Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

Good Friday at the Cathedral (2019)



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EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

Wedding Venues

This past Christmas, I received cards from a couple of my relatives, both absolutely gushing about their kids getting married in parks. I thought both these families would have known better! Now I'm more worried than ever that the Sacrament of Matrimony is something like a "canary in the coal mine." Is its demise signaling bigger problems?

As of the moment in which I write this reflection, in my little parish I have exactly zero weddings lined up for this year. In 2013 there were seven and twenty-five years ago – 13. What's happening to marriage? Or, perhaps more accurately, what's happening in the common mind-set that the true spiritual depths of the vocation get eclipsed by flowering shrubs and a manicured lawn?



On the 27th of January, Pope Francis addressed the Roman Rota, as he does every year, on matters of concern to Marriage Tribunals and their officials. (As an aside, "business" in the Marriage Tribunal has dropped like a stone in the last 25 years, too.) Here's the Pope's speech: speech: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/january/documents/20230127-rotaromana.html

For one thing, he mentions "man and woman" six times. Perhaps, without saying so, he is signaling resistance to many in the world today who call for redefinitions of who may marry whom.

But of greater interest to me at the moment, he emphasizes that marriage is the gift of self that one person makes to another and this is essentially Christ-like. "How is this possible" he asks, and continues by quoting his own Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris laetitia*, 19, "The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of real gestures, concrete gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place. This mutual concern 'brings together the human and the divine', for it is filled with the love of God. In the end, marital spirituality is a spirituality of the bond, in which divine love dwells."

Perhaps in our twenty-first century, western context, Holy Matrimony is unpopular because it's… well… because it is ***holy***, or it calls for holiness. It calls us to be Christ-like, and that's not popular. It demands "communion" with another rational being, placing ourselves in service of somebody else. Ultimately, Holy Matrimony is a vocation, a way of serving God and neighbour, and that means you don't get to make up your own terms of reference (i.e. vows). It also means that God and spouse are your primary focus, not the quality of the background in the all-important photos.

Okay, admittedly I get a little agitated about all this. Marriage, as an institution and as a vocation, seems to be in trouble and it occupies the minds of Church leaders at all levels. I most assuredly do not have all the answers, but I do think it's worth our while to meditate on it and pray about it once in a while. We need the God who is love to enlighten us and the other people around us.

My guess is that the people who get married in parks are not reading this editorial, but maybe their parents and grandparents are. Remind our younger generation that the Church has long been known as "the Bride of Christ" (and the park or beach, not so much). Is that, the assembly which is the Bride of Christ," not a good place for a marriage? Remind them that the parish is where we receive forgiveness and fresh starts, where we are nourished by Word and Eucharist, where we find companionship with fellow pilgrims struggling through this life.

"Mother Nature" has her charms, but the crucifix shows forth love on a whole different level – dare I say, love "till death do us part"? Perhaps there is one evident in the church; there won't be one on the beach. Perhaps the bridal procession in the church will walk past a confessional, where one admits to being wrong and receives a chance to try again; there won't be one in the park. And, like it or not, forgiveness and chances to try again will be necessary in married life.

As said above, the vocation of marriage is "a spirituality of the bond, in which divine love dwells." It's largely about the two great commandments: love God and neighbour. Mother nature is great, but God is divine.

Pope Francis teaches us that married life is thousands of gestures (no doubt many of them small) that create a bond and manifest the love of God. Marriage is profound; and I am a worry-wart who thinks it may be trivialized by any attempt to make it more sentimental. ✠

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



Vol. 19, No. 1 — Easter 2023

NEXT ISSUE

— Fall 2023 —

will be distributed to the parishes in mid-September 2023.
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.

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Love Mass and love the outdoors?

From the shores of Georgian Bay, we are ready to welcome you for Catholic Mass at Killbear Provincial Park every Saturday evening in the months of July and August at 6:30PM at the Amphitheatre. Our First Mass is July 1st, Canada Day!

If you're visiting Ostler Provincial Park, or staying around the Parry Sound area, we celebrate in our beautiful Church at 52 Church Street in Parry Sound, Saturday at 4PM and Sunday at 9AM & 11AM.

#EveryoneWelcome

Turn to page 13 for more from Fr. Jerry Tavares and St. Peter the Apostle in Parry Sound.

IN APPRECIATION

By Father Peter Seabrooke



My Sisters and Brothers:

I am sitting here in the comfort of the Immaculate Conception Rectory in Peterborough. I am now retired from official diocesan appointments, after over fifty years of priesthood. I am trying to represent our other retired priests as well. I am thinking of how blessed we've been to share the same beautiful Church with thousands of laypeople from all over our big beautiful diocese, as well as with the bishops, priests and deacons we have been blessed to journey with over the years in the various parish assignments and other ministries.

On behalf of my brother retired priests I am thinking of how you showed your love for your Church when you witnessed to your faith by sharing your time, talents and treasures in countless ways as well. I am thinking of joyful moments when we baptized your children, celebrated the other sacraments of initiation with them visited them in the classroom and watched them graduate. I am thinking of the honour we had of witnessing your marriage. But I am thinking too of difficult times when you wanted us to give you a listening ear or when you were no longer able to come to church and you called us to visit you at home or in the hospital in order to bring you Holy Communion or celebrate the Anointing of the Sick with you. I am thinking of the times when you called us to pray the prayers of the dying with a loved one and to preside over their Mass of Christian burial.

Yes, all retired priests have so much to be thankful for. First of all we are thankful to Jesus Christ for calling us to the priesthood and blessing us along the way. Secondly, we want to thank you for your loving support. Thirdly, we want you to know that while we may be retired we are still priests. So if you feel the need to seek us out to pray with you and for you or just to listen we will still be here to the extent that we are able.

Finally we would like to ask you to pray for us as we journey through this stage of our priesthood and life.

Your brother in Christ,

Peter Seabrooke

Fr. Stan Witczak Retires



Fr. Witczak with Fr. Stephen DeCarlo, Pastor Immaculate Conception



Fr. Stan has served the Immaculate Conception Polish Community for nine years. They are very grateful to him for his generous and faithful service! They had a well-attended "potluck" retirement reception for him on January 22nd, 2023.

While he will continue to help out with the Polish Mass part time, he is wished well on his retirement.

Bardzo dziękuję i życzę dużo błogosławieństwa na przyszłość!
(Thank you very much and many blessings for the future!)

...Patsy Scott
Office Admin





Truth and Reconciliation

Herman A. van den Berg, MBA, PhD

PARISH: Warkworth

Most of us are familiar with the atrocities committed against Indigenous children and their families in Canada's residential school system. The Canadian government subcontracted the vast majority of those residential schools to Catholic religious organizations. As Canadians, and especially as Catholic Canadians, we have inherited a disgraceful history in this regard, and while we cannot undo what has been done, we feel we must strive to do something.

With this in mind, Father Christopher Reynolds and Dr. Herman van den Berg, of St. Jerome Roman Catholic parish in Warkworth, met with Chief Dave Mowat at the Band Office of Alderville First Nation in late January. The purpose of their meeting was to advance, at a local level, the efforts of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). On behalf of the parish and other local non-Indigenous people, we wanted to clearly indicate to the Mississauga Anishinaabe people of Alderville First Nation that we are intent on opening a path to healing and mutual respect. It seemed like a timely endeavour for the parish, given the recent pilgrimage of reconciliation of Pope Francis and his accompanying apology. During Pope Francis' visit, a penitential spirit was in evidence. He stated that numerous local Church institutions had been complicit in the harm and trauma inflicted on the Indigenous children and their families through the Residential School system.

The idea of holding a meeting was conceived after a fortuitous encounter between Father Reynolds and Chief Mowat at the funeral of one of the Chief's relatives. After reaching out to the Chief, a meeting date was agreed upon. During that January meeting, Chief Mowat was asked if he would consider providing an educational presentation to move forward the building of a mutually respectful relationship between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous neighbours. He agreed to come to the Warkworth on March 1st to share his extensive historical knowledge of the Mississauga Anishinaabe people with anyone interested in attending.



