*.

“Together we share one common home, Mother Earth, and we are all dependant on her for our existence. We continue to face very real threats to our ecology and way of life, which has never been more apparent as we live through the present Covid-19 pandemic. We must come together as one human family. Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical *Laudato Si* that: ‘Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.’ We turn to the Earth for sustenance: for shelter, food and medicines. And when we die, our bodies will return to the Earth where our ancestors reside as we await to be with God in Heaven forever.”



We the Body of Christ, are called to live in solidarity with all peoples. We are called to respect, protect, defend and nurture the oneness of all of God’s Creation. God made this Earth as a true gift to His children of all nations.

Indigenous people around our world have their creation stories. These stories are about relationships. They teach us about the Earth and it’s awakening. God the Creator makes the Earth a good place. He sees a beautiful place with purpose. We acknowledge God as the Creator of all things!

There is also the relationship with all things of the Earth and universe. This is our common home: the moon and stars, the sun, the wind and water, and the land. As people of the Earth we share with one another, each and every day. God gathers us together in this place.

Another relationship is about *healing*. We are always healing. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to lead us in the way of healing and restore relationship with God, other peoples, and all creation. Jesus used mud from the Earth to heal the blind. He went into the wilderness and to the mountains to fast. He used bread and a few fish to feed thousands of people. He worked with the wind and water. Jesus was in full relationship with all things of creation. We learn from Him about the way of the healer, friend, prophet, and teacher.

Furthermore, we are in loving relationship with all the Children of God. We are all created in His image and likeness. The human community has many blessings: families and kinship; languages; ceremonies and rituals. These gifts connect us.

In an article written by Father Rigobert Minani Bihuzo, S.J., for the Synod of the Amazon, the Church is called to strengthen its teaching about the Earth as a gift from God¹. This gift continues to be given, and God’s faithful people are called not only to be good stewards of the land, but are to also bring healing and teachings about good versus poor stewardship of our common home.

¹ <https://justresponse.faith/week-4-easter-time-ecological-conversion>



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Ecological conversion, as taught by Pope Francis, requires the promotion and respect of human rights – individual and collective. People of faith are to advocate for peoples whose way of life depends on the land, and are to defend the rights of persons who are victims of exploitation. This was acknowledged in the process and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action, here in Canada.

Together we share one common home, Mother Earth, and we are all dependant on her for our existence. We continue to face very real threats to our ecology and way of life, which has never been more apparent as we live through the present Covid-19 pandemic. We must come together as one human family. Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical *Laudato Si* that: “Humanity still has the

ability to work together in building our common home.”² We turn to the Earth for sustenance: for shelter, food and medicines. And when we die, our bodies will return to the Earth where our ancestors reside as we await to be with God in Heaven forever.

We recognize the benevolence of the Creator, who has provided us with the gifts of Earth, water, fire and air. We are grateful for all He has provided. We express our gratitude through our lives of prayer, song, dance, story, ceremony and ritual.

²http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

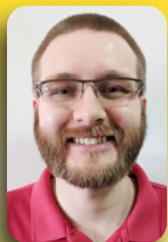
Let us pray:

O God, Great Spirit and Faithful Creator, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things.

For this we thank you, we praise you and we worship you.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our teacher, prophet and brother - to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in The Sacred Teachings. Give us the honesty to recognize that the Earth provides us with life sustaining breath, nourishment and healing, and give us the strength to proclaim by our words and actions that the Earth is a blessing for all peoples. May we avoid the sins of exploitive personal power and profit. May we seek the righteous way of love, service, and healing in all things.

*Father, as we walk our journey on this Earth, may your life-giving Spirit protect and guide us with your Wisdom so that we might live in right relationship and harmony with all humanity. May we pass on to future generations this Earth and all your gifts as you have provided them to us.
+Amen*



CATHOLIC CURIOSITIES

**Stephen
Retallick**

Sedlec Ossuary “The Bone Church”

Sedlec, a neighbourhood of the historic city of Kutná Hora, Czech Republic, is home to one of the most unique tourist destinations in the country: Sedlec Ossuary.

Sedlec Ossuary is a small chapel on the lower level of the Cemetery Church of All Saints, which was built in the centre of Sedlec Cemetery in the late 14th century. The cemetery was originally part of Sedlec Abbey, a

contain at least one of every bone in the human body - hangs from the centre of the nave.

In 1278, Henry, the abbot of Sedlec Abbey, was sent by King Ottokar II of Bohemia to the Holy Land on a diplomatic mission. Upon his return from Jerusalem, the pious abbot scattered a handful of soil from Golgotha over the abbey cemetery as an act of consecration and healing. Once word of this act spread, the cemetery became highly sought after for burial, especially among the wealthy.

