



Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

MASS OF INSTALLATION FOR HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REVEREND BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM

Thirteenth Bishop of Peterborough

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 • 2:00 PM

St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral
411 Reid Street, Peterborough



PLEASE JOIN US FOLLOWING
THE MASS FOR THE

MEET AND GREET

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Knights of Columbus

Bishop Doyle Hall

317 Hunter Street West, Peterborough

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EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

When we went through this before, when we knew Bishop DeAngelis was retiring but his successor had not yet been named, someone remarked that the anxiety priests experience in such times is akin to what parishioners go through when a new pastor is being assigned. "Now you know how we feel," I was told.

Actually, I'm not sure it's exactly the same. After all, none of my parishioners ever knelt before me and promised respect and obedience to me and my successors. When we clergy make that solemn promise at the moment we are ordained, we enter into a relationship that depends on the bishop for everything: where we work, where we live, even our purpose in life. It's a pretty big deal.

So, the unexpected news that Bishop McGrattan was moving on came as quite a shock to me and many of my colleagues. Suddenly, we were thrown into a time of uncertainty. And this was only enhanced by the impossibility of knowing whether a new bishop would be named in a matter of weeks or if we would wait months; we couldn't know how quickly the uncertainty would end.

Thanks be to God, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Miehm to our diocese on March 10th. His installation as the thirteenth Bishop of Peterborough will occur on April 19th, as you have seen on our front cover. The time of anxiety is over, for the most part, even though few of us really know anything about this man. We will not have to wander about aimlessly, like so many lost sheep without a shepherd. God has provided.

And it's the business of God providing that occupies my thoughts. He always does. Through the agency of His Church, He looks after us all. This is the only thing that makes it possible for someone like me to promise respect and obedience, in advance, to future bishops we haven't met and can't even

A new Bishop for Peterborough

imagine. We have to be supremely confident that God is orchestrating all things according to a plan that is actually good for us and for all members of the diocese. Therefore, the new Bishop of Peterborough will be the right person for the job at this time.

Which is not to say that I expect only sunshine and unicorns in the days ahead. Working in the Lord's vineyard will always have its challenges and disappointments. But if the new bishop can keep us searching for the will of God and committing ourselves to following it, while also calling down divine assistance upon us, he will have done his most important work and we will be blest.

Meanwhile, I felt a need to put together a two-page spread on the first twelve Bishops of Peterborough. You'll see their photos and relevant dates a little further into this magazine. It just seemed like a good time to look back, as well as ahead. Some, like Bishop McGrattan, were with us for only a short time; others for much longer. Some stand out in our memories while others are receding into the past. All have played some role in building the Kingdom of God here in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Let us keep Bishop Miehm in our prayers as he embarks on a new phase of his life. Perhaps the Lord will provide him many happy years in our midst with endless support from committed clergy, Religious and lay faithful, all ardently seeking the reign of the Risen Saviour. ✠

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

Vol. 14, No. 1 — Easter 2017

NEXT ISSUE

— Fall 2017 —

will be distributed to the parishes in mid-September 2017.

Submissions must be received at the e-mail address below on or before August 8th.

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.

The Catholic Herald is published three times a year in the Diocese of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, for the edification and information of the laity and clergy in accordance with the heart and mind of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

The Catholic Herald is made available free of charge and is distributed in each of the parishes in the diocese. All content is subject to the criteria of the editorial policy and unsolicited manuscripts may not be returned.

Circulation: 8,500 per issue.

Advertising and mail subscription rates available upon request.

Editor: Rev. Father Raymond Rick

Publisher: Diocese of Peterborough
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Greetings

from
Bishop Daniel Miehm

Many of you can probably remember a phone call or event that changed your life. I received such a call a few weeks ago, in early March, when the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, informed me that the Holy Father had appointed me the Bishop of Peterborough. When the number flashed up on my cell phone, I recognized the area code and wondered, "Who would be calling me from Ottawa tonight?" That mystery was quickly resolved!

It is fair to say, however, that the call that truly changed my life had nothing to do with cellular technology. When the Lord called me to the wondrous vocation of priesthood so many years ago, I embarked on a path that was mostly unforeseen. Yet I knew that it would be a path of service to Christ and the Church, and that God would guide me along it faithfully, wherever it might lead. That has never failed to be the case.

A few days after my appointment was announced, a priest asked me, "Are you looking backward or forward these days?" The only reasonable answer I could give was, "Both!" There is, of course, much to do as I wind down my ministry in the Diocese of Hamilton, the place where I have served as priest and auxiliary bishop for twenty-eight years. And there is much excitement, anticipation and practical work to

be done, as I prepare to undertake my new ministry in the Diocese of Peterborough. Already I have had the chance to meet many priests and the staff of the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, who have been both gracious and helpful. We are, it seems, speeding toward the Mass of Installation on April 19th, but I am gratified that many people are working hard to ensure that the celebration will be well-organized, beautiful and joyful.

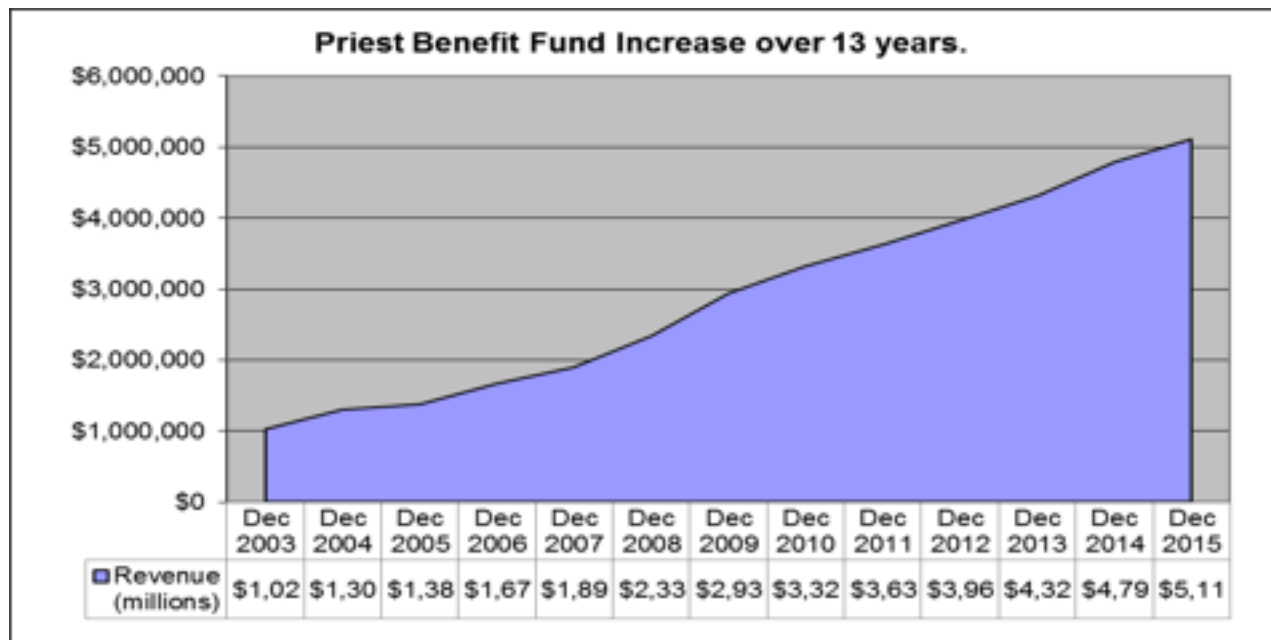
I am most grateful to Bishop William McGrattan for his fraternal support and good advice as we prepare for the coming transition in the Diocese of Peterborough. We are in frequent contact, and he is keeping me well-informed as he continues to administer the diocese through the help of key people at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. I have been impressed to see all that Bishop McGrattan has accomplished in his relatively brief tenure here. I especially admire his dedication to visiting the parishes of the diocese, a project that demonstrates what a true shepherd he has been. I will certainly carry on that good work in my ministry as bishop, and will look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and years.

I am writing these words on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, a feast when we contemplate the Blessed Virgin Mary's "yes" to God. "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." She is our great model of faith and trust in God, of obedience and commitment. She shows us how to embark on a new journey, confident in the constant love and help of God. Please pray for me, dear friends, as I embark on this new journey in the Diocese of Peterborough: a road on which I set forth with enthusiasm and one which I will happily walk along with you. ☩



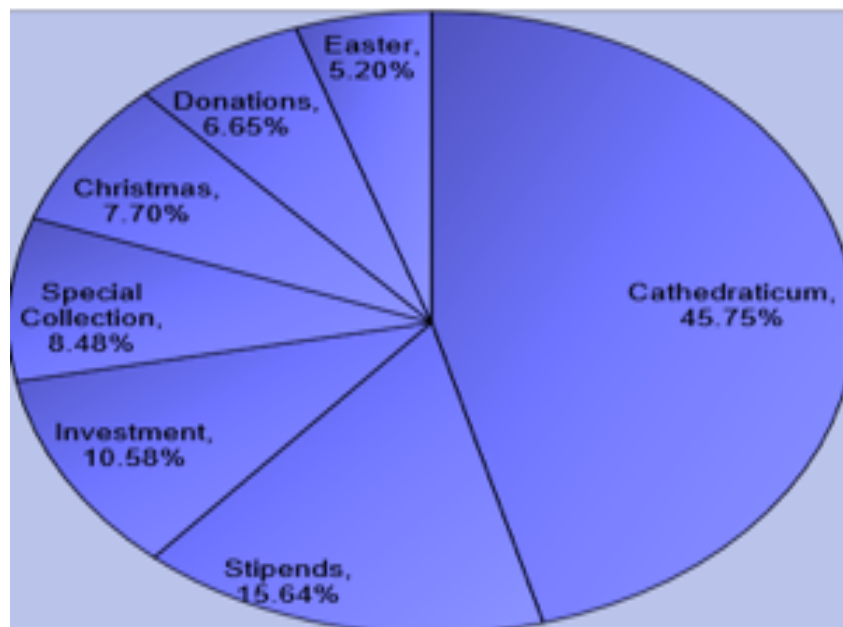
Priest Benefit Fund Financial Stewardship

The Diocese of Peterborough Priest's Benefit Fund (PBF) is a pooled, non-registered, defined benefit that collectively invests and administers the funds per Diocesan Policy. The assets of the Fund are segregated and held in a separate fund under the supervision of the Bishop and the Diocesan Finance Council. The Diocese has been able to continue positive sustained growth of the PBF for the needs of our retired priests and those suffering from longer term illnesses. The chart below shows an encouraging trend of growth over the last thirteen (13) years from 2003 with approximately \$1,024,000 in the fund to the *December 2015 balance in excess of \$5,116,000.



