



# Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



## 100 Years

In the Diocese of  
Peterborough



The Catholic Women's League of Canada was recognized in Rome in 1922 at a meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues where Mary Ellen (Belle) Guerin received the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal — an honour, she said, “belonging to every individual member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.”

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## EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

# Humility & Discernment

One year ago in this space, I suggested that the world wide synod was a tremendous act of courage. Nothing like this as ever been attempted before.

There have been synods of bishops from time to time, and even frequently in the eastern Churches. But this survey of all the members of the Catholic Church seems completely unprecedented. It is, therefore, a great act of bravery and trust in the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray, my friends, for much prudence and wisdom in those who will have to organize, synthesize and act upon the hopes and dreams presented in this process. I worry that some participants whose hopes are not immediately adopted might not react with pure grace.

There have been differences of opinion — one could say differences of vision or theology — in the past, and it hasn't always ended well. By way of example, in 318 a priest by the name of Arius began teaching that Jesus Christ is not God in the same way as is the Father but, more or less, as an adopted son. It caught on like wildfire, probably because that's just easier to believe than that the Saviour has two natures (human and divine) and was born of a virgin. This new teaching was condemned at the first Council of Nicaea in 325, in language we still use today: "God from God, light from light, true God from true God; begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father."

Some ideas get rejected.

While the present synod may not give rise to controversial visions about the nature of God, it could easily be a vehicle for voices proposing a revolution in the Church's position on the indissolubility of marriage, the authority of the pope, or the exclusively male priesthood, for a few examples.

I am not saying that these hopes, deeply held by some Catholics, cannot be discussed. Of course they can be discussed; but there is little point in launching the conversation unless each participant is committed to the virtue of humility. That is, I need to be respectful

of other points of view and even be open to adjusting my thinking, especially if the whole Church discerns something other than my point of view.

In other words, as Bishop Miehm says well on the next page, we need to listen!

Ideas, hopes and dreams arising from the synodal consultations will need to be tested in a period of reflection and prayer, and not all the suggested priorities will survive. We have already seen, even on the parish level, that one person's hopes can be incompatible with those of someone else. My guess is that some of the ideas raised will be left behind rather quickly, while others may be considered and reconsidered for much longer — as in decades, or even centuries. Let us trust the process, rather than our own judgements.

We are often impatient people. But God is outside of time.

Nevertheless, some Church issues are urgent, from our point of view. The real challenge may be determining which ones can wait and which ones cannot.

On the relatively local level of the Diocese of Peterborough, we cannot postpone indefinitely practical questions about how we are going to keep our parishes open and functioning with declining congregations (in many places), with stagnant financial support and no vocations to the clerical or consecrated life. These trends totally fail as a viable business model. What can be done? What does God want us to do?

As Christmas reminds us, ours is a God of surprising solutions and He always calls us to trust Him. He may be calling each of us to other things, too, but He is certainly calling us to trust. In the birth of the Messiah, God demonstrates that He is capable of bringing light into darkness, the Prince of Peace into a land of conflict, hope where there is little.

There are some obvious solutions to our immediate, church-related difficulties... solutions that lots of people (lacking in trust?) steadfastly ignore or reject. We need to pray. We need to totally commit ourselves to the Christian life (upon which we embarked at Baptism) and pray for strength and guidance for our leaders. We also need to support our parishes and diocese with those prayers, with volunteerism and with adequate (i.e. more than mere tokenism) financial offerings. In other words, our commitment to the life which Christ the Lord brings us must be much more than a thin veneer. Our God desires that we be as thoroughly committed to Him as He is to us.

The synod invites us to consider what is important to us. So does the Diocesan Planning Process. In the end, is anything more important than the local community where we encounter the Son of God? Is anything more important than faithfully walking with our brothers and sisters, whether they always agree with us or not? ✠

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

Vol. 19, No. 3 — Christmas 2022

## NEXT ISSUE

— Easter 2023 —

will be distributed to the parishes by early-April 2023

Submissions must be received at the e-mail address below by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 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.

catholic Herald@peterboroughdiocese.org



# A Synod on....*What??*

Bishop Daniel Miehm



Synods are not new in the life of the Church, even if we are a little shaky on the term. Groups of bishops came together to discuss various pastoral and theological matters from the earliest centuries. Although the practice fell into disuse for a long time, Pope Paul VI very intentionally revived it after the Second Vatican Council, and since then these meetings of bishops have taken place regularly on a host of different topics.

But what to make of a “Synod on Synodality?” If the first word is unfamiliar to us, the second may as well be from ancient Sanskrit! It is, in fact, from ancient Greek, *syn* meaning “together with,” and *hodos* meaning “way.” Pope Francis has spoken of synodality not just as “a way,” but as “the way” for the People of God, who journey together as a community of faith. In this, he teases out the vision of the Church in the Second Vatican Council documents as a true communion, a joint membership of every individual by virtue of the sacrament of baptism.