Being home to a small parish, we did not know if anyone would attend. To minimize the possibility of a low attendance, the Chief's presentation was advertised in various parish bulletins, as well as on local Warkworth Facebook pages. Other local Christian churches in Warkworth were also asked to share our invitation with their congregations. Potential attendees were asked to email to reserve a seat and to submit any questions they wished Chief Mowat to address. We felt that requesting an email would bolster peoples' commitment to attend and increase their engagement with the Chief. We were subsequently very pleasantly surprised with the amount of interest expressed for the event by many in the Warkworth and surrounding communities. Over 100 people attended. Attendees came from as far away as Port Hope, Grafton, Campbellford, Alderville, Peterborough, as well as Brighton, Wooler and Trenton. Many of them expressed their gratefulness for having had the opportunity to attend the event.

The Warkworth Town Hall and Centre of the Arts had been chosen as our venue to signal that the event was open to the public. The evening's presentation began with an acknowledgement that we were on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe peoples. Chief Dave Mowat then began his presentation, indicating that he had been a student of Justice Murray Sinclair during the period Justice Sinclair was Adjunct Professor of Law in the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba. Justice Sinclair was Manitoba's first, and Canada's second, Indigenous Judge, and Chair of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The Chief continued his presentation with slides depicting the progression of treaties that have led to the current location of Alderville First Nation. We learned of the history of the Mississauga Anishinaabe people who

inhabited their traditional lands around the Bay of Quinte and how they were moved north to Alderville following the influx of United Empire Loyalists. It is only recently (2018), after 26 years of litigation, that the Williams Treaties First Nations Settlement Agreement was signed, to compensate for improper implementation of the original Williams Treaties, and to properly recognize pre-existing First Nations' harvesting rights. Alderville First Nation is benefitting from the Agreement, improving local infrastructure, providing funding for tertiary education, and expanding its land base.

In response to pre-submitted questions, the Chief acknowledged that media often presented Indigenous peoples as being relatively homogeneous and he took the time to point out the distinct features about Alderville First Nation that distinguish it from other First Nations. He also indicated that while Alderville First Nation children attending elementary public school in adjacent Roseneath are provided with appropriate Indigenous content, more could be done to incorporate traditional Indigenous ways of passing on knowledge within the curriculum. Chief Mowat talked to us about the 'Sixties Scoop' - the large-scale removal or "scooping" of Indigenous children from their families of birth through the 1960s, and their subsequent adoption into predominantly non-Indigenous, middle-class families across the United States and Canada. He told us of several Indigenous residents who came and shared their personal stories with him at his Band Office. The visits became occasions for healing and helping bear the wounds of hurt and trauma. He also indicated that the Doctrine of Discovery was more of a philosophical proposition that may be more suitable for discussion in another setting. When asked how we could, as individuals, and as a settler community, restore respectful relationships with the people of Alderville First Nation, Chief Mowat indicated that we should continue to hold more of these types of get-togethers. He extended an invitation to us all to come to events like the annual Alderville First Nations Pow Wow, and to make inquiries at the Band office to learn more, first-hand, about the people of Alderville First Nation.

The evening ended with Father Reynolds expressing words of thanks to Chief Mowat and presenting him with a limited-edition lithograph. The lithograph, titled, "The Shawl Dancers", was produced by famous Canadian Indigenous artist, Dorothy Morrison circa early 1980s. Ms. Morrison, of Moosonee, Ontario, celebrated the depiction of Indigenous culture in many of her paintings. Father Reynolds also presented Chief Mowat with tobacco, in the spirit of grace and peace. Tobacco is one of four sacred plants in Indigenous culture, the others being red cedar, sage, and sweetgrass.

In conclusion, it is our hope that by organizing this event, we have advanced the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation between local Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. By demonstrating an eagerness to listen and learn, we are taking advantage of the "second chance at building a mutually respectful relationship". An event like this will hopefully generate a foreword momentum toward future such get-togethers in this region and beyond. ✠



Noteworthy mentions:

- **Derek Chung Tiam Fook,** Warkworth Business Association: rental of the hall;
- **Patrick Muldoon,** Warkworth (Trent Hills) Library: loan of projection equipment;
- **Violet Lisku,** Organisation and greeting of attendees;
- **Carrie Wilson,** Administrative Assistant to Chief Mowat: provided photo of "The Shawl Dancers";
- **Rachel Crowe,** Band Office Reception: facilitating meetings;
- Local businesses: advertising the event;
- **Fathers Randy Foster and Bill Maloney,** representing Peterborough Diocese clergy;
- **Most Rev. Daniel Miehm,** Roman Catholic Bishop, Communication of support to Chief Mowat.

This article provided by Dr. Herman van den Berg, with editing by his wife, Violet — parishioners at St. Jerome, Warkworth.



St. Martin of Tours Church

100 Years

PARISH: Ennismore

St. Martin's Church

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
CONTINUING A LEGACY OF FAITH

Sunday, June 4th

10am Mass
with His Excellency Bishop Miehm

100 Years of History Photo Display
BBQ Picnic
Bouncy Castle and Lawn Games
Live Entertainment

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH 1923 2023 ENNISMORE 100 YEARS

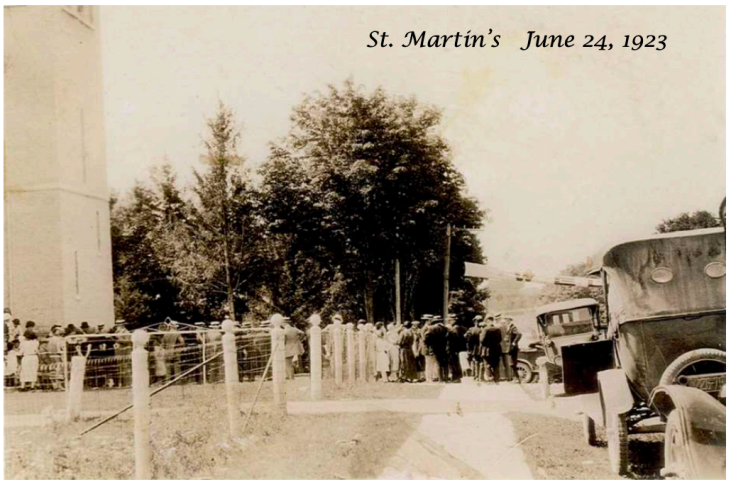
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bring your family and a lawn chair

For more information contact the parish office 705-292-8823

St. Martin of Tours Church in Ennismore

Celebrating 100 Years



The cornerstone of our current St. Martin of Tours Church was laid June 24th, 1923. On December 23rd of that same year the church was officially opened and blessed by Bishop O'Brien.

Both dates were marked with pomp and ceremonies with many dignitaries in attendance, attesting to the importance of our place of worship and the joy following the destruction of the prior church by fire. Our pastoral Father was Father John. V. McAuley.

The church was built at a cost of $56,000.

Two churches in fact preceded our current church.

It appears the first one, a log structure with seating for 300 bench style, was built in 1858 as that is the first record of baptisms in Ennismore. In its early years, Ennismore was a mission of Downeyville and that is where early baptisms are on record. In 1974 the parish replaced the original log house of worship with a new red brick structure in Gothic style, built just south of the current church.