**December 2016 Financial Statements have not yet been finalized*

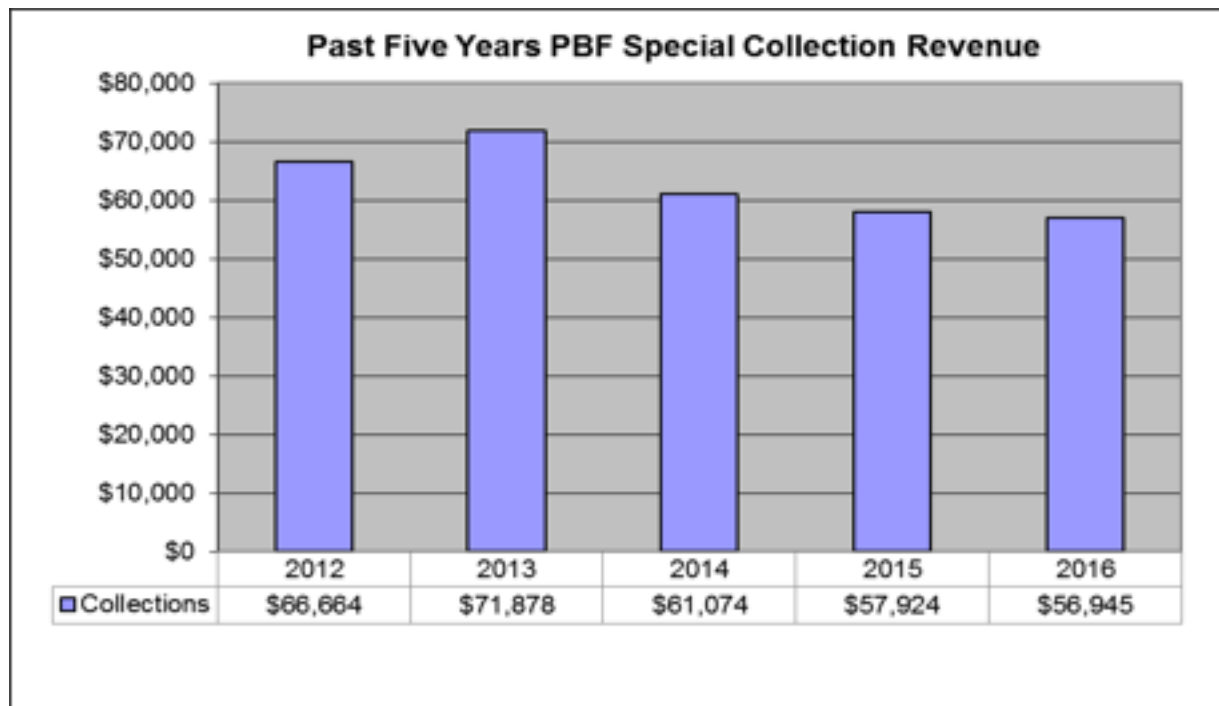
Where PBF revenues are derived from. These figures have been averaged based on calendar years 2012 through *2016.



The Diocese is in a similar position as many other Dioceses who have not had the ability to set aside sufficient funds to meet retirement benefit payments and budget, but instead apply a pay-as-go basis in the year the benefit costs become due and payable. The Diocese commissioned an actuarial study through Morneau Shepell in early 2015 which took into consideration the market value of the fund, investment interest rate assumptions less the basic retirement benefits and health care for retired and long term ill beneficiaries. Based on the 2015 Actuarial Report the total unfunded liability for priest's benefits is \$5,063,000 with 56% being funded, based on the retirement age of 75. Between the years of 2012 through 2015 the average annual costs for retirement benefits and health care was \$498,437. In early 2016 an updated Priest Benefit Fund Policy was promulgated which fashioned a new Advisory Committee to advise the Bishop on matters concerning the Fund and consisted of 3 elected members from the presbyterate at large, 2 appointed members and Diocesan staff.

If retirement age was reduced to 70, the unfunded liability increased to \$6,656,700 showing a reduction to a 41.9% funded ratio.

It is evident, that to fund the deficit an increase in the annual special collections is required. This year the Diocese has the ambitious goal to reduce the gap between actual annual retirement collections and expenditures, particularly related to the PBF collection.



**2016 estimate only*

It is the Diocese's hope that in sharing this story of sound financial stewardship, generosity and sacrifice, we can all have confidence that the path we have walked is bringing us closer to our goal of meeting the ongoing and future needs of the retired and long term ill Diocesan priests. We thank all of you for your ongoing trust in the financial stewardship of the Diocese. It is the Diocese's optimism that this year's **June 18th PBF special collection** will allow us to continue to reduce the unfunded liability while making the annual collection(s) represent a greater percentage of the annual expenditures.

The care of all current and future retired Diocesan priests is vital. We ask you to consider this and help make a difference.

Deb McRae,
Financial Administrator
Diocese of Peterborough



The First 12 Bishops

photos from the Archives of the Diocese of Peterborough

Jean-François Jamot



Ordained Bishop:
24 February 1874
Appointed to Peterborough:
11 July 1882 (age: 54)
Died:
4 May 1886

Thomas Joseph Dowling



Appointed to Peterborough:
14 December 1886 (age: 46)
Ordained Bishop:
1 May 1887
Appointed to Hamilton:
11 January 1889

Richard A. O'Connor



Appointed to Peterborough:
11 January 1889 (age: 50)
Ordained Bishop:
1 May 1889
Died:
23 January 1913

Michael Joseph O'Brien



Appointed to Peterborough:
20 June 1913 (age:38)
Ordained Bishop:
24 September 1913
Appointed to Kingston:
17 May 1929

Denis P. O'Connor



Appointed to Peterborough:
13 January 1930 (age:45)
Ordained Bishop:
11 June 1930
Died:
30 August 1942

John R. MacDonald



Appointed to Peterborough:
5 June 1943 (age: 51)
Ordained Bishop:
24 August 1943
Appointed to Antigonish:
3 March 1945

of Peterborough

biographical data from catholic-hierarchy.org

Joseph Gerald Berry



Appointed to Peterborough:
7 April 1945 (age: 42)
Ordained Bishop:
7 June 1945
Appointed to Halifax:
28 November 1953

Benjamin I Webster



Ordained Bishop:
21 November 1946
Appointed to Peterborough:
21 April 1954 (age: 56)
Resigned:
12 March 1968

Francis A Marrocco



Ordained Bishop:
22 February 1956
Appointed to Peterborough:
10 June 1968 (age: 54)
Died:
18 July 1975

James Leonard Doyle



Appointed to Peterborough:
24 May 1976 (age: 46)
Ordained Bishop:
28 June 1976
Resigned:
28 December 2002

Nicola DeAngelis



Ordained Bishop:
24 June 1992
Appointed to Peterborough:
28 December 2002 (age: 63)
Retired:
8 April 2014

William T McGrattan



Ordained Bishop:
12 January 2010
Appointed to Peterborough:
8 April 2014 (age: 57)
Appointed to Calgary:
4 January 2017



**CATHOLIC
ABCs**

Krista Wood

Obligation or Opportunity

“Do I have to go? Yes. Why? Because I said so!”

If you have any teens or pre-teens at home, perhaps this is a conversation you have experienced on a Sunday morning. It's certainly one my parents and I had on many occasions growing up.

As an adult, I go to mass every Sunday morning, and if I'm being honest there are some mornings when I wake up and think to myself, “Do I really have to go? I could really use a few more hours of sleep!”

Nonetheless, I get my tired self out of bed and out the door in time for the 11 o'clock mass. Why? Because as a Christian and a Catholic, Sunday is a holy day which we are called to set aside for God. So even on the days when I just don't feel like going, I force myself out of bed because I know spending time with God is something I need.

The catechism puts it a little more formally when it says, “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass... The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation” (CCC 2180; 2181).

If you look up *obligation* in the dictionary, or perhaps on Google, one of the definitions you will find is “a debt of gratitude for a service or favor.” This definition explains perfectly why it is that we attend mass on Sunday. It is a means for us to pay Christ just a small

glimmer of gratitude for the debt He paid for us on Good Friday. So rather than thinking of our Sunday obligation as “we must go to mass on Sunday,” might I suggest we consider thinking of it more in terms of “why wouldn't I go to mass on Sunday?”

Well it seems as the world around us changes the answer to the latter question is becoming increasingly complex. Whether it be work, sports, or leisure activities there are many other ways we could occupy our time on any given Sunday morning. However, that doesn't relieve us of our obligation to attend mass. It's not always easy to make time for God but I suppose it wasn't easy for Christ up on the cross either. Going to mass is one small way for us to say thank you and to receive the love of Christ poured out through His death and resurrection. Rather than seeing Sunday mass as an obligation perhaps we could look at these days as opportunities to grow closer to Christ, His Church and the faithful who gather together with us.

In addition to Sunday mass, which celebrates the paschal mystery, Canon Law

also outlines holy days which are to be observed by the universal Church including the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ; Epiphany; Ascension; the Body and Blood of Christ; Mary, Mother of God; Immaculate Conception; Assumption of Mary; Saint Joseph; Saint Peter & Saint Paul; and All Saints.

Canon Law however also permits conferences of Bishops, such as the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to suppress the obligation or transfer it to Sunday. Canada observes two: Christmas and Mary, the



Mother of God. Several others, such as Epiphany, Ascension, and the Body and Blood of Christ, are transferred to the nearest Sunday. By contrast, the United States, observes eight holy days of obligation.

These holy days are important solemnities and feast days which recognize and honour the mysteries of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the Saints. They are days which challenge us to learn more about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, as well as those who followed Him. But shouldn't every day challenge us in this way? If we are truly living our lives according to God's will, every day should be a holy day!

As we journey through the season of Easter, may we take the time to observe each day as holy, as a gift given from God, paying special attention to those days set apart for us: days of opportunity disguised as obligations! ✠

Krista currently serves as the Board Chaplaincy Leader for the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Pilgrims' Progress

Cinematic Journeys to Easter Joy

***The Passion of the Christ* (2004):** As St. John Paul the Great stated after his private 2003 Vatican screening, "it is as it was." Mel Gibson's film is compelling must-see cinema. For those for whom must-see is can't-see, easing distaste for the graphic depiction of the sufferings endured by our Lord on the Via Dolorosa is the silent witness of the Blessed Mother. The scene of Mary wiping the blood from the floor after Jesus' scourging is agonizingly heart wrenching yet profoundly tender.

***Quo Vadis* (1951):** In 64 A.D., following his return to Rome after many years on the battlefield, military tribune and Roman patrician Marcus Vinicius falls in love with Lygia, a slave who is also a Christian. Vinicius must navigate between his obligations to the Roman city-state and a developing sense of responsibility for his new Christian friends whom Emperor Nero has marked for martyrdom. This epic film of the 1950's sword-and-sandal genre features a strong narrative that is faithful to the historic novel by Polish author, Henryk Sienkiewicz, featuring visually rich scenes of the passionate lovers and of courageous Christians facing hungry lions in the arena. Peter Ustinov delivers an exceptional performance as the detestable Nero in this Best Picture Oscar-nominated film.

***Calvary* (2014):** Father James Levelle is a parish priest in rural Ireland. After a penitent informs Father Levelle that, as retribution for sexual crimes that he suffered in childhood at the hands of another priest, he plans to kill him on the following Sunday - "killing a bad priest isn't a big deal, but if you kill a good priest, people take notice" - Father James is set on a journey, a Holy Week of sorts, towards his personal Calvary.