As Dr. Moira McQueen points out “this is not a truly new concept, but an old one with new elements. The idea in the Church of everyone walking together has been there since the beginning, although the way of walking is now different. Pope Francis means to make the process of being a synodal Church more systematic....his teaching invites us to understand that synodality is an essential in the way we experience membership in the Church today and is essential for shaping its direction in the future.” (From her book: *Walking Together: A Primer on the New Synodality*.)

Because of this focus, Pope Francis invited a worldwide consultation on this Synod, and how we can be a listening Church more focused on “Communion, Participation and Mission.” He asked for discussions on these themes to be done in every diocese as we strive to listen to the Holy Spirit in listening to each other. I, for one, breathed a sigh of relief when the Office for the Synod said that this





consultation should be joined to any Diocesan planning processes that were already in place. We were well along in ours and married the two projects in seeking input from parishioners both online and in parish meetings, most of which happened last fall.

I have been greatly encouraged that our Planning meetings this fall, both the four regional and the Diocesan one held in Lindsay, have been genuine experiences of “synodality.” Lay people, clergy and religious, men and women, young and old came together to share thoughts and listen to each other about where we see the Holy Spirit leading the Church in the Diocese of Peterborough. There has been a lot of spirited discussion about our six pastoral goals and all of it will be the raw material for our Pastoral Plan, which we expect to publish in the Easter season next year. As plans for the worldwide Synod of Bishops (being held in the fall of 2023 and 2024) proceed, we have had our own wonderful experience of Church as “communion, participation and mission,” here in the Diocese of Peterborough. My thanks to all who participated, and to Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry in the Diocese of Hamilton, who facilitated these sessions for us.

And maybe – just maybe – I will be one of the lucky few bishops who get to attend the Synod in

Rome. At the Canadian Bishops’ meeting in September, I was elected as the anglophone substitute, essentially “runner-up” to the two delegates chosen to represent us at the Synod. If either one must stand down for any reason, my number will come up. (I joked with Bishop William McGrattan and Archbishop Michael Miller that I will be phoning them each week to see how they are feeling!)

Of the many good things I heard at the table discussions at our regional meetings, this one stuck out. One participant very politely said to another, “Well, I disagree with you on that, but I am going to write it down.” That was the kind of spirit of generosity and community that prevailed. Should I be fortunate enough to find myself at the Synod of Bishops in a year’s time, this is one of many good memories from our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process I will bring with me. Perhaps the Holy Spirit would even find some way to make good use of our experience here, a small contribution from the Diocese of Peterborough to the Universal Church, as we explore the call to greater synodality.

Fraternally,  
**Bishop Daniel Mieh**



# A Few More Shots from the Synod / Pastoral Planning Process





## SAINT PROFILE

**Fr. Joseph  
Devereaux**

# St. Paul the First Hermit (229- 342)

**Feast day: January 15**

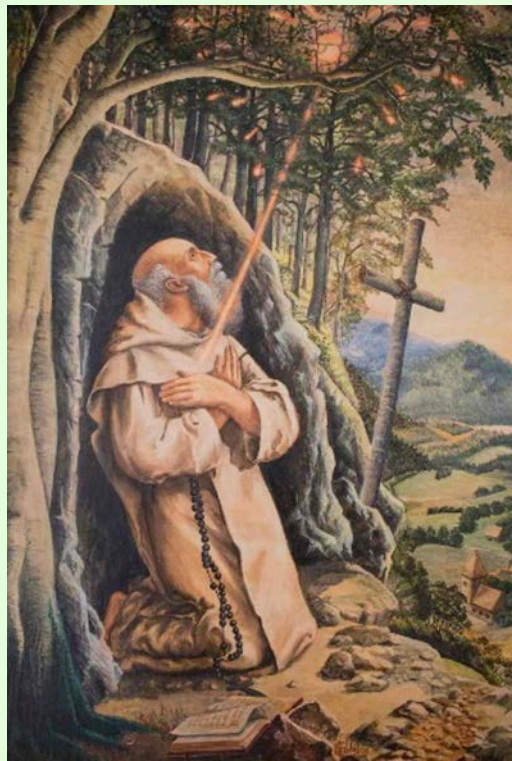
Recently, I was on retreat and passed through a little village in Quebec called Sheenboro, which is home to a little church named “St. Paul the Hermit.” Although aware of St. Paul the Hermit’s feast day on the Church’s calendar, I had never come across a church bearing his name. So, who was St. Paul the Hermit?

Ancient history reveals that men and women have left civilization and the company of other people to seek solitude in remote and silent places. “Hermit” comes from an ancient Greek word, “*eremos*,” and means both a desolate and lonely place and a state of being alone. Christian tradition usually refers to Saint Anthony of the Desert as the first Christian hermit, based largely upon the biography by St. Athanasius. However, St. Jerome wrote a shorter biography of his friend St. Paul the Hermit which establishes Paul of Thebes, an Egyptian hermit, as the “first hermit” and to let the world know that St. Anthony had a predecessor.

