



# Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



Vianney Fair, 27 August 2017

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## EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

# 2018. We begin again.



We have proclaimed, as clearly as we know how, that Jesus is King, thereby concluding one Liturgical year and beginning another (as of the First Sunday of Advent). Soon we will begin a new year in the common calendar of our world, as well — 2018!

We begin again. While holding onto some accomplishments, while storing up our memories and learning, perhaps, some lessons from mistakes made, we strike out again on life's journey with a sense of newness.

During Advent, our focus is on the coming of Christ into our lives, but this focus is somewhat divided between His first appearance, more than 2000 years ago, and His second coming. His birth at Bethlehem may provide hints as to what we may expect at His second coming but, more importantly, the lessons given by His life among us provide hope and courage for our life in 2018 and beyond.

Although firmly rooted in the old traditions of our Jewish roots, the example and teaching of the Lord held a new breath of fresh air which gave hope to the sinner and the downtrodden. All those at the fringes of society, those who were rejected or forgotten, were suddenly drawn into His embrace. We need only think of the parables: the unlikely hero in the story of the fellow robbed on his way to Jericho, or the surprisingly warm welcome of the wayward son who crawls back to the father he had rejected; or the sayings: "I came to call sinners, not the righteous" and "whoever rejects you rejects me", among many others.

Those of us who are weary and heavily burdened are invited to come to Him. Some of us, however, may be less weary; we are called to exercise His mercy in relieving the burdens of others:

"I have given you an example that you should do as I have done for you".

Either way, whether we are burdened and invited to draw near or relatively unburdened and urged to go forth and participate in the Lord's mission to others, we embark on a new year, not abandoning the blessings received previously but building on past experiences and hopeful that God has some good things yet in store for us. My future, whether long or short, will be a gift from God; it is my duty to receive it with gratitude and make the most of it, for my own good and the growth of His Kingdom here on earth.

At this point in our annual cycle, we salute Christ as the "newborn king"; let us also thank Him for calling us into His Kingdom and prepare ourselves for the day when we can play the role of "the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Mt. 13:52). May the days ahead provide a few new treasures, to add to blessings of days gone by, that we may offer to the King. ✠

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

Vol. 14, No. 3 — Christmas 2017

## NEXT ISSUE

— Easter 2018 —

will be distributed to the parishes at the Chrism Mass, 26 March 2018.  
Submissions must be received at the e-mail address below on or before February 14<sup>th</sup>.

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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catherald@gmail.com

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# Chaplaincy, Alive and Flourishing at Peterborough Regional Health Center



**Fr Rey Abella immediately after Mass in the Multi-Faith Centre with patients, friends and members of the Team)**

Fr Alarey (Rey) Abella is constantly on the go as the Catholic Chaplain at Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC). Fr Abella, a member of C.P.P.S (Missionaries of the Precious Blood) was assigned to the Diocese of Peterborough as Chaplain some 2 years from St Alphonsus Parish in Toronto...by chance he resides in Peterborough in a parish by the same name which is pastored by Fr Jerry Tavares. Like many, Fr Rey has come to the priesthood after a professional life in the secular world: he is an engineer by training and has worked in the oil fields of Saudi Arabia in that capacity.

When in Toronto, Fr Rey was the Catholic Chaplain at several downtown hospitals including St Michael's, Mount Sinai, Toronto Rehabilitation, Sick Kids, Toronto Western, Princess Margaret and Toronto General Hospitals.

At PRHC he assists in the spiritual care of the critically ill and dying of not only Roman Catholics but those of other faiths and of no particular faith at all. Every Thursday morning at 10:30 AM, he celebrates Mass in the hospital's multi-faith centre. A parishioner from St Alphonsus Liguori, Sheila Ayers, leads a dedicated team of a dozen or so Eucharist Ministers who attend the Mass and visit those patients unable to attend Mass. After a kindly short visit, the Blessed Sacrament is consumed by each patient with gratitude and a warm smile. Each member of the team finds tremendous satisfaction in assisting the ill and lonely which we as Christians are all called to do.

Story: Marshall Elliott

Picture: Donna Mcgilvary



# The Holy Family on Our Lawn



## Bishop Miehm's Christmas Message

It's looking a lot like Christmas at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre these days, mainly because I inherited a whole truckload of Yuletide decorations from my former diocese. I am put in mind of a comedian I heard recently who commented on the Christmas decorations at his house when he was a child. Apparently, his parents had a lovely outdoor Nativity Scene which graced their lawn during the season; but he always felt it looked as though they had personally turned Mary and Joseph away from their door, just like that nameless innkeeper two thousand years before!

That's one way of looking at things, so I hope no one draws the same conclusion from the simple outdoor Nativity that we have erected at the DPC. On the contrary, I expect it might compete with the outdoor Santas, Rudolphs and Frostys that adorn our neighbourhood, and maybe even remind folks of how this feast started and whose birth it celebrates.

The image of a

wandering and homeless Holy Family dominates our thoughts at Christmas and has even more poignancy as we ponder the global refugee crisis. As I pen these words, Pope Francis is visiting Myanmar and Bangladesh, drawing attention to the predicament of Rohingya refugees. As you know, some 625,000 of them have been forced to flee in the wake of a military crackdown in Myanmar, and have been living (and dying) in truly terrible conditions. It was for this reason that we joined Development and Peace's appeal to assist those refugees, and took up a Diocesan collection on the feast of Christ the King. The fact that we were able

to accomplish it before the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline means that our \$37,000.00 will be matched by the Canadian government. I wish to thank you for your generosity in that appeal, which will help to alleviate the suffering of many desperate people.

On a similar front, I was reminded recently that many of our parishes have now come to "month 13" in their sponsorship of Syrian refugees, and their



“

*it looked as though they had personally turned  
Mary and Joseph away from their door*

”

financial commitment to those new Canadians is concluding. (Although a few parishes have some months to go and one parish is still awaiting their family.) We can be pleased with the heartfelt response in our Diocese to the Syrian crisis, where some sixteen parishes either singly or in partnership agreed to welcome a refugee family. Thanks again for your generosity and the hands-on work of the various parish committees.

Let me not forget the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who attend to the needs of the poor year-round and who typically ramp up their efforts at Christmas. I had the privilege to attend two conventions of “Vincentians” back in September,



spending time at the Diocesan Conference here in Peterborough, and the Provincial Conference which we were pleased to host in Bowmanville. My parents were dedicated members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and how well I remember their hard work on behalf of the underprivileged in our parish in Kitchener. Christmas meant extra work at an already busy time for mom and dad, but they were driven by a sense of compassion and a conviction that all people – regardless of their bank account – should be able to experience the joy of this season. Sincere thanks to the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society across our Diocese.

