



Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



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EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

According to a popular myth, lemmings are infamous for rushing headlong off a cliff without ever having a second thought about the looming precipice. They are supposedly driven by some kind of instinct, never second-guessing whether that impulse is helpful or harmful.

In our current culture, characterized by rampant consumerism and a pathological need for the latest and newest of everything — of possessions as well as of experiences — I have strong suspicions that we, collectively, might qualify as lemmings.

There may be more than one cliff, for all I know, but the one currently pressing upon my mind is the environment.

I firmly believe that we ought to be quite concerned about the natural environment and a great many more of us could redouble our efforts and make greater sacrifices for the good of the planet and, especially, for the welfare of the future generations who will have to live here.

And it's a supranatural matter; it's a spiritual matter.

God created the earth and everything on it. Then He charged us (through our first parents) to look after it. Caring for the earth is not only a sign that we care about whales, or bees, or whatever; it's a sign that we care about God and we want to show some recognition and gratitude that He has been good to us. It's a sign, too, that we care about our fellow inhabitants on this planet, whom we are expected to love as our very selves.

So, what has got me so riled up? Well, for starters, people who can certainly find fast-food outlets to provide them with endless throw-away containers, utensils and straws, but can't find clearly-marked garbage cans. Also, folks who strive after bigger and more luxurious cars, or bigger personal trucks, when smaller would almost always do. Likewise, monster homes with big, manicured lawns. Wouldn't smaller and more manageable be nice, too?

But it's travel that is really starting to bother me, including local travel. We think nothing of jumping in the car and going to the

store, even two or three times a week. Some of us can't figure out how to combine several errands into one trip. We complain about the price of gas, but we buy remote starters to warm the car up before climbing in.

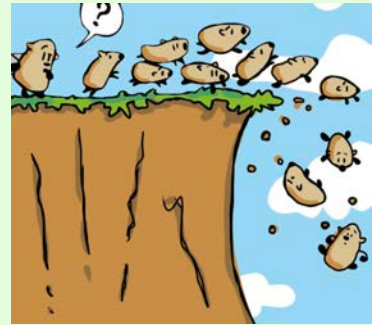
So many of us (Canadians? Or, are others afflicted, as well?) think we have no choice but to head to the tropics at certain times of the year. Since the lifting of Covid restrictions, air travel has soared to new heights; everyone is on the move. (Full disclosure: I'm not guilt-free on this point.) You'd almost think there is an unlimited supply of fuel, that no pollution is being created and that no diseases are being carried back and forth.

Can we keep doing this? I'd say no. No, it can't continue indefinitely. The only question is: will we voluntarily cut back on the carelessness and waste, or will we carry on like there's no tomorrow until we literally have no more choice?

Obviously, different people will have different legitimate needs and some of us can make choices that others can't. All I'm saying is that we do a responsible thing, and even a holy thing, when we inform our consciences about the choices we make. Let us all pray about our priorities, our needs and wishes. May we strive to live in such a way as to respect the gifts God has given to everyone, and grow in concern about those who must inherit the consequences of our choices.

And if you're looking for a New Year's resolution... perhaps something about recognizing looming cliffs might be in order? ☩

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



Vol. 19, No. 2 — Christmas 2023

NEXT ISSUE

— Easter 2024 —

will be distributed to the parishes in late March 2024.

Submissions must be received at the e-mail address below on or before February 29th.

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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350 Hunter St. W. P.O. Box 175
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catholicherald@peterboroughdiocese.org

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O Christmas Tree!

Bishop Daniel Mieh



Advent is as short as it can be this year, what with the realities of the calendar, and that means there is less time than ever for that perennial Christmas debate - real tree or artificial? I have heard firmly held opinions on both sides of the question although I remain something of an agnostic on the subject. I always prefer real Christmas trees for the church, since nothing can beat that fragrance! But I long ago switched over to an artificial tree for my living space, willing to sacrifice ambience for convenience. Experience taught me that the parish rectory would be inconsistently inhabited during the week between Christmas and January 1, and that meant unreliable watering of the tree – with predictable results. Despite the best of intentions (and tender loving care before Christmas) my green, lush tree usually degraded to something like Charlie Brown’s pathetic stick by the Feast of the Holy Innocents!

So I opted for the artificial tree for the rectory more than twenty years ago and can’t say that I have regretted the decision, especially with the ever-rising price of the real trees. Still, I can’t help but notice that those built-in lights tend to stop functioning after a few seasons, requiring ever more trips to Walmart or Canadian Tire to buy additional strings to maintain the same brightness. Alas, there are no perfect solutions and no cost guarantees, so the debate rages on. Whichever side of the real/artificial question you come down on, we can probably all agree that it doesn’t quite feel like Christmas without a tree.

During my time of graduate studies in Rome in the mid-nineties, we often walked up from the Pontifical Canadian College to view the Christmas tree in St. Peter’s Square. It was always a massive tree, donated from a different country each year, and it stood in the square from early Advent until February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. I always wondered by what magic or miracle they managed to maintain it for that long.

And I will admit that I always assumed this had been a long-standing Christmas practice at St. Peter’s, probably stretching back for centuries. It was only some years later that I learned it was a custom of recent vintage and that it was Pope St. John Paul II who decided in 1982 that the tree should be a part of the Christmas decorations in St. Peter’s Square. That makes some sense when you think about it: the Christmas tree had been adopted rather late in Italy and southern Europe in general, but it was a long-established custom in places like Germany and Poland. And so, it took a Polish Pope to bring the Christmas tree to St. Peter’s Square, transplanting a custom from middle Europe. It is said that St. John Paul II, loved Christmas and all things associated with it from his boyhood, and he had a deep fondness for the Christmas tree.

He once spoke to a group of pilgrims to Rome about the meaning of the Christmas tree and said, “Christ is, according to the evangelist John, ‘the true light that enlightens every person.’ The lights sparkling on the Christmas tree symbolize this light – in Christ is the light that can change the human heart.” In another address, he spoke about the Christmas tree as a symbol of life and its value, pointing out how, in the winter, the evergreen fir becomes a sign of undying life. He went on to say: “the message of the Christmas tree is that life stays ever green if we make a gift of it: not so much of material things but of life itself; in friendship and sincere affection, in fraternal help and forgiveness, in time shared and reciprocal listening.”

So, as we decorate our churches and homes with Christmas trees (real or artificial) this season, let them be something more than a pretty backdrop to our yuletide celebrations. These reflections from Pope John Paul II remind us that the Christmas tree proclaims Jesus Christ as the light of the world. And recognizing him as the true and greatest gift of this holy season, we are called to cherish and adore him, and imitate his self-giving love in lives of charity, fraternity, and mercy.

Have a happy and holy Christmas, everyone! ✠



ANNOUNCEMENT

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

APPROVAL OF 8 INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND APPLICATIONS

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced in the Fall of 2021 a nation-wide collective financial commitment in the amount of \$30 million dollars for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund (IRF). The purpose of the IRF is to support healing, community building, and knowledge sharing initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough pledged the sum of \$400 000 to the IRF.

FNMI residents and organizations within the territory of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough are eligible to apply to

the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund which is coordinated by a Local IRF Committee. The first round of applications was received in late September and the committee met in October to review the IRF applications and to make Recommendations to the National Indigenous Reconciliation Board of Directors.

Georgie Horton-Baptiste, Chair of the Local IRF Committee is pleased to announce that eight projects were recommended to the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Board of Directors and the projects have now been approved.

ENTITY	CONTACT	NAME OF PROJECT	AMOUNT OF IRF FUNDING RECOMMENDED
Curve Lake First Nations	Aricka Fleguel	Honouring Our Children monument	\$100 000
Wausaksking First Nations	Leslie Ramsay	Relationship Building	\$ 20 000
Alderville First Nations	Joanne Smoke	Harvesting for Healing	\$ 25 000
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Pine Needle Baskets	\$ 2 609.93
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Bead Work – Poppy/Applique Beading	\$ 783.98
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Bead Work – Red Dress Applique Beading	\$ 783.98
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Ribbon Skirts for All	\$ 3 748.98
Moon River Métis Council	Shannon Beagan	Métis Rug Hooking	\$ 4 091.14
Total			\$ 159 017.52

Chairperson, Georgie Horton-Baptiste spoke about the committee’s work saying, *“The paths of truth, reconciliation and healing is two-fold for Indigenous peoples and three-fold for Canadians. While the greater onus for reconciliation is not ours to carry as indigenous peoples, reparational acts of reconciliation will be fleeting and futile without our participation. The intertwined paths of truth and healing is one we can walk together with or friends. Our local Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Committee invited the Indigenous community to submit project proposals that reflect healing, knowledge sharing, and community building initiatives for residential school survivors, their families and communities. I am filled with joy to see that the Round One project proposals that were recommended to the National IRF committee were approved. I look forward to seeing these projects brought to fruition in their respective communities.”*

Projects funded by the IRF fall into one or more of these four categories:

- Healing for communities and families,
- Culture and language revitalization;
- Knowledge-sharing, heritage & traditions and community building; and/or
- Dialogues for promoting indigenous spirituality and culture.