Paul was born in Egypt and his parents died leaving him orphaned at the age of fifteen. During the persecution of the Church under Emperor Trajan Decius (249 to 251), Paul, who was then twenty-two-year-old, went into the desert to hide and thwart the plan of his brother-in-law who conspired to report Paul to authorities as a Christian and thereby gain control of his property. Wandering through the desert, God led Paul to a cave with a spring inside and a palm tree outside. This desert hermitage would become his home for the rest of his long life.

According to St. Jerome, God revealed to St. Anthony that there was someone older and more perfect in the ascetical life than himself. Anthony sought to find him. Thus, in Paul’s 90th year in the desert, Anthony found Paul’s desert cave, and the two hermits established a short friendship. They discussed world events and prayed together. Anthony thought he had found a companion, but

Paul knew that God had sent Anthony to help him die. St. Jerome’s biography describes the meeting of the two hermits thusly: Blessed Paul said to Anthony: “For a long time now, I have known that you dwelled in these regions. And for a long time, God had promised you to me for a companion. Since my hour of eternal sleep has arrived, and because I have always desired ‘to be dissolved and to be with Christ’ (see Philippians 1:23), having ‘finished the course, . . . a crown of justice’ (see 2 Timothy 4:7–8) remains for me. You have been sent by God to bury my miserable body, rather to return earth to earth.” St. Paul asked his guest to bring him the mantle of Bishop Athanasius, which he



would wrap his body in after death, as a sign of unity with the Church community to which St. Paul remained faithful throughout his life in the desert. St. Anthony agreed to this request and set off to his monastery. On his return trip, Anthony saw Paul’s soul ascend to heaven, and upon reaching the cave found Paul kneeling and lifeless – his arms open in prayer. Anthony wrapped Paul in St. Athanasius’ cope, and according to legend, two lions came out the thickets and licked Paul’s feet and then scratched the earth producing a shallow grave in the hard ground into which Anthony laid the body.

While there is little doubt that Paul lived, the only source for details on his life are found in the *Vita Pauli* written by St. Jerome and preserved in both Latin and Greek versions. Many lessons can be learned from the fathers and mothers of the desert. These early Christians responded to God’s call to leave the world and live their everyday life alone with Him. Their life of work, prayer, quiet and solitude was not an escape from reality, but rather a more profound entering into the presence of God – to worship and seek His Face. Their battle was against Satan and fallen human nature. Their efforts were not just for themselves, but also for those whom they left behind in the world – desiring to help all find Christ and to be gathered into His heavenly kingdom.

St. Jerome concludes his biography of St. Paul saying, “I pray you, whoever you be who read this, that you be mindful of Jerome the sinner, who, if the Lord gave him his choice, would rather have the tunic of Paul with his merits, than the purple of Kings with their thrones.” Let us with like sentiment, seek to imitate the saints in their love for God, and do everything to secure the salvation of our souls. ✠

Fr. Joseph Devereaux is Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Hastings

# Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi

# Norwood

On Sunday, October 2nd, in anticipation of October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron saint of animals, parishioners of St. Paul's Parish in Norwood and the Mission of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Havelock gathered in the Norwood church parking lot for a short service of prayer and individual blessings for pets.

Fr. David blessed 1 gerbil, 1 rabbit, 1 cat, and 14 dogs on this beautiful sunny day. They are all holy pets now!



# Immaculate Conception

# Smaczne!



Our Polish dinner on October 15<sup>th</sup> was a sell-out success! Everyone had a great time enjoying delicious Polish food and desserts as well as good conversations with friends. Smaczne!



## Book Keepers & Administrative Assistants meet in Douro, October 25, 2022



BACK: **Fr. Randy Foster**, Pastor St. Joseph's, Douro; **Cathy Gevert**, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campbellford & St. Paul's, Norwood; **Karen Grubb**, DPC; **Fran Ironside**, Our Lady of the Assumption, Otonabee & St. John the Evangelist, Keene; **Rosellen Hickey**, St. Martin of Tours, Ennismore; **Patrica Elcome**, St. Francis of Assisi, Newcastle.

THIRD: **Cindy Campbell**, St. Joseph's, Bowmanville; **Kristen Penfold**, St. Peter the Apostle, Parry Sound; **Taunia Borsellino**, St. John the Evangelist, Kirkfield; **Monica Lavoie**, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Ptbo; **Theresa Janiga**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Hastings & St. Alphonsus, Wooler; **Ria Collins**, St. Michael's, Cobourg.

SECOND: **Jennifer Campitelli**, DPC; **Michele Graham**, DPC; **Robyn Henighan**, DPC; **Patsy Scott**, Immaculate Conception; **Trish Stanley**, St. Anne's, Ptbo & Our Lady of Mercy, Port Hope.

FRONT: **Lily Cavanagh**, St. Anne's, Ptbo; **Deb McRae**, DPC; **Bishop Miehm**; **Maryann Clancy**, St. Joseph's, Douro (host) & St. Paul the Apostle, Lakefield; **Hanna Dracup**, St. Alphonsus, Ptbo.





## THE CHOIR LOFT

**Kathleen  
Moquin**

# Wait Gains: An Advent of the Heart

Alex Haley, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer whose 1976 novel *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* recounted his family's history from the earliest days of slavery, wrote that "nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children."