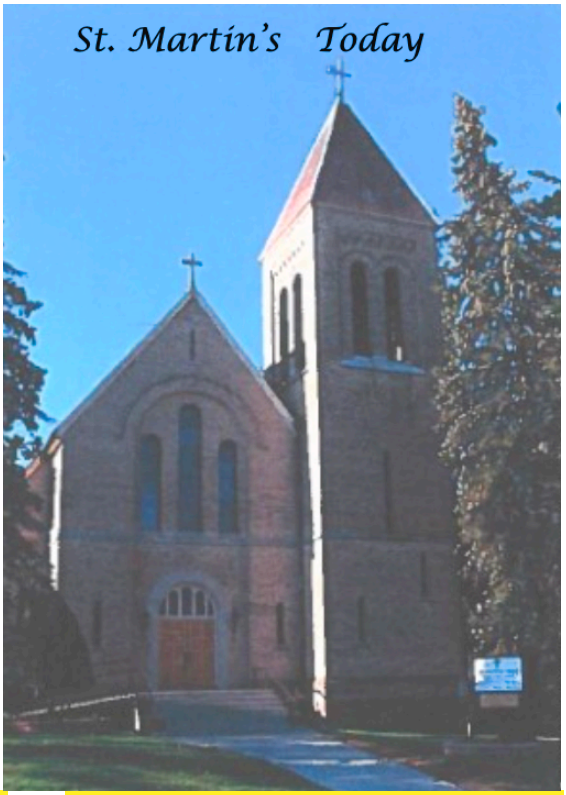
In May of 1879, St. Martin's of Ennismore was raised to parish status with Father William Keilty as first parish pastor. The current priest's rectory was built in 1880. Our original parish hall was erected in 1904 which in addition served as the first rural secondary school in Ontario, operating as such until 1953.

It was on July 21, 1922 that the community was deeply saddened and shaken by the complete destruction of their church by a fire of an unknown cause which started in the vestry. Oral history relates that the heavy Peterborough fire trucks drove on an uphill incline crossing the floating bridge in an effort to save our church.

Our rich history and legacy of Faith continues to this day, and we are celebrating and giving thanks for our many blessings.

On June 4th, 2023 the parish community of St. Martin of Tours invites you to join us in the celebration of our Centenary.

We will be Celebrating Mass with His Excellency Bishop Miehm at 10am followed by a BBQ picnic with games and fun for the children, and live entertainment for all. Commemorative souvenirs will be available.



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Signs of Grace

Launching Fall 2023, get ready for a new program to prepare our youth to receive Reconciliation and First Communion.





Merging in-person instruction and online content, fun activities and poignant catechesis, our new program presents a dynamic journey for families to prepare their children to receive these sacraments. Training for catechists and clergy is upcoming, so stay tuned!

For more info:

Robyn Henighan
Vice Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs
705-745-5461

Douro Doings

93, under construction



PARISH: Douro





One of the most important activities in preparing for each Douro Doings is quilting the 20 or so quilts that get raffled off each year. Try to find someone in or around Douro who hasn't won one!



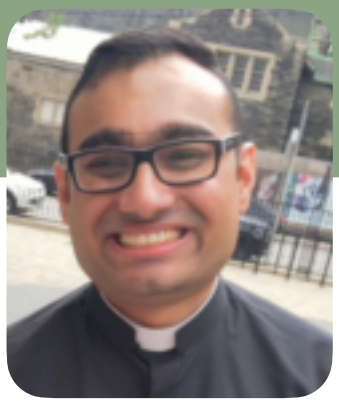
Smiling ladies, working together.
Another quilt for the Douro Doings is almost complete.



The tools we use.
And check out the precision workmanship.



Hockey sticks are important too.



While returning to my car after Mass at Trent University one day last fall, a young woman, recognizing my collar, came running after me. Breathlessly, she asked, "Are you a real Catholic priest?"

Joy and relief washed over her face when I assured her that I was. She had been searching for a Catholic community to connect with since moving to Peterborough from her home country to study.

Among young adults, the fastest-growing religious group are those with no religious affiliation. These are often referred to as "Nones," and many of them are former Catholics.

So, what's happening? Have young people given up on God? Certainly not.

Students are flooded with the demands of school, work, family, and friends. Getting connected with a faith community can easily fall down the priority list, especially when it is not easily accessible.

A consistent theme in my campus ministry discernment has been that we need to "be visible." Students must know that Christ is an option for them, even on campus.

Being visible on campus that day reminded this young woman of her connection to the Church. As a result, her faith is growing, and our community is blessed by her witness.

Visibility also allows us to reach non-believers, whom the Lord has been preparing, in His own way, for the gift of faith. I have met several students who have been exploring Christianity on their own, but who were lacking a community to help them take the next steps in their journey toward Christ. Until now.

These students believe it was God who led them to campus ministry for the continued development of their faith. They have expressed both their surprise and their gratitude at finding a Christian community on campus.

Jesus is moving in young people. With our support, they are learning how to recognize His voice and follow in His footsteps.

Many have been surprised to meet Catholics on campus who are willing to engage them. They are intrigued that the Church is willing to reach out and invest in those who are likely not church goers. This witness helps change the narrative that Catholics only care about Mass on Sundays.

The future of campus ministry is filled with possibility. It is the privilege of our ministry to witness the stories God is writing in the hearts of our young people. Your support makes it possible for us to be present to students and connect their deepest longings with God's richest blessings.

Fr. Neil Pereira.

Visit www.ptbocampusministry.ca to learn more about Peterborough Campus Ministry or to make a tax-deductible donation to support their work.

Altar Servers
At St. Peter the Apostle



PARISH: Parry Sound

As Catholic altar servers, we have been serving at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Parry Sound for 9 years. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we felt a sense of purpose and belonging as part of the liturgy. With COVID lifted and the arrival of a new parish priest we have now gained new responsibilities for the more technical parts of the liturgy and there is a much greater sense of responsibility and caution that goes into our work. Today we can all share in the joy of preparing for the Eucharist. Serving at Mass is a chance to reflect on our faith and to be a part of a larger parish community, in which we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve in our parish.

My experience serving mass was the same before Covid as it is right now. But now I have greater responsibilities as I am an older server. During Covid, it was hard to get to mass because of the parish being closed. I was able to watch mass online at home, which is not the same. When the parish was opened and we got back to mass, while masks were still required it was hard not seeing everyone's faces. Another challenge was the heat and discomfort on the altar wearing masks. Now masks are not required and the restrictions are not as great. It now feels like mass is back as it was. – **Cullen**

My time as an Altar server before Covid-19 was great. I was able to stay involved in my parish community and I was able to grow more in respect and understanding of the mass. During Covid, this all went away. I couldn't attend mass because of the Covid restrictions but was able to attend on YouTube every Sunday. During this time it was harder to strengthen my relationship with Jesus and keep that connection with close friends. After Covid, the churches opened back up and I was able to reconnect with my friends and parish. I was able to attend church activities and events that couldn't happen during Covid. – **Nolan**

For me, serving before, through, and after COVID was very different. Before COVID I was still developing my faith as a young altar server who was still learning many things about the mass. During COVID I was given the opportunity to serve at a neighbouring parish. I found it hard to get used to the new protocols within the mass as well as connecting with the parish community and building my faith. After COVID I found it very weird from staying away from people to gathering with them again. Throughout these years and changes it has allowed me to grow in faith and in who I am today and in my understanding of the mass. – **Ethan**





St. Peter the Apostle
Catholic Church ▪ Parry Sound, ON



THE CHOIR LOFT

Kathleen Moquin

Truth and Consequences

I cherish a nostalgic fondness and love for comic books. Long before my birthdays hit double digits, daily consumption of a variety of comic strips in our local newspaper culminated in full-blown immersion in the coloured Saturday edition funnies. It was a natural transition to comic books by early adolescence, an unexpected gateway to a variety of story-telling genres, current events periodicals, and popular culture engagement that continues to evolve as I approach my seventh decade of life. Comic books were made for the long Prairie summer days of my youth. Packed alongside beach towels and tanning oil, stacks of comic books accompanied our gang to various municipal pools, where they were shared and traded over slushies and French fries. We followed the adventures of Scooby-Doo's Mystery Machine and tried to keep straight the powers of the superheroes saving the Marvel and DC universes, but the chronicles of life at Riverdale High dominated our comic book devotions. We identified with Archie Andrews and his friends and recalled our real-life versions of Mr. Weatherbee and Miss Grundy, committing storylines to memory while immortalizing colourful graphics with Silly Putty impressions. And we never missed the final pages that featured advertisements. How we loved them! Enthralled by the idea of owning smiley-faced sea monkeys, x-ray specs, and bullyproof bodybuilding programs, we looked to money-back guarantees to satisfy our questions regarding authenticity and efficacy even when, sadly, such highly prized and coveted items did not ship to Canadian addresses. Groomed and savvy to the world of grown-up marketing, we began a lifelong pursuit of authentic goods and services.