The simple Nativity Scene at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre is a reminder that our Lord was born into a poor family, taking on every facet of our humanity. And the human spirit does shine a little brighter at Christmas, when people are drawn to show special concern for the poor, the hungry and the homeless. It’s too easy to dismiss that as sentimental and superficial. For people of faith, it is a seasonal reminder of the loving care for others that our faith always demands. In the face of every needy person, we see Christ himself, and must respond with mercy and compassion. ✠

+ **Daniel Miehm**  
**Bishop of Peterborough**





THE CHOIR  
LOFT

Kathleen  
Moquin

# Holy Fam Jam



Know, dear parents, that (we) are being watched. By infants and toddlers who keep us in their sights as they explore the world beyond our arms' lengths. By school-aged children whose enthusiasm for risk-taking and adventure commands an audience even while traumatizing parents who witness inevitable trials and tumbles. By adolescents whose scrutiny of parenting missteps triggers demands for restorative justice. And, in our case, by a darling daughter who recently affirmed that her dad and I "have jam." Taking into account some of the definitions of jam, specifically that it is a preserve of crushed fruit boiled with sugar; a mass of people or objects jammed together and unable to move; or the action of improvising with other jazz or blues musicians, that our marriage has been observed to be sweet and intimate, with a measure of spontaneity and fun, is among the best compliments that we have ever received).

Regarding the Holy Family, whose Feast Day will be celebrated on December 31 this year, consider that Mary and Joseph "had jam." With the exception of the Scriptural account of finding Jesus in the temple, nothing is known about the domestic life of the Holy Family. Our own experiences of family help us relate to those aspects of family life, including the necessity of work and sacrifice and the importance of fidelity to articles of moral upbringing and religious practice, shared by the Holy Family: "Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus

increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour" (Luke 2:51-52 *New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition*).

In *On Marriage and Concupiscence*, his treatise arguing against the Manichean and Pelagian heresies about original sin, St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) asserts that the union of Mary and Joseph satisfies God's design for marriage: "The entire good, therefore, of the nuptial institution was effected in the case of these parents of Christ: there was offspring, there was faithfulness, there was the bond."

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen is most eloquent, even poetic, about Mary and Joseph in his 1952 book *The World's First Love*:

No husband and wife ever loved one another so much as Joseph and Mary. Their marriage was not like that of others . . . in the case of Mary and Joseph, it was not their combined loves but Jesus Who made them one. No deeper love ever beat under the roof of the world since the beginning, nor will it ever beat, even unto the end. They did not go to God through love of one another; rather, because they went first to God, they had a deep and pure love one for another.



godly

piety, since the Holy Family was destined to be a pattern to all others." Did the pope already recognize something about Mary and Joseph when he wrote the Matins hymn, "Sacra jam splendent" for the new feast day?

Sacra jam splendent decorata lychnis  
Templa, jam sertis redimitur ara,  
Et pio fumant redolentque aerae  
Thuris honore.

A thousand lights their glory shed  
On shrines and altars garlanded,  
While swinging censers dusk the air  
With perfumed prayer.

On the Feast of the Holy Family and always, let us celebrate God's blessings of love and fidelity in our marriages and families. How's your jam? ☩

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



## St. Mary's Campbellford



## New Knights of Columbus Council



SK Robert Elmo Darragh  
June 14, 1926 – July 17, 2014

Robert was a Fourth Degree Knight and Financial Secretary with the Norwood Council from 1995 to his passing in 2014. He was instrumental in starting the Round Table at St. Mary's in Campbellford.

Bob was born in London, Ontario, in 1926. His family moved to Quebec City in the early 1930s. His father had a small farm on Bradley Bay. Bob worked as a farm hand in Campbellford until he moved to Toronto. He married his wife, Jean Chevrette, in Penetanguishene in 1952. They moved back to Campbellford in the mid 1980s when he became a guard at the Warkworth Institute. Bob and his wife never had children but they were very active foster parents.



On June 24, 1998, Bob was given the Government of Ontario's Senior Achievement Award for his volunteering. Among other things, Bob served on the Tenants' Association of the Multi-Care Lodge of Campbellford, drove for the Cancer Society, assisted at Community Care and Palliative Care, listened to grade one students read at St. Mary's Catholic School, assisted at the V.O.N. Foot Clinic, delivered Meals on Wheels, and volunteered every Saturday morning as an announcer/disc jockey on CKOL, the local radio station. He had an extensive collection of vinyl records which, along with his other possessions, he left to his church, St. Mary's, Campbellford.

Bob was tireless in promoting the Knights of Columbus and it is therefore with great pride that we name our Council 16841 the "SK Robert E. Darragh Council of St. Mary's, Campbellford."





# Building a Culture of Vocations

Fr. John Perdue



Merry Christmas from the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Peterborough! I pray that all the families of our Diocese experience the joy and warmth of our infant saviour this season.

I am happy to offer an update on some exciting initiatives that ran this fall through the Vocations Office. First, our three seminarians have settled back into their studies at St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough and at St. Peter's Seminary in London. Deacon Stephen DeCarlo is preparing to be ordained a priest, which traditionally happens on the last Friday of May in our Diocese (May 25, 2018), though he has not yet received his call to orders. This is a joyous event for the whole Diocese and I encourage you to consider attending and to encourage young people to come and see a young man become a priest. Bishop Daniel Miehm visited Deacon Stephen and Peter Lukow at St. Augustine's Seminary in October and presided at the seminary community Mass. Bishop Miehm is looking forward to visiting Jason Willis at St. Peter's Seminary in London in the winter semester. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers.

Father Peter Wayow, Nick White and I comprise the community living at the Saint John Paul II House of Discernment (JPII House) at 820 Frank Street in Peterborough.



JPII House exists to assist young men in the development of their spiritual lives and in the discernment of a possible call to the ministerial priesthood. Nick is a Fleming College student and has been a great addition to the community. Two young men have taken application packages and are considering joining us in the winter semester. If you know a young man who is discerning a possible priestly vocation and who would benefit from a regular spiritual life and a spiritual director, please encourage him to apply to JPII House. More information can be found at [www.ptbovocations.ca](http://www.ptbovocations.ca).

We were pleased to welcome our new part-time Administrative Assistant, Lisa Schultz, to the Vocations Office in September. Lisa has been a wonderful addition and she brings joy and enthusiasm to her new work. Lisa has been helping to manage our new website and to create promotional materials for upcoming events.

The Vocations Office has hosted several events in the past few months; thank you to all who volunteered and all who attended!





In August, the annual Vianney Fair was held at the home of Paschal and Sylvia McCloskey in Peterborough. This event gives youth and families an opportunity to interact with many male and female religious orders. At a time when priests and nuns are rarely teaching in our publicly funded Catholic schools and are less visible in the streets, we need to make a concerted effort to bring our families into contact with religious orders. This year, 15 religious communities and 450 people attended the Vianney Fair. Families enjoyed swimming, canoeing, children's games, live music and a delicious meal. Mark your calendars and join us next year on Sunday August 19, 2018.