Like most European countries, in 1347, the Black Death had a devastating impact on the Kingdom of Bohemia and the cemetery had to be enlarged to accommodate nearly 30,000 burials. Seventy-four years later, in the spring of 1421, Hussite troops captured Kutná Hora, and the ensuing Hussite war resulted in 10,000 additional



former Cistercian monastery, that was founded in 1142.

The Ossuary is well known for its decorations and fixtures made with human bones, and is estimated to contain between 40,000 and 70,000 skeletons. Of its more elaborate fixtures, a 8-foot chandelier - said to

burials in the cemetery.

Around 1511, a portion of the cemetery was closed, and, according to legend, a half-blind Cistercian monk was given the task of exhuming the skeletal remains from the abolished graves and moving them to the Ossuary.

Between 1703-1708, reconstruction of the Cemetery Church of All Saints, including the Ossuary, was entrusted to Jan Blažej Santini Aichel, a Czech architect of

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Chandelier



Niches

Italian heritage. As part of the reconstruction, the bones in the Ossuary were re-arranged with symbolism in mind: garlands of skulls hanging from the ceiling symbolize angelic heads, pinnacle-shaped candle holders symbolize the eternal light, and unique arrangements in the niches symbolize chalices and monstrances.

When the Sedlec Monastery was dissolved by Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor, in 1783, the abbey was purchased by the aristocratic Schwarzenberg family. Due to their patronage, the Sedlec Ossuary was maintained, and, in 1870, František Rint, a woodcarver, was employed to arrange further piles of bones into decorative designs. In addition to the previously mentioned chandelier, Rint designed a large representation of the Schwarzenberg family coat-of-arms and four enormous bell-shaped structures that occupy the four corners of the Ossuary.

The Parish of Kutná Hora-Sedlec has been the custodian of the Cemetery Church of All Saints and Ossuary since 2003. As of 2014, the building has been undergoing extensive restoration to correct structural damage due to unstable soil. ☩

Stephen, his wife, and their son live in Peterborough.



Pinnacles



Schwarzenberg arms

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE: HAVE YOU BEEN CALLED TO SERVE?

In response to the number of Catholic laymen who have expressed a sincere interest in exploring a possible vocation to the permanent diaconate, the Diocese of Peterborough is opening its application process for the admission of new candidates for the permanent diaconate in September of 2020.

The call to the Order of Deacon is a call to a ministry of Service. The service ministry of a deacon may take many forms. While service in parish ministry working with the pastor and parish staff is the aspect most parishioners see, diaconal ministry also involves a broader outreach beyond the parish to those most marginalized in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes or the homeless. During the COVID-19 crisis, some deacons began to setup parish phone networks to check on the wellbeing of vulnerable parishioners others



arranged porch deliveries of essentials for shut ins. Even now many deacons are supporting the safe return to parish liturgies by assisting with the training and direction of volunteer cleaners, ushers and greeters. All of these ministries are tangible, sacramental signs of Jesus, the foot washer.

Deacons assist priests during Mass, administer baptisms, witness marriages, preside at funerals with no mass and at wakes, officiate at Benediction and lead community prayer services. They proclaim the Gospel and preach at liturgical celebrations. They provide catechetical instruction, adult faith formation and sacramental preparation.

Deacons personally serve the poor, the aged, the sick and the imprisoned, bringing the Gospel to all those in need. Like

priests, deacons call others to ministry by their witness and example.

As facilitators of ministry, a deacon works with the Bishop, pastor and parish staff in identifying areas of local need. His task then is to invite lay men and women to engage in the ministry and, when the lay team is ready to take over, the deacon moves on to another area of need to repeat the process. Indeed, this is a “call to serve.”

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Who May Become a Deacon?

• In the autumn of 2020, there will be a number of Zoom parish information sessions throughout the Diocese to explore the ministry of the permanent diaconate, to share the expectations involved in the formation program, and to deal with particular questions raised by participants. Following the meetings, there will be an opportunity for individuals to express personal interest and /or to obtain specific information concerning the application process.

• In January 2021, the formal interview processes, pastoral recommendations, personal visits and screening procedures for prospective candidates will begin.

• Diaconal candidates are:

- Catholic males who have been baptized and are practicing the faith for at least five years;
- between the ages of 35 and 63 at time of admission;
- of good moral character and reputation;
- in a valid, stable marriage, or living celibately if unmarried or widowed;
- actively involved in a parish community or ecclesial movement;
- of sound physical and psychological health;
- economically stable and self-sufficient;
- resident of the Diocese of Peterborough;
- living a deep sacramental, spiritual life evidenced by attendance at Mass, reception of sacraments, and participation in spiritual exercises and retreats.