Recently enrolled in grandparenthood, I aspire to be a "stardust sprinkler" in my grandchildren's lives. Not as sassy Tinkerbell with her pixie dust but as Disney's Fairy Godmother, flourishing her wand to sprinkle fairy dust and "bibbidi-bobbidi-boos" while Cinderella puts on her glass slippers before the ball, would I cast myself in a sweetly animated fairy tale. Here in the real world, I have discovered magic and wonder in simply spending time with my grandchildren. Who hasn't shared the delight of playing peek-a-boo with a giggling infant? How many times can one sing and act out the actions of "I'm a Little Teapot" before an enraptured cherubic toddler? I confirm an impressive clinical response to my kissing boo-boos. Bedtime story-time occupies a separate category of magic and memory. Because our grand-children are too young to process recall of experiential memory, we embrace and cherish these precious moments on their behalf by weaving them into the collective family narrative.

In the immediate aftermath of a visit by our grandchildren, while toiling to recover our preferred household configuration by picking up toys; reshelving books; and removing safety gates and cupboard locks, the discovery of a misplaced sock or a forgotten toy usually triggers a welcome pause for fond recollection of images and impressions from the visit. I confess to having delayed the removal of handprints adorning sliding doors and windows, I find them winsome reminders of an eventful visit. But I can't say the same for unexpectedly

found dust prints on surfaces, which expose our shortcomings as housekeepers and as inattentive watchers of curious toddlers exploring beyond established parameters. Even in their absence, the grandchildren are present in dusty spaces and bursting hearts.

The Christmas season celebrates the Messiah's entry into salvation history as a newborn baby. Talk about kicking up some dust! Biblical prophecies had prepared the Chosen People for the accession of a figure of royalty: "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and

forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" (*New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition*, Is. 9:7). What, then, do you do about a baby? Why, then, did God join humanity as an infant? In his Christmas Eve 2006 homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the faithful to respond to the angel's invitation to "set out in (our) hearts to see the child lying in the manger," because "this is how he reigns. . . the eternal Word became small – small enough to fit into a manger. He became a child, so that the Word could be grasped by us." The pope explained that the "whole faith is contained in this one act of love which embraces God and humanity," specifically that God's becoming small, as the Word made flesh, invites us to a fuller understanding of the unity of the Word of Sacred Scripture that commands us to love God and neighbour:

"He is no longer beyond the reach of our heart. He has become a child for us, and in so doing he has



dispelled all doubt. He has become our neighbour, restoring in this way the image of man, whom we often find so hard to love. For us, God has become a gift . . . let us not forget the true gift: to give each other something of ourselves, to give each other something of our time, to open our time to God." Pope Benedict XVI preached that God also becomes small for us in the "humble appearance of the host, in a small piece of bread, he gives us himself." Even very small particles of a consecrated host contain the entirety of the Real Presence.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us dust off any fears and anxieties, complacency, and doubt so that God, who makes himself small, may fill our hearts and reveal his greatness as *Emmanuel, God with Us*. ✠

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



# There's No Event Like It:

# Douro Doings



The Douro Doings were back in full swing in 2022. In case you didn't know, you don't even have to ask the date — it is always on Labour Day Monday. And we always pray for good weather.

Typically, in recent years the good ladies and gentlemen of Douro have raised over \$30,000.00 annually for St. Joseph's Church, all in one day. There is a lot of preparation for that day and it's all fun. The ladies and a few men of the community get together and quilt in the hall every 2 weeks to prepare the 20 or so hand-quilted works of art. That is a special day out of the house for most, lunch is included. They can discuss family and community happenings and pray for those in need.

Labour Day weekend kitchens are busy preparing for the Roast Beef Dinner. Hundreds of pounds of beef are cooked up along with fresh vegetables and every kind of

pie you can think of. People are organized into teams to set up tables for dinner, serve and, of course, most important the clean up crews.

All the while the afternoon entertainment is taking place in the shade outside. Douro boasts a multitude of musical talents and the shows do not disappoint.

On Labour Day Monday, the Classic Cars start rolling into the Douro Park and the Ball Games get under way. Great old fashioned kids' games allow everyone to get involved. The quilt raffle is the highlight of the day's events. After a hearty roast beef dinner and your favourite pie it is time for the Quilt Raffle. For a \$3.00 ticket you have a chance to win one of the heritage quality quilts in every colour combination.

At the end of the day everyone goes home tired and happy. And the planning starts for next year.





## FROM THE PEW

David Beresford

# Trains on the Roof

Last May a squall line came through our region, which included a few short lived and localized tornadoes. We lost about 20% of the roof, many of the trees, a dormer window, and two barns. Our cedar woods was squashed like pick up sticks, with trees all toppled in a circular heap. Others did not get off so lucky; folk lost cattle and barns and modern equipment. It was a curious kind of damage, localized, and many adjacent homes lost nothing, even laundry drying on the line was left unmolested in some places where a neighboring home lost the roof.