On September 16, the Parish Vocation Teams (PVTs) of the Diocese of Peterborough gathered for their annual workshop at St. Alphonsus Liguori parish in Peterborough. Many PVTs were represented and some came from a great distance, for which I am sincerely grateful. We have a large diocese and I need



the help of Parish Vocation Teams, who promote vocational awareness and support the events of the Vocations Office in their parishes. Please contact me and join your Parish Vocation Team – we would benefit greatly from your help. At our September workshop, PVTs reviewed our primary resource, *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry*, and we

benefitted from the insights of keynote speaker Sister Teresa Joseph, SOLI, and from a Mass and commissioning with Bishop Daniel Miehm. Inspired by the camaraderie and the ideas, PVTs are now doing great work to encourage Vocations in their parishes. The PVTs in Assumption, Keene, Douro and Norwood worked together to host an All Saints Day party in Assumption with an emphasis on religious vocations in the Church. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Parish Vocation Team at St. Mary's in Lindsay has begun the Travelling Chalice Program, which sees a beautiful, encased Chalice travel from home to home in the parish; families gather around the chalice each night and pray for the Vocations of their children. These great works are being accomplished by Parish Vocation Teams and I would like others to be a part of something positive: please consider joining your Parish Vocation Team. Contact me to get involved.



very moving On October 21 the Vocations Office hosted the annual Altar Server Appreciation at St. Martin of Tours parish in Ennismore. Bishop Daniel Miehm presided at Holy Mass and preached a homily encouraging our young people to





continue witnessing to their faith through ministry at the altar. Approximately 75 altar servers from throughout the Diocese attended and they were treated to lunch and small group

games, followed by a parish vs. parish dodgeball tournament. The servers from St. Paul's Parish Lakefield won this year, but there are several teams already strategizing for next year!





From October 27 to 29 the Vocations Office hosted the latest Carpenter's Cup retreat. These retreats bring high school men together for meaningful talks on prayer and discernment and for a competitive challenge to see who brings home the Carpenter's Cup trophy. This time, between Holy Mass, adoration and talks, the young men competed in basketball, indoor soccer and a cross-cut saw challenge. Twelve young men participated and congratulations are due to Ian Holmquist and John Paul Gainey, who took home the prize.



The Peterborough Vocations Office has partnered with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNC) to produce a document intended to empower teachers to encourage Vocations in their



classrooms. The document, 'The Role of Teachers in Awakening Vocations,' was presented to all 950 elementary and high school teachers in PVNC by their principals or by their priest-chaplains. Please pray that these documents go to good use and empower teachers to speak about Vocations in our schools.

Catholic Chaplaincy at Trent University continues to go very well. The student group on campus is called the Catholic Council of Trent and they have a 5-person executive who are working hard to connect with students, to build community and to bolster faith on campus. Our presence at Clubs and Groups Day and an opening BBQ sponsored by the Knights of Columbus have boosted our profile on campus. I support the Catholic Council of Trent through weekly Mass on campus and by encouraging and promoting their special events. The

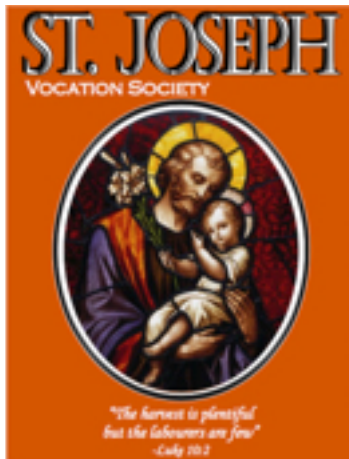


KofC BBQ for CCoT



students themselves are running small group Faith Studies called 'Discovery' with the support of an organization called Catholic Christian Outreach, a university missionary organization founded in Canada at the University of Saskatchewan.

At the time this article is being written, classes at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough have been suspended due to an ongoing strike of college faculty. When classes are in session, though, the Fleming College Catholics, a Catholic student group with a 3-member executive, meets bi-weekly for Mass on campus and some fellowship. If you know a Trent University or Fleming College student who would like to get involved with Catholic student groups on campus, have them contact me or look us up on Facebook.



Finally, I would ask that everyone reading this article please consider registering to pray for Vocations in our Diocese through the Saint Joseph Vocation Society. This is a society with no meetings and no fees; we simply



commit ourselves to praying for Vocations through the Prayer to St. Joseph and the Prayer for Vocations. As a thank you for registering, you will be remembered in a monthly Mass that I offer for the intentions of the members of the St. Joseph Vocation Society. To register and to find the prayers, please visit [www.ptbovocations.ca](http://www.ptbovocations.ca)

Thank you to the priests, religious and lay people of the Diocese for any prayers and practical support you have given to promoting vocations in the Diocese of Peterborough.

**Please mark your calendars and purchase your tickets for three great opportunities coming up through the Vocations Office:**

## 1. Flying Fathers Hockey Game

Some readers will remember the Flying Fathers, a team of hockey-playing priests led by Stanley Cup-winner Father Les Costello. The Flying Fathers were dwindling in numbers and played their last game in 2003. By God's grace, the number of young men entering the priesthood has gently increased since that time, and some of those men are hockey players. A parishioner at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains here in Peterborough, Mr. Frank Quinn, was the last General Manager of the Flying Fathers. With Frank's help and with the approval of the remaining Flying Fathers, I am pleased to announce that

we are organizing a Flying Fathers Hockey Game with a new team of priests. 10 priests from neighbouring dioceses have committed to playing, and you are invited to purchase tickets and bring your family to this joy-filled event! The game will take place Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the Ennismore Hockey Arena and tickets are \$15 each, children under 12 free. Proceeds will go to support the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Peterborough. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ptbovocations.ca/hockey](http://www.ptbovocations.ca/hockey) or by visiting the Vocations Office at 820 Frank St. Peterborough. For details call 705-874-1871.



## 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Joseph Dinner

Readers are invited to join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Joseph Dinner in support of Campus ministry. The dinner will take place Saturday February 3, 2018 at 5:30PM at the Evinrude Banquet Hall in Peterborough (911 Monaghan Rd.) and proceeds will go to support Catholic programming at Trent University and Sir Sanford Fleming College. This year will

feature a keynote address from Bishop Daniel Miehm, as well as speeches from student representatives of Trent University, Sir Sanford Fleming College and Sacred Heart College. Tickets are \$100 each and are eligible for a \$50 charitable tax receipt. You can also consider sponsoring a student to join us if you cannot go yourself. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ptbovocations.ca/dinner](http://www.ptbovocations.ca/dinner) or by calling 705-874-1871.