• Married candidates must have the consent and support of their wives, who must be willing to actively participate in the formation process.

• Diaconal candidates will seek the recommendation of their pastors, who will verify the above traits and attest suitability for ministry.

If you believe that you are being called to serve as a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Peterborough and would like more information, contact:

Deacon Bill Radigan Permanent Diaconate
350 Hunter Street West, P.O. Box 175
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Y8
(705) 745-4681
email: billradigan@peterboroughdiocese.org



SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph Devereaux

The names of cities and regions which occur in Sacred Scripture are readily familiar to readers of the Bible today, due to recent and ongoing armed conflict and religious persecution of minorities and Christians in the Middle East. The devastating explosion that occurred Tuesday 4 August 2020, in Beirut, Lebanon has again drawn attention and prayers to the region of Jesus' birth.

Today there are about 1.2 million Catholics in Lebanon in total, the majority of whom are not Latin Catholics but instead follow Eastern Catholic rites as part of the Catholic Church - mostly Maronite, but also Melkite and Catholic rites non-native to Lebanon, i.e., Armenian, Chaldean, and Syriac. The Maronite Church constitutes the largest Eastern Catholic Church represented in Lebanon, the "Land of the Cedars."

The Maronite Christians are named after Maroun, a 4th-century Syriac Christian hermit monk whose followers, after his death, founded the Syriac Maronite Church, in full communion with the Holy See and the Catholic Church. St. Charbel was a Maronite.

Born on May 8, 1828, St. Charbel (Youssef Antoun Makhlof) was the youngest of five and raised in a devout Christian family. His father, who had been taken away from the family and forced into hard labor, died when his youngest son was only three. Youssef wanted to become a monk from a young age. He helped his family tend to a small flock, and often took the flock to a grotto to pray before the Blessed Virgin Mary. When he was 23, he left home without informing anyone - making a pilgrimage on foot to a nearby monastery. Taking the religious name

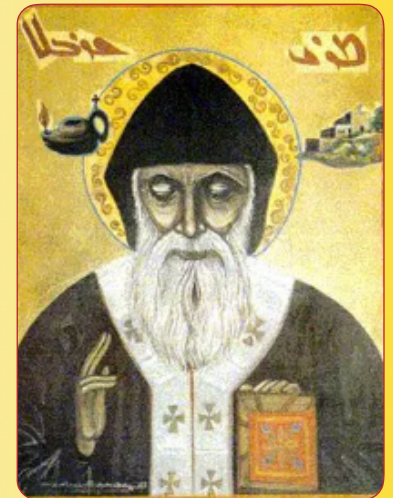
St. Charbel Makhlof

May 8, 1828 – December 24, 1898

Feast Day: July 24th

"Charbel", he became a monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order and completely devoted his life to Christ. Ordained a priest in 1859, he later withdrew to the hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul to spend 23 years in prayer, fasting, manual labor, and penance, until on Christmas Eve of the year 1898, he died at the age of 70. His last words were "Father of Truth, behold Your Son a sacrifice pleasing to You, accept the offering of Him who died for me..." After his death, many graces and bodily cures have been obtained through his intercession. He was canonized by Pope St. Paul VI in 1977.

When one of the monks visited the tabernacle at midnight following Charbel's death, he saw a light surrounding the tabernacle and St. Charbel's body, which was laying in repose in the Church. The monk saw a light bursting from the door of the tabernacle, circling the body of Father Charbel, shining up to the chandelier above the



coffin and back to the tabernacle. Many people, including Christians and Muslims, reported light emanating from St. Charbel's tomb after his burial. His body was exhumed multiple times; Church authorities found him completely incorrupt.

A few months after his death, authorities found that "further examination showed that his body transpired blood and water like any living organism." Fr. Peter Mishmshany, a St. Maron priest who visited Fr. Charbel while he was ill, and participated in his burial said, "When a light was seen rising over the tomb, witnessed by many people, then the tomb was opened and the body was found to be sound, perfect, incorrupt." Fr. Charbel's body reportedly remained intact for more than 40 years after his death.

Many healing miracles are attributed to his powerful intercession. One case, in 1936, was that of Sister Mary Abel Kamary who suffered from a serious internal

continued, next page

malady. Her pancreas, gallbladder and kidney were stuck together, causing uncontrolled vomiting and paralyzation of her right arm. She underwent multiple unsuccessful surgeries. She endured this intense suffering for 14 years. She vomited everything she ate, her teeth decayed, and she walked with a cane.