The climate experts on the news, always helpful in a crisis, told us this was a new phenomenon called a derecho, that with climate change we could expect more of these kind of storms in the future. My old climate textbook from the 1970s calls what we experienced a squall line, which is characteristic of the latitude where we live. But give something a new word, and it becomes proof of it being a new thing.

I was in the workshop, and saw the sky turn grey, then black. I ran into the house, and as it got dark, I heard a train roaring on the roof above my house. We closed all the windows and were heading for the cellar when the train stopped. Outside the trees had fallen over the yard, missing the house, wires, and workshop, forming a jungle of fallen trees limbs all around the house. Where the barn used to be there were scattered large sheets of steel roofing, and the skylight which used to sit on our house roof was now at the end of the driveway surrounded by broken glass. The rain was formidable, and I had to climb on the roof to cover the hole in the roof with a tarp as the rain formed a small creek that ran across the floor.

The thing about having no electricity after a storm is that in the countryside, you also do not have water, or at least water in the taps. We were without power or water for 8 days, and I learned how to cook and make coffee on a propane camp stove.

Because of what is (without any sense of irony) called a supply chain problem, which is really a *let's-make-everything-in-another-country* manufacturing problem, we needed a skylight and a new window. Having been cut by lots and lots of broken glass as I cleaned up the gravel driveway and lawn and floor and porch, I had developed a profound antipathy toward the stuff. While I had always been critical of glass as a construction material given its tendency to break when children shot at it with BB-guns, threw balls against it, or birds flew into it, I now was solidly in the anti-glass camp.

I made a skylight out of a sheet of ¼ inch Lexan, a clear plastic that does not break, and if it does break, it breaks in nice, skin-friendly chunks and not small razor-edged slivers.

For the window, I decided to make it single pane using Lexan. Modern windows are double glazed, and are designed to fail in ten years, so that many modern windows are filled with condensation between the two panes of glass. Modern windows are heavy, and



usually made from molded plastic. As a result, making a window is now done in a factory, something which anyone with a small carpentry shop could make when windows were wood and single panes of glass.

My window was at the back of the house, so a building permit was not needed, and being single glazed, it was made from ordinary white pine boards. It is about four feet high, has two panes that open casement style, and required ordinary hinges.

Hinges: again, something that used to be simple that is now a mess of complexity. You can buy any number of ugly hinges; round hinges, oddball hinges with springs on them, but an ordinary hinge seems to be hard to find. I made mine out of half inch copper pipe using a vise and hacksaw, and file. I cut open the pipe, flattened it with a hammer, and bent the edge around a nail as the pin. I then cut the middle out and made a smaller piece from another piece of pipe. With the point cut off, the nail was a perfect pin. Just for fun, I carved shamrocks into the hinge for a surface mount.

The window works, the skylight works, the creek upstairs is now dry, there is water in the tap, and with luck no trains will be on our roof again whatever the weather man says. ✠

*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.*



# Mary's Closet

## An Idea that Flourished

# Campbellford

One year ago, St. Mary's Parish adopted an idea to open a Charity shop to help pay down the debt on repairs to our 100-year-old church Bell Tower.

Father Bill said... build it and they will come, and they did. Dave B. and Dan C. were asked to build a room in the basement of the Rectory to complement the designated upstairs area. Then came the cleaning, painting, and rack installations and again thanks to Jim D. and Brian B., Theresa M., Peggy C. and Joan O. we were up and ready for business. Now all we needed was product to sell. Father Bill put out the word, and again the response was overwhelming. Bags and bags of good quality clothing started to filter in. We had a team of hard workers preparing, sorting, and tagging in the basement of the rectory to supply the store. We advertised, we posted, we spoke to everyone. We were ready. People came; we were a destination and the word spread.

Today we are open Wednesday 10 – 2, Thursday 4 – 7 and Saturday 8:30 – 2. We also added Friday 10 – 2 for our cottagers for July and August only. In addition to filling a gap within the

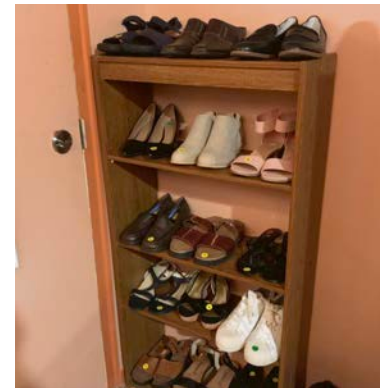
community, our store also continues to provide clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Campbellford with a weekly drop off to St. Vincent de Paul stores in either Bowmanville or Peterborough. We hope to include Combermere for our end of season clear-out.

Our first opening of Mary's closet was a huge success and has continued to flourish despite numerous closures due to Covid-19. From then to today our Parish Congregation has not let us down. With the expansive help from members of the community, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus, this shop would not have been possible.

We are a busy little store and hope to continue in the future. All in all, the seeding of an idea has grown into a strong, healthy branch of our Parish. It was put into place to pay down an immense debt but instead has brought more community to our doors.

If you are ever in our neighbourhood, drop by; we'd love to visit and maybe you will see something you like.....