## 3. Carpenter's Cup

High School men are invited to register for the next Carpenter's Cup Retreat. The Carpenter's Cup retreats weave together a competitive challenge and opportunities for prayer, Holy Mass and good talks on discernment and prayer. This Carpenter's Cup will take place from Friday February 3 to

Sunday February 5, 2018 at JPPII House (820 Frank St. Peterborough). Men will compete in winter activities for a chance to win the Carpenter's Cup trophy and a cash prize. This time, Father John hopes to compete and participants can try to beat him, though he assumes they won't.... Early bird registration date of January 20 for \$25, registration fee of \$30 afterwards. Register at [www.ptbovocations.ca/carpenterscup](http://www.ptbovocations.ca/carpenterscup)



**Father John Perdue**  
**Director of Vocations**  
**Diocese of Peterborough**  
**(705) 874-1871**  
[www.ptbovocations.ca](http://www.ptbovocations.ca)  
[v.peterboroughdiocese.org/vocations](http://v.peterboroughdiocese.org/vocations)  
[vocations@peterboroughdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@peterboroughdiocese.org)



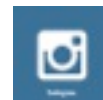
Fisher of Men



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Join us for the second annual  
**Saint Joseph Dinner**  
Supporting Campus Ministry  
Saturday, February 3, 2018

Featuring guest speaker:  
**Bishop Daniel Miehm**

&

Student Representatives of Trent, Fleming  
and Sacred Heart

\$100

Evinrude Banquet Hall

911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough  
Social Hour 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm

For further information or to buy tickets, contact Father John Perdue  
(705.874.1871) or go to:

[www.ptbovocations.ca/dinner](http://www.ptbovocations.ca/dinner)



# Witness to Truth

## REFLECTIONS

Donald Graham



Previously, I spoke of the natural law as that way in which human reasoning participates in God's eternal law, is reflected in some mores of past civilizations and modern legislation, is revealed in the Ten Commandments, and is capable of being interpreted authoritatively by the Catholic Church. We discover that *to choose wisely for the purposes of flourishing, freed from forces undermining human dignity, constitutes a robust exercise of freedom in which living the moral law is essential to growing in holiness.* In the Catholic Tradition, this discovery is facilitated by our exercise of what we call, 'conscience'.

In our therapeutic age, conscience is sometimes mistakenly equated with that subconscious sense of requirement created by early and formative parental influence functioning at an emotional, sub-rational level. Again, conscience is sometimes mistakenly confused with fulfilling social convention which, though this may be reasonable, does not necessarily correspond to the exercise of conscience. Sometimes, conscience is spoken of as a synonym for "sincerity". While being insincere is a flaw of character and, sometimes, sinful being sincere does not constitute an act of conscience. Finally, some mistake conscience for an indefinable, mystical intangible.

We edge closer to the reality of conscience by attending to the voices of Dr. Martin Luther King and Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman. King once said, "Cowardice asks the question, 'is it safe?' Expedience asks the question, 'is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'is it popular?' Conscience asks the question, 'is it right?'. We know the price King paid for asking the last question. In his celebrated *Letter to the Duke of Norfolk*, (1875), Newman said:

Conscience is not a long-sighted selfishness, nor a desire to be consistent with oneself; but it is a messenger from Him, who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by His representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ, a prophet in its informations, a monarch in its peremptoriness, a priest in its blessings and anathemas, and, even though the eternal priesthood throughout the Church could cease to be, in it the sacerdotal principle would remain and would have a sway.

The classic Catholic definition of conscience derives from St. Thomas Aquinas who said that "conscience is the judgment of one's reason that a particular action is morally good and ought to be done, or morally evil, and ought to be avoided." Three important presumptions are inbuilt this definition. First, the definition assumes what is good can be discovered objectively and is not reducible to the subjective matter of what I "feel". So, the good is discovered, not invented by me. Second, the definition assumes that we have an obligation as human beings to seek and do the good because this makes us fully human. By contrast, doing what is evil dehumanizes us. So, conscience blesses us when we respond to its urgings, and condemns us when we ignore its pleadings and commands. Third, the definition assumes we can know and do the good, as well as know what is evil and avoid it.

Some years ago, Thomas Cardinal Collins effectively compared conscience to the guidance system of a plane. Like the plane's guidance system, the act of conscience by which I judge something good and do it, or judge something evil and avoid it, guides me along the flight path of my life. However, if the way in which I morally reason is flawed, then my decision-making will be flawed. Such flaws include rationalizing, misapplying a moral principle to a situation or permitting self-interest to interfere with

the proper operation of my reason. Likewise, if the plane's guidance system is defective, passengers may well find themselves in mortal danger. Finally, guidance systems are only as good as the information which we feed into them. An old computer expression is 'garbage in' . . . 'garbage out'. No matter how sophisticated and foolproof, if the proper co-ordinates, wind speeds, plane speed, weather conditions and alike are not part of the information feed into a guidance system, it will not achieve the end for which it was designed. So too, if a person does not pray, carefully study human nature, develop virtuous habits, receive the guidance offered by Sacred Scripture and the living faith of the Church, she will likely lack the proper information to make good moral decisions.

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God, your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light

(Ps 36: 6-9). ✠

Donald is married to Michele and they have six children. He teaches theology for the Institute of Theology (St. Augustine's Seminary) at The University of Toronto (The Toronto School of Theology), is Academic Advisor on Postgraduate Research in Catholic Studies for Maryvale Institute (Birmingham, UK) and is a faculty member of Sacred Heart (Peterborough).





# SACRED HEART COLLEGE

CARITAS ET VERITAS

## Sacred Heart College planning to offer its first online course

Academic Dean, Dr. Robin Lathangue, reports that Sacred Heart College has been in discussions with Contact North - Ontario's distance education network about offering a new degree credit course online in the New Year. Over 4 million Ontarians in 600 small, remote, rural, Aboriginal and Francophone communities across the province can access education and training opportunities from Ontario's 24 public colleges, and 22 universities, including Sacred Heart College. The new course, to be taught by Dr. Lathangue online, is called "Ideas of Love" and examines how love has been understood throughout the ages. Featured texts include *The Four Loves*, by C.S. Lewis, *Deus Caritas Est*, by Benedict XVI and *The Symposium*, by Plato. In addition, learners will compare and contrast themes connected to love in the films "Casablanca" (1942) and "The English Patient" (1996). More information will soon be published on the college's website: [www.sacredheartcollege.ca](http://www.sacredheartcollege.ca).

## Sacred Heart Parish, Peterborough

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, May 4/18 at 7:00 p.m.



Plans are in progress for a great evening of several different genres of musical talent to be performed as a Fundraiser for Sacred Heart Church, Peterborough



# Monseigneur Jamot Lecture Series Presents: Dr. Randy Boyagoda

In November, Sacred Heart College was happy to welcome Dr. Randy Boyagoda, Principal of St. Michael's College, Toronto, to deliver our first annual Monseigneur Jamot free public lecture.

Dr. Boyagoda's talk was titled *Catholicism in the Canadian Public Square: Learning and Not Learning from Neuhaus, Kurelek and McLuhan*. Dr. Boyagoda challenged us to follow the examples of these incredible Catholic figures in our recent history by engaging in our faith in the public square. God has entrusted us with so many beautiful gifts; we should be using these to honour his presence in our everyday lives. Dr. Boyagoda encourages you to be a person of faith where you are; engage where you are and engage fully with the gifts entrusted to you. This is our call to witness to the faith in the footsteps of examples like Fr. Richard Neuhaus, artist William Kurelek and professor Marshall McLuhan.