Approximately \$160 000 worth of projects have been approved in the first round of applications leaving a residual of

\$240 000 in the Diocese’s IRF. Round 2 will open in early December. More information can be found on the Diocese’s website though this link: www.peterboroughdiocese.org/IRF



Gayelyn Heffernan, Métis Nation of Ontario – Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Councillor, Vice Chair of the Local IRF Committee, says, *“I am very pleased that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has undertaken a commitment to support healing and cultural revitalization initiatives for residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. The projects forwarded to the National Committee were all very worthy of support and will be of healing benefit to the communities within which they will be undertaken. I am honoured to sit on the IRF Committee as a representative of the Metis Nation of Ontario, and to be part of this good work”*

Bishop Miehm expressed his appreciation and hope saying, *“I am grateful to the members of our local IRF committee, who thoroughly reviewed these proposals and recommended them to the national committee for approval. Their work has supported these excellent projects which will serve the various First Nations and Metis communities and which will enhance the important and ongoing journey of walking together.”*

Media Contact: Deirdre Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Communications, Diocese of Peterborough: (705)745-5123 x 24.



XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops



Participants in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops have approved a Letter to the People of God giving thanks for their experience, detailing the work of the past few weeks, and expressing the hope that in the coming months, everyone will be able to "concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word 'synod'".

Dear sisters, dear brothers,

As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to "journey together" under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ.

The session in which we have been gathered in Rome since 30 September is an important phase of this process. In many ways it has been an unprecedented experience. For the first time, at Pope Francis' invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others. Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today. We have thus also experienced the importance of fostering mutual exchanges between the Latin tradition and the traditions of Eastern Christianity. The participation of

Letter to the People of God

fraternal delegates from other Churches and Ecclesial Communities deeply enriched our discussions.

Our assembly took place in the context of a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts, infusing our work with a particular gravity, especially since some of us come from countries where war rages. We prayed for the victims of deadly violence, without forgetting all those who have been forced by misery and corruption to take the dangerous road of migration. We assured our solidarity and commitment alongside the women and men all over the world who are working to build justice and peace.

At the invitation of the Holy Father, we made significant room for silence to foster mutual listening and a desire for communion in the Spirit among us. During the opening ecumenical vigil, we experienced how the thirst for unity increases in the silent contemplation of the crucified Christ. In fact, the cross is the only cathedra of the One who, having given himself for the salvation of the world, entrusted His disciples to His Father, so that "they may all be one" (John 17:21). Firmly united in the hope brought by His

Resurrection, we entrusted to Him our common home where the cries of the earth and the poor are becoming increasingly urgent: "*Laudate Deum!*" ("Praise God!"), as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of our work.

Day by day, we felt the pressing call to pastoral and missionary conversion. For the Church's vocation is to proclaim the Gospel not by focusing on itself, but by



placing itself at the service of the infinite love with which God loved the world (cf. John 3:16). When homeless people near St. Peter's Square were asked about their expectations regarding the Church on the occasion of this synod, they replied: "Love!". This love must always remain the ardent heart of the Church, a Trinitarian and Eucharistic love, as the Pope recalled on October 15, midway through our assembly, invoking the message of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. It is "trust" that gives us the audacity and inner freedom that we experienced, not hesitating to freely and humbly express our convergences, differences, desires and questions.

And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word "synod". This is not about ideology, but about an experience rooted in the apostolic tradition. As the Pope reminded us at the beginning of this process, "communion and mission can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless we cultivate an ecclesial praxis that expresses the concreteness of synodality (...) encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all" (October 9, 2021). There are multiple challenges and numerous questions: the synthesis report of the first session will specify the points of agreement we have reached, highlight the open questions, and indicate how our work will proceed.

To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest. This requires a path of conversion on its part, which is also a path of praise: "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children" (Luke 10:21)! It means listening to those who have been denied the right to speak in society or who feel excluded, even by the Church; listening to people who are victims of racism in all its forms – in particular in some regions to indigenous peoples whose cultures have been scorned. Above all, the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body, and to commit herself concretely and

structurally to ensuring that this does not happen again.

The Church also needs to listen to the laity, women and men, all called to holiness by virtue of their baptismal vocation: to the testimony of catechists, who in many situations are the first proclaimers of the Gospel; to the simplicity and vivacity of children, the enthusiasm of youth, to their questions, and their pleas; to the dreams, the wisdom and the memory of elderly people. The Church needs to listen to families, to their educational concerns, to the Christian witness they offer in today's world. She needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures.

To progress further in synodal discernment, the Church particularly needs to gather even more the words and experience of the ordained ministers: priests, the primary collaborators of the bishops, whose sacramental ministry is indispensable for the life of the whole body; deacons, who, through their ministry, signify the care of the entire Church for the most vulnerable. She also needs to let herself be questioned by the prophetic voice of consecrated life, the watchful sentinel of the Spirit's call. She also needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth, and in whom the Spirit, who "offers everyone the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery" (Gaudium et Spes 22), is also present and operative.

"The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium" (Pope Francis, October 17, 2015). We do not need to be afraid to respond to this call. Mary, Mother of the Church, the first on the journey, accompanies our pilgrimage. In joy and in sorrow, she shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope!

Vatican City, October 25, 2023





Trout Creek & South River

Trout Creek Catholic Women's League organized a soap and sock drive in the month of May for Canadian Food for Children. We collected 295 bars of soap and 167 pairs of new socks from both South River and Trout Creek Parishes, plus \$120.00 donation.

Pictured are Fr. Isaac Ogwu and some of the CWL members.



Otonabee & Keene

Dolly Kylie is congratulated by her daughters and niece on receiving her CWL Service pin for "70 years" from Our Lady of Assumption and St John the Evangelist!!



Learn About... ALTAR TALKS MINISTRY

I recently had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Michelle Meloff, the founder of Altar Talks, a programme designed to engage and educate elementary school students regarding the things of the Church's sacred Liturgy. Its genius capitalizes on the curiosity children have about tangible, physical objects, and encourages questions like "what is this for" and "what does this mean". These seemingly simple enquiries provide an opening to learn about the most profound things of our faith.

To encourage the conversation, small models of the sacred vessels and church furnishings (i.e. an altar and a tabernacle) are used. The children are encouraged to be curious.

An immediate parallel occurred to me: this has some similarities with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which has been promoted in numerous editions of this publication. Ms. Meloff has no desire to compete with the Good Shepherd programme.

This new initiative is springing up in the south-west corner of our diocese, and has some reach into the Archdiocese of Toronto, as well. New sites in the Peterborough diocese would be a blessing.

Michelle's contact information is below, for anyone wishing to know more. She welcomes collaborators

— Fr. R. Rick, Ed.

From the Altar Talks brochure

Learn About the Mass

- ◆ What is a Ciborium ?
- ◆ What is the difference between a Chalice and a Ciborium?
- ◆ What are Cruets used for?
- ◆ Why does the Priest use a finger bowl?
- ◆ What do the catacombs have to do with the Mass?
- ◆ What is a Corporal?

**Importance:**

- **A positive interactive experience for the children.**
- **The reality is that 60% of kids in the classroom don't go to Mass. We are planting "seeds."**
- **Main goal is to give children an opportunity to learn about the precious vessels and the linens used on the altar.**

What is being said:

This ministry has enjoyed a positive response from the schools. We are aware of no other group offering this teaching.

This is an excellent opportunity to explain what the priest is doing at Mass, and why.

Not only were the children surprised at the many things they learned, but teachers also expressed surprise. They also said that they learned many things.



Some children have become altar servers after these presentations, and one has already become a lector, while still in grade school.

Right from the first presentation, everyone, students and teachers, were engaged and paying close attention.

By the end, some of the teachers were taking the children to the church to show them the relics and other items we discussed.

One teacher wanted us to go to her son's class to make this presentation, even though his school was in a different district.

Parents are saying their children were telling them, during Mass, what the items were and what they meant.

One grandparent commented to us, weeks after our presentation in her granddaughter's school, that the child came home after every session and told about the items we had discussed.

Altar Talks Ministry

Michelle: 905-686-3259
cell: 289-314-0113

michellemeloff@gmail.com



Seeing Life Through the Eyes of the Cross

part 2



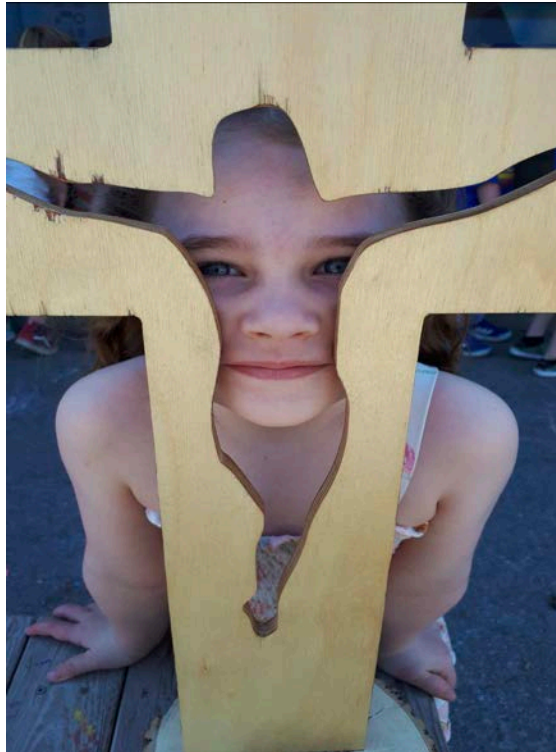
It's usually around this time of year that everyone wonders, "where did the summer go?" School concludes in June and the summer seems so vast and welcoming. Then, in a flash, we turn the corner in August, the inevitable countdown begins to the Labour Day long weekend and the beginning of school. While summer is a treasured time, many young people secretly anticipate a return to school for learning, fun and friendships.

As Board Chaplain/Faith Animator and Superintendent of Faith for our PVNCCDSB Schools, we are immensely proud of the way our staff and students embraced our new Pastoral Plan in its first year. Our Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington Cross has been with us for many years, but with our new pastoral plan highlighting this Resurrection Cross, it seemed we were seeing this beautiful cross as though for the first time. This connection to the cross was exemplified by our Secondary Technology Classes making PVNC crosses for every school. This gave the opportunity for both staff and students to interact with and view school and community life in a new and profound way.

As part of our (2022-2025) Pastoral Plan, we have embraced the theme of *Seeing through the Eyes of the Cross*. This past year, every school brought the resurrection cross into each classroom, school club and staff meeting. They also created a journal for reflection to collect and bear witness to new learning. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 looked through the cross to see the world, themselves and each other in new Christ-filled ways. The creativity was profound and the learning was spirit-filled. Then, as we celebrated Catholic Education week, all crosses and journals were brought to the Catholic Student Leadership Awards for everyone to see.

Our first three year Pastoral Plan for PVNCCDSB: Igniting Faith, Hope and Love through Conversation, Celebration & Community has proven to be an instrument for faith development within our schools, our churches and our communities. (see photos below) as evidenced by the following photos.

It is the hope that as the 2023-2024 school year begins, every school will establish a pastoral planning committee to review



school journals and develop a plan to continue the faith journey of all members of the school community. How will we ensure its continued journey in the coming year?

Both the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and the PVNCCDSB Pastoral Plan were created through synodal discussions. Over the past two years at PVNCCDSB, synodal discussions have occurred in all six of our secondary schools on an annual basis. It has been a profound experience to bear witness to how faith is experienced by our youth. It is our commitment in the coming year to expand these discussions to include our students in grades 7 and 8.

In addition, schools will study the school's patron saint, its history, its values and gifts as well as how faith is expressed in their school. The PVNC cross will be front and center at the school year's first assembly, to review its journey and strategize as a school how the cross will continue to be a catalyst for each individual person's faith journey in the year to come. By Advent, PVNCCDSB will move into year two

with the theme of *hope* asking: what are our hopes for our school, our parishes, our communities, our homes and our very selves? Schools will be asked to create a small bridge. Each board on the bridge will reflect themes of where we have been as a faith community and where we hope to be. The bridge will be a physical bridge, displaying the creativity and artistic contributions of staff and students. The bridge will also be a physical symbol of transformation and growth, hopefully completed by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

We have witnessed stories of staff and students both leading and participating in praying in new and creative ways this year. These different forms of prayer include: meditation, scriptural reflection, synodal conversations, sharing the rosary, free prayer and formula prayers. In leading and creatively praying, we have only just begun to grow in new ways. We are confident this growth among our students and staff will continue.

Finally, a key component of our Pastoral Plan is sharing our vocation stories. Last year at all Director's meetings, one of our principals would share their vocation journey. It wasn't easy at first but this practice has become a great tradition here to stay. Many





school staff have begun to do the same when they gather together. We will continue to encourage this practice in the years to come.

We are growing together in faith in our Catholic schools. Our Diocesan and PVNCCDSB Pastoral Plans have provided distinctive roadmaps for this journey we embark on together. The spirit is alive at PVNCCDSB! Please pray for us, that we continue to grow together in faith, transforming our schools, our communities, our homes and our very selves .

Glory be to the Father and to the son and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Jeannie Armstrong, (outgoing) Superintendent of Faith, Equity, & Special Education at PVNCCDSB
Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain & Faith Animator at PVNCCDSB

SENIORS' FAITH CAFE

Over 65 people - over 65!



Fr. Simmy Joseph, pastor of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Peterborough wanted to celebrate the wonderful senior parishioners who have supported their parish for so long in many ways (and all who have joined more recently). We were so surprised - and happy - to have just over 65 seniors attend! There were more as well but the cold and flu stopped them from coming.

A great time was had by all beginning with Mass in the church and then going to the parish hall for food, a short Advent video with discussion, games and Christmas caroling! We hope to make this a monthly event and asked everyone for suggestions about how we could make this day their own.

Thank you to Fr. Simmy for being a wonderful host.

More from St. Alphonsus
pp. 27-9



Images from Keewatin-LePas

Peterborough is one of six dioceses that has been twinned with Keewatin-Le Pas, an arrangement by which more populous dioceses are trying to assist Catholic communities in the north.

Below are a few images from the Archdiocese of Keewatin-LePas. Next page: an outreach from Lindsay.



Keewatin-LePas Twinning Project

Lindsay



St. Mary's CWL, Lindsay has packaged and shipped 11 boxes of school supplies to the archdiocesan office of Keewatin-LePas for further shipping by train to Sacred Heart Parish in Pukatawagan, Manitoba. The school supplies included pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, crayons, markers, rulers, pens, paper, colouring books, glue sticks, tape, fabric, yarn, knitting supplies and patterns, holy cards.

Fr. D.R. Amarlapudi in Pukatawagan will be distributing the supplies. Most items were purchased, but many were donated by our members who are excited about the project. We hope they will find a use for the "extras" we included although we did not send everything on the suggested list.

Glenda Klein,
President



Douro of Angels and Schools



Fr. Randy Foster, at St. Joseph Douro, was gifted with a beautiful porch angel this spring. It now sits on the spacious, wide porch of the rectory in Douro.

Many thanks to the talented Paul Meade who created this attractive piece of work. Paul can be seen most days volunteering his time to do maintenance jobs around the church, hall or rectory in Douro. We are blessed. Thank you, Paul!



The Catholic Elementary School in Douro got a huge upgrade this year. When students walked in on September 5, 2023 they were able to use the new space.

All 5 previous portables were eliminated and 4 new permanent classrooms were added to the school.

The school now boasts 10 indoor classrooms as well as a new library and 3 rooms for small meetings or gatherings. There are 209 students in grade 1 to 8 studying in the hamlet of Douro.



Douro Doings 2023

2023 was one of the hottest Douro Doings on record in the 93 years of its history. The thermometer climbed to over 30 degrees Celsius. Spirits were not dampened. The Douro Park saw over 100 classic cars on display and the ball diamonds were alive with baseball tournaments. Old-time kids' games started at 11:00 am with lots of excited young people. But oh, the 10k runners! They did their best and completed the course in the fierce heat, and finished off with gallons of water.

At the hall there was shade, thankfully. A delicious roast beef dinner was served with typical Douro efficiency. Tables inside and

outside accommodated diners. The outside seating was very popular this year. The lineup of entertainment was exceptional. Local as well as East Coast performers graced the stage (wagon). As the entertainment drew to a close the famous quilt raffle began. The audience eagerly purchased tickets on the 20 quilts that were up for draws. All the quilts were made locally by the CWL members. The event draws people from far and wide in the hope of winning a Douro Doings Quilt for a \$3.00 ticket.

It was another very successful event for the parish of St. Joseph's Douro.



Campbellford

Fr. Moloney's Anniversary
May 27th

A Celebration

St. Mary's Parish in Campbellford celebrated Father William A. Moloney's 40th anniversary on May 27, 2023, and is thankful to all who took the time from their busy schedules to attend.

The festivities began with a Mass. The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm was in attendance, with Deacon Aiden Murphy and Fathers Randy Foster, Paul Massel and Fr. Peter Seabrooke concelebrating with Fr. Bill. St. Mary's Choir was in full voice, to add to the day.

Following the Mass, a Dinner/Roast/Dance was planned but it

turned into a full roast of the man of the hour. Fr. Bill was in his element! It had been years his whole family had had the chance to gather in such great numbers, not to mention the many friends that came out to honour and celebrate his accomplishments.

Speakers recounted Fr. Bill's past experiences and all the lives he has touched as a priest. Everyone had a special story to tell of their life experience and expounded fully the affect Fr. Bill has had on their lives: lifelong friends ... ex-students... staff from Camp Northern Lights ... brothers ... and sisters...



Fr. Bill engaged his grandnephew Emmitt on why it was a special day he shared every year with Emmitt's Dad, Ben and his Grandfather Clair, (who are Fr. Bill's nephew and his brother). Emmitt's response was *"because it was the weekend"*. After the laughter died down, Fr. Bill told Emmitt that it was because Emmitt's father's birthday and his grandfather's wedding anniversary were that day as well.



Fr. Bill surprised his brother, Clair and his spouse Nancy with a renewal of their marriage vows on their 34th anniversary, that same day, at the end of the Mass.





391 souls shared this evening, wishing Fr. Bill continued success and sharing their stories.

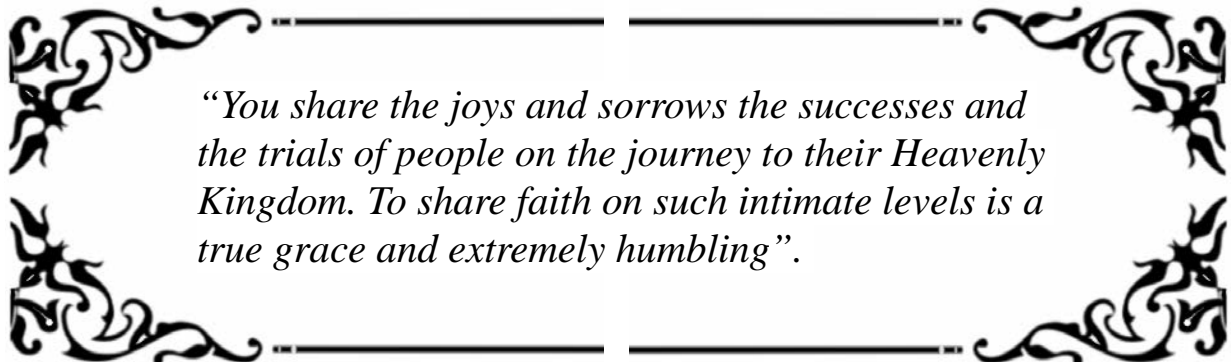
There were two very special people who spoke about his childhood, one being his cousin, Bernadette Barton, who read a poem Fr Bill's Aunt Beck had read at the Dinner following his first Mass on May 29, 1983. The poem toasted Fr. Bill's parents. It was poignant and extremely moving.

The second was his sister, Janet, who recalled their Mom and Dad and their firm but positive affect on raising Fr. Bill and his

siblings; and because of their influence they all have a strong faith in God, each other and themselves.

Lot of laughs, and a few tears. The love overflowed for this individual who has had so much impact.

Fr. Bill thanked God for many his blessings, but in particular the gift of priesthood...



“You share the joys and sorrows the successes and the trials of people on the journey to their Heavenly Kingdom. To share faith on such intimate levels is a true grace and extremely humbling”.



Campbellford

Mega Raffle 2023

A 'MEGA SUCCESS!'

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Campbellford held their second of three Mega Raffles on May 27th, 2023. A total of **\$61,830** was realized from the raffle. Half of the proceeds will be directed toward the parish debt and the other half to the second portion of their 3 phase, accessibility project. Thank you to all who purchased a ticket or two. Thank you to all

who sold tickets.

Plans are already underway for their third and final mega raffle for May of 2024. Expectations are high as we have already received permission to sell Mega Raffle Tickets at both the Campbellford Fair and the social event of the season... the Douro Doings!!!!

Winners of the St. Mary's Parish 2023 Annual Mega Raffle Were:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 st Prize: 14' Mirrorcraft –“Resorter Blue” plus a Yamaha 4-Stroke 15” Motor plus a trailer Or \$11,280
— Pina LeBlanc of Woodbridge, ON | 12 th Prize: Dooher's Bakery \$100 Gift Certificate
— Al Newton of Campbellford, ON |
| 2 nd Prize: Ultra Quiet 2200i Yamaha Portable Inverter Or \$1,980
— Tom O'Grady of Douro-Dummer ON | 13 th Prize: Giant Tiger \$100 Gift Certificate
— Gerry Connolly of Peterborough, ON |
| 3 rd Prize: ¼ beef, ¼ pork, ¼ chicken — Jason Galligan , Toronto | 14 th Prize: Sharpe's Food Market \$100 Gift Certificate
— Clinton Butts of Campbellford, ON |
| 4 th Prize: 21” Steel Deck, Rear Mulch Or \$885
— Jason Millen of Omemee, ON | 15 th Prize: UPI Gas \$100 Card Certificate
— Linda Robertson of Campbellford, ON |
| 5 th Prize: A Hand Made Queen Sized Quilt by Joan O'Leary
— Grace MacDonald of Codrington, ON | 16 th Prize: Westben \$100 Voucher for a 2023 performance
— Mary Garneau of Campbellford, ON |
| 6 th Prize: A Painting entitled “A Windy Day On Georgian Bay”
— Nicole Whyte of Codrington, ON | 17 th Prize: World's Finest Chocolate \$80 Gift Certificate
— Ellen O'Connor Power of Ottawa, ON |
| 7 th Prize: Canadian Tire – Klymat Insulated Inflatable Camping Sleeping Pad for Two Adults — Bob Condon of Douro-Dummer | 18 th Prize: A wooden bowl made and donated by Paul O'Brien
— Kyle Kirkland of Warkworth, ON |
| 8 th Prize: Portage Vehicle Cleaning – a car detailing
— Ryan Kidd of Warsaw, ON | 19 th Prize: Empire Cheese \$50 Gift Certificate
— David Barry of Campbellford, ON |
| 9 th Prize: Antonia's Bistro Gift Certificate
— Antonio Scanga of Courticie, ON | 20 st Prize: Fisher's No Frill's \$50 Gift Certificate
— Dan Read of Haliburton, ON |
| 10 th Prize: Bennett's Furniture Gift Certificate
— Eydie VanDenBerg of Bailieboro, ON | 21 st Prize: King's Automotive – a free oil change
— Jeevan Kanyatara of Peterborough, ON |
| 11 th Prize: Abu Garcia For Life Cardinal S Canadian Edition Rod + Reel — Dave Paddick of Tweed, ON | 22 nd Prize: V & S Stedman's \$50 Gift Certificate
— Lynda Mumby of Marmora, ON |
- Once again St. Mary's thanks you for all your support.*



St. Mary's Closet Another Campbellford Success Story

On July 19, 2021, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campbellford, Ontario opened a Thrift Store named Mary's Closet. This year we are celebrating two years of operations and what a "rush" it has been! Over the past two years we have weathered so much. We survived the pandemic, the closures and the general ups and downs that life brings along.

Mary's Closet was established to help pay down the massive debt incurred when the Bell Tower renovation was done. The store has done more than that. It has brought people together to work toward a common cause, to fulfil a community need and sometimes a meeting place for friends to share time; and over the past two years Mary's Closet has contributed \$83,000 to help pay down the debt.

We are a small store located at the back of the St Mary's Rectory. We receive daily donations and have been truly amazed by the generosity of those that donate so much. We have provided clothing to the St Vincent de Paul Society locally, and in the past to the St Vincent de Paul Stores in Bowmanville and Peterborough,

so that others can also benefit from our good fortune.

As a Parish we came together to build something more. With lots of help and the efforts of many, we have now established ourselves as a destination. We have our regulars who come in for a bargain; we have others that just drop by for a friendly chat, and we have who that have heard about Mary's Closet from friends and relatives and make a special trip to see what we're all about. But regardless the reasons, they are all met with a friendly hello from our volunteer staff.

It has been a good decision all round and hopefully will continue well into the future.

By the way we're always looking for people to join us in this quest. Anyone interested in volunteering? Any interested Bargain Hunters? Come check us out ... St Mary's Church at 21 Centre Street, Campbellford, our Store Hours are Wednesday 10-2, Thursday, 4-7, (summer only Friday 10-2), Saturday 9:30-2:30. ☩

Parish Administrative Assistants meet in Parry Sound



BACK ROW: Catherine Ward, Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, Ptbo; Hanna Dracup, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Ptbo; Bishop Daniel Miehms; Patsy Scott, Immaculate Conception, Ptbo; Cindy Campbell, St. Joseph's, Bowmanville; Mandy Near, St. James the Great, Mactier; Lori Beal, DPC; Lily Cavanagh, St. Anne's, Ptbo; Tania Borsellino, St. John the Evangelist, Kirkfield; Laurie Dobbs, St. Joseph's, Powassan.

MIDDLE ROW: Deacon Paul Dunford, St. Joseph's, Douro; Karen Quinn, Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lindsay; Alison Coort, St. Mary of the Assumption, Huntsville; Fr. Jerry Tavares, Pastor St Peter the Apostle, Parry Sound (host); Deb McRae, DPC; Michele Graham, DPC; Michelle Hodgkinson, St. Paul's, Gravenhurst; Karen Grubb, DPC; Cathy Gevaert, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Campbellford & St. Paul's, Norwood.

FRONT ROW: Fr. Neil Campbell, Holy Family, Britt; Maryann Clancy, St. Paul's, Lakefield & St. Joseph's, Douro; Kathryn Rayson & Carol Young, St. Joseph's, Bracebridge; Susan Pearson, St. Patrick's, Kinmount & Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardiff; Trish Stanley, St. Anne's, Peterborough & Our Lady of Mercy, Port Hope; Kristen Penfold, St. Peter the Apostle, Parry Sound (host) & Our Lady of Mercy, Honey Harbour.





**FROM THE CHOIR
LOFT**

Kathleen Moquin

Perspectives

Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

There are few more discouraging sights than mole damage on lawns emerging from a long winter's nap, but resourceful springtime gardeners can salvage the growing season. A toddler having a tantrum that challenges the boundaries of all reason is approaching the summit of the metaphorical mountainous molehill, with eventual emotional descent requiring parents' sympathetic engagement and creative redirection. To prevent exaggerated or inappropriate responses to subtle social cues and delicate situations, individuals on the autism spectrum often rely on the "interpretive services" of friends and family to secure their neurodivergent footing in the neurotypical world. According to Woody Allen, "80% of success in life is showing up," but showing up with the proper perspective surely enhances successful navigation through life's changing landscapes.

In the discipline of fine art, perspective is created by manipulating images to give the illusion of depth. Medieval and Gothic painters employed techniques involving colour saturation and shading and positioned "distant" elements at the top of their works, but the results remained "flat" to the viewer. Credited as the first person to outline a detailed system of linear perspective, Florentine architect Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1436) demonstrated that all lines on the same plane will appear to converge at a single vanishing point on an established horizon line, with objects appearing smaller as they recede into the distance. Linear perspective was enthusiastically adopted by Renaissance painters, who could finally give volume to their figures and depth to their scenes. The fresco Holy Trinity, with the Virgin and Saint John and donors (c.1427) by Italian artist Masaccio is among the earliest surviving Renaissance paintings to demonstrate systematic linear perspective. By eliminating multiple viewpoints associated with Medieval art in favour of a fixed, single viewpoint to

create the illusion of depth, linear perspective was aptly suited to Renaissance Humanism, which valued naturalism and individualism.

Consider that, aside from being omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, God also manifests omniperspective. God, who transcends time and space, is present in our time and shares our space. Viewed through His omnipotent and omniscient lens, the most complex and challenging human circumstances are molehills to God, who bolsters our subsequent response with an abundance of grace and mercy. God's permissive will allows for the human experience of suffering and evil so that a greater purpose, which can only be fully understood from God's perspective, may be accomplished.

Written to recall the anniversary of the martyrdom of Oscar Romero, the archbishop of El Salvador who was assassinated while celebrating Mass in San Salvador in 1980, the poem *A Future Not Our Own* reflects on the importance of keeping things in perspective so that God might meet us, with his grace and mercy, and share the beatific vision that is heaven: ✠

A Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.



No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

by Bishop Ken Untener

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



Youth and Vocations Big updates!

New Youth Office

Bishop Daniel Miehm has appointed me to become full-time Director of the Vocations Office as well as to full-time Director of the Diocesan Youth Office. My role remains the same for vocations work, allowing me to give more focus on promoting vocations and accompanying young people as they discern God's call. And I have the wonderful additional responsibility of leading the newly formed Youth Office for the Diocese, an endeavor which seeks to help form the future generations of our Diocese and broader Church.

The goal of the youth office is very similar to what many other dioceses do in regards to diocesan youth ministry:

- Develop and implement a strategic plan to address the needs for youth ministry across the Diocese.
- Provide support to local parish pastors and youth ministers to assist them in beginning and enhancing youth ministry, through consultations, practical resources and pastoral aid.
- Maintain contact with all four deaneries in order to coordinate youth ministry activities.
- In consultation with faith animators, extend support to Catholic School Board Chaplaincy Leaders and Faith Formation Leaders to help further the faith formation and development of young people and work with Catholic School Board and Catholic Parishes to develop programming.
- Plan and implement diocesan events geared to addressing and appealing to the needs of our young people.
- Work closely with Peterborough Campus Ministry to coordinate and encourage Catholic young adults ministry to those aged 18-35, particularly in the Peterborough area.
- Oversee the annual Way of the Cross event on Good Friday through the streets of Peterborough by means of recruitment of director, support volunteers, and logistical frameworks. Also oversee Witness Youth Theatre group.
- Promote close relationships among the elementary/secondary educational communities and local parishes.
- Develop and implement training initiatives for youth ministry leaders to build capacity to serve including the Youth ministers' annual retreat, training days and professional development opportunities.
- Organize diocesan-wide trips to youth ministry relevant events such as and not limited to: World Youth Day, Steubenville, Rise Up, March for Life and Youth Banquet and Conferences, etc

As you can see, a lot of effort will be spent on youth ministry in the diocese, and I ask for your prayers as we begin this office.

Many people have observed that such an office is very similar to the old VEYO (Vocations, Evangelization, and Youth) office. And they are correct! VEYO was the vocations and youth ministries put together and over the years held various events and initiatives such as SONfest, CORC teams, confirmation retreats, Morning Watches (all night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by youth), apologetics retreats, young adult retreats, Theology on Tap, World Youth Day, Martyrs Shrine excursions, and Eucharistic

VOCATIONS & YOUTH

Fr. Stephen
DeCarlo



Congress pilgrimages, seminary visits, and so much more. While the new Youth Office will not be named VEYO, it will still have the same aim and goals in mind as it seeks to promote youth ministry in the diocese as a whole and in the individual parishes. We can look at our history as a way of planning for our future, with a hard look at our present reality to see which initiatives are best suited for right now.

Vocations Updates

Mr. Peter Bissonnette has successfully completed his pastoral internship at St. Joseph's Parish in Bracebridge and has now begun his 3rd year of theological studies at St. Augustine's Seminary. God willing, he will be ordained a transitional deacon after this 3rd year.

Peter received the Ministry of Lector on November 22nd at St. Augustine's Seminary. The ministry of Lector is one of the steps towards receiving Holy Orders and indicates that the candidate now has the ministry (and not merely the function) of proclaiming the reading at Mass and liturgical celebrations.

Mr. Andrew Roelands is the newest addition to our seminarians! Originally from the London, ON. area, he studied at St. Peter's Seminary for a few years until deciding to take some time off for further discernment. During that time, he found a job working in the Kawartha Lakes area and volunteered in various parish activities and the Confirmation program. He also took part in Fr. Eric Mason's walking pilgrimages as well as his youth excursions in Britt. As Andrew discerned back into the seminary, he had made so many friends in the Peterborough Diocese that he wanted to call it home. He will begin in the Spiritual Year at St. Augustine's Seminary. ✠



World Youth Day

From July 27th to August 10th, the Diocese of Peterborough sent 22 young pilgrims to Lisbon, Portugal for the World Youth Day (WYD) event. After many months of planning and fundraising, which included a Portuguese Dinner, chocolate fundraisers, spaghetti dinner, parish appeals, and a walking pilgrimage, the group made the long trek to Lisbon to begin WYD.

We flew out on July 27th from Pearson Airport, transiting through Frankfurt and then

on to the Portuguese city of Porto. Our luggage was delayed and many of us had to spend a night without theirs; thankfully we were reunited in good time! We were treated to a tour of Porto which included the Cathedral, Franciscan Church, train station and old stock exchange. Later that day, a few pilgrims took a river cruise while the rest attended a soccer game put on by FC Porto, giving us all a cultural experience of where we were to attend WYD.

The next day found us attending Sunday Mass at Our Lord of Bonfim Church, where we met up with the pastor, Fr. Nuno Antunes, as well as other pilgrims from the parish, Chile, and Poland. The Mass was a multi-lingual one in which parts were read out in Portuguese, English, Spanish, and Polish. Fr. Stephen DeCarlo and Fr. Peter Lukow joined the pastor and two Polish priests inside a packed church. Later that day, we explored more of the city, met more pilgrims from other places, and enjoyed a group dinner together.

Continued...

A Pilgrim's Experience of World Youth Day 2023

By: Jesse Gordon



My experience during World Youth Day was a mix of challenges and beautiful moments. While there were tough times, like losing our luggage and dealing with crowded places and hot weather; the peaceful moments in between made it all worthwhile.

I'll always remember times such as when 1.5 million people knelt in silence to adore the Blessed Sacrament and the excitement of

seeing the Pope arrive in Lisbon. These moments were truly special.

Portugal itself was enchanting. Waking up in a city of over 230 000 people on Sunday, only to hear church bells ringing, and sitting by the river at night, watching the moonlit waves while listening to street performers, was magical. These experiences were like something out of a story, and they changed my outlook on life.

Coming back to Canada, I felt grateful for what we have here. But I also realized how important it is for young Catholics to experience a place where faith is alive and vibrant, especially among our fellow youth. ✠



The Monday had us boarding a bus straight to Lisbon. We stopped along the way for a meal break and discovered that many other buses with pilgrims were doing the same. We even saw a few pilgrims attempting to hitchhike their way to Lisbon! We arrived at our accommodations and received our pilgrim backpacks, which contained a rosary, t-shirt, water bottle, credentials, and meal tickets.

World Youth Day is a five-day Catholic celebration, inviting Catholics from all over the world to come together and grow in their faith. Pilgrims came from as far away as Australia, Africa, South America, Asia, and Europe. Canadians numbered over 5,000, and on the first day we were able to take part in a Canadian gathering in order to meet up with fellow Canadians. We ran into old friends and acquaintances, and made some new ones. We said prayers, heard a few talks, and some even joined in on a group dance.

Mass was not a part of this gathering because later that very day was the opening Mass, celebrated by the Patriarch of Lisbon¹, Manuel Clemente. Over 400,000 people attended this Mass, celebrated at Parque Eduardo VII, which was on an incline and gave a spectacular view of the gathered pilgrims from the very top. Despite the very large crowds and jammed pack metro trains, people chanting loudly and joyfully led the way and created a wonderful atmosphere of faith and joy. Despite the distance from the main altar, we entered into the Mass, assisted by a fantastic choir. Fr. Stephen and Fr. Peter had the privilege of concelebrating the Mass, where they were able to stand relatively close to the main altar. There were 10,000 other priests there, all dressed differently; some wore clerical shirts, others cassocks and habits. Some wore regular t-shirts and shorts. We were all from different countries, dioceses, and religious orders. But once it was time for Mass, we all donned our albs and stoles, and instantly began to look more uniform, which also served as a unity of the presbyterate. Despite our differences, we were all united by Holy Mass, saying the same words of consecration and consuming the same Eucharist.



The next few days allowed us to take part in all that WYD had to offer.

Many of us took part in Rise Up sessions, which were various talks centered on specific themes, given by a few presenters including bishops, and ended with Mass and lunch. The rest of the day allowed us to attend various exhibits such as seeing relics of saints, a Shroud of Turin exhibit (only a replica), Theology of the Body seminars, vocational fairs, opportunities for confession and Adoration, or to catch Mass elsewhere. There was also a stage set up near where we were staying that held concerts all day and night, including a performance from the famous Fr. Rob Galea of Australia. Overall, there was a lot to do and take part in and it was impossible to do everything. But we made the most of it and made new friends, too.

Pope Francis arrived on the Thursday and we were able to take part in the official welcome. He had visited Fatima the day before and then came to address the pilgrims. We braved large crowds, security checkpoints, and high heat in order to attend, and we even got a glimpse of him going past us! In his opening address², the Holy father

reminded the youth that each of us is called by God and everyone belongs to the Church “Todos! Todos! Todos!”

“Friends, I want to be clear with you, for you are allergic to falsity and empty words: in the Church, there is room for everyone. Everyone. In the Church, no one is left out or left over. There is room for everyone. Just the way we are. Everyone. Jesus says this clearly. When he sends the apostles to invite people to the banquet which a man had prepared, he tells them: “Go out and bring in everyone”, young and old, healthy and infirm, righteous and sinners. Everyone, everyone, everyone! In the Church there is room for everyone. “Father, but I am a wretch, is there room for me? There is room for everyone! All together now, everyone, repeat with me in your own language: Everyone, everyone, everyone. I can’t hear you: again! Everyone. Everyone. Everyone. That is the Church, the Mother of all. There is room for everyone. The Lord does not point a finger, but opens his arms. It is odd: the Lord does not know how to do this (pointing), but that (opening wide). He embraces us all. He shows us Jesus on the cross, who opened his arms wide in order to be crucified and die for us.”

Afterwards, we braved the dense crowds again and even ran into Jason Everett! He was here with a group and was giving extensive social media coverage of the event.

The following Friday allowed us to attend the Stations of the Cross. We decided to view them at the nearby stage, due to crowd fatigue. Before that, we had the opportunity to attend a Rise Up session with Bishop Robert Barron, who gave a talk on prayer.³ He later celebrated the Mass.

The following day had us walk 10 km to Campo do Graca, the site of the overnight vigil and place for the final Mass. It was a really hot day, 38C, and we packed plenty of water and sunscreen. We celebrated Mass in the lobby of our hotel and packed what we needed for an overnight under the stars. Along the way, we took a bus partway and met up with some youth from Kenya. We

¹ The Archdiocese of Lisbon is considered a Patriarchy for historical reasons, mostly due to its close relationship with the Portuguese monarchy at the time of its designation. This is similar to a few other dioceses such as Venice and Jerusalem. It grants the Archbishop several honorary styles such as using a double cross. Otherwise, it functions as a regular diocese.

² <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/august/documents/20230803-portogallo-cerimonia-accoglienza.html>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWcfbjn552E>



sang a few joyful songs and had a blast together! We walked the rest of the way, picking up our meal kits midway. We arrived at the vigil site and braved the crowds to get to our location. We had a few hours to settle in and take it easy until the pope arrived for Eucharistic Adoration. After his remarks, a priest came on the stage holding the Blessed Sacrament, and without any instructions or prompting, the large crowd intuitively knelt down and adored and prayed in absolute silence. You could hear a pin drop. This experience was truly incredible and showed the deep faith the 1.5 million youth in attendance.

Afterwards, we tried to catch some sleep, some having more success with that than others, but we were all awoken the next day by Fr. Guilherme Peixoto's techno music. Fr. Stephen and Fr. Peter went over to the place for concelebration with 10,000 priests while our group stayed behind in our spot. In his closing homily, Pope Francis echoed St. John Paul II by encouraging the youth to not be afraid:

As young people, you have experienced these days of joy – I was about to say of glory, and indeed our encounters have been a kind of glory. You have great dreams, but often fear that they may not come true; sometimes you think that you are not up to the challenge, which is a kind of pessimism that can overcome us at times. As young people, you may be tempted at this time to lose heart, to think you fall short, or to disguise your pain with a smile. As young people, you want to



change the world – and it is very good that you want to change the world – you want to work for justice and peace. You devote all your life's energy and creativity to this, but it still seems insufficient. Yet, the Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain. To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future, yes to all of you, Jesus now says: "Have no fear", "Do not be afraid!"

Now, in a brief moment of silence, each of you repeat these words, in your own heart: "Do not be afraid!"

Dear young people, I would like to look into the eyes of each of you and say: Do not be afraid. I will tell you something else, also very beautiful: it is no longer I, but Jesus himself who is now looking at you. He knows each of your hearts, each of your lives; he knows your joys, your sorrows, your successes and failures. He knows

your heart. Today, he says to you, here in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day: "Have no fear, take heart, do not be afraid!"⁴

The next two days were more relaxed and allowed us to explore some sites we had not yet seen, or simply to take it easy and recover from the wonderful yet busy week. A few of us saw the famous Jeronimos Monastery, Lisbon Cathedral, and St. Jorge's Castle. The final night together saw us gathering for supper for one last goodbye and we took a bus to the airport the very next day for the 8.5 hour flight back to Canada.

Overall, it was an amazing and wonderful experience to see 1.5 million youth from all over the world to come together and grow in the faith. The Church is truly alive and the future looks bright. I can attest to that based on my WYD experience, both past and present. Young people do believe in Christ and do want to be part of the Church. The challenge is whether or not we are willing to allow them to not just be our future, which they are, but also the present. The youth are on fire with the faith and love Christ. It was such a heartwarming and encouraging experience and it gives me hope for the future of the Church.

The next WYD will be in Seoul, South Korea, in 2027. See you there!

⁴ <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2023/documents/20230806-portogallo-omelia-gmg.html>



Come and See

On November 17-19th several young men gathered at St. Augustine's Seminary for their semi-annual Come and See retreat. Over 30 men, including a few from the Diocese of Peterborough, took part in a weekend dedicated discerning God's call.

The weekend was meant to show to the young men what the seminary is like and offered them a chance to meet with several seminarians and formation staff. Talks all focused on discerning God's call, and there were plenty of opportunities for prayer,

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions and social time. Archbishop Francis Leo celebrated the Saturday Mass and reminded all present that we share the same capital-V vocation to holiness: we are all called to holiness, regardless of who we are or in what state of life we find ourselves. How we attain holiness would depend on our small-v vocations: priesthood, married life, consecrated life or remaining single.

I was there to accompany our men and to answer questions and inquiries about the priestly life. Overall, it was a good weekend for the participants to come and see the seminary, a place where people seek to be formed as disciples of Christ and future leaders of the Church.

The next Come and See is in March 2024 and any interested young men aged 18+ are invited to contact me at. frstehendecarlo@peterboroughdiocese.org





Deacon Candidates

September 24, 2023, Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm celebrated Mass with the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. Four candidates were admitted to Candidacy: Peter Daniel Bagnall, James Sean Dunlop, Nicolas Yonatan Dubonnet and and Edmund Munroe Scott*.

Let us keep them in our prayers as they prepare for the transitional diaconate and the permanent diaconate.

* Edmund Scott has been Ordained as a transitional Deacon... 24 November 2023, in Douro. — ed.



Lakefield



St. Paul's Lakefield Beef BBQ Equation

Cooks outside preparing corn on the cob and baby potatoes.

+ Plus

Cooks inside preparing fresh beans, gravy and fixins.



+ Plus

Servers doling out generous portions of fresh cut BBQ Beef and all of the above.

= Equals

Smiling faces all around and lots of Happy Diners!



St Alphonus

Fr. Simmy Joseph CMI. was formally installed as pastor in a beautiful ceremony at our evening Mass on September 9th.

This ceremony empowers a pastor to fulfill all the charisms of the pastoral role.



Fr. Simmy arrived on July 10th from the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta where he was pastor for the last four years. He was ordained December 30th 2013 in Kerala, India and belongs to the religious congregation of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate.

We are happy to have Fr. Simmy Joseph as our pastor, and he brings lots of ideas for new programs.

St. Alphonus Liguori strives to be a dynamic faith community where we take initiative to reach out to and include those who feel distant from God — because God is truly far from no one! Here's just a few highlights from the fall... and there's more to come!

Kickoff Festival

In lieu of a more classic 'parish picnic', we opted for a festival afternoon at the beginning of our year (September) to kick off



ministry! With live music (thanks, Rhythm & Grace!), BBQ, games, a bouncy castle, and some beautiful weather, it was a wonderful way to start off on the right foot. We celebrate with expectant hope for all that God will accomplish in our church and our members this year - even before He's done it!

SonShine Children's Adoration

We initiated a monthly program where our littlest members and their families can join us for an



adoration hour specifically meant for them. During this hour, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on an appropriately decorated lower table so it is more at eye level of the children. Children are permitted to move around, ask questions, explore the different areas of the church with their parents, and take advantage of the Catholic quiet activities (books, colouring pages, soft blocks, etc.) that we provide. Parents have appreciated the ability to be before our Blessed Lord themselves while also introducing their children and babies to their Saviour!

You can join us too, on **third Fridays of the month** in our church directly following our 9am morning Mass (~9:30-10:30am).

Trunk or Treat

We held a family fellowship-boosting event called “Trunk or Treat” with great success in October! Families parked in our lot, popped their trunks, and the children went around from car to car to trick-or-treat from the trunks. Everyone showed off their costumes, decorated their cars, and enjoyed the snacks and games available. A great way to bring together our community that may live in different



neighbourhoods but still want to celebrate with their church family at St. Alphonsus!

Other Notable Programs

Kids Church (gr.1-5), our dynamic children’s liturgy experience. We present the Liturgy of the Word specifically in ways that best stick for kids in that age group. Join us any Sunday at our 11:00am Mass!

Tiny Disciples (ages 2-5) is a childcare ministry drop-off program. Parents drop their children off with our screened, trained volunteers who run a

Bible-based playtime and program with the toddlers - because no one is too young to hear the Good News!

Gospel Reflection meets every Friday after our 9am Mass to share fellowship and dive into the lectionary. No sign up, just show up; we’d love to break open the Word with you!

And last but not least... We have recently hired a Youth Minister! Keep an eye out for our youth ministry program starting up in January 2024. Visit our website, www.stalphonsus.net, and subscribe to our e-newsletter The Loop to stay up to date on all our happenings!





At St. Alphonsus, we have a wonderful group, whom we've named our "**Garden Angels**". They volunteered weekly from spring to fall looking after our gardens. They prepared the soil, and bought and planted beautiful flowers around the church. The weeding never stopped - those pesky weeds know how to thrive! Thank you for your hard work everyone!



DEMENTIA - HOW IS IT AFFECTING YOU?

On Thursday, November 16th we had speaker, Talia Nepotiu, from Alzheimer Society, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland & Haliburton speak to about 15 people in our parish hall on how to create a Dementia Friendly Community. Talia told us of the different forms of dementia and 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease.

What would you do if someone came through the church doors with a cast and crutches? Most people would offer to help. What would you do if someone came through the door looking lost or distressed?

We learned ways to offer appropriate help and how to communicate by reducing distractions and being positive. Do not try to correct them. Reducing clutter and lowering background noise also helps someone with dementia focus better.

We can help those with dementia live a more normal life just by being attentive and caring. Get more information at alzheimer.ca/pklnh. They can also line you up with support groups - even across Canada if you have loved ones in another province.





FROM THE PEW

David Beresford

Artificial Intelligence

"What sentimentalists men of science are!" exclaimed Father Brown,
The Mistake of the Machine, G. K. Chesterton

I remember the first time I discovered that technological advances had produced a machine that was far superior to humans. I was watching a backhoe dig a hole, and it occurred to me that the day of digging foundations with pick and shovel were over. Since that time, I have had to accept the simple fact that electric motors and a winch can lift more than I can, and that no matter how hard I try I cannot beat an egg with a fork as fast as a blender. At no time did I think that these machines, brilliantly designed and impressive as they are, were capable of intelligent thought, because they are not.

I was at a men's group (not this diocese!), where we talked about raising children. Someone asked the group what age each of us allowed our children to use technology. I suggested 7 for learning how to use matches to start campfires, 8 for a first pellet gun, 10 to 12 –depending on the child's personality – for a singleshoot shotgun, and 14 to use a table saw under supervision. Turns out they were talking about cellphones and the internet, not fires, guns, or saws.

When we got that misunderstanding straightened out, someone chipped in with "You cannot turn back the clock" which is simply not true, I do it all the time when it runs fast. But, to show that I was a good sport, I added to the series of subsequent platitudes that were being tossed out to the group with "Red sky at night sailor's delight, red sky in morning sailor's warning." The conversation stalled.

Some people think as long as an electric machine is far away and connected by wireless signals to a satellite it can create a kind of artificial intelligence, shorted to "AI". Calling it AI gives it a dignity that is not deserved. AI is simply the result of a bunch of very small switches connected by very small extension cords – cleverly designed, brilliant

even, but like a cordless drill, there is no whiff of intelligence associated with the tool itself.

To prove this, imagine if you had a pencil that once belonged to Leonardo da Vinci. Would you be able to draw as he did? The tool has little to do with it; da Vinci could have used his finger dipped in mustard to create timeless art – intelligence lies with the man wielding the tool, not the tool itself.

Is AI a threat to humanity? No, but greed is. AI does not remove greed, but it does provide an excuse for it, just as advances in sheep husbandry provided an excuse for evicting people from their land in Scotland, or modern agriculture provided an excuse to push the Irish off of small farms during the famine. Pick any historic example, there are lots of them, and it is not technology that was the problem.



I was told this story by a friend, Greg Heard, who heard it from his friend who had been chatting with Brian Eno, a musician. The unnamed friend was worried that a computer had advanced to the point of being able to beat a man at chess. Mr. Eno responded with, "But can a computer pick up the knight and put it in the refrigerator? (quoted from memory)." Pure genius!

I tried to try ChatGPT, the latest version of artificial intelligence that is rumored to change the world. I went to their website where I was asked to log in. I do not like logging in, I did not want to open an account unless I can be certain that I can then close that account. ChatGPT would not let me try it without logging in or opening an account.

ChatGPT is one part of the modern world that I cannot participate in. I suppose my life is poorer for not being able to peruse news stories composed by a machine, but I will manage somehow. ☒

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.



The three Feast Days following Christmas

SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph
Devereaux



In the Church's calendar directly after we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day, the first three days of the Octave of Christmas are the feasts of Saints Stephen (first martyr), John (apostle and evangelist) and the Holy Innocents. Do you think this is a coincidence, or does the Church intentionally celebrate these feasts at this time? The Church's liturgy is well thought out. So it is no coincidence, although it may at first seem unusual. Therefore, it is instructive to examine the theological significance of each of these feasts beginning with Christmas.

Christmas is really a feast of Redemption. The divine perspective of Christmas is that the Father sends the Son who will take upon Himself all our sins, our bad consciences, and our condemnation. The innocent babe is really God. The apparently weak child is in fact the King of all creation, and He comes to restore harmony and peace between God and man. This peace must be manifested amongst ourselves — in our relationships and dealings with our human brothers and sisters.

Beginning with St. Stephen (feast day December 26th), we see this logical connection with the meaning of Christmas. Stephen is an example of Christian forgiveness. He cries out in charity to God that his killers may be forgiven (cf. Acts chapters 6 & 7). St. Fulgentius (Bishop, d. 553) beautifully describes the connection in a sermon on the saint's feast day: "Yesterday, we celebrated in time our timeless King; today we celebrate the triumph of a suffering soldier. Yesterday our King clothed in a robe of flesh, came forth from a virginal womb deigned to visit this earth; today a soldier, leaving the tabernacle of his body, departs as a conqueror of heaven ..." As Stephen was being stoned to death, it was a young man named Saul, latter his name would be changed to Paul, who held the coats of the killers. St. Augustine says: "Had Stephen not prayed [for the forgiveness of his murders], the Church today would have no Paul."

Like St. Stephen, we too are part of a world full of temptation and struggle. We are called to imitate his surrender and give ourselves to God. In return God gives us the glory of heaven and the crown of everlasting

life. The name Stephen means 'the crowned one'.

December 27th is the feast day of St. John (virgin & beloved disciple). It was John who received the Lord's most precious legacy at the foot of the cross; namely, His Holy Mother. John left to the Church a spiritual gospel in which he, like his symbol the eagle, scales the heights to God. John was exceptionally close to our Lord because of his rare purity and his love of prayer. He is the only apostle not to suffer a martyr's death. He lived to be an old man. Neither purity, nor work, nor a life of prayer proved detrimental to him. A lesson for us!

And what of the feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28th? Following the feast of a martyr, Stephen, and a virgin, John, comes the feast of those who were both virgins and martyrs. The slaughter of the innocents is a historical fact. The wise men told cruel King Herod that a king had been born and he murdered all male children under 2 years of age so as to protect his kingdom. But the Church does not stop with the history. In the Holy Children, the Church sees the figure of her elect children. These slain infants reveal the goal of our Christian life — Innocence and Purity of Life.

A trap that Christians often fall into is to stand in awe before the sweet image of Jesus in the manger, while not reflecting on the reason He came. The Christ Child came to redeem us. The crib and the cross are connected. In the liturgy of the Church, the mission of Christ begins at his birth and grows stronger during each successive day of the octave of Christmas, particularly on the feasts of St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents. On this latter day, the death of the innocent children is already intended for the "newborn King of the Jews." The Cross throws its shadow on Christmas. These tiny babes at Bethlehem are tiny heroes. They are remembered because they suffered for Christ — they took His place, safeguarded his life, made known the fact of his birth, and are really his first apostles.

There is a lesson for us in these saints of the first three days following Christmas. Like Stephen, Christians must be filled with love to the point of wishing salvation to our enemies. Like John, we must strive for purity, pray and work, stay close to the Mother of God (Mary) and our holy mother the Church. Like the Holy Innocents, we must take the place of Christ in our world. In all of this we must be joyful because we know that Christ has promised to each of us a crown just like St. Stephen. ✠

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



Martyrdom of St. Stephen



OBITUARY



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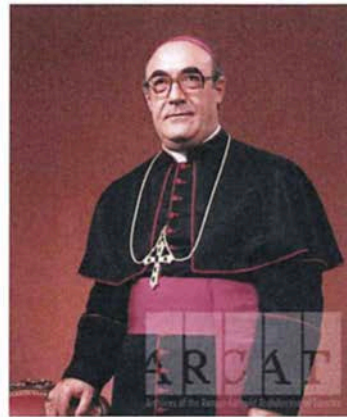
GENERAL HOUSE

Prot. N. 138 /2023

Rome, 16 June 2023

To

His Excellency Daniel Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough
Canada



Sub: The death of Bishop Nicola De Angelis

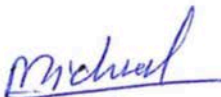
Your Excellency,

This is to inform you that, Msgr. Nicola De Angelis, Bishop Emeritus of Peterborough (Canada) and auxiliary Bishop of Toronto (1992-2003) was called to receive his eternal reward today morning at 3.30 am (Italian time) at Montefiascone, Villa Santa Margarita hospital (Italy) where he was recovered few days ago.

We request your valuable prayers.

United in Christ,




Fr. Michael Sebastian
General Secretary