Preserving the seal of the confessional, Father James does not report the threat to the police but resumes daily encounters with parishioners who have seemingly rejected the message of salvation. Forgoing any opportunity to flee, Father James arrives on an isolated beach on the appointed Sunday, to confront his accuser and accept his fate. With raw language, a measure of anti-Church sentiment cloaked in dark comedy, and disturbing violence, *Calvary* is a difficult film to watch; but Brendan Gleeson's powerful performance confirms that, in spite of his fallen and flawed human nature, Father James is a good priest. Be prepared for some earnest post-screening discussion.

***In Darkness* (2011):** When Nazi occupiers liquidate the Jewish ghetto in Lvov, Poland (now, Lviv, Ukraine) in 1943, Leopold Socha, sewer worker and petty thief, negotiates payment to hide a group of Jews in the city's sewers, concealing their existence from his wife and Bortnik, his best friend who is also a member of the Nazi-sympathetic Ukraine militia. Over the course of fourteen months, Socha's conscience moves him away from the self-serving details of this business arrangement towards an emotional alliance with his Jewish charges. When heavy spring rains threaten to flood the sewers, Socha must make a crucial decision about their fate. Based on a true story, this film earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

THE CHOIR LOFT

Kathleen Moquin



***The Way* (2010):** Arriving from California to collect the ashes of his estranged son who has died in a storm in the French Pyrenees while walking the historic pilgrimage route known as the *Camino de Santiago*, Dr. Tom Avery (Martin Sheen) decides to honour his son's memory and complete the walk to Spain. A motley crew, including a Quebecois trying to quit smoking and an Irish writer suffering from writers' block, joins Tom on a journey towards increased self-awareness about the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose." Movie highlights include breathtaking on-location shots, including images of the huge censor, the *Botafumeiro*, at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. *The Way* is a sincere and thoughtful "travel" film. Catholic viewers are reminded that the Church does not permit the scattering of cremated remains.

***Stations of the Cross* (2014):** German-language film about a young modern-day fundamentalist Catholic who follows, literally, her parish priest's pre-Confirmation instructions about becoming a saint in heaven. Reminiscent of Jesus' path to Golgotha, Maria passes 14 stations, in 14 brilliant fixed-angle shots, en route to her goal. A powerful study of religion, devotion, and radical faith, *Stations of the Cross* uses unconventional filmmaking to ensure a visual journey as rich and meaningful as its cinematic climax. Highly recommended.

Let us continue our own journeys beyond this Easter season, always keeping God as our ultimate destination. ☩

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

Christmas in Keewatin-Le Pas



Fathers John Perdue and Gene Shin arrive at the Winnipeg airport, en route to their respective Christmas missions in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

In late 2016, as an initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas was twinned with a coalition of Peterborough, Kingston and Pembroke. Where possible, we will share personnel and other resources, as well as spiritual gifts, to help each other out.

Fr. Perdue spent a week in the Archdiocese and Fr. Shin about three weeks, to assist over Christmas.

These pictures were captured from a YouTube video. Watch the whole 4-minute film at:

<https://youtu.be/sB2AOV9dRRQ>

Father Guru Prasad Mendem, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Cross Lake, MB, where Fr. Perdue assisted at Christmas.



Father Perdue presents a small cheque from the Diocese of Peterborough to help with the construction of a new church.

96TH ANNUAL CONVENTION CWL PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE



On behalf of our northern councils, I wish to extend a heartfelt invitation to all interested persons to our annual convention from April 29th to 30th hosted by and in Huntsville. Along with both the national and provincial presidents attending, there will be guest speakers on the Attributes of Women, Autism, and the Catechism of the Good Sheppard.

National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, will address the 2016 2018 National Theme “Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call”. Our Provincial President, Pauline Kupta, will do a workshop on “Celebrating our Women and the Spirit”. Saturday evening Social Time will focus on “Celebrating 150 years” in honour of Canada’s Anniversary. Bring along your fun self for music, games, and dancing.

Registration forms can be found through your parish president or the diocese website, www.peterboroughcwl.ca and the cost is \$30.00 for the two days. Accommodations are at the Best Western for \$99.00 per night (any number in the room). Please mention you are coming for the convention. An invitation has been extended to our Bishop-Elect Bishop Miehm and as you can understand, at print time, his scheduling was not set.

– Wendy Tedford
President
Peterborough Diocese CWL





SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph
Devereaux

St. Germaine Cousin

1579-1601

Feast day: June 15

Patron for victims of child abuse

The Incurruptibles are saints whose bodies are miraculously preserved after death, defying the normal process of decomposition. Their bodies are not like mummies – their skin is soft and their limbs pliable. Usually nothing at all has been done to preserve the bodies of these saints, although sometimes they are covered with a wax coating. I have personally seen some of these bodies, v.g., Blessed Anna Maria Tiagi at the church of San Crisogon, Rome; St. Jean Marie Vianney, at the parish church in Ars, France; and St. John Neumann (the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and the first American male to be canonized) at a shrine dedicated in his honour in Philadelphia, U.S.A. Many of the bodies also give off a sweet, unearthly odor, and others produce blood or oils that defy any scientific explanation.

I have encountered some skepticism from people who have heard me preach this topic, but I challenge them to go and see for themselves. The prophet Isaiah utters the mind of God saying: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways, says the Lord” (Isaiah 55:8). Oftentimes, and understandably so, it is easy for us to be more attune to the secular world and human activity than to see the unfolding of God’s plan around us. However, anticipating Easter and now observing the beginning of life which each spring generates, it is a perfect time to reflect upon the transformations that God wishes to bring about.

The mysterious plan of God was revealed beautifully in the life of a young girl, Saint Germaine Cousin. She was born in 1579 of humble parents at Pibrac, a village about ten miles from Toulouse, France. From her birth she seemed marked for suffering. She was born with a deformed hand and the disease of scrofula (an infection of the

lymph nodes and associated with tuberculosis). Her mother died when she was an infant, and her father soon married again. The new stepmother treated Germaine with much cruelty. Under pretense of saving the other children from the contagion of scrofula she persuaded the father to disallow Germaine from associating with her half-brothers and sisters, and so, at the age of 9 or 10, Germaine was hired out as a shepherdess and spent all her days alone in the fields. When she returned at night, her bed was in the stable or on a litter of vine branches in the attic.



Life was very hard for Germaine, but she bore it with humility and patience. She was gifted with a marvellous sense of the presence of God and of spiritual things. To her already difficult life, she added voluntary mortifications and austerities. She possessed a great love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and for the Virgin Mother. When the church bell would ring for Mass, she pushed her staff into the ground and told her guardian angel to watch over her sheep; and, even though the surrounding forests teemed with wolves, Germaine’s flock never came to harm, as she daily attended Holy Mass.

Her spiritual devotions consisted of the Rosary, and she recited the Angelus with the greatest devotion. Like many saints, she was at first the object of scorn. However, because of her utter goodness and miracles that occurred around her, the local people, even her harsh stepmother, began to love and revere her. Eventually Germaine’s parents asked her to return to the house to live, but she begged to be allowed to remain in her humble surroundings. Shortly thereafter, one morning in the early summer of 1601, her father realizing that the sheep had not been taken to the pasture, went to the stable and found Germaine dead on her pallet of vine-twigs. She was 22 years old.

Her remains were buried in the parish church of Pibrac in front of the pulpit. In 1644, when the grave was opened to receive one of her relatives, the body of Germaine was discovered fresh and perfectly preserved. It was exposed for public viewing near the pulpit, and eventually a beautiful casket was requisitioned by a woman who had been miraculously cured through the intercession of St. Germaine. This began a long series of wonderful cures wrought at her relics. In 1661 and 1700 the remains were viewed and found fresh and intact by the vicars-general of Toulouse,

who have left testamentary depositions of the fact.

Expert medical evidence determined that the body had not been embalmed, and experimental tests showed that the preservation was not due to any property inherent in the soil. In 1793 the casket was desecrated by soldiers of the French Revolution, who threw lime and water on the body and buried it in sand. However, after the Revolution, Germaine's body was found to have remained mostly intact, even though it ought to have decayed.

Hundreds of miracles and cures of every kind have been attested to this great saint's intercession – from multiplication of food in time of famine to recovery from grave sickness. On 7 May 1854, Pius IX beatified Germaine, and on 29 June 1867, enrolled her



in the list of saints. Her feast is kept in the Diocese of Toulouse on 15 June. She is represented in art with a shepherd's crook or a distaff, a watchdog or a sheep, or with flowers in her apron.

Miracles always have as their primary purpose the glorification of God and the calling of people to salvation. The Bible tells us that God's ways are as different from ours as the stars are distant from the earth (Isaiah 55:9). May we once again marvel at the wonders of God and imitate the great love that the saints possessed for the Holy Trinity and the Communion of Saints. ✠

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



Hail the Rosary Visitor!

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1.26, 37-38)

Recently, when we celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation, we were again reminded of Mary's fiat to the message of the Angel despite wondering “how can this be?” Mary had complete faith in God that He would protect her in her uncertainty. We, likewise, are called to walk with faith, though unaware of God's plan for us, and to open our hearts to Him.

Similar to the Virgin Mary, Rosary Apostolate visitors, when invited to help children learn the rosary asked, “How can this be since I am not a teacher?” Twenty years later, the program is in twenty schools in the Diocese only because the visitors prayed and answered the invitation with, “Here I am”.

This year we celebrate the retirement of Margaret Smith who began presenting the program in 1997 in Huntsville as a visitor and Director of the program. Bracebridge also began the program the same year. Margaret says that praying with the children gave her so much happiness and strengthened her own faith. She loved them all dearly and misses them in her life. She holds every staff member she ever met in such high esteem. Thank you Margaret for your dedication to the children you served.

Presently, ninety-eight volunteers (13 are former teachers) visit the classrooms of twenty schools in our Diocese. Why do they do it? Here are their answers.

Visitors in Kindergarten to Grade Four classes responded:

- * I never realized what little sponges they are. I am astonished at what they remember.
- * I am always welcomed by their beautiful smiles, their

innocence, spontaneity and total participation.

* The Principals and teachers are very welcoming and the teachers join in the prayers.

* Teaching the children the rosary brings back happy memories of my own childhood.



Huntsville Rosary Visitors, (l-r) Al Cormier, Marguerite Goodfellow, Margaret Smith, Laila Etherington and Jan Sirek.

*It gives me great joy to work for Our Blessed Mother cultivating a garden of faith.

*Nothing sounds more beautiful than a classroom of children praying.

*I now understand what He means when God asks us to "Come to me like little children."

Visitors in Grade Five to Eight classes said:

*Throughout the year, students develop from leading the rosary as a group to leading individually.

*I am impressed by the many excellent questions the students ask about their faith.

*As they pray the rosary with the class, many non-Catholic students ask, "Why do Catholics do this?" (bless themselves, genuflect etc.) Such questions lead all to a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

*The lessons are rich in Catholic teachings and easy to follow.