The search for truth and authenticity is not the exclusive domain of the world of marketing or a particular generation but is the universal theme of human history and the human condition. Marking its 30th anniversary this year, *Veritatis Splendor* (*The Splendor of Truth*), St. Pope John Paul II's encyclical on moral theology, acknowledges that "there always remains a yearning for absolute truth and a thirst to attain full knowledge of it . . proved even more by his search for *the meaning of life*" (John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor,* 1). Promulgated in response to misleading teachings and flawed interpretations in contemporary Catholic moral theology, *Veritatis Splendor* reaffirms the Magisterium's authority to expound and teach fundamental moral principles, a "grave obligation . . . to insure the faithful are guarded against every doctrine and theory contrary to official Church teaching" (116). *Veritatis Splendor* posits that human freedom conforms to human dignity when it is obedient to Divine Law, and human dignity is preserved when a properly formed individual conscience supersedes subjective opinion or personal judgment when making a moral decision. Against proportionalism and consequentialism, philosophies that justify moral decisions by considering the intentions of a proposed action or the consequences of said good action, respectively, the Holy Father asserts that the very nature of some actions is *intrinsically evil*, that is, "a good intention or particular circumstance can diminish the evil but they cannot remove it" (81). Regarding intrinsically evil acts, John Paul II refers to Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, recalling that "so long as they infect human civilization they contaminate those who inflict them more than those who suffer injustice, and they are a negation of the honour due to the Creator" (80).



To those of us presently navigating cancel culture, wokeism, and the nuances of gender ideology, John Paul II offers timely, confident reassurance: "At times, in the discussions about new and complex moral problems, it can seem that Christian morality is in itself too demanding, difficult to understand and almost impossible to practise. This is untrue, since Christian morality consists, in the simplicity of the Gospel, in *following Jesus Christ*, in abandoning oneself to him, in letting oneself be transformed by his grace and renewed by his mercy, gifts which come to us in the living communion of his Church" (119).

Finally, *Veritatis Splendor* entrusts the faithful to the Blessed Mother, who "understands sinful man and loves him with a Mother's love. Precisely for this reason she is on the side of truth and shares the Church's burden in recalling always and to everyone the demands of morality . . . only the Cross and the glory of the Risen Christ can grant peace to his conscience and salvation to his life" (120).

Under the protection of the Blessed Mother, may our fidelity to Church teaching and participation in its sacraments help us bear witness to the authenticity of the Gospel message, which gives meaning to our lives. ✠

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

A Great Model of Priesthood

VOCATIONS

Fr. Stephen DeCarlo



On December 31st, 2022, the entire Church mourned the death of Pope Benedict XVI. For many Catholics, Benedict was a beloved spiritual leader and theologian whose thought, intellect, and writings have formed generations of Catholic thinkers past, present and future.

He was also known for his love of youth and faithfully travelled to World Youth Days in Cologne, Sydney, and Madrid. I was at World Youth Day in Madrid and I was always struck by one example of his closeness to people. During the overnight vigil, the pope was leading an evening prayer service when a sudden thunderstorm struck the vigil site. Wind was heavy and the rain poured. Lightening danced around the sky in very frequent intervals along with booming thunder. People were huddling in place, while others just stood still like nothing was happening. I had the foresight to bring a jacket despite the Madrid heat (evenings got a little cool) and I donned that and a hat. The winds knocked down a large gate but thankfully no one was injured. A tent of unconsecrated hosts was blown away, meaning that we did not get communion the next day. While the storm was raging, I figured that they might as well cancel the whole service and the pope goes back to his residence. But alas; as soon as the winds died down, we heard Pope Benedict's voice start up again through the speakers, much to our delight. He had waited out the storm just like everyone else, being eager to stay with the thousands of young people gathered there.

Of course, Benedict was also first and foremost a priest and bishop, being faithful to his vocation first before all things. As a priest and bishop, he celebrated Mass, heard confessions, visited the sick, gave homilies and retreats, listened to people, and remained steadfast in his daily prayer regimen. No matter what work he was doing, whether it be teaching, writing, travelling, he was first a priest who stayed close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As he wrote in his 2010 Letter to Seminarians, to be a priest was to first remain close to Jesus and to love Him always; we cannot be priests unless we love Jesus:

> Anyone who wishes to become a priest must be first and foremost a "man of God", to use the expression of Saint Paul (1 Tim 6:11). For us God is not some abstract hypothesis; he is not some stranger who left the scene after the "big bang". God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ. In the face of Jesus Christ we see the face of God. In his words we hear God himself speaking to us. It follows that the most important thing in our path towards priesthood and during the whole of our priestly lives is our personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. The priest is not the leader of a sort of association whose membership he tries to maintain and expand. He is God's messenger to his people. He wants to lead them to God and in this way to foster authentic communion between all men and women. That is why it is so important, dear friends, that you learn to live in constant intimacy with God. When the Lord tells us to "pray constantly", he is obviously not asking us to recite endless prayers, but urging us never to lose our inner closeness to God. Praying means growing in this intimacy. So it is important that our day should begin and end with prayer; that we listen to God as the Scriptures are read; that we share with him our desires and our hopes, our joys and our troubles, our failures and our thanks for all his blessings, and thus keep him ever before us as the point of reference for our lives. In this way we grow aware of our failings and learn to improve, but we also come to appreciate all the beauty and goodness which we daily take for granted and so we grow in gratitude. With gratitude comes joy for the fact that God is close to us and that we can serve him.[1]

[1] https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/letters/2010/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20101018_seminaristi.html#:~:text=God%20is%20alive.,and%20bring%20him%20to%20others



Benedict's dedication to prayer sustained him as a priest throughout his entire life. No matter how much he had going on or what twists and turns life had for him, Benedict remained faithful to prayer.

The intimacy we gain in prayer, regardless of what our vocations are, will sustain us as baptized people and allow us to overcome any obstacles that come our way. All of us need to have a life a prayer. While it may not be the same for everyone (for example, married people cannot pray all day like a monk), what matters is that we all have quality prayer lives that deepen our relationship with God and allow us to grow in our faith. While everyone is different, we all have the same need to be close and intimate with God in prayer, much like Pope Benedict had during his long life of 95 years.

Rest in Peace

Admission to Candidacy

On February 5th, 2023, one of our seminarians, Mr. Peter Bissonnette, was Admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders!

The rite of candidacy is one of the major steps towards ordination as a deacon and priest in which the candidate publicly declares his intentions to prepare himself for Holy Orders. He has to first write out, by hand, a letter to his bishop in which he asks to be admitted. Once received, the candidate gets approval and at the ceremony he declares his intentions before the presiding bishop, who declares him a candidate with the words: "The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment".

While this may seem like a small step, it is still an important one in which the seminarian is officially declared a candidate for Holy Orders and is reminded of the importance of preparing himself well for it. It is a reminder that he has to make the best out of his training, to study and pray well, and to give himself over for service to God and the Church, if this is confirmed and discerned through those responsible for his formation.

Peter is currently on his internship year and received his candidacy alongside 20 other seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary. The Rite of Candidacy is now bestowed upon seminarians in their first year of Theology, whereas previously it was given towards the end of Third year Theology. Congratulations, Peter!

Ordinandi Dinner

One of the many joys of vocations work is attending the annual Ordinandi Dinner. It is a dinner put on by the Serra Club of Toronto that honours the men who are to be ordained priests from St. Augustine's Seminary. The highlight of the night is when the ordinandi (those to be ordained priests) all give their vocation stories and testimonies. It is an event that promotes vocations and over 2,000 people from diverse backgrounds and ages attend the event. I myself have been moved by the dinners I attended in the past and it has helped me in my own vocational discernment. And not just me but many other young people have been inspired by these stories and the dinner has helped them discern their own vocations to priesthood and religious life.

On March 9th, 2023, I was able to bring two tables worth of people from the Peterborough Diocese to attend this dinner, the first time in person since March 2020. For 2021 and 2022, the dinner was held virtually, and while it was still wonderful to hear the stories, nothing beats being in person at this inspiring event. ✠

Fr. Stephen Decarlo is Vocations Director for the Diocese of Peterborough and Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Peterborough.