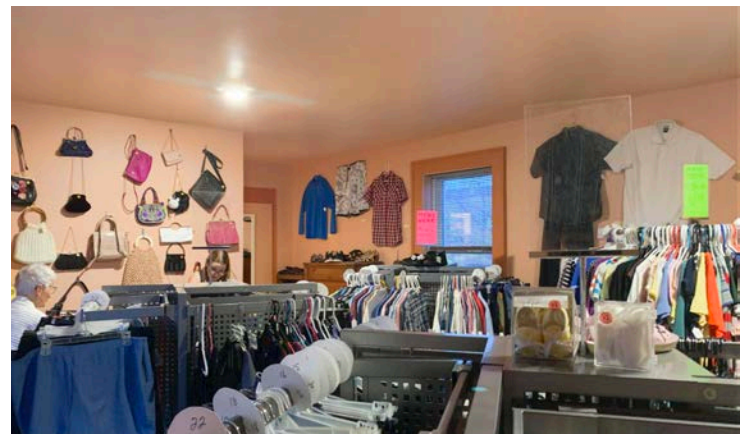
To date, we have raised approximately \$54,000. Amazing!!!



## St. Mary's Loves a Celebration

On Pentecost, Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Parish of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campbellford, is multi-tasking by organizing a joint celebration for Fr. Bill Moloney's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination and a fundraiser. Festivities start with the 5:00 pm Eucharist, in the Church, followed by a dinner and dance at the Curling Club, which has a capacity of 300. Tickets are \$75 per person. Anyone who has crossed paths with Fr. Bill over the last 40 years are more than welcome to attend and join the party while tickets are available. To order tickets or for more information please contact [msusanboniface@gmail.com](mailto:msusanboniface@gmail.com)

Note: For every \$75 ticket a \$25 tax receipt which will be issued in January 2024.





## VOCATIONS

Fr. Stephen DeCarlo

When it comes to the world of vocational discernment, much emphasis is placed on the word “vocation”, and rightly so. But we should not ignore the word “discernment”, as it is itself an important word for any Catholic. Discernment in its basic understanding refers to a process by which he/she looks to identify and understand God’s will and action in the present time, in the here and now. For example, The Catechism mentions discernment as how we come to know what we are to contribute to societal progress as Christians:

By a discernment according to the Spirit, Christians have to distinguish between the growth of the Reign of God and the progress of the culture and society in which they are involved. This distinction is not a separation. Man's vocation to eternal life does not suppress, but actually reinforces, his duty to put into action in this world the energies and means received from the Creator to serve justice and peace. (CCC 2820)

Discernment is also used to help us choose between two or more options or actions, some of which may not be good:

The Holy Spirit makes us discern between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death. (CCC 2847)

It is obvious (at least in principle; practice is another matter) that a basic human impulse is to do good and avoid evil. But what happens when all choices presented before us are good? What happens when more than one choice seems like a good one? We want to wear a nice coat but can't decide on the blue or black one. We want to eat out but seem drawn towards burgers and Thai food.

Of course, these particular dilemmas are not the main focus here. Vocational discernment is, particularly when it comes to young people discerning where God is calling them to and which vocation is best for them. Priesthood, marriage, religious life are all good things. The priesthood is an awesome vocation, yet a young man may also be drawn towards family life. A young woman may be in a dating relationship but may not be able to shake off the pull towards becoming a nun. All are appealing and all have many blessings. So, for a young person discerning: how does one choose?

That, of course, is where I come in. As vocations director, I am responsible for helping young people discern the will of God in their lives and to make correct decisions. Such a process can never be accomplished on one's own but requires the help of others. Spiritual directors are also used to help the person understand what is happening inside their very soul and to help guide their prayer in terms of discernment. Spiritual directors

# Vocational Discernment

also help the person to arrive at a conclusion in which the discernor decides for him/herself what direction they should take. A good spiritual director would never choose for him/her but helps make a prayerful and proper decision.

Thus, this is an important tip for those embarking on discernment: pray and choose a spiritual director. Any priest you feel comfortable with will do; if it doesn't work out, find another one! I can also help you find a spiritual director, as well as provide books and other material for your prayer life. We cannot discern without talking to God! God has given us the gift of vocations. Let me help you discover it! ✠

## Opening of New Seminary Building

On October 1st, St. Philip's Seminary opened their new seminary building for philosophical studies. Established in 1984 by the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in the Parkdale neighborhood of Toronto, St. Philip's was dedicated to philosophical studies for men considering the priesthood.<sup>[1]</sup> While technically independent of the Archdiocese of Toronto, it nevertheless works in close relationship with it and many other dioceses and religious communities. Run by the Oratorian Fathers, who also teach at the school in addition with many lay professors, St. Philip's has alumni in the hundreds serving as priests and lay leaders such as teachers and parish catechetics. It also functions as a lay formation centre for the summer months.