*Through an intense study of the Mysteries, students begin to think about how their lives reflect Jesus' example.

*The resources are attractive, stimulating and suitable for students – particularly the Virtues booklet used this year.

*They pray for each other with sincerity.

Several visitors regret that they have had to withdraw from the program due to personal health reasons, spousal health issues, new employment or job transfers. Therefore, we are in serious need of replacements and visitors for new schools. Volunteers visit the school a maximum of one half day per month (Oct. to May) and participate in 5 monthly 1½ hr. training meetings to prepare for subsequent lessons. They also help prepare and host a closing one half-day celebration in their home school in May.

This year we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Fatima where Our Blessed Mother appeared to three young children and asked the world to say the rosary daily. When people asked Padre Pio why he prayed 35 rosaries a day he said, "Our Lady has attached the greatest graces for our times to the rosary. If she recommended it wherever she appeared, don't you think there must be a special reason?" and "As my testament I tell you: Love Our Lady. Always recite the rosary! Carry the rosary in your pocket and in difficult moments squeeze it in your hands".

In my daily rosary, I pray that more volunteers will come forth. Please pray to Mother Mary and to God to discern whether God is calling YOU to this ministry. For more details contact your school to be directed to your Rosary Director or myself. ✕

Blessings to all!
Maria Fitzgerald
Diocesan Director



Lindsay/ Downeyville



Peterborough Region



St. John, St. Martin, Douro, Norwood, St. Patrick



St. Catherine, St. Alphonsus, Immaculate Conception, Msgr. Jamot

Parishioner at St. Joseph's, Bracebridge named chair of Catholic board

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board elects new chair, vice-chair

MUSKOKA — A familiar face is now the chair of Muskoka's Catholic School Board.

At a Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board meeting on Dec. 7, 2016, trustees elected local trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon as chair of the board and Maria Hardie as vice-chair.

Corriveau-Truchon represents Huntsville, Muskoka Lakes, Lake of Bays, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Georgian Bay and Parry Sound. She was elected to the board of trustees in 2010 and most recently served as vice-chair. Corriveau-Truchon resides in Bracebridge with her husband. The couple's four children went through the Catholic school board in Muskoka, all graduating from St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School in Bracebridge.

"I am deeply humbled and honoured to be elected as chair of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. I have learned a lot from Maria Hardie and I have enjoyed learning from her. I hope that I can grow into this new role with the same grace and strength that she has shown over the past three years," said Corriveau-Truchon. "We will face some challenges this year, especially with the respect to some of the necessary budget decisions we have made, but we will continue to celebrate God's family and be guided by our mission and vision statements."



Carol Corriveau-Truchon has served on Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board's board of trustees since 2010 and has mostly served as vice-chair. Corriveau-Truchon was elected as board chair at a board meeting on Dec. 7.

This article obtained from

<http://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/7010319-parry-sound-muskoka-trustee-named-chair-of-catholic-board/>

19 December 2016

Sacred Heart College – Breaking News



MEDIA RELEASE – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

MARCH 27, 2017

Peterborough, ON – Sacred Heart College's plan to be fully operating as a liberal arts university in the Catholic tradition in Peterborough may now be in jeopardy after the Diocese of Peterborough has learned that a local development company outbid the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough on the purchase of the current Monseigneur-Jamot school property on Romaine Street.

Sacred Heart College received in December 2016 the recommendation from the Minister for provincial approval to become a fully accredited university degree granting institution and had been moving ahead with its plan to purchase the École élémentaire catholique Monseigneur-Jamot, which was to be offered for sale by Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud. The Monseigneur-Jamot school property offered an opportunity to expand the College's current academic offerings and create a Sacred Heart College campus immediately adjacent to Sacred Heart Church and the Sacred Heart rectory.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough has spent the last 11 years working on this initiative after His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI encouraged His Excellency Nicola De Angelis, Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough, in September 2006 to establish a fully functioning liberal arts university in the Catholic tradition in Peterborough. Bishop De Angelis met with senior leaders from the local school boards including the previous Director of Education and Board Chair for the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud to collaborate and support each other's acquisition of school properties in the local community for educational purposes.

The French Catholic board felt compelled under revised provincial guidelines on the disposition of school properties to publicly list the property for sale. The offer from the Diocese of Peterborough was comparable to the offer by Paul Dietrich of Parkview Homes, however, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough's offer included cash and a Catholic community in-kind partnership component with the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud Board.

Apostolic Administrator, His Excellency Bishop McGrattan, comments. "This is a tremendous disappointment for Peterborough, our potential relationship with educational institutions, the university in the city and the Catholic community. We are astounded by this detrimental outcome for Sacred Heart College. The implications for the entire Catholic community both here in the diocese, the province of Ontario and beyond have yet to be fully understood."

Interim Principal, Fr. Joseph Devereaux echoes this sentiment saying, "I have been involved with the foundation of Sacred Heart College since it began some eleven years ago following Bishop DeAngelis' conversation with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in Rome. It has always been understood that the Diocese of Peterborough would purchase the Msgr. Jamot School Property when it was available for sale. The property was in the hands of the Church historically and we anticipated its return to the Church through this sale. I am shocked! It is sad that a school, which should remain a school, is going to be made over into apartments. We believe in young people and want to help them to achieve a great education. We are not deterred, but definitely disappointed."

The Sacred Heart College board of directors will need to consider the implications of this situation on its business plan for the post-secondary institution in consultation with the Diocese and the future bishop, His Excellency Most Rev. Daniel Mieh. As well, the possibility always exists for the province to intervene retaining the school property for educational purposes or for the developer to generously recognize the educational mission of Sacred Heart College and the importance of the property in its plans. Following those considerations and deliberations, the Roman Catholic Diocese will update local parish members as well as the broader community on the future of Sacred Heart College given this regrettable and unforeseen setback.

Media Contact: Deirdre Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop, Diocese of Peterborough, office - 705 745-5123 x 24; cellular - 705 872-6764.

MEDIA RELEASE

MARCH 28, 2017



SACRED HEART COLLEGE

CARITAS ET VERITAS

Sacred Heart College is pleased to announce that today it received the consent from the Assistant Deputy Minister, David Carter-Whitney under the authority of Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Deb Matthews to grant the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Catholic Studies.

Apostolic Administrator, His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop William McGrattan expressed his joy at hearing this news, "This success is due to the Board members, donors, educators, priests, religious and the faithful who led and accompanied Sacred Heart College throughout the accreditation process. The strength of their conviction and dedication will ensure the success of Sacred Heart College in this degree program area and in the expansion of learning programs in the future."

This sentiment was echoed by Prof. Thomas Symons, currently Chair of Sacred Heart College Board of Directors, who joined with Bishop De Angelis after the Bishop was encouraged by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to found a College, "I have always thought of this as a noble endeavour and this thought has been affirmed time and time again. The Letter of Consent is one more measure which affirms the strength and vitality of Sacred Heart College for the community of Peterborough."

Interim Principal, Fr. Joseph Devereaux states, "This is a hopeful affirming sign which enlivens our commitment and determination to further the College and to ensure its success for generations of students now and in the future. This is excellent news which reflects upon the dedication of Board members, donors and educators who have come together to support the process towards accreditation."

"Arriving at the point of Ministerial Consent to grant a degree is an incredible milestone for Sacred Heart College. As of today, the academic landscape in Peterborough has expanded to include a brand new Honours degree in Catholic Studies giving more program choices to students and a new program avenue to pursue liberal arts studies in Peterborough.", says Dr. Robin Lathangue, Dean of Studies.

On the occasion of being granted this status, Sacred Heart has received congratulations wishes from educational partners:

"We are very pleased to hear that Sacred Heart College will be offering a one-of-a-kind Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Catholic Studies. This new venture will serve our community well. We will now have a Catholic post-secondary institution in our own backyard for our students and our entire Catholic learning community."

- Michelle Griepsma, Chairperson, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board and Sacred Heart College Board Member

"When I think of the new opportunity opening up to students at Sacred Heart College, one word comes to mind – tradition. The tradition of Catholic intellectual study has long and deep roots in Canada. This type of scholarly engagement with Catholicism will offer life-long rewards for students and we look forward to the success of this program."

- Michael Nasello, Director of Education
Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic District School Board

"On behalf of all of the educators in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, I wish to extend congratulations to Sacred Heart College on this important recognition, and express our appreciation for the additional post-secondary opportunities that are being made available to students. I also want to congratulate my friend, former Bishop De Angelis for his past work in making this a reality."

- Rusty Hick, Director of Education
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Sacred Heart College Executive and Board of Directors will meet to consider the Letter of Consent and the next steps for the acquisition of a property for the campus site.

Media Contact: Deirdre Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop, Diocese of Peterborough, office - 705 745-5123 x 24; cellular - 705 872-6764.

PRIEST BENEFIT FUND

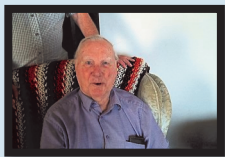


PRIEST BENEFIT FUND

The purpose of the Priest Benefit Fund is to ensure that the retired and sick priests of the diocese receive financial benefits each month to supplement the federal pension and to provide a basic health insurance plan.

The Diocese supports priests in retirement or those on sick leave every month through your generosity.

Your help is needed to support the annual Diocesan Priest Benefit Fund collection during the month of June and to increase donations throughout the year. We also ask you to consider supporting the Priest Benefit Fund financially through your financial planning and/or the designation of your estate.



WHY NOW?

The Priest Benefit Fund is currently underfunded by 50% * given the current and projected number of diocesan priests who will retire. Additionally, as they age, some priests experience illness which prevents full active ministry. Therefore, the stewardship of this fund is essential and must be a priority for the Diocese and its faithful in supporting our priests.

* Based on a 2016 actuarial financial study.

GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME



“Our retired priests and those who are burdened with illness have been generous shepherds through their many years of dedicated pastoral service within our Diocese. They celebrated significant moments of faith for you and for the parish communities they served. They also continue to do so today as their health permits and through their daily commitment of prayer. Your annual and ongoing financial support for our Priest Benefit Fund allows the diocese to financially assist priests in their time of illness and years of retirement.”

**Most Reverend
Bishop D. Miehm, D.D.**

PRIEST BENEFIT FUND

HOW TO HELP

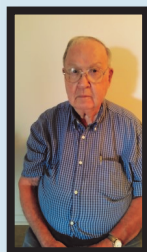
- Contributing to the Priest Benefit Fund collection in June annually;
- Remembering the Priest Benefit Fund in your Will;
- Making the Priest Benefit Fund a beneficiary of a registered retirement savings plan; a registered retirement income fund; a life insurance policy and/or a transfer of stocks and securities.