World Youth Day
Lisbon 2023

World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on August 1-6th, and it will draw pilgrims from all over the world. Twenty-three of those pilgrims will come from our very own Diocese of Peterborough! Comprising of 19 lay pilgrims, 3 priests, and 1 seminarian, we will be a small but faithful group heading out on this pilgrimage to gather with thousands of other young people around the pope and to worship Jesus Christ. The week will include liturgies, catechesis sessions, workshops, youth festivals, vocations awareness, vigils and a way of the cross, all geared toward forming young disciples to be faithful leaders of the Church.

Our group will be there from July 29th-August 9th, and we will make stops in Porto, Fatima, and Leiria, including where a Eucharistic miracle occurred. Visiting such places will broaden the pilgrims' understanding of the faith and the Church, and experience the great legitimate diversity of the Catholic faith.

Personally, I am happy to accompany and lead the group to World Youth Day, alongside Fr. Neil Pereira and Fr. Peter Lukow, and Ms. Chantal Gagnon, despite the many challenges and hard work required in organizing such a trip. I myself know how important World Youth Day is; I have been to the ones in Sydney (2008) and Madrid (2011) and both events helped me grow as a Catholic and as a future priest. In fact, I feel that my vocation to the priesthood was greatly aided and confirmed by experiencing World Youth Day and witnessing to the power that it has in making people fall in love with God and eager to serve the Church and make a difference. I remember meeting many people and many memories stand out, including seeing the pope, conversing with pilgrims from all over the world, attending the first Mass of a newly ordained Norwegian priest, attending a Mass for seminarians celebrated by the pope, getting lost trying to find where we have to be, attending Liturgies alongside Catholics of every nation and tongue, feeling tired and worn out but happy and loving every minute of it!

As you would imagine, such a pilgrimage is not cheap! The financial costs total about $5,000, not including a few expenses once we are in Lisbon. Pilgrims are making sacrifices to save up and working extra at part-time jobs in order to afford it. Most of our pilgrims are students who are already working hard to pay for their schooling. We are also doing, and have done, various fundraising initiatives. We had two Purdy's Chocolates fundraisers that both helped the financing efforts and satisfied the sweet tooth of many (a toothbrush fundraiser next? Nah!). We held several bottle drives that were successful and are ongoing; contact Fr. Stephen at 705-742-5466 if you wish to donate any bottles. One of our particularly fun events was Christmas Carols at the Cathedral, held on December 22nd, 2022 (see photo, previous page). The pilgrims came together and lent their talents to perform a late-Advent carol service. It was a fun night for both pilgrims and the audience!

There are several more fundraising events planned, including a Portuguese dinner at Immaculate Conception Parish. This will be prepared and served by the pilgrims themselves and will, unfortunately, be over before this appears in print (March 25th).

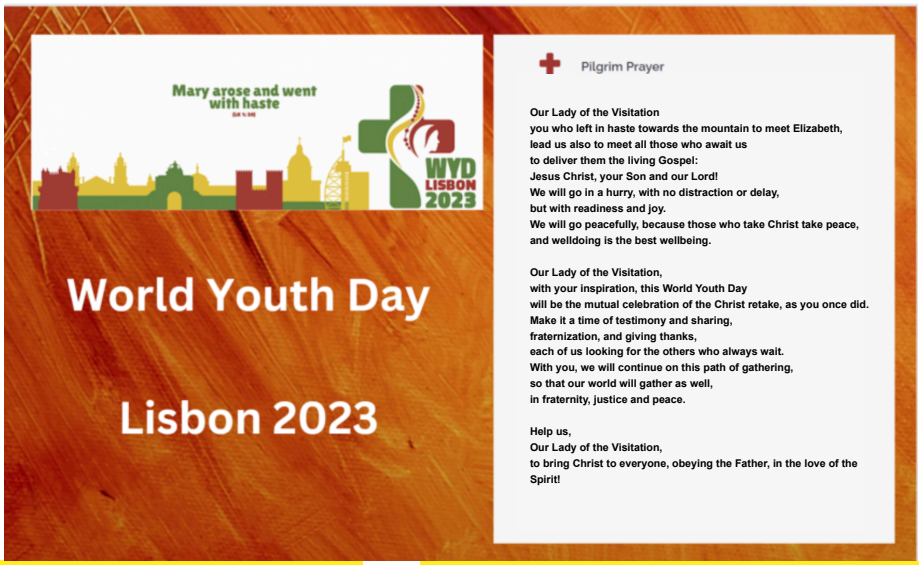
May 6th will see us hosting a spaghetti dinner at Sacred Heart Parish at 6:30 PM. The following month will have the pilgrims do a walking pilgrimage from the Cathedral to St. Joseph's Parish in Douro on June 3rd. There is a river in Portugal called "Douro" and, although the local Douro was an Irish settlement, we will temporarily consider it Portugal for the day! Pilgrims will collect pledges and will walk the distance to raise funds for their trip.

There will be a frozen meat fundraiser, where you will be able to purchase frozen meat at a great price and help out the pilgrims (double bonus!) Also, there will be a t-shirt fundraiser selling t-shirts designed by one of our talented pilgrims. Details on those will be made available in your parish's bulletin soon.

For all updates and further information on our fundraisers, you can also visit the diocesan web page at: https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/world-youth-day-in-lisbon-2023.aspx

In addition, you can donate directly to the pilgrimage and receive a tax receipt. Simply visit https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/get-involved/donate.aspx and specify 'World Youth Day 2023" in the Fund area. These donations and fundraisers will certainly help our pilgrims undertake this pilgrimage. It is not a free vacation or down time away. The participants are making a pilgrimage to invest in their faith, to grow in their discipleship, to intensify their devotion and to cement their place as future leaders of the Church.

PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY





SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph Devereaux

St. Mary Magdalene

The Easter Saint

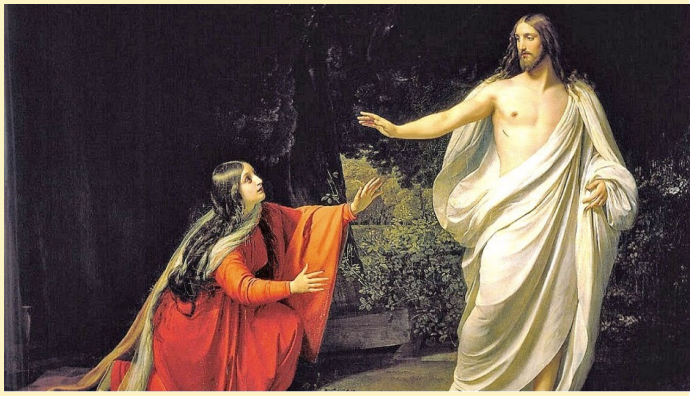
Feast Day: July 22nd

It is necessary in life to have role models. All of us recognize in certain people admirable qualities that we would like to possess ourselves. However, in our secular age, we sometimes admire that which is not most noble. We see the fame and wealth of others and think how happy our lives would be if we could trade places and walk in their footsteps. We fail to assess people's lives based on the more important criteria of what constitutes true beauty. A beauty which resides in the soul and is the result of moral choices applied to our life's course.

Every person is different. We sometime admire the great saints and perceive that what they accomplished is so far out of our reach. Take for example the patron saints of two past parishes where I was pastor, St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette - two very different saints. Thomas More was the Chancellor of England, wielding the King's power and deciding the fate of people. Bernadette was a simple peasant girl chosen to see and hear the message of the Holy Virgin, who revealed herself to be the Immaculate Conception and implored prayers for sinners.

Perhaps we cannot relate to these saints and are unable to see a reflection of ourselves in either. They seem to occupy the two ends of the spectrum – one powerful and the other little. Maybe "Mary Magdalene" is someone whom we can understand. She was neither powerful, nor innocent; rather, she was a great sinner. The stories of the gospel invariably reflect our own life stories. Juxtaposed to Jesus' life, we learn about ourselves.