At the time of its foundation, St. Philip's operated out of renovated townhouses along the King Street West and Dunn Avenue intersection. It now has a modern, state-of-the-art facility dedicated to its mission of providing philosophical formation to future priests and lay leaders of tomorrow's church. The blessing of the seminary was done by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, who also celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving. Bishop Gerard Bergie of St. Catherine's Diocese delivered the homily and the Mass was concelebrated by Oratorian fathers as well as Archdiocesan officials and priest alumni.

Of course, I was present and took part in these opening festivities. I myself am an alumnus of St. Philip's (2008-2011) and I was pleased to visit my alma mater and see how far it has grown since I was there last. I met up with a few of our men who are studying there and was also delighted to see some old friends who are also alumni as well as many of my old professors. While

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://oratory-toronto.org/st-philips-seminary/>



I have to admit that I never liked philosophy (in fact, I didn't pick up a philosophy book since graduation day!) and would have been much happier studying another subject, I still appreciated the knowledge and skills I gained from St. Philip's, knowledge which served my theological studies well. It is an excellent and well-rounded education and has served me well and many others who will pass through its brand-new front doors.



At St. Philip's Seminary, Toronto

## High Calling Program

One of the best ways to discern a vocation to the priesthood is through an organized program alongside others. For the 2022/2023 year, our own *Quo Vadis* men's discernment group is unfortunately on hiatus till next year. Thankfully, there is an excellent alternative program run by the US-based Avila Institute called High Calling. High Calling is an online discernment group for men that meets weekly and discusses several topics relevant to the priesthood. A lecturer delivers a lesson and the men discuss topics ranging from prayer to priestly celibacy. Quality readings are assigned and the men are expected to write up reflections based on what they have been reading and discussing. No man does so alone but instead takes part alongside others who come from a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, experiences, and even nations. Most men are recent university graduates but many others are still in school, both university and even high school. Ages range from 18-50! Peterborough has two men in the program and the reviews of the program have been excellent! If you are a young man interested in such a program, let Fr. Stephen know ASAP!



# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Lisbon, Portugal  
Diocese of Peterborough

July 27 – August 9, 2023  
starting \$4240 per pilgrim



Contact: Fr. Stephen Decarlo  
Tel: 705-742-5466  
Email: frstephendecarlo@peterboroughdiocese.org

Contact: Chantal  
Email: Chantalgag1@gmail.com



# Cathedral

# In Thanksgiving For the Gift of Life



Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains CWL held a Baby Shower for Peterborough Pregnancy Support Services. Our theme: 'In Thanksgiving for the gift of Life'.

During the month of October, a play pen was placed in the Narthex to receive items for PPSS. Items are given to young Mothers in difficult circumstances choosing life for their babies.

The response was truly amazing, necessitating two deliveries to the Centre along with \$500 in cash, cheques and gift cards.

Shown are the delighted staff at PPSS.



# Madonna House A Micro Pilgrimage

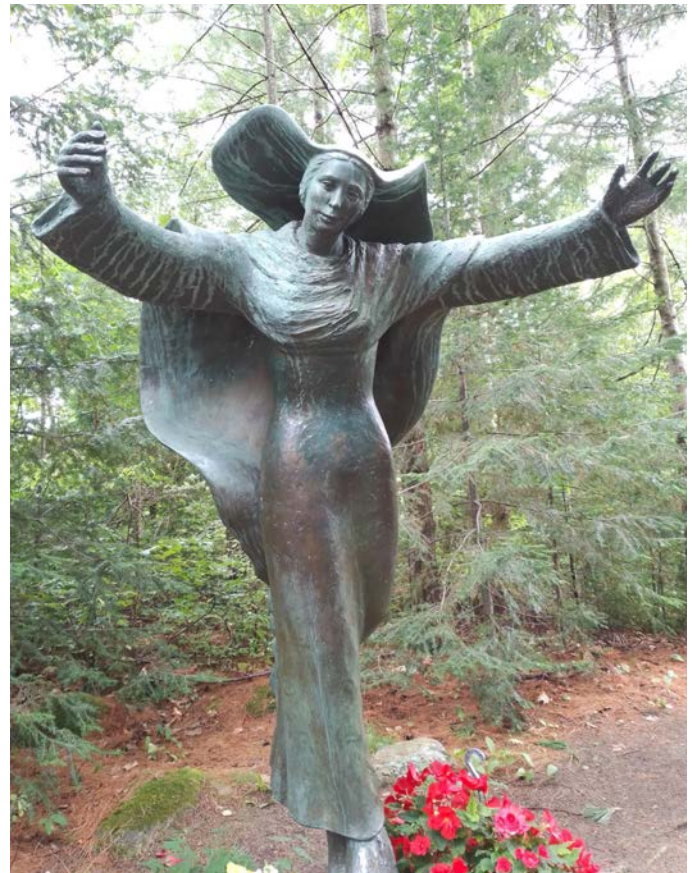
## Lakefield

On August 26 Fr. Rick, along with a small group of parishioners took a micro pilgrimage to Combermere.

We were met by Christine who took us on a tour of their extensive grounds. Fr. Rick celebrated mass in their log chapel. We dropped off many boxes of the religious articles, clothing and household items that were donated by St. Paul parishioners. The residents were very grateful.