For more information, check the website at
www.peterboroughdiocese.org
to donate online or call the
Chancellor of Temporal Affairs at 705-745-5123

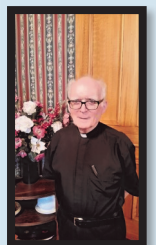
Contact Us

Diocese of Peterborough - Priest Benefit Fund
350 Hunter Street West
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6Y8

Visit us on the web to donate online:
www.peterboroughdiocese.org



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PETERBOROUGH





FROM THE PEW

David Beresford

Food for Thought

“What I really would like for Easter this year is some pickled eggs,” I said to my wife Theresa. “I had these up at a hunt camp about ten years ago, and they were great. We never seem to have pickled eggs in the house, everyone else I know does.”

“Who, for instance?” Theresa asked. She is sharp, that one.

“Well, I can’t think of anyone right of the top of my head. But that is not my point! My point is that we never have pickled eggs in the house, and they are a good source of protein. They go well with beer, and they are good for you,” I argued.

“OK, I’ll make you some.” Theresa said.

“Pickled eggs are under-rated, and they are easy to make. They are filled with protein, a real health food. There is nothing as nice as pickled eggs on a cold day after being outside working hard ...”

“I said I will make you some. For this weekend in fact. I have lots of eggs, and all I need is some vinegar.” Theresa said.

“Great! I’ll look up some old recipes” I offered.

This was going to be wonderful. I had fond memories of eating pickled eggs on canoe trips and on hunting and fishing trips.

There are few people I know of who are better at finding old recipes than I am. I have lots of cook books which I have collected over the years. I leave these around the house in a suggestive fashion with bookmarks placed for Theresa at particularly good recipes. In one book, there is a recipe for pig kidneys that sounded delicious, so I tried my luck again – things had gone so well with the pickled eggs.

“Oh, and do you think we could

have some pig kidneys, too? I saved the kidneys from our pigs last year, I think they would be the perfect thing to go with the pickled eggs.”

“Sure” said Theresa. How about this Saturday?

I could not believe my good fortune! I figured I would be able to get the pickled eggs, but I did not expect success with the kidneys. Theresa is as good or better a cook as anyone I know, but there are things she is prejudiced against. About twenty years ago I caught a nice big snapping turtle, and, according to my book on camp craft, snapping turtles make a wonderful stew. I prepared it, and gave Theresa a bowl with a pile of snapping turtle meat. She refused to touch it so I tried to cook it myself. I find my cooking tastes best if I am very hungry, and I guess I was not hungry enough; the

turtle meat tasted like rotten sardines with the texture of a used paintbrush.

Anyway, Theresa will cook anything as long as it looks like food, but it has to look like it came from a butcher with all the obvious animal stuff removed.

Cookbooks always make everything seem so appetizing. I have a book on harvesting wild plants that says, “Unripe green cattail heads can be cooked like corn on the cob; boil or roast and serve with lots of butter and salt.” Maybe cattail head *can* be cooked like corn on the cob, but that is where any similarly ends. Have you even eaten a towel? Or a winter coat? They too can be cooked like corn on the cob and served with butter and salt, and frankly they taste better than cattail heads.

We have also tried pig’s feet, which Theresa cooked as a special favour to

me. A pig’s feet spend a lot of time, when they are still on the pig, running through barnyards and manure. In such an environment, it is perhaps not unexpected that they would acquire some of the flavour of a barnyard. The books do mention this, but they also assure the reader that scrubbing the feet and changing the water will eliminate any strong flavours. I can assure you from experience that this is incorrect – the strong flavours remain to dominate the senses, pushing through any amount of vinegar.

But this, this was going to be different! Pigs feet, ok, cattails and snapping turtles, what did I expect? But everyone knows pickled eggs are a perfect accompaniment to kidneys.

Saturday came, and there in front of me was a pile of pickled eggs, a plate filled with sliced kidneys and fried onions.

Funny how these things always seem to taste better in my imagination! ✠

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.



Young musicians in Peterborough ready to ring in new season



Sacred Heart Children's Choir and Ringers

A new season is about to begin for young Peterborough bell-ringers and singers.

The youth ringers at Sacred Heart Church are starting a new season of music, outfitted with handbells newly-purchased from a private school in Newmarket by a parents' committee. Although the bells are already in Peterborough, a fundraising initiative is underway.

While that takes place, children from the area will be practicing in two groups on Fridays and Saturdays.

The group was among the choirs featured at the recent Community Carol Sing at the Salvation Army.

Also, last year local families hosted young musicians from Quebec, the United States and France, and the choir became the

second group in English Canada to be admitted to the international Catholic music organization, *Pueri Cantores*. The choir also won a trophy and a scholarship at their first appearance in the city's Kiwanis Music Festival.

This year, the choir is planning a trip to Trois Rivieres, Quebec at the invitation of *Pueri Cantores Canada* to sing at their annual meeting.

Membership in the bell-ringers/singers choir is free and new members are always welcome.

If interested, contact director Randy Mills through the group's Facebook page — Sacred Heart Children's Choir and Ringers.



Join us for the first annual
Saint Joseph Dinner
Supporting Campus Ministry
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Featuring guest speaker:
Father Eric Mason
&
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 contact Father John Perdue
vocations@peterboroughdiocese.org
705.874.1871



Building a Culture of Vocations

by Fr. John Perdue



I am excited to report that the Holy See has announced that the next Synod of Bishops, scheduled for 2018, will focus on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.”

Many will remember that the last Synod of Bishops focused on the family. Now, the universal Church turns her attention toward the accompaniment of young people in the development of their faith and the discernment of their vocations. I am very hopeful that this Synod will provide the opportunity for a rooted and forward-thinking renewal in vocations ministry here in Canada.

To give an idea of what the Synod hopes to accomplish, the preparatory document can be accessed on the Vatican’s website. (http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20170113_documento-preparatorio-xv_en.html) Here, you will read that the Church turns her attention toward this topic in order to ask “how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love.” What a wonderful question to ask ourselves! How can we lead our young people to believe and to accept that what Jesus Christ and His Church offers each of us – what our Vocation offers each of us – is the “fullness of life and love”?

Since I began in vocations ministry, I have longed to see more of our young people find the joy that comes from living the fullness of the Christian life and of answering God’s call to a profound gift of self. Please join me in praying that the attention given to this topic at such a high level in the Church will occasion a deeper reflection on the joy of vocations at the level of the Bishops of Canada, within the Diocese of Peterborough and in the homes of our families.

While we await the reflections and opportunities that will arise from this forthcoming Synod, there is much work to be done here in Peterborough. By God’s grace and supported by your prayers, the Vocations Office continues to sow good seeds and to pray for a rich harvest. I would like to take the opportunity to update you on some of the work being done, to invite your prayerful support of these initiatives and to ask you to consider encouraging your children or grandchildren to get involved.

The Saint John Paul II House of Discernment continues to be a centre for spiritual growth and vocational discernment. There are two men living with me at JP II House and discerning the possibility that they may be called to the priesthood. It has been a personally enriching experience to assist young men who are courageous enough to open their hearts to this question, and I believe the residents’ spiritual lives are

deepening through community prayer, thoughtful conversations, study and leisure. Paul Joseph Gordon, who has lived at JP II House since September, has graciously written a reflection on his experience, which is shared in this edition of the *Herald*. We are now beginning to seek residents for JP II House for September 2017. Please encourage any young men

you know (18–35) to consider living for a year at JP II House and discerning the possibility that they may be called to the joy of the priesthood. Find out more at www.ptbovocations.ca/jp2

Because the work of promoting vocational awareness cannot be limited to a one-man job, I continue to encourage and support several Parish Vocation Teams (PVTs) that have sprung up throughout the Diocese. Guided by the book *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* (www.vocationministry.com), these teams work at the parish level to create a culture of vocations. This is

continued on p. 25

Young people!
See Pope Francis’ letter to you,
next page.



Formation at the JP II House can involve playing pool.

**LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREPARATORY DOCUMENT
OF THE 15th ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS**

My Dear Young People,

I am pleased to announce that in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment." I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the Preparatory Document is being presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your "compass" on this synodal journey.

I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." (Gen 12.1). These words are now also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to "go", to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.

When God said to Abram, "Go!", what did he want to say? He certainly did not say to distance himself from his family or withdraw from the world. Abram received a compelling invitation, a challenge, to leave everything and go to a new land. What is this "new land" for us today, if not a more just and friendly society which you, young people, deeply desire and wish to build to the very ends of the earth?

But unfortunately, today, "Go!" also has a different meaning, namely, that of abuse of power, injustice and war. Many among you are subjected to the real threat of violence and forced to flee their native land. Their cry goes up to God, like that of Israel, when the people were enslaved and oppressed by Pharaoh (cf. Ex 2:23).

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher [...] where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see" (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Dear young people, have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness. This will be possible to the extent that, even with professional guides, you will learn how to undertake a journey of discernment to discover God's plan in your life. Even when the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

In Krakow, at the opening of the last World Youth Day, I asked you several times: "Can we change things?" And you shouted: "yes!". That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves! Even when you feel, like the prophet Jeremiah, the inexperience of youth, God encourages you to go where He sends you: "Do not be afraid, [...], because I am with you to deliver you" (Jer 1:8).

A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity. Do not be afraid to listen to the Spirit who proposes bold choices; do not delay when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master. The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best." (Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3).

Such is the case, even in the journey of this Synod. My brother bishops and I want even more to "work with you for your joy" (2 Cor 1:24). I entrust you to Mary of Nazareth, a young person like yourselves, whom God beheld lovingly, so she might take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God's call with the words: "Here I am" (cf. Lk 1:38).

With paternal affection,

FRANCIS

Given at the Vatican, 13 January 2017

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2017/documents/papa-francesco_20170113_lettera-giovani-doc-sinodo.html
(23 March 2017)



Parish Vocation Teams, in the Cathedral, 2016



Fleming College Catholics

Life at the Saint John Paul II House of Discernment

by P.J. Gordon

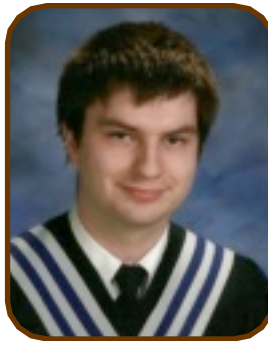
Living at the Saint John Paul II House of Discernment has been a great asset to my vocation. John Paul II House gives me the opportunity for more prayer and reflection and to study in preparation to enter the seminary. While living as a community, we strive to grow deeper in our Catholic faith through the Eucharist, sacraments, manual labor, spiritual direction and studies.

A typical day at JP II house begins with Mass in the morning, followed by a holy hour and Benediction, either immediately after Mass or sometime in the evening depending on our schedule. We usually have breakfast together and go about our duties i.e. work, studies, events, etc.

Dinner together and prayer are important to our community life. Our prayers include the Rosary, the Angelus, as well as Morning and Evening Prayer. Discussions with Fr. John are always interesting.

Rest and relaxation are also part of JP II House. Whether it is playing the guitar, attending nearby youth events or even just chilling out on the sofa, time here is very well spent.