What is known of Magdalene, who is truly an Easter saint, is sparse and confused. In Sacred Scripture, we are told of three women whose lives have been interpreted as one: Mary, the "sinner", who with her own tears washed the feet of Jesus at a banquet given by Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7. 36ff); Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha (Luke 10:38); and Mary Magdalene, a disciple of Jesus from whom seven demons were cast out (Luke 8:2). It is this latter Mary who is the Magdalene. She is depicted in numerous ways in sacred art — as a saint with long hair and a jar of ointment, clinging to the foot of the cross, weeping, kissing, and anointing the feet of our Lord, or wringing her hands and spurning jewels.



Mary Magdalene remained with our Lord at the foot of the cross, and was privileged to be the first to see the Risen Saviour and bring the news of the resurrection to the apostles. For this reason, she is called the "*apostola apostolorum*" (apostle to the apostles). Later writings embellished her life with the most amazing fictional details. Some false writings claimed that she was the fiancée of John the Apostle. In our own time, the fictional and erroneous novel the "Da Vinci Code" made her the mistress of Christ. But as believing Christians, we are able to see the truth of this remarkable woman, who washed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair.

In private revelation to Gabrielle Bossis, a French mystic, whose revelations are recorded in a book entitled, "He and I", our Lord is purported to have had this to say about Mary Magdalene: *[When] Mary Magdalene had told me of her sins, she stopped to ask, 'After that can I be forgiven?' I assured her and she went on. ... Then when all her past had been laid at my feet, she wept from pure love-gratitude, understanding my infinite compassion. Understanding a little that is. For it is not in you to grasp the infinite.* On account of her sorrow for her sins and desire to change, Mary Magdalene heard the consoling words of Christ: "Many sins have been forgiven her because she has loved much."

The business of sanctity is the duty of every Christian. It is necessary to have heroes, and to catch a glimpse of oneself in the life-stories of other people. Yet we must remember that we are unique. While we may share commonalities with particular saints, e.g., nationality, occupation, qualities and weaknesses of character, etc., in our spiritual life we are individual. We must become saints ourselves, but not by ourselves. We are mistaken if we think the saints lived at a time when it was easier to become holy. Struggle against the devil and our own fallen nature, which is inclined to sin, has always been a reality and a necessity. Our trials and temptations are only for a little while. They keep us humble and test our fidelity to God. For those who love God, all things, and temptations, turn to their advantage.

In her sinfulness, Mary Magdalene teaches us our own weakness and lack of love. In her honesty, she reveals our need for humility. In her turning to God, she causes us to ponder the words of St. Paul, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." To the world Mary Magdalene may have been a scarlet lady, to Christians she is an image of ourselves and what we hope to become. ✠

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

St. Margaret Mary
100 Years



PARISH:Kirkfield/Coboconk

St. John The Evangelist and Missions Kirkfield, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of St. Margaret Mary Mission church Coboconk, in October, 2022. Father Tom Lynch represented the Bishop Miehm, celbrated Mass, and gave an inspiring homily. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Grace and Loretta Jamieson, whose family lived in Coboconk and worshipped at St. Margaret Mary's for 75 plus years, and to Frank and Ferrol O'Reilly who have been active parishioners for 20 plus years.

After Mass, parishioners from our parish churches, and from area Christian churches, enjoyed a pot luck dinner. A hymn sing followed, facilitated by Grace and Loretta at the Coboconk Lion's Club Hall.







I Remember

Madeline Pearson

In the last few months, we have lost two of our Life Members – Erica Perk and Elizabeth Condon. These ladies were true and strong CWL members.

Erica was born in Switzerland and came to Canada in her teens. She met and married Fred Perk, moved to a farm in Ida, and raised five children.

Erica joined the Millbrook Catholic Women's League and worked her way up through several positions to become the Parish President. In 1992, she became the Peterborough Diocesan President and held this office for 2 years. I recall going to the Provincial Convention in Sudbury with Erica. She packed her car with many of the necessities, for example an electric kettle and toaster. Erica was a proficient president and a pleasure to work and travel with. Erica excelled as a mentor to her fellow CWL sisters. She truly loved the League and her wish es for all ladies to enjoy it, and move through the different positions, were always front and centre.



Even though Erica had limited access to attending meetings and such in her later years, she stayed in touch with the different activities and policies, always asking questions to keep herself up to date. Erica had two additional passions, the rosary and walking. She said the rosary several times a day. Even after her stroke, she insisted in forcing herself to walk. If the weather was inclement, she walked in the halls of her apartment building. She spent her final years in a senior's home in Orangeville near her daughter. Erica loved her visits when we drove up to visit. During her final months, Erica was working on a CWL project she had been requested to do, and was excited to do. She was true inspiration of what a CWL sister is, and should be. Erica passed away in August of 2022.

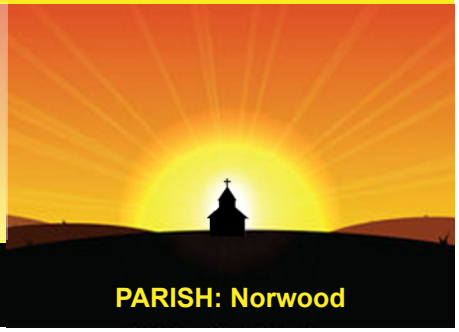
Elizabeth was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There, she had deep roots in the Catholic Women's League. Her grandmother Hagen formed the first provincial CWL in Nova Scotia and became its first president. Her grandmother was also a sculptor. She made and hand-painted a set of dishes, which she donated to the League as a fundraiser. Elizabeth was proud to have a cup and saucer from this set and spoke of it often.

Elizabeth came to Peterborough at a young age where she met her husband Leonard and lived for many years in St. Anne's Parish, raising her four children. She joined the Catholic Women's League and worked her way through several positions to become President. In 1994 Elizabeth became the Diocesan President. During this year, the Provincial Convention was held in Peterborough. She also was a wonderful mentor to less experienced members, always willing to help out and share your skills.

Because Elizabeth didn't drive, she and I did a fair bit of travelling together. During her two years in office, she and I also flew to Winnipeg to a National Convention. We were privileged to have Elizabeth as a member of St. Patrick's Kinmount CWL when the St. Anne's Council became inactive and folded.

Elizabeth passed away in February of 2023.

Norwood/Havelock CWL 100th Anniversay



On September 11, 2022, the Norwood/Havelock CWL celebrated their 100th Anniversary at St. Paul's Church in Norwood. They marked this milestone of years of service and dedication with a Mass celebrated by their parish priest Father David West and many CWL members were readers, ministers and led the music. After Mass the 2022 service pin recipients were presented with their pins by Wendy Tedford, our CWL Diocesan Past-President and Father David.

2020 and 2021 service pin recipients had received their pins by mail due to Covid so photos were also taken of those members.

A big undertaking was writing the 100-year history and publishing it in a commemorative booklet. All current CWL members received a copy. This task of writing was made easier by the wonderful minutes and photo/scrapbooks that have been kept over the years by the executive members.

After the Mass and presentations, a parish BBQ was held on the church lawn. The meal also included a wonderful Anniversary cake and parishioners enjoyed time to celebrate. Our prayer is that we will continue to grow as individuals and as a group in our Christian faith and to continue to provide assistance to the needs of our churches, community projects, and our youth.

Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary."
Pope Benedict XVI







FROM THE PEW

David Beresford

Crows and Mice

"So you think that Ronald Knox bible is the best translation do you?" said Fr. Haines, a friend of our family. Father was a cheerful fellow, with a taste for controversy and good natured argument. He was sitting in our dining room, and we were indulging in the usual conservational topics as we waited while supper cooked on the stove.

"It is the one I like the best, probably because I like Fr Knox's mystery stories."

"But it was solely based on the Latin Vulgate, and while true to the Latin it ignores major developments in modern biblical scholarship," countered Fr Haines.

"Hold that thought for a sec Fr, and lean back a bit," I asked.

I picked up the pellet gun from behind my chair, "just a bit more Fr., that's good," and pulled the trigger.