## SACRED HEART COLLEGE WINTER COURSE OFFERINGS

Beginning on January 8<sup>th</sup>, Sacred Heart College will be offering a number of courses. Registration can be done on our website [www.sacredheartcollege.ca](http://www.sacredheartcollege.ca), by e-mail [registrar@sacredheartcollege.ca](mailto:registrar@sacredheartcollege.ca), or by phoning our office 705-745-5549.

### ***God, Gods & No Gods: The Religions of Planet Earth*** **Dr. Robin Lathangue, Wednesdays 4:15 – 7:00 p.m.**

Why Compare religions? What value is there in knowing about the teaching of traditions other than one's own? Are religions really all that different, or basically the same – like alternative hiking trails to the top of the mountains? What are the trigger points, if any, that make it difficult for them to get along together? All these questions and more await your curiosity.

### ***Philosophy I: The Journey to Knowledge of Reality*** **Dr. Robin Lathangue, Mondays 4:15 – 7:00 p.m.**

What is there and how do we know? Appearance and reality – is there a difference? Can what you think affect your body? What is a “self”, are they free? Who or what is God? Who were Plato and Socrates? The craggy shores of all these questions and more will be explored in this course.

### ***Introduction to the New Testament***

#### **Dr. Douglas Finbow, Tuesdays 4:15 – 7:15 p.m.**

Learn about the origins, literary forms and influential interpretations of the one of the most important collections of writings the world has ever known. Learn rhetorical, historical and textual ways to enrich your understanding of this early Christian text.

### ***Elementary Latin, Part II***

#### **Mother Parousia, Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. & Fridays 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

This course is the second part introduction to the grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of Latin as presented in Hans Oberg's, *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata*. Classroom instruction will be a modified version of Oberg's natural acquisition method. The course consists of two weekly lectures based on Latin readings, new grammatical content, vocabulary to be memorized, drills to practice forms and concepts, and regular quizzes to ensure retention and comprehension of material. Prerequisite: Elementary Latin, Part I

### ***C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien: Fiction, Thought and Imagined Worlds***

#### **Dr. Cameron Wybrow, Mondays 7:10 – 9:50 p.m.**

What does speculative fiction have to do with God, the soul, ethics, warfare and technology? What possible relevance and value can the imagined worlds of two modern genius writers have for the messy world we inhabit today? Take this course to find out.

See also p. 23  
Sacred Heart, On the Road





## CWL Members Attend Fall Meeting

— Wendy Tedford

Colourful Bracebridge was the place to be on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 as members of the Catholic Women's League of the diocese gathered for their Fall Meeting.

- Spiritual Development Chair, Lalia Etherington, lead the ladies in thoughtful prayer directed to the homeless, this year's focus.
- Committee Chairs reported on each of their divisions and shared information on their directives from Provincial and National.
- Life Member, Glenda Klein, presented a hands-on workshop on Registrations, focusing on our upcoming convention.
- Joanne Hough, Past President, involved the ladies in an interactive workshop on Elections and the reasons we belong and encourage people to join the CWL.
- Testimonials from members who experienced first time Provincial and National Conventions both educated and entertained members.
- Seasoned members spoke of their experiences and benefits of attending different conventions.

The Resolutions put forward from Ontario to National were a highlight for our Resolutions Chair Maria Fitzgerald.

She was even more excited to see how involved the assembly gets when a single resolution took time on 2 separate days to get approved or defeated. (Approved this time.)

An update on Convention 2018, to be held in Bowmanville, was offered by Darlene Sullivan and her committee. The theme of the convention will be Springtime in Paris. President Wendy Tedford, presented the convention packages to all parish presidents and Life Member Anne McKinnon dispersed the packages to our Life Members who were present. Wendy spoke also of the Provincial Project "Homelessness" and discussed the Diocesan focus which will be directed at preteens and young adults who are homeless, without a purpose in life. Each parish was asked to either create kits with articles that these people could use and/or brighten their day OR collectively donate items that a social worker could take to a home or someone on the street with the same purpose.

Wendy also spoke of attending councils to present awards to their members and encouraged parishes to provide her with comments from members of different length of years of



Anne McKinnon, Communications Chair - Joanne Hough, Past President - Suzanne Liptay, Community Life - Lalia Etherington, Spiritual Development - Wendy Tedford, President - Maria Fitzgerald, Resolutions/Legislation - (seated) Helena Lessard, Treasurer.



service as the February Ontario Provincial Council Newsletter will feature Peterborough Diocese.

Members who were at the National Convention in PEI spoke of their input during the CWL Town Hall Across Canada and we were pleased to hear from the group who linked into the Town Hall through their computers at home. An exciting time for the CWL! The website FORMED was discussed with

all its benefits and it was encouraging to hear a couple of councils have access to these resources.

The Bracebridge ladies were busy in the kitchen when we arrived and served a lovely luncheon. The day was filled with many updates and bantering which made for an enjoyable and fun day all round.

Thank you to all attendees!



NEXT PAGE: A letter requested by parish presidents, to share with their members. If anyone would like to assist in any way, please contact a CWL member, or Wendy Tedford at [prespocwl@gmail.com](mailto:prespocwl@gmail.com), as we have undertaken a huge project, but so rewarding in many ways.



## The Peterborough Catholic Women's League of Canada



To All CWL Members:

As directed by our Provincial President, Anne Madden, our focus for the next two years will be HOMELESSNESS. Homelessness does not necessarily mean we are without a home to reside in. For example, we can be homeless without a purpose in life or homeless without spiritual guidance. No matter the area of homelessness we find ourselves or others in, we, as members of a very powerful organization, are always there with a reaching and giving hand.

During our Provincial Fall Meeting in Toronto, each diocese president was expected to report on how our diocese would address Anne's project. There was some discussion to join together and focus and support one organization in a city. I, acting on your behalf and personally, found this very hard to support as within this diocese alone we have many residents within a rural atmosphere. Within the province there are many many such areas to support and within cities there are many organizations that support this topic. Hence, I put forward to both Provincial and our Presidents, that Peterborough focus on the youth in our far north who are struggling mostly with a purpose of life and choosing to end theirs. These "children" range in age from 11 to early 20's. I would like to see us gather together items that may just brighten someone's life for a day, get them through that day, and give them courage to see tomorrow.

We can do this in a couple of ways. My first thought was to put together female and male kits with items such as the ones I sent to your president and others we came up with at our meeting. When talking to my counterpart from Thunder Bay, she also thought of sorting them into groupings and when someone goes out to a home or sees others on the streets, that they pick from these containers of items relating to a particular person. Both avenues would work. The community most in need, at this time, is Pikangikkum First Nation.

It was decided at our diocesan meeting that we could make this our convention focus replacing the items we usually gather for moms and tots. If you, in your huge hearts and kindness, wish to do both please let me know as Colleen Martin and I have worked out a plan to get items to these troubled youth. In one week, while we were at Provincial Convention, seven 11 and 12 year olds took their lives. The numbers are adding up and it is at a crisis level but I am confident that Peterborough Diocese will make a difference.