Living at a house of discernment gives one a taste of what lies ahead, should one decide to enter the seminary. For myself, this involves entrusting my life to Our Lady, and prayerfully trying to follow God's plan for me. I warmly encourage any young men out there to consider making an application to JP II House by contacting Father John.



accomplished through four types of activities: Prayer; Awareness (raising awareness about vocations); Affirmation (affirming those who have already said 'yes' to their vocation); and Youth Activities. Some of the activities these PVTs have already undertaken are truly wonderful and the work of God; Holy Hours, weekly parish blurbs on vocations, vocation panels, and more. Parish Vocation Teams are empowered for their work by means of a fall and a spring workshop each year, where PVT members are refreshed and given the opportunity to share ideas. Please consider joining your Parish Vocation Team or starting one in your parish with the support of your pastor and with my help. Contact me for details.

I am pleased to say that the Vocations Office has launched a new website, located at www.ptbovocations.ca. Please check it out! There you will find links to great vocation discernment resources, updates on events, links to the Vocations Office social media platforms, and more! Mark this as one of your favourite websites and watch for great videos and articles in the future. Many thanks to Jonathan Berlinger, who has graciously offered his time to help with the administration of the website. Through the website, you will also find a link to the latest *Fisher of Men* episode, where I target lake trout in Muskoka and teach about the need for prayer in our daily lives.

Catholic Chaplaincy at Trent University and Sir Sanford Fleming College continues to go well. I am very proud of the students involved with chaplaincy at both locations. At Fleming College, Holy



Peterborough Diocese vs. St. Augustine's Seminary

Mass is offered every other week and advertised through our student group, the Fleming College Catholics. Great ideas are being shared among our members about how to reach out to international students and students in residence. At Trent, the Catholic Council of Trent undertook an advertising campaign to welcome Catholics back for Ash Wednesday services on campus, which led to encounters with approximately 25 new students, who were all given information about the Catholic Council of Trent and invited to get involved. Also, through chaplaincy at Trent, we are running small group faith studies called 'Discovery,' which have been developed and used successfully by CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach), a university missionary organization founded in 1989. Based on our initial success, we have high hopes for the expansion of CCO Faith Studies in the 2017–2018 academic year. Because there is no designated source of income to support university and college chaplaincy, I and a team of generous volunteers have organized the 1st Annual Saint Joseph Dinner in support of campus ministry. This will take place immediately after Easter, on April 18th at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough. If you miss it this year, come next year and support our university and college students.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the executive members of the student groups at Trent and Fleming, as well as those involved with CCO Faith Studies and the Catholic teachers' stream at Trent, for making this a wonderful year for campus ministry.

There are many other wonderful initiatives that have come together through the efforts of volunteers connected to the Vocations Office.

- A large group of young men from Peterborough attended this year's Ordinandi Dinner in Toronto;
- we hosted a fun and meaningful hockey game between young men from our Diocese and the seminarians from St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough;
- the last Carpenter's Cup high school men's discernment retreat was deeply

Forthcoming Ordination of Stephen DeCarlo

We announce with great joy that Stephen DeCarlo has been called to Holy Orders. He will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on Sunday, May 7th at the 9 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Peterborough. Congratulations to Stephen and his family, and to all who have played a part in his formation, particularly the clergy and parishioners of Sacred Heart, his home parish, and to St. Joseph's Bowmanville, his internship parish. Please keep Stephen in your prayers, and please plan to attend this joyful event for our diocese!



At the Ordinandi Dinner

- meaningful and a lot of fun;
 - monthly adult men's and women's discernment groups continue to go very well and are networking discerning Catholics;
 - preparations for this year's Way of the Cross are going wonderfully.
- Pictures of some of these initiatives are included.



Carpenter's Cup, Feb. 3-5, 2017

I wish to say a special thank you to all who have registered to pray for vocations through the Saint Joseph Vocation Society. I sincerely appreciate your prayers and I am convinced that they are bearing fruit. If you have not done so, please register to pray for vocations by visiting www.ptbovocations.ca/vocationsociety. Also, a special word of thanks to the men and women who have served on the Diocesan Vocations Council for the past two years; Sister Chiara Anotado, DML, Mother Parousia, SSVM, Mary Marrocco, Valentina Berlingeri, Fr. Roy Villas, Frank and Francis Doyle, Angus Leahy and Dave Graham. These people have been a real support to me in my ministry and deserve a great deal of gratitude. Their term is soon ending, so if anyone reading this is interested in becoming a member of the Diocesan Vocations Council, please contact me.

Thank you for your interest in vocations, for your prayers, and for taking the time to read this article. God bless you and God bless our diocese.

Father John Perdue
Director of Vocations
Diocese of Peterborough

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Facebook: /PTBOVocations
Twitter: @PTBO_Vocations



**Mark your calendars
and invite your family and friends
to these upcoming events
hosted by the Vocations Office**

May 5-7

The Sisters in Christ High School Women's Discernment Retreat

The Sisters in Christ retreat brings together high school aged young women for meaningful talks, great discussion and one or two surprise events as well! The next retreat will be held May 5-7 at the George Vari Women's residence of Sacred Heart College in Peterborough. To get more information or to register, visit www.ptbovocations.ca/sic

August 22-27

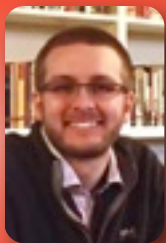
Young Men's Discernment Retreat (18-35 yrs)

Come and spend some time in peace and prayer in beautiful Muskoka. Hosted at a landmark mission church overlooking Lake Rosseau, this retreat gives young men an opportunity to think and pray about their Vocation and to hear meaningful talks about the spiritual life and discernment. If men are able, they can come from August 22-25 for days of fraternity and relaxation. The formal retreat begins August 25 and lasts until Sunday Mass on the 27th. Those who can't get time off work can come for the weekend only. Contact Father John if you are interested.

August 27

The Vianney Fair

The Vianney Fair is an annual family-friendly Vocations fair. Children's games, face painting, swimming and live music make for a wonderful afternoon. Booths will be set up by Religious Orders from throughout Ontario and beyond, highlighting and celebrating religious life and encouraging young people and families to interact with consecrated men and women. This year's Vianney Fair will take place Sunday August 27th at the home of Paschal and Sylvia McCloskey. Contact Father John for more information.



BOOK REVIEW

**Stephen
Retallick**

Mother Angelica a biography

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016, as the Church celebrated Christ's triumph over the grave, Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation went to be with the Lord. The Poor Clare nun, former abbess and foundress of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), died from complications following a massive stroke she endured on December 24, 2001. It's hard to imagine the immense suffering, both physical and spiritual, Mother Angelica endured during that 15-year period, especially the later years when she was confined to her bed.

In his book, *Mother Angelica: Her Grand Silence*, Raymond Arroyo, close friend and faithful biographer, provides insight into Mother's life following the stroke. He also includes anecdotes from her early life, previously untold mystical experiences, encounters with the devil, struggles within her religious community, and much more.

Due to the stroke, Mother Angelica's speech and mobility had become quite limited. "Suddenly reading her beloved Scriptures became a chore. She could no longer find the words to teach lessons to her nuns, and the hope of overseeing the construction of new contemplative houses seemed beyond reach." With the abbess incapacitated, the running of the monastery fell to her vicar, Sister Catherine. She was respected by the younger nuns, but "... some of the older nuns began voicing concerns about the direction of things." In May 2009, an election was held to select a new vicar. Sister Margaret Mary, one of the senior nuns who had challenged Sister Catherine's leadership, was elected. Soon after, when the new vicar had decided that there would be no new foundations established, several nuns sent a letter to Rome "questioning the

validity of [her] election." Ultimately, Rome upheld the outcome, though that wouldn't be the end of the turmoil at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. What a trying time it must have been for Mother Angelica, especially dealing with the endless "cloister gossip".

Of the book's six chapters, chapter 3, "The Mystic of Hanceville" is particularly intriguing. As the title would suggest, Mother had a number of Divine encounters – even at a young age. On one occasion, when she was living in Canton, Ohio, Rita Rizzo – as she was then known – was crossing the street to catch the bus one day when "a vehicle bore down on her. It was so close, she didn't know whether to run forward or back. With no time to clear the vehicle's path, she froze in fear and closed her eyes. 'All of a sudden, it felt as if two hands under my arms picked me up ... [a]nd

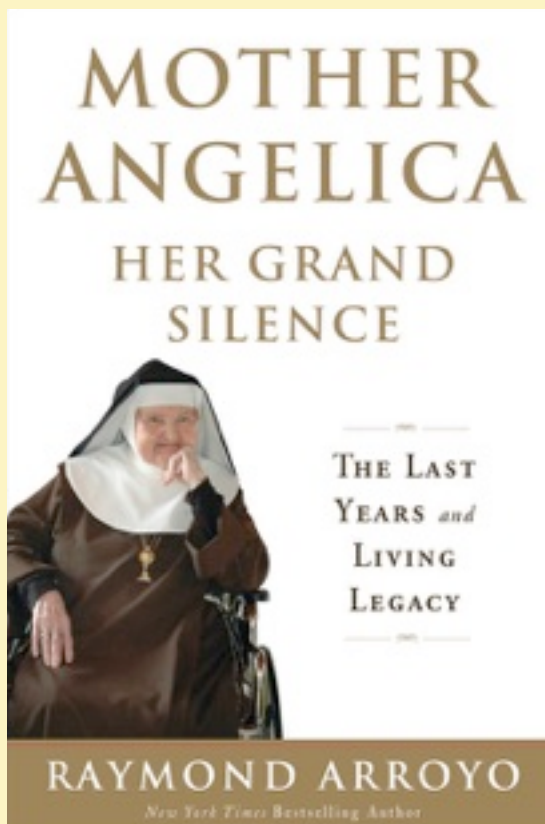
[they] put me on the island where the cars were parked.' Eyewitnesses said it was 'a miracle,' they had never seen 'somebody jump so high before.'"

Mother's sanctity would be further recognized with letters "... from people who assert[ed] that [she had] visited them in a moment of distress. A letter from a girl in South America suggested that she clearly saw Mother Angelica at the foot of her bed one night. A truck driver, who was at a low point in his life, wrote that Mother Angelica appeared in the cab of his rig, on the seat next to him, as he was driving one evening."

Mother would have further mystical experiences throughout her life. "An appearance by Saint Michael on a Vandiver, Alabama, mountaintop in 1990 convinced Mother that she had found the perfect spot to build a shortwave radio facility." When she was visiting a shrine in Bogotá, Columbia, in 1996, "... the statue of the Divino Niño [i.e., the Divine Child Jesus] came to life and

instructed her to build Him 'a temple.'" She was even visited by the devil – or "the Enemy", as she would call him – on several occasions as well. How frightening!

Mother Angelica experienced pain and suffering throughout her life. From stomach ailments, severe bouts of asthma, heart attacks, infections, spinal injuries and strokes, redemptive suffering was a concept Mother understood all too well. She once said, "That's how God works ... [s]ometimes it takes more than prayer ... it takes



great suffering.” Of course, the worst of the suffering came in the last years of her life. “Whether I am suffering in a physical, mental, or spiritual manner, I resemble Jesus at those moments – and the Father looks at us in our pain and He sees His Son in the most beautiful way. That’s what makes you holy. Don’t rebel.” She further said, “Our pain only has meaning when we unite it, out of love, to the suffering of Christ.”