Our visit ended with a powerful group rosary led by Fran and said at the foot of Our Lady of Combermere.

*Maryann Clancy*



## Not everyone has made it back into a pew in the wake of COVID-19

Many parishioners have not returned to the pews in the wake of the 2020-2021 global COVID-19 outbreaks, provincial closures in 2020-2021 and aging or health issues. Many parishioners continue to participate in the celebration of the Mass utilizing media, the Diocesan YouTube and Parish websites for live streamed or taped services. These alternatives are also changing the historic practise of offering cash or cheques through a collection basket.

Continuing support of your parish is an act of generosity and faith. Our parishes are incredibly grateful for contributions you have and are able to continue to make. Most important is your prayer for our parishes, our priests, and your fellow parishioners.

This is a difficult topic to address, with so many economic uncertainties and a health situation that continues to remain in our lives. Many in our communities may already be facing financial difficulties, and their priority must remain to take care of the needs of their families and loved ones.

Nevertheless, our parishes do rely solely on the generosity of the faithful to survive, these needs continue. If Parishioners wish to support their parish and have the means to do so, there are many ways to give. Methods include Preauthorized Offertory Plan (POP), which is the least expense and most common. Approximately 20% of all parish giving is received through this method – please speak to your parish priest or office staff. The Diocese recently introduced the ability for parishioners to make etransfers to the Diocese or a parish. Please note that not all parishes have signed up for etransfers, please check with the parish office prior to sending this type of donation. There is also CanadaHelps.org online giving, accessible through all parish and the Diocesan websites. Some parishes have recently also begun participating in a Text to Donate program. There are also several of methods of planned giving support including naming your parish, the Diocese, the Priest Benefit Fund, Seminarians, a specific Ministry, etc. in a will, donation of stocks and mutual funds, and life insurance. If you have any questions or would like to explore any of these offertory or donation methods, please contact your parish priest or the Diocesan Pastoral Centre or visit the Diocesan website.



The Diocese and its parishes thank you for your ongoing support of parishes, along with your continued faith, worship, and devoted consideration.

*Deb McRae,*

Director of Finance, Property and Administration  
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough





# Deacon Formation

This spring, despite unprecedented challenges, we saw the completion of our first Permanent Diaconate Formation Program (PDFP) with the June ordination of Deacons Christopher Borsellino and Robert Vandenberg. Dcn. Chris has since been appointed by the Bishop to St. John the Evangelist parish in Kirkfield where he has been enthusiastically received by the Pastor, Fr. Michael Nneji. In addition to Dcn. Chris' liturgical duties he is also involved pastorally working with the elderly. Dcn. Rob's liturgical base is in Port Hope, at Our Lady of Mercy parish with Fr. Gerry McMahon, where he is looking to expand his pastoral ministry through chaplaincy support to both the local Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus. As recent graduates of our inaugural program and freshly ordained deacons, they have also been involved in the new program sessions sharing their experiences with the 1<sup>st</sup> year aspirants.

And, as it turned out, those experiences proved to be rather unique. Midway through our 2<sup>nd</sup> year, in March 2020, the pandemic escalated quite suddenly, gaining global attention and impacting indoor events around the world from sports to education to worship. Like many, it took us by surprise. We had no choice but to cancel that month's session. Meanwhile, previously obscure video-conferencing apps like Zoom quickly became a household name and, within the following month as we scrambled with new technology and a new approach, we were able to resume the program online in time for our April session. Little did we know that it would be another 20 months before we could meet together in person again. Yet, with adaptable speakers and participants, and a spirit of creativity and perseverance we continued the program through to completion without missing another month.

Aside from these unusual circumstances, the formation experience has been a beneficial one to the diocese in many other ways. By reaching out to our priests, deacons, and laity to tap their talents and knowledge it has enabled us to work together in new and beneficial ways building a stronger sense of community among us. It has been the catalyst for the establishment of new Diaconal policies and liturgical guidelines which bring more uniformity to our practices across the diocese. It has provided opportunities for ongoing formation for many of the existing deacons and it has generally helped to raise the profile and visibility of the Permanent Diaconate among our clergy and lay faithful.

The new program began in September with 5 aspirants. So far we have been able to gather in person and, while we are hopeful that will continue, we are also



Bishop Miehlm with  
Deacons Borsellino & Vandenberg  
on the day of their Ordination  
18 June 2022

confident that we have the tools, experience and know-how to adapt to further constraints if need be. The first year will primarily be a year of discernment with a special focus on prayer, spirituality, the basic teachings of the Catholic Church, and introductions to Sacred Scripture and Pastoral Ministry. Please pray for our Aspirants as they take this exciting step in their spiritual journeys.

If you are interested in more information about the Permanent Diaconate or the formation program here in the Diocese of Peterborough please contact Dcn. Bill Radigan...

at [billradigan@peterboroughdiocese.org](mailto:billradigan@peterboroughdiocese.org).



*Merry Christmas*



*and a happy 2023*