"Got him!" I set my gun back down behind my chair and walked over to the corner of the room to pick up a dead mouse. This had been a particularly clever mouse, one that avoided all our traps, having discovered how to remove the food without setting them off.

"But the Vulgate did manage to inspire some saints even without the dubious benefit of modern biblical scholarship," I responded argumentatively. But the moment was gone, and the conversation naturally turned to shooting mice.

I have been assured that keeping rabbits attracts mice and rats. Maybe. But from my experience not keeping rabbits also attracts mice and rats. In fact, living in a house attracts mice and rats and rodents of all kinds. Our rule for mice is simple: outside, fair enough, and good luck to you; in our kitchen you are fair game for whatever traps we have that work.

A simple way to increase the effectiveness of a mouse trap is to use more than one. Two are twice as effective as one, and four is twice that. The best way to catch them is when they first venture into the house, and for this you need to keep your traps set. The worst way is to wait until they take up residence. Not trapping mice is not an option, it is silliness. Live traps do not work. The other name for a live trap is a mouse restaurant.

Our most amazing mouse story actually is not about mice, but meadow voles. We had experienced a thaw one winter, followed by rain which soaked the snow, followed by a cold snap which the froze the ground, the truck, the driveway, and the roads. The snow, no longer fluffy, had lost all its ability to insulate. The small rodents that normally pass through the winter under the snow in the dark and warmth, foraging for seeds and sleeping in grass nests, safe from owls and weasels prowling above the snow, were suddenly forced to leave their wet refuges, and search for dry places to hide. In their search they chewed holes into our house where the well line comes in. We became aware of this when we saw a small brown rodent running across the living room floor.

"I just saw a mouse, or a rat – it was big – could it be a rat?" my wife called out in a mild panic.



"No, it short tail means it was a meadow vole, not a mouse, just ignore it," I suggested.

"There is another one! And one there!"

I was given the task of setting traps. I baited each of these with a dough ball made from bread about the size of a thimble, and press this around the trigger mechanism of the snap trap. I then put some peanut butter on this to provides an odour attractant.

Snap! "Got one!"

I tossed this out the front door onto the frozen snow to be food for weasels, owls, or foxes. No point in wasting a good meadow vole.

Snap! Another vole which I tossed outside. Snap! Snap! Two this time. These took their place in the makeshift graveyard on the snowbound lawn. There was a crow eating one of the dead voles.

Good, nothing wasted, and nice to be able to help the crows.

By the time I had removed the first dozen there were several crows sitting on the hedge, waiting. As I tossed the next dead vole out, two crows flew down, one catching it in midair, the other chasing it, cawing angrily.

This became a game for us in our icebound home. We would take turns throwing out a dead vole, and try to guess which member of the growing flock of crows would catch it.

By lunchtime the supply of voles dwindled from one every ten minutes to two an hour, finally ending by midafternoon, leaving a growing flock of crows stranded and casing in disappointment. We had stopped counting after 30 – at least 30 crows well fed and happy, a good day's work. ✠

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.



La Verna ...a place of Franciscan Spirituality

It was just this past September 2022 that La Verna formally opened its doors for public ministry with an Open House on September 17th, the Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis of Assisi. La Verna was conceived after the Capuchin Franciscans sold their Retreat Centre, "Mount Alverno" in the Caledon Hills north-west of Toronto. Although we no longer have a retreat center *per se*, we still wanted to continue the various ministries that had been integral to the past Mount Alverno experience.

Today, that has manifested our new ministry, La Verna, located at 820 Frank Street in Peterborough, ON. Brother Alan Gaebel, ofm, cap and Bro Stephen Van Massenhoven, ofm, cap live onsite and offer a variety of opportunities to strengthen and deepen one's faith journey.

La Verna is a place to engage spiritual growth from a Franciscan perspective. St Francis of Assisi lived in an almost constant state of discernment following his conversion from his early years as a roust-about around Assisi to the Saint we know and love today.

Following his conversion Francis spent significant amounts of time in solitude in caves on various heights around the Umbrian region of Italy. One of his favorites was nearby Mount Subasio where today stands Eremo della Carceri, another was le Celle di Cortona and one of the most significant locations was, of course, at La Verna in the region of Tuscany. It was here where St Francis manifested the holy stigmata which stayed with him for the next two years until he died in 1226.

It was in these places, some would say *"thin places",* where Francis was most intimate with God and experienced his deepest moments of discernment. it is into these "thin places" in your daily life that we wish to bring you....

For further information on our current programming Bro Alan and Bro Stephen invite you to visit our page on the Diocese of Peterborough's website: https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/life-and-faith/la-verna-house-of-prayer.aspx

Or contact us at La Verna 705.243.9131, or email at laverna@capuchins.ca

St. Patrick's Day at St. Paul's

PARISH: Lakefield



Our Knights of Columbus put on a lively Pub Night for the 17th of March. The hall was decorated with an abundance of green and the visitors did not disappoint as the showed their enthusiasm for the night with plenty of green in their attire making for a sea of green at St. Paul's.



The church hall was alive with reels and jigs performed by **"Hunt the Hare"**. The energy of the band delighted the revelers as they played old and new favorites. The enthusiasm of the entertainers was contagious and everyone happily joined in with toe tapping and clapping along to the music. There may even have been some dancing in the aisles.



St. Paul's CWL contributed to the event by cooking up a huge batch of delicious authentic Guinness Irish Stew with soda bread. Thank you ladies. A prize table for those with the "Luck of the Irish" was also popular.



And here are the most popular group of the night. (Or perhaps second most popular people after the band, Hunt the Hare) Our most capable bartenders.

Thank you one and all for your attendance and participation. Funds continue to be raised for our Accessible Entrance project.





NEXT BIG EVENT...

St. Paul's Lakefield

BEEF BBQ

With ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday August 13, 2023
3pm -7pm

4 Reid St. Lakefield-next to the River

Featuring fresh local Beef

Includes fresh picked corn on the cob, fresh beans, baby potatoes and tomatoes.

Lots of home baked pies

Adults $20, 6-12 yrs. $10, under 6 FREE!





CATHOLIC CURIOSITIES

Stephen Retallick

Cephalophores: Martyrs Heading to Heaven

Cephalophore, from the Greek for "head-carrier", is a term used to describe saints who were martyred by beheading, then proceeded to pick up their heads and carry them for a period of time. Depicted in Christian paintings, sculptures, and other forms of art holding their own severed heads, the challenge for artists is deciding how to incorporate the halo in their depiction of the saint. Some place it behind the severed head, others above the shoulders, where the head used to be attached

It's estimated that 120 cephalophores have been recognized around the world. The stories of three, St. Denis of Paris, St. Osgyth, and St. Gemolo, are outlined below.



St. Denis of Paris

If you've ever had an opportunity to visit Notre-Dame de Paris, in France, you may have entered the cathedral through the Portal of the Virgin, located on the left side of the west façade.

Of the portal's elaborate stonework, is a statue of a bishop holding his own severed head. Flanked by angels on both sides, this statue depicts St. Denis of Paris, the third century bishop of Paris (then known as Lutetia, Roman Gaul), who was beheaded by order of the Roman Emperor for converting the local pagans.

According to his hagiography, after Denis and his companions – Rusticus and Eleutherius – were executed, Denis walked from the place of execution (now known as Montmartre, where Sacré-Coeur Basilica sits today), carrying his severed head and preaching a sermon on repentance. After walking for around 30 minutes, while preaching and carrying his head, Denis suddenly stopped and died. He was buried on that spot, and a shrine was built for his veneration. Construction of the current Basilica of Saint-Denis, where the Kings of France were crowned and ultimately entombed, began in the 12th century. St. Denis is the patron saint of Paris, and is considered the best known cephalophore.

St. Osgyth

Born to a noble family in Anglo-Saxon England, Osgyth was the daughter of Frithuwold, the ruler of Surrey, and Wilburga, the daughter of King Penda of Mercia.