Charity was a virtue Mother Angelica understood and modeled. “[She] had a sincere love and concern for the forgotten, the marginalized, the ignored, the abused – wounded people like her.” On one occasion, “... an older couple visiting Our Lady of the Angels Monastery chatted with Mother about the new studio she was constructing at the time. Mother patiently answered their questions but was more concerned about their nourishment. Taking pity on them, she packed sandwiches and bananas ... so they would have something to eat on the long drive back to Florida. Only later did it become apparent that [the couple] didn’t really need Mother’s charity. They were actually quite wealthy and ran a philanthropic foundation. In gratitude for Mother’s kindness, [they] would later contribute \$150,000 to complete EWTN’s studio.” On another occasion, “A woman ... wrote Mother Angelica requesting prayers when she and her son were left without income or furniture by a runaway spouse. Having personal experience with that situation as a child, Mother assured the woman of her prayers and sent along rent money as well as a delivery of new furniture.”

It’s undeniable the impact Mother Angelica had on countless lives. “Due to the reach of her cable network [EWTN], Mother was able to touch people in various states of life, some in unimaginable circumstances. A surprising number of her viewers knew nothing about Catholicism or even Christianity.” This is witnessed by the numerous letters Mother received from those struggling with various forms of addiction who were on their path to recovery, hardened atheists who had converted to Catholicism, those in emotional distress, among others.

Mother Angelica died as she lived, surrounded by the love and affection of the nuns of her community and the love and blessing of her Beloved Jesus. May she enjoy the fruit of her labours with God in paradise.

Arroyo chronicles the final chapter of Mother Angelica’s life in this touching and intimate account of a “spunky” nun who touched lives and souls in the United States and around the world; a nun who relied entirely on Divine Providence and whose mission was only to do God’s Will. Years prior, Mother Angelica made Arroyo “promise to ‘tell the full story’ of her life.” He does that and more, expanding on his extensive biography, *Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve, and a Network of Miracle* (2007), with details from final interviews with Mother Angelica, nuns from her community, and others. This is a book I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to read.

For anyone who hasn’t watched *Mother Angelica Live*, I invite you to watch episodes on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/EWTN>). Mother’s wisdom, humour and love of God will invigorate your life and faith. ✠

Stephen and his wife Cynthia live in Peterborough.



*Happy
Easter
one
and
all*



REFLECTIONS

Donald Graham

Morality & Natural Law

At the dinner table, driving the car, in conversation with family, around the staffroom table, at Tim Horton's, on Facebook, in a text message, suddenly the other shoe drops. Yet again, we find ourselves beset by a moral dilemma because 'we live in interesting times.' We hear the news, talk to a neighbour, visit a blog and disquieting reports multiply that Catholic moral teaching is changing or has changed. But, my friends, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the same, today, yesterday and tomorrow (Heb 13:8).

In the next number of columns, I will offer a few thoughts concerning the Catholic Church's view of morality, natural law, freedom, conscience, conscience formation and conversion. While these topics resist easy treatment, hopefully my reflections (re) acquaint us with saving, timely truths and remind us of the ground upon which we stand.

Today many navigate the sea of moral decision-making according to the compass of feelings. Weighed on the scales of reason, emotions can contribute to mature moral decision-making, but only if they open us to reality, not if they reduce reality to ourselves. For authentic Catholic morality is passionately concerned about the whole person's place considered in context of the real.

Yes, understanding Catholic morality involves the revelatory Ten Commandments, Kingdom blueprints like the Beatitudes and heroes like the saints, all of which manifest God's desire that we live and not die, now and hereafter. In Catholic thought, morality pertains to all which gracefully promotes or sinfully frustrates individual and societal flourishing in Christ.

Now, moral behaviour is constituted by human acts of will, intelligence, intuition, passion and imagination. For good or ill, these human acts shape our habits, our ways of being, our patterns of living, our histories, our institutions, our cultures and our social ways of imagining: they conform or oppose the truth of our being and our vocation to communion with God in Christ. This truth and vocation is perfectly embodied by Jesus Christ, exemplified by the saints, articulated in magisterial teaching, understood (albeit imperfectly) by the light of reason and (if we are blessed) codified in the laws of our land. In short, Catholic morality concerns human acts that burnish or deface God's image and likeness in ourselves and our societies.



There are different ways to approach the issue, but two views of morality cast a long shadow across modernity. C.S. Lewis contrasts these views in *The Abolition of Man*. Initially, he presents the modern view of moral values as "mere natural phenomena . . . to be produced in the pupil as part of [his] conditioning" by elites who emancipate themselves from nature in their quest to engineer a new humanity. Then, he presents the traditional view of ancients like Confucius, Socrates, Buddha and Jesus.¹ According to Lewis, these sages introduce the young to "a norm to which the teachers themselves were subject and from which they claimed no liberty to

depart [grounded as it were in] . . . the mystery of humanity which overarches him and them alike." In short, Lewis refers to natural law.

We might add Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. to C.S. Lewis' list. Gandhi adamantly opposed contraception as a violation of natural law. In his celebrated *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, King drew directly upon St. Thomas Aquinas' interpretation of natural law to challenge the evils of racism ingrained in society and reflected in civil law.

Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law, or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality.³

¹ Others approximate the moral law of which Christ is both author and perfect embodiment.

² C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man* (New York, NY: Touchstone, 1944), 71.

³ Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, 3; accessed 2 March 2017 at: http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf.

In an appendix, Lewis lists many cross-cultural, religious, political and literary examples of the duty to care for all human beings, special groups, parents, elders, ancestors, children and posterity, and to cultivate the virtues of justice, good faith, truth-telling and mercy.⁴ In this way, Lewis shows how the natural law is part of a universal, verifiable heritage of great civilizations. A vigorous argument can be mounted that its most eminent expounder and defender is the Catholic Church. But can we be more precise about what this natural law 'is'?

First let us clear up common confusions. The terms 'natural law' or 'moral law' refer neither to an instinct embedded in the human species by physical necessity, nor the physical laws of the universe (like the law of gravity), nor the orderliness of the human mind, nor the design and harmony of the universe. Rather, Catholic tradition defines the natural or moral law as the human person's participation through reasoning in God's eternal law, which is imprinted on our hearts and which testifies to, and guides us in moral decision-making. At the Second Council of Arles in France (473 AD), a priest indicated the preciousness of this moral law by characterizing it as "the first grace of God prior to the coming of Christ".

At a time when many politicians legislate moral matters according to polls, when people decide life issues according to the sea swell of emotions, when social elites

mandate Orwellian double-speak *contra* reality, it is good to remind ourselves that God's eternal law is, to an extent, accessible to human reasoning, embodied in the mores of past civilizations, luminously revealed in the Ten Commandments and definitively and authoritatively interpreted by the Catholic Church. Next time, I will explore the mysterious realities of human freedom and conscience, over and against this Catholic view of morality and natural law. ✠

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).

⁴ Lewis, 91-109.

Catechesis of The Good Shepherd

guest column by Susan Perna

Two places; Lindsay, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta are connected. They are 3,524 km apart. One is a large bustling western metropolis and the other is a smaller eastern city. What could they possibly have in common?

In February 2016, I flew to Calgary to lead the Level I course with Heather Lampman of Winnipeg. We worked with Linda Funk from Saskatchewan, Sister Bibiana Ikwun from St. Boniface and over two dozen adults from the local Calgary parishes and schools. Two more women flew in from Ottawa to join this opportunity. Many people were involved from many places, but Lindsay is not part of this picture...yet.

Last November, in Calgary, we completed Level I, Part II and that same weekend we also enjoyed three guest speakers at our CGSAC National Gathering. Carol Scarratt, with 30+ years of Montessori expertise, spoke on "Normalization" and the need for purposeful work. Some Lindsay connections started to surface when Bishop Fred Henry and Fr. Jerome Lavigne talked about knowing Bishop William McGrattan at St. Peter's Seminary in London. I mentioned how

Bishop McGrattan is very supportive of the Level I course and growth of atria in Lindsay and across his Diocese of Peterborough, which is my home diocese. The theme of purposeful work was on our minds, in our hearts and apparently already in God's plans.

In Calgary, Al Gerritsen, a devoted, expert woodworker, built the model of the City of Jerusalem for their Atrium at Canadian Martyr's Parish. I asked if Al could make an extra one for a new atrium starting in Lindsay. He did and I packed it in my suitcase and flew home. The model of Jerusalem was a seed that literally flew from Calgary to Lindsay.

I returned to Lindsay to continue on the Level I course, at St. Mary's Parish. Participants came from across my diocese as well as two women from Montreal, three from Toronto, and two from London. I unpacked the City of Jerusalem and set it aside. The associate pastor Fr. Eric Mason and Sue Reid were admiring the material and I asked them if they might know someone who could help finish painting the roadways, rivers and gardens.

Fr. Eric asked his youth group to help and they said, "yes". Not only was the



Al Gerritsen in his workshop, Calgary



Model of Jerusalem, Lindsay

City of Jerusalem finished but also these youth talked and asked questions about this city that none of them have seen in person. From this work and enthusiasm, Fr. Eric formed a new group known as *Ora et Labora*. These teenagers made



Fr. Eric Mason and Ora et Labora, Lindsay

shelving, sanded and varnished the units built to hold the Infancy Narrative boxes. They asked for more work. They are now making the Evangelical Maxims of Jesus Christ and preparing for their own Sacrament of Reconciliation for this Easter. Fr. Eric is enthusiastic about providing opportunities for “this purposeful work” and says “it is much better than just trying to entertain the group”.

In the first week of January, it was announced that Bishop McGrattan, our bishop, was to be the next bishop of Calgary. Thanks to Salt and Light TV in Toronto, people all across Canada, The Diocese of Peterborough and my family could watch his installation, live on Monday Feb 27.

During this live viewing, I saw my Calgary host family, Lili Szakony and her daughter Viola, singing in the choir! After the Mass, Bishop McGrattan met the the Szakony family and their conversation connected Lili, as a CGS lead catechist in the west, to their new bishop from the east.

We got the City of Jerusalem and all the joy of finishing this material and Calgary got our bishop. We have experienced opportunities, seeds sown, and connections grown. Now, Calgary and Lindsay are linked in many ways.

I wonder just what, “one more thing” God might ask us to do? God has a plan and I delight and trust in all His works.



Bishop McGrattan inspects Artium, Calgary

Years ago, Barb O'Rourke flew home this very large statue of The Good Shepherd from a vacation in St. Martin (French Caribbean). The statue sat on the floor in the entrance of her home in South River. Since there is very little space in our tiny church, St. Augustine's, Barb held prayer meetings and social events in her home. Every time I came to Barb's home, I admired the statue. Time after time it made my heart stop and I felt great peace.

Last August, it was time for Barb to pack and get ready to move to her new home in North Bay. She asked me if I would like to have her statue and I whole heartedly said, "Yes!" It now sits at the entrance of my home on Lake Bernard and I take with me to The Catechesis Of The Good Shepherd courses and events across the country.