After hearing of St. Charbel's intercession, she asked for his help. He then blessed her in a dream, and she later visited Fr. Charbel's grave in Lebanon. "No sooner had she touched the grave tile than she felt a current in her back. "While she was praying near the coffin, the name of St. Charbel appeared carved on the tile, wreathed with drops of glistening sweat. She wiped it with her scarf and then rubbed it on the afflicted area. She got up and walked!

Love of God was the driving force for St. Charbel. He was extremely devoted to the Eucharist and offering of Holy Mass; which he would always offer at noon when the sun was high in sky, and for which he would spend the entire morning in prayerful preparation.

On the occasion of his beatification in 1965, the Eastern Catholic hermit was described by Pope St. Paul VI as "a new, eminent member of monastic sanctity," who "through his example and his intercession is enriching the entire Christian people."

Let us follow Charbel's example. Let us seek the powerful intercession of this great monk, hermit, priest, miracle-worker, mystic and saint. His feast day is on July 24. ✠

Fr. Joseph Devereaux is Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Hastings, and Chancellor of the Diocese.

Prayer to St. Charbel

Lord, infinitely Holy and Glorified in Your Saints,
You have inspired Charbel, the saint monk,
to lead the perfect life of a hermit.
We thank You for granting him the blessing
and the strength to detach himself from the world
so that the heroism of the monastic virtues of poverty,
obedience, and chastity,
could triumph in his hermitage.
We beseech You to grant us the grace
of loving and serving You, following his example.
Almighty God, Who has manifested
the power of St. Charbel's intercession
through his countless miracles and favours,
grant us... *(State your intention(s) here...)*
through his intercession.
Amen.

Rosary Coast to Coast Canada 2020

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Visit www.rosarycoasttocoast.ca for information on how to sign up
and be added to the list of Canadian events for others to join.

An image from a 2019 event.





Fr. John Perdue



Greetings from Peterborough Campus Ministry, our ministry to students at Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College!

As with most things in our lives these days, we are charting a very different course for our ministry to students this year. For at least the first 7 weeks of class, Fleming College is going fully remote and students are participating in classes online. At Trent, student residences are running at half capacity and the only classes happening in-person are those that require the use of lab equipment. All of this means that we have added challenges and opportunities as we seek to connect with new students and to support students currently involved with our ministry.

I have the great blessing of working closely with our CCO missionaries and with excellent student executives in our Catholic student groups. We are blessed to have Cameron Ayles returning as Team Lead for CCO Trent. Two of our missionaries, Lukas and Gabriela Marshy, just welcomed their firstborn son, Kasjan (Kas-yan). Congratulations Lukas and Gabriela! As they settle into parenthood and enjoy maternity and paternity leave, Cameron is joined by Erika Schoonderwoerd (our first Trent grad to become a missionary!) and Mary McLane who joins us from Fort Battlefield, Saskatchewan. Welcome Mary and Erika! Our former missionary Evalina Williamson has become team lead for the CCO team at Queen's University.

We have had socially-distanced student executive meetings for both the Catholic Council of Trent and Fleming College Catholics, led by Emmanuel Pinto and Madeline DeGuerre, respectively. There was great energy, great ideas and a clear presence of the Holy Spirit as we discussed how to engage and support



The executive members of the Catholic Council of Trent gather to plan for the 2020-2021 school year

This year's CCO Trent team (who share the same social bubble!)
L-R, Erika Schoonderwoerd, Mary McLane and Cameron Ayles



students this year. Among the great initiatives being undertaken are a weekly student Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains that will be live-streamed for any students learning from a distance; daily rosary prayed online; a hike up the Trent drumlin; Discovery Faith Studies and more! Please pray for Peterborough Campus Ministry and the good work we are doing on campus.

Thank you, very much, to anyone who donated to the special collection that was taken up in August for our ministry. Please consider signing up to become a monthly supporter of our important work; the students do not have any funds to support our efforts, so we rely on the kindness of readers like you. To find out how you can support us, please contact our new Development Officer, Francis Doyle. Francis is a graduate from the business program at Trent and was involved with our student group as he completed his degree. He can be reached at francisdoyle@peterboroughdiocese.org.

Thank you so much, and God bless! ✠

Thank you for reading the Catholic Herald.

We need more submissions of photographs and stories from across the Diocese. This is a magazine about and for the people of the Diocese of Peterborough.

**Please email to:
catholicherald@peterboroughdiocese.org
and include the date, place and names of
persons depicted.**

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