From a young age, Osgyth had dreamed of being a nun; however, her father had other plans and arranged for her to be married to Sighere, King of Essex. On the day of their wedding, Sighere departed the celebration to hunt down a white stag he had spotted in the area. Left behind, Osgyth, still feeling a strong call to religious life, spoke with two bishops and convinced them to accept her vows. When Sighere returned, although initially upset with Osgyth's decision, he eventually acknowledged her sincere religious beliefs and gifted her land to establish a convent.

According to legend, around AD 653, a raiding party led by notorious Viking raiders landed on the nearby shore and demanded that Osgyth pray to their gods. Refusing, one of the raiders pulled out his sword and beheaded Osgyth. To everyone's amazement, Osgyth rose to her feet, picked up her head, and walked a distance to the local church. After knocking three times on the door, she collapsed and died. She was buried at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aylesbury.

St. Gemolo

According to tradition, around the end of the 10th century, an unidentified bishop from the northern regions of Italy made his way to Rome for his ad limina visit – to venerate the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul and attend an audience with the pope.

When the bishop and his entourage arrived in the Diocese of Milan, they set up camp for the evening in a meadow on the outskirts of the city. Aware of the ongoing gang violence, the bishop had asked his nephew, Gemolo, to accompany him and his advisors on the long journey. That night, as Gemolo kept watch, members of the local gang infiltrated the encampment and stole the bishop's horse and other possessions, then absconded into the countryside. Seeing this transpire, Gemolo and Imerio, one of his acquaintances, mounted their horses and followed after them. A little while later, Gemolo and Imerio discovered the thieves resting and crept up on them. One of the thieves, defending himself and the stolen possessions, struck Gemolo with his sword, severing his head. After falling to the ground, Gemolo stood up, picked up his head and remounted his horse. They then rode off in the direction of the camp.

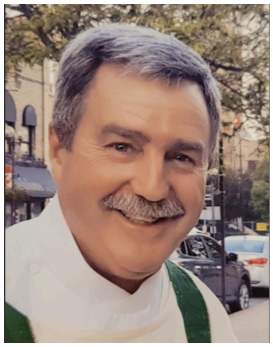
Reaching their destination, members of the bishop's entourage came over and tried to pull Gemolo from his horse. Resisting, the horse galloped off and stopped at Monte Mondonico, where only the bishop could pull Gemolo from the horse. Interpreting this as providential, the bishop had Gemolo buried at that location. The Abbey of Ganna is built over his grave.

Although the reasons behind this miraculous phenomenon may never be known, some have speculated that the martyrs are merely indicating where they wish to be buried. ✠

Stephen and his family live in Peterborough.

The Price We Pay When We Say 'Yes'

Rev. Deacon Brad Lewis



Matthew 4:18-22 is the beautiful story of Jesus calling his disciples, Simon, Andrew, James and John. Two lines from this reading are keys to true discipleship: (4:20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him, (4:22) Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Simon, Andrew, James and John are fishermen in the truest sense. They fish, not for pleasure, but for profit. Fishing is their business. They own their own boats and nets. It is their livelihood. For them, fishing provides for their family. It puts food on their table and a roof over their heads.

Zebedee has taught his sons, James and John, to fish. It is likely they would one day teach their children. And so fishing, for these men, was more than just a business: it was a trade… a tradition, something to be handed down from generation to generation. Historians will tell us that where they fished was on a major trade route (Capernaum [v. 12]; the Sea of Galilee [v. 18]). They would sell and barter with people of many nations and languages. This means these fishermen would likely have spoken two or more languages. And, since they owned their own boats and nets, it means they were likely part of the middle-class of their society.

They were not poor… or starving… or looking to change their lives.

It is important to know these things about Simon, Andrew, James and John, because we sometimes think those Jesus called to follow him were simple folk, with nothing better to do! But that is not the case.

Knowing what fishing meant to these men, and to their families, gives meaning to those two line from Matthew's Gospel:

- (4:20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him
- (4:22) Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

They followed Jesus and left everything behind. They left behind their family business. They left behind the security of their daily income. They left behind their families' tradition. They left behind their belongings. They left behind what they knew and did so well. They left behind the comfort of their homes. They left behind the community in which they lived.

All of us… bishop, priests, deacons, laity… all of us are frequently asked to say yes; yes to leading, yes to participating, yes to attending. Because our lives are already busy and our plates are likely full, it becomes easy, and possibly habitual, for us to say no whenever we are invited or asked to say yes.

It would be so much easier to say yes (and likely more difficult to say no) if it was Jesus himself standing before us doing the asking. We'd see his face. We'd hear his voice. We'd encounter his passion, his strength, his love. But Jesus does not call us today as he did Simon, Andrew, James and John. Today, he calls us through prayer. Today, he calls us through those God has placed into our lives. Today, he calls us through the Gospels. Today, he calls us through the Holy Spirit working in our lives and in our hearts.

Anytime we are invited or asked to say yes to something, we should take it to prayer before we answer. Prayer can help us determine whether it is Jesus who is calling us through the person asking. Prayer can open our hearts to the where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Prayer can help us to see if there is something we are currently involved with that we can, or should, let go in order to say yes to something new. Prayer will help us to realize what we will need to leave behind should we choose to say yes.

Saying yes to anything Jesus calls us to do always means leaving something behind. In order for the fishermen in today's Gospel to follow where Jesus would lead, they HAD to leave everything behind. They could not go with him and still live at home. They could not go with him and continue to run their business. They could not go with him dragging behind them their nets and their boats. It wouldn't have worked.

And so it is for us as Catholics! When he calls us to love our spouse, or our children more deeply, it means leaving behind some selfishness. When he calls us to ask forgiveness, it means leaving behind some pride. And when he calls us to take on more, in or out of our parishes, it means leaving behind some free time, and possibly some apathy.

Whenever Jesus calls us to do something that will help build the kingdom of God here on earth, there is always something we will need to leave behind. And whatever that is, it cannot come with us, or we would be unable to fully answer his call.

Jesus will never stop calling us to use the gifts and talents God has given us. Are we willing to say yes, even if it means leaving something behind? ✠

Through the Eyes of the Cross.

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

Fr. Paul Massel

Lent is a marvelous time to pull away from the routines and busyness of life and find new vision. The Paschal Mystery, the "passage" of our lives continues to unfold and as Catholics, we ponder the uniqueness of every human being, while seeing our oneness and solidarity in the life of Jesus Christ.

Our celebrations, our banquets and blessings all culminate in the Eucharist, the gift of Holy Thursday, we ponder the challenges and sorrows, even death coming to their fullness in Christ on Good Friday, and with hope, joy and rebirth we come to salvation and eternal life through our loving God on Easter Sunday.



I am proud to say, as Chaplain and Faith Animator for our PVNC Catholic schools, I see all these mysteries lived out each and every day in our schools.

In keeping with our three-year Pastoral Plan, IGNITE: Faith, Hope and Love through Conversation, Celebration and Community, our Secondary school shops have made beautiful wooden replicas of our giant PVNC Cross, which welcomes all outside the Catholic Education Centre. The replica crosses will be proudly displayed centrally in all our schools and at our Catholic Student Leadership Awards, during Catholic Education Week As part of our Lenten journey, all are asked to: Take a moment and look at our beautiful PVNC Cross. Notice that the Christ is a "cut out." This allows the whole of Creation to be seen through the cross of Christ. When you look through it, what do you see? The Christ, through the cross, is the lens through which we see all our joys and challenges, the whole Paschal Mystery: (Holy Thursday) the banquet of life and love here



Fr. Paul Massel, Cali Stewart, Riley Carvalho, Sophia Kissi, Avery Tzountzouris and Chaplaincy Leader, Kendra Willis

on earth, (Good Friday) our challenges and crosses turning to hope, joy and the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Each school will welcome their new cross into each of their classrooms accompanied by a journal, inviting students from kindergarten to grade 12 to meditate on the cross, to see through its "lens," every aspect of their lives and the community of their schools. Through poems, writings and drawings inserted in their journals, to see Christ in each other and in all the subjects of study. How do they see Christ in their relationships, in the way they engage in athletics or the arts? And as the journal expands, how can they adorn their cross with signs and symbols that