With another thought, your council may wish to partner with another council or another organization. I strongly suggest you put it in your bulletins you are collecting items and why. You may wish to address your church members from the pulpit. Maybe ask some young people to write a cheery note. Don't forget to get your priests involved. The list I did is only suggestions. I am sure you could come up with other things.

Good Luck on your project and a HUGE THANK YOU.

Wendy Tedford, President

Peterborough Diocese CWL



## St. Joseph's Douro



Hilda Walsh, Lakefield Extendicare, 5 October 2017

WOW, who would have thought that, when we walked through the doors at Douro School and the first person we saw was Mrs. Walsh, that we would be someday celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday? WELL, the day has arrived!

Her presence at the school was certainly prominent as she stood in the doorway, her hands clasped in front of her, with that huge smile (provided as we had not been sent in through those doors early for some reason) patiently waiting for her charges to enter the grade one classroom. (Some of you may also remember her teaching grade eight.)

Peterborough Diocesan CWL President, Wendy Tedford brought to Hilda, at her home in Lakefield Extendicare, birthday greetings from the Diocese members along with greetings from the National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, and the Provincial President Anne Madden.

As it happened, Fr. Ray Rick arrived to celebrate Mass that same morning and Hilda commented that the homily was so well done. Always a grader!

If you are around the Lakefield area, stop in and visit. Mrs. Walsh would love to see you and talk times of yesteryear.

— Wendy Tedford





## SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph  
Devereaux

## Blessed María Romero Meneses (1902-1977) Memorial Day, July 7<sup>th</sup>

On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2002, Pope John Paul II beatified six Servants of God. Amongst them was Salesian Sister María Romero Meneses, who is known as the Social Apostle of Costa Rica. In his homily, the Holy Father said, “the new Blesseds knew how to recognize the living presence of the Lord in the Church and, overcoming difficulties and fears, [becoming] enthusiastic and courageous witnesses before the world.” This indeed is reflected in the life of Blessed María, whom I have chosen as the saint for this fall issue of the Catholic Herald, after having recently offered Mass for a young adult group (*Duc in Altum*), who were on retreat at Rice Lake with the Salesian sisters from Toronto (see the picture below).

Who was Blessed María? In an interview in April 2002, a former student of Sr. María Romero Meneses, said that “she was a normal woman, nothing extraordinary”. However, María made use of her God given talents. As one of eight children in an upper-class family of Nicaragua, she had

opportunity. She was well educated by her aunts and her parents, and at the Salesian Sisters' school. Noticing her artistic talent, her parents had María trained in drawing and painting as well as in piano and violin. In 1914, when she was 12, she underwent a year of sickness with a serious form of rheumatic fever that paralyzed her for six months. She showed a mature faith in her sufferings, which she called “gifts of God”. Even when a doctor informed her that her heart had been seriously damaged, she did not complain, but put her confidence for a complete recovery in Our Lady, Help of Christians. To a school friend who visited her, she said, after receiving heavenly guidance, “I know that the Blessed Virgin will cure me”. A few days later, María returned to school in good health to the surprise of everyone.

When María was 13, she joined the Marian Association’s Daughters of Mary, then in 1920 Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians. In January 1929 in Nicaragua, María made her final profession as a Salesian religious sister. Three years later, she was sent to San José, Costa Rica, which became her new country. There she taught music, drawing, and typing to the affluent girls in school, while offering instruction in catechetics and practical trades in the barrios. Much like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Sr. María began to win over the young girls who were her students in the school (*misioneritas*) to join her in the work of evangelizing, catechizing and advancing materially the oppressed, isolated and abused. “This was to be her life’s work: bringing about the revolution of charity by inspiring ‘the haves to help the have-not’s.’

She set up recreational and food distribution centres. In 1961 she opened a *casita* as a school for poor girls, followed by a clinic where “God’s Providence helped her with the volunteer services of good doctors and donations of needed medicines.” She even planned a village so poor families could have decent homes. It included a farm, market, and school for religious formation, catechesis and job training.

She was an excellent teacher and manager. Even though money was always limited, with total confidence, she always left everything in the hands of God. Her “style” was to bring God to people one on one through love, devotion to the Eucharist and social improvements. Her social apostolate was always joined to love of Jesus – truly present in the Eucharist.

María died 7 July 1977 of a fatal heart attack at age 75, in the Salesian house where she had been sent to rest. Her body rests in the Salesian chapel at San José, Costa Rica. She is known as the female John Bosco, the daughter of Mary Help of Christians and the social apostle of Costa Rica. ✠

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



Salesian Sisters, Francine Guilmette and April Cabaccan, Fr. Joseph Devereaux and Fr. Joe Hardy, with *Duc in Altum* retreatants at Rice Lake.





# SACRED HEART COLLEGE

## ON THE ROAD

It was a busy fall for Sacred Heart College! I spent the better part of it on the road speaking to high school students, guidance counsellors and Catholic Educators about what we have to offer at Sacred Heart College – an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies. Since receiving our accreditation from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development earlier this year, we have been doing all we can to get word out in the Peterborough Diocese and beyond.

My first event that kicked off this recruitment season took place in the summer at Steubenville-Toronto, which was held at University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa. It was incredible to see nearly 2,000 young people gathered across the province and some from the U.S.A. come together to celebrate their passion for our Catholic faith.

Coming in to the fall and travelling outside of Peterborough to promote Sacred Heart College, I wasn't sure what to expect. I had the opportunity to speak to students in a number of different forums: I was fortunate enough to address some of the Gr. 12 Religion classes, set up a booth in the foyer at lunch hour, attended a handful of university fairs, spoke to a Family Catechism group, and was present at *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* – a conference where Catholic Educators, Principals and Vice-Principals gathered. *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* was a great chance to speak to Catholic Educators in Ontario who had never heard of Sacred Heart College before – they all seemed very supportive, intrigued and enthusiastic about the idea of having something else to offer students in Catholic Education at a post-secondary level.

All of the schools in the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board were very supportive in helping to accommodate me getting into the Religion classes to speak to students, in addition to



At Father Leo J Austin Catholic Secondary School, Whitby

allowing me to set up a table at lunch hour to provide more information and answer any other questions or inquiries the students had about the College.

While on my travels, I visited schools in: Ottawa, Durham, Toronto, Niagara, and Hamilton. Most of these visits involved either setting up a table in the forum at lunch hour, or being a part of a post-secondary information event being held by the school. I received a mix of responses, more positive than negative.

It is unfortunate that in many of our publicly funded Catholic schools, a majority of students are not practicing the faith, nor do they have the desire to do so. The opportunities at Sacred Heart allow students to grow as young people, but also as practicing Catholics in our secular society.

I had an opportunity to catch up with Krista Wood, who formerly worked for the Vocations Evangelization and Youth Office here in the Diocese of Peterborough and is now the Board Chaplaincy Leader for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Krista was one of the first people to hear about Bishop De Angelis' idea, endorsed by Pope Benedict XVI, about starting a Catholic College in Peterborough. It is incredible to be a part of such an amazing idea that has borne fruit and is now a reality.

I spent a morning in London with the Family Foundations Institute's Family Catechism group. Speaking to both the parents and students present provided a great opportunity for inquiry and conversation about Catholic Education. They welcomed me with open arms and look forward to having Sacred Heart College come back next year to speak to their group. It was so encouraging to see so many young families in attendance at Family Catechism on a Saturday morning!

Sacred Heart College hosted an Open House for prospect

students in November. There was a representation of current staff and students at Sacred Heart College; and Bishop Miehm joined us for lunch as well. Often when people ask me about how things are going at Sacred Heart, I usually answer, "We're working hard for it, and praying hard about it." We are hoping that hard work and prayer will bear fruit for Sacred Heart College. Kindly keep the success of Sacred Heart College in your prayers.

— Sarah Grills

Student Recruitment Officer



With student Joshua Ellery, St Thomas Aquinas, Lindsay



# Secularism

guest column by D.Q. McInerny

In order to understand secularism we need first to be aware of the fact that it is rooted in a distinction of ancient vintage, the distinction between the sacred and the secular. If not as old as the human race itself, that distinction at least dates from the time when the progeny of Adam and Eve were numerous enough that, having already established the most basic of natural societies, the family, they went on to establish the other natural society, founded upon the family, which we call the State. It is the State, or political community, which both Aristotle and St. Thomas called "perfect," not in the sense that it was morally perfect — if only that were true! — but in the sense that it can, because of its diverse complexity, provide everything which is necessary to human beings to enable them to fulfill themselves, as human beings, on the natural level. Such was the secular realm. To meet man's supernatural needs, it was necessary that human society have another realm, that of the sacred.

The secular realm has to do generally with the natural order, then, and is represented principally by the State, whereas the concern of the sacred realm is the supernatural order, which, since the Incarnation, is represented in its highest form by the Church. So, there are two realms which constitute and encompass man's social life in this world: the secular realm and the sacred realm. Our Lord called special attention to these two realms, and in doing so sanctioned the legitimacy of each, when he spoke of "the things of Caesar" and "the things of God."

It seems to be an evident part of the providential plan of God that there should be, in the governance of men, a dual authority, one sacred or ecclesiastical, one secular or civil. Furthermore, it would seem that "from the beginning" it was intended that the relation between these two legitimate

authorities should be one which was entirely cooperative and mutually assisting. This stands to reason for, after all, the two authorities have but a single source, God Himself. Not that they are to be thought of as being on the same level of importance; secular authority must be regarded as subordinate to sacred authority, for the obvious reason that the natural is subordinate to the supernatural. Divine authority more directly manifests itself in the sacred realm.

The ideal situation would be one in which the secular realm freely and graciously acknowledges its subordinate status vis-à-vis the sacred realm, and allows itself to be instructed and guided by it. This is not to say that the sacred realm attempts to usurp the tasks and responsibilities which are proper to the secular realm, for to do so would undermine the rational for the real distinction between the two realms. Each realm has tasks and accompanying obligations proper to each. However, history tells us that the ideal situation has seldom been realized, and the relation between the sacred and secular realms, over the course of the

centuries, has very much had its ups and downs. Some eras, especially when Christendom was a thriving reality in Europe, were better than others, but even then, frequently enough, it was tension rather than tranquility which was the characteristic mark of the relation. We can easily enough attribute this fact to man's fallen nature, to his ever present vulnerability to pride, and to his being possessed of a sad propensity to seek power which is unencumbered by the controlling demands of justice.

But history also tells us something very important regarding the fate of the secular realm: since the sixteenth century there has been a steady deterioration, actually a positive corruption, of the secular realm, so that today we have the phenomenon which we call secularism. Secular-ism is not



Since the Incarnation, the supernatural order is represented in its highest form by the Church.



to be confused with the secular; it is what has happened to the secular as the result of its decomposition. This means that secularism does not represent the legitimate, quasi-natural realm that should stand as the necessary counterpart to the sacred realm. It cannot be considered as disinterestedly neutral, nor benign, least of all beneficial, in how it relates to the sacred realm.

The eminent Thomist Jacques Maritain, who was wise in so many ways, assumed, in his political philosophy, an altogether too sanguine attitude toward the secular and its relation with the sacred. He was overly optimistic in the way he saw the developmental potential of the modern state, and did not take sufficient account of how things actually devolved, between the two realms, since the sixteenth century. He envisioned, and earnestly hoped for, a future in which the

cannot return to the kind of relation between the sacred and the secular that obtained in the Middle Ages. Granted. But we should not abandon the possibility that the best aspects of what was once the case, in the relation between the sacred and the secular, can be reconstituted, and in ways that are consonant with our own times.

For most of the Christian centuries it has been appropriate to designate the two realms we have been considering here as the sacred and the secular; now it would be more appropriate, given what has happened to the latter, to name the two realms respectively the sacred and the profane. The dictionary tells us that the profane is that which is "not religious or concerned with religious things," that it is opposed to the sacred; it goes on to say — and this is all too applicable to secularism — that the profane manifests "irreverence and disrespect toward the



**Jacques Maritain**; 18 November 1882 – 28 April 1973) was a French Catholic philosopher. Raised Protestant, he was agnostic before converting to Catholicism in 1906. An author of more than 60 books, he helped to revive Thomas Aquinas for modern times, and was influential in the development and drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Pope Paul VI presented his "Message to Men of Thought and of Science" at the close of Vatican II to Maritain, his long-time friend and mentor. ... Maritain's interest and works spanned many aspects of philosophy, including aesthetics, political theory, philosophy of science, metaphysics, the nature of education, liturgy and ecclesiology.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques\\_Maritain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Maritain), 4 December 2017.

secular realm would be vitalized at its core with the spirit of the Gospel. Though not explicitly Christian, it would nonetheless be implicitly so, in the sense that it would be essentially Christian in its fundamental orientation and inclinations; the secular realm, though not representing any particular religion, would be a friendly protector of religion in its pluralistic forms.

What we have witnessed happening with remarkable rapidity since the middle of the twentieth century, when Maritain movingly expressed in his writings his fervent hopes for a truly humane society appropriate for modern times, is the complete transformation of the secular into secularism. We have now reached the point where secularism reigns triumphant in Western society. Maritain maintained that we

Deity or sacred things."

Because of the commanding presence and pervasive influence of secularism in contemporary society (secularism is one and the same with "the world," given the meaning Sacred Scripture attaches to that term) it would be foolhardy and unconscionably naive on our part if we were to suppose that we could strike up some kind of amicable relationship with secularism. Whenever secularism, for its part, shows itself to be accommodating toward religion, it is only so that it can better position itself to effect its final purpose — of rendering religion, as it relates to society, null and void. ✠

*Dr. McNerny is Professor of Philosophy at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska*



# Qualities of a Dynamic Dad

by Luke Procter

Over the past year in the *Herald*, I have been reflecting on what I consider to be four signs of a dynamic dad. To recap, the first three signs are:

- **Regular Communication**
- **Educate Yourself**
- **Generosity**

In this final installment, I want to look at the fourth sign:

- **Radiate the Joys of Fatherhood**

When considering how you can radiate joy, I have found there are two dimensions to this. The previous three signs were all directed inwards, towards your own family. Radiating joy can certainly be expressed in this manner. However, there is another dimension, one that I think is vital to improving families in general, and it is expressing this joy outwards into the world.

Within the family, a dynamic dad expresses the joy of fatherhood by truly enjoying being with his wife and children. Of course, this doesn't always happen. Anyone who has a family knows how easily disobedience and disagreement can erode the immediate experience of joy. However, it is that same joy which gives a man the will and desire to remain committed to his family. As a volunteer at the Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre, I have spoken to numerous men and women who are not committed. Perhaps their joy has been eroded, or was non-existent from the very beginning. I suspect, unfortunately, all of us know at least one family that has been broken up, perhaps because they did not experience joyfulness in the relationship or didn't know how to treasure it, and maybe they never had it modelled for them. While talking to other dads, I hear again and again how they had no father growing up, or how they have no one to show them how to be a father. For many men, their "father figure" is their mother! Western culture is no help here either. Popular media often depict fathers as bumbling, irresponsible, unintelligent oafs, and this contributes to a weak stereotype of fathers. This is where dynamic dads can fill the gap. We have many opportunities to change these misconceptions.

It is when family joy is radiated outside of the family that we as Catholic fathers can make the biggest impact in our world. As Christians, we have been given the fullness of truth—namely Jesus Himself—and as such there should be much greater expectations of us than of non-believers. Our strong Catholic faith can greatly contribute to being a strong father, radiating this joy and commitment to the world around us.

So, how can we radiate our joy outwards into the world? We need to begin by asking ourselves honestly how we present our family and our vocation as husband and father to others. Is it through complaining or disclosing our frustrations with our

children or spouse? Sadly, this is what many people hear every day: how challenging a child is, or how fed up a husband is with his wife. We are ambassadors for fatherhood. However, judging by the lack of evidence of excellent fathers in our world, we have been negligent. When we openly express the joys of fatherhood, we show the world how much of a blessing it is to be a father, and share in the absolute fatherhood of God. We show our calling as one worth pursuing and striving for excellence; we counteract the impression that fatherhood is an onerous duty.

Everyone needs to eat, so the grocery store is a great place to influence and be influenced. Maybe because I'm a bit more



observant in this regard, I've seen all types of dads. Some are great — laughing, making grocery shopping fun, enjoying the time spent with their children — while other dads end up cursing and swearing at their children and partner, clearly showing their frustration. It's important to remember that no matter what you do, others are watching you. Shopping for



necessities may be the only exposure some men have to dynamic dads like you. So often men are isolated from each other, so I would encourage each of you, when you see a dad at the store, to encourage him and to demonstrate faithful fatherhood.

Some examples of this include making shopping a fun experience — joking and playing with your children, letting them help, or having them remind you of some item or another, as they are able to. Also, avoid showing your frustration and anger with them when they get bored or have a meltdown. Co-operating with your spouse is also important and displays not only a love for your children but also for your



wife and marriage.

Lastly, if your children are not present, expressing relief is not a great way to radiate joy. Once, I encountered friends with their children while I was alone getting groceries. They seemed to be jealous that I was shopping without my kids, and it would be easy to agree with them. But shopping alone just does not have the same level of fun and adventure that comes with having my children present. It may sound odd, wishing your family was with you while doing basic chores, but truly enjoying time spent together is an excellent way to radiate the joy of fatherhood to families who may not know such joy.

The workplace is another excellent place to radiate this joy. Men often heavily invest their time, energy, and even money into their work. We tend to define our identity from our employment — after all, what do men usually ask when they meet another man but, “What do you do?” It is here that our true calling as husbands and fathers can shine through brightly.

The simple act of leaving work on time can speak volumes. In my workplace, some of the men will stay up to forty-five minutes after their day is finished, complaining, comparing stories and discussing the day. This sends a message that these dads prefer to spend their time with their coworkers rather than at home, with their families. It can even be considered a form of injustice against their families, especially if there are very young children at home. No matter how hard our day jobs may be, it likely does not compare to the physical, mental and emotional strain that comes with mothering a newborn!

Another suggestion is to actually be passionate about your family. It seems being passionate about our work comes easily, maybe because our work is somewhat easier to control or master. How many of our acquaintances know exactly what our job is, yet have no idea about our family? A man’s family is the most important relationships in his life, and yet so often we tend to hide them away. We should be rejoicing in them! Tell your co-workers about every little success in your home life.

As men and fathers, sharing in the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of Christ, we are in a unique and powerful position. Together, and individually, we can effect change in the world. Remember that there is always someone watching, and your influence can be felt, sometimes in very deep and significant ways. At the end, when time gives way to eternity, and we see how our actions and decisions have impacted history, I hope and pray that we have all sowed joy and love throughout generations. ✠



## Administrative Assistants Day

Parish Secretaries and Bookkeepers from around the Diocese were hosted at St. Paul's Parish, Lakefield, on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Miehm celebrated Mass and lunch was catered by the parish Catholic Women's League. It was a good opportunity to show appreciation to the hard-working administrators (including those from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre) who help to keep our parishes running.



### BACK ROW:

**Karen Todd** (St. Mary's, Huntsville), **Sr. Advocata** (St. John's / Sacred Heart, Peterborough), **Jen Campitelli** (Diocesan Pastoral Centre, DPC), **Amanda Kelly** (DPC), **Debbie Mattucci** (St. Anne's, Peterborough), **Valerie Finley** (St. Mary's, Lindsay), **Diane Wainman** (St. Mary's, Lindsay), **Patricia Stanley** (Our Lady of Mercy, Port Hope / St. Thomas More, Millbrook)

### MIDDLE ROW:

**Hanna Dracup** (St. Alphonsus Liguori, Peterborough), **Theresa Janiga** (Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Hastings), **Janine Wanjon** (Immaculate Conception, Peterborough), **Karen Grubb** (DPC), **Lily Cavanagh** (St. Anne's, Peterborough), **Lisa Schultz** (JPII House, Peterborough), **Kathleen Butt** (St. Paul's, Gravenhurst, St. James, Mactier), **Patricia Elcome** (St. Francis, Newcastle), **Kathy Young** (St. Martin's, Ennismore), **Laurie Dobbs** (St. Joseph's, Powassan)

### FRONT ROW:

**Maryann Clancy** (St. Paul's, Lakefield ; St. Joseph's, Douro), **Deb McRae** (DPC), **Fr. Raymond Rick** (Pastor, St. Paul's, Lakefield), **His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm**, **Ferrol O'Reilly** (St. John's, Kirkfield), **Cathy Gevaert** (St. Paul's, Norwood, St. Mary's, Campbellford)