On behalf of the children and adults across Canada, thank you Barb for sharing your gift!

— Susan Perna, Formation Director, Catechesis of The Good Shepherd, Canada,



Please visit the website of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at www.cgsac.ca

Qualities of a Dynamic Dad

by Luke Procter

In the Fall 2016 issue of the *Herald*, I discussed regular communication, the first of what I consider four signs of a dynamic dad. To refresh, I proposed these four signs, based loosely on Matthew Kelly's book *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, as signs of a dynamic dad:

- Regular Communication
- Educate Yourself
- Generosity
- Radiate the Joys of Fatherhood

I compared the necessity of regular prayer for a Catholic with a father's need for regular communication with his spouse and children. I also gave some examples of how effective regular communication can be achieved in your own family. This time I would like to expound on the second of these signs: the education of yourself in the art of fatherhood.

2. Educate Yourself

First, I would like to explain what I'm *not* saying. I do not mean that a good father needs to have years of formal education, a degree, or letters after his name. (As one Catholic speaker said, it doesn't matter in the end how many letters you have after your name, but that you have two letters in front of your name: St.) While formal education is great, and very valuable, it is not an indication of excellence in fatherhood.

Education, in the sense that I mean it, refers to learning how to be a great father. It is not a skill set one necessarily has naturally, although some men are gifted with this ability. I maintain that it is a learned skill to raise up children, like most things in life. Even the greatest priests, hockey players and writers have had to learn and hone their skills. It is also something at which you must continue to work throughout life.

Matthew Kelly informs us that education in the Catholic faith is a sign of an engaged Catholic. This learning can be accomplished in a variety of ways and methods that can be tailored to any and every way of life. Likewise, the skills required to be an excellent dad can be learned through a variety of methods and from a variety of sources.

One source of learning is fathering groups. One aspect of my work with the Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre is facilitating a Dads' Group for the Centre's male clientele, where we discuss all varieties of challenges facing fathers today. Peer groups like this are excellent, especially for

new fathers, as all the members are dads already or are preparing for the birth of their first child. I have found the dads in my group are very open and eager to share their challenges and successes. They can also be a source of reassurance in times of distress and anxiety. You can create your own fathering group in your parish or among your friends. All you need to begin are three or four like-minded dads willing to get together on a regular basis.

Some groups may be more structured, such as through an Early Years Centre or other government-sponsored program. These groups are great for getting information, learning from experts about child development, and discussing coping strategies for struggling dads. Some of these programs run in the evening, allowing working dads to attend. All these groups tend to be free, although some may require pre-registration, especially if food is being provided.

Of course, there are also many books on fathering available. Obviously, some are better than others — I prefer those written by solid Catholic authors. Some books I recommend are not just about how to be a great dad, but a great man; a great man will be a great father, and vice versa, it seems



to me. Some authors I've found to be excellent include Fr. Larry Richards, Greg and Lisa Popcak, Dr. Ray Guarendi, and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. You should be able to get books by these, and other authors, at your local bookstore or perhaps through a parish library or media ministry. Some other excellent books are available through websites listed below.

Reading is not for everyone, though. While I enjoy reading, it is sometimes difficult to get a few quality moments to sit down with a book in between working, making meals, changing diapers, and the endless list of other things to be done within a family. I think the key is to either carve out time, which can interfere with precious family time, or get creative. In my case, I got creative.

I work as a waste collector and drive garbage trucks all day. Fortunately, my truck is equipped with a USB reader built into the radio, so I have downloaded a wide variety of audio books, lectures and discussions on fathering on a flash drive. This way, I can listen to the speakers or the books while at work. Instead of trying to jam five extra minutes into an already hectic day, I can have eight, ten, even up to fourteen hours of informative parenting advice and information! Perhaps, in your job, you may have the opportunity to listen to such material as well. One source of electronic information includes Catholic Answers Radio, one of my favourite sources of info; they have a huge selection of special guests, each available in one hour call-in show podcasts, and all are free to download — access them at <https://www.catholic.com/audio/>



calendar. Other excellent resources can be found at a variety of websites. Some of these include Focus on the Family (<http://www.focusonthefamily.ca>), *Dads.org*, and the New Dad Manual (<https://newdadmanual.wordpress.com/>). You can also find a number of inspiring and instructional videos through simple YouTube searches.

The point of all this, though, is to say that educating yourself on the art of fatherhood is as easy or as difficult, and as frequent or as sporadic as you want it to be. Each dad must consider not if, but how he can educate himself. In the workplace, we all undergo some sort of continuous training, yet in the most important work we do — parenting — we receive no formal, regular training. You must invest the time, energy, and money into learning the skills of fatherhood. It may be a challenge, but I have found regularly educating yourself is one of the best investments you can make: one that no bank can take and no government can tax. The time, energy, and money you put into fathering will have eternal rewards for both you and your children. Sounds like a pretty sound investment to me.

Next time, I will discuss the third sign: generosity. ✠



Embracing our Crosses

guest column by Ana Maria Zapata

A few issues ago in the *Catholic Herald*, Bishop McGrattan wrote an article about euthanasia in Canada in which he explained that our government passed a bill for the acceptance of "assisted suicide". Recently we witnessed the women's march across the world in which it was difficult to distinguish whether they were fighting for basic human rights or for the government to support abortions. Faced by current moral issues it is easy to lose hope in humanity; faced with these moral issues, I am reminded of a quote from a wise person I once knew: "You look for a perfect man, but the only one perfect is God."

We look for perfection in friendships, in relationships, in our government, or anywhere around us, but we are constantly disappointed as our fallen human nature tends to choose evil by misperceiving it as good. These choices lead us or others to further suffering. Humans by nature strive for perfection but are in a constant state of failure due to original sin, which can lead Christians to frustration. I believe this frustration and disappointment arise when we look away from the crucifix and the way Christ embraced His suffering on it out of love for us.

As we take a look at the news, most of the problems in today's society arise from a selfish understanding of love which seeks love without its connection to suffering. When we disconnect love from suffering we fall for the false comfort of material things which cannot provide for our spiritual needs. In order to learn to love through suffering, we need to understand its importance and relevance in our growth as Christians and humans. It is part of our fallen human nature to suffer, but it is part of our decision to be Christian to learn to embrace these sufferings with the same love with which Christ embraced His cross.

In this short article I would like to suggest three reasons why we need to embrace suffering to create a better society around us and to be better followers of Christ. The first reason is the usefulness of suffering as a way to build character and

endure struggle. The second reason to embrace suffering is to learn how to be compassionate towards others. And the final reason is to fulfill our mission as Catholics and embrace our crosses with the same love that Christ did.

In his *Confessions* St Augustine says, "for You evil does not exist and not only for You but for Your created universe, because there is nothing outside it which could break in and destroy the order which You have imposed upon it." (Book VII, xiii).

Since God is all good and we are in his hands, we can use Isaiah's imagery and think of ourselves as lumps of clay in the hands of God (Is. 64:8). None of us is inherently evil. However, the process of becoming a beautiful piece may come only through some painful molding. Only by welcoming the pain that comes with being molded are we able to change from a mass of clay to a beautiful vase. In this way, suffering, which is sometimes seen as evil, builds our character and molds our personality into one that endures struggle and brings out the beauty and goodness intrinsic to us as creatures of our God. For example, God could allow an illness in a person who believes himself to be self-sufficient and does not trust other people so that he can experience humility and trust in others. Thus, God would allow suffering in a person to help shape a humble and beautiful soul which would be worthy of entering Heaven.

Secondly, suffering is important in order for us to be compassionate to each other. Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* provides an example which explains that by using contraception during a marriage the couple may lose love and respect towards each other. He

explains: "It is also to be feared that the man, growing used to the employment of anticonceptive practices may finally lose respect for the woman, and no longer caring for her physical and psychological equilibrium, may come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer as his respected and beloved companion". (*Humanae Vitae* II, 17). Just as in a marriage the couple might



lose respect for each other by seeking only self-satisfaction in an act of love, society as well loses its sense of caring for one another when it seeks easy ways to "love".

We see evidence of this loss of respect when people decide to end their lives early because there seems to be no one who will take the time to care for them, and when society fights for the right to end the life in the womb because it is the easier way out and women can continue their lives as they had without a baby. Finally, we see this loss of caring when we pass by someone in need and do not help because it is more comfortable to choose the road where we do not suffer an awkward moment with a stranger and the loss of our ready cash.

As it may be difficult to choose love when it entails sacrifice, St. Augustine advises: understanding our own weakness may help us to love when it is difficult. He says, "Aware of our own infirmity we are moved to compassion to help the indigent, assisting them in the same way as we would wish to be helped if we were in the same distress, and not only in easy ways like 'the grass bearing seed' but with the protection and aid given with a resolute determination like 'the tree bearing fruit'" (*Confessions*, Book XIII, xvii, 21). In this way, as we suffer and understand our own necessity to be loved, our heart and soul enlarges in order to provide the love we would want to have.

Finally, the only way we can fulfill our mission as Catholics is through embracing whatever suffering God allows into our lives just as Christ embraced his cross. We do this in two ways: the first is by uniting our suffering to that of Christ with its redeeming power, and the second by imitating the way God loves us, through suffering. The Church teaches that "the cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, 'the one mediator between God and men' (1 Tim2:5). But because in his incarnate divine person he has in some way united himself to every man, 'the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery is offered to all men' (*Gaudium et spes*, 22 # 5; cf. # 2)" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 618). By embracing the suffering

given to us, Christ gives us the power to unite our suffering with His to sanctify our own soul and to offer it for the souls of others. Uniting our suffering with Christ's gives meaning and a purpose to the unpleasant parts of life, which, in my opinion, is the best part of being a Catholic.

We also fulfill our mission as Catholics by learning to love in the same way we are loved by Christ: with a love that requires sacrifice. This love is expressed in our day-to-day life, when we encounter others who are difficult to love but we still smile at them and treat them with respect. Love with sacrifice means taking care of those who need our assistance and time, those who need someone to listen to them, those who need advice and those who need to feel like they are valued. Loving with sacrifice means being patient when we think we cannot take one more complaint or criticism. Love endures because it knows each time it encounters difficulty God's hand is molding it to be a beautiful soul worth entering His Kingdom. Saint Rose of Lima captures our necessity for the cross in beautiful words: "apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven" (Cf. P. Hansen, *Vita Mirabilis*, Louvain 1668).

We are surrounded by a world which faces moral issues that can only be solved through a selfless understanding of love. In order for us to create a better society in which we can show mercy, compassion and growth, it is necessary to understand love in relation to suffering. Suffering allows each individual to build character by enduring struggle as a way of shaping a beautiful and pure soul full of virtue. Through suffering we are able to relate to the suffering of others which allows us to treat them with compassion. Finally, suffering is the best way in which we can fulfill our mission as Catholics by uniting our suffering with Christ's while gaining its redemptory power and further fulfilling our mission of true Christian charity. ✠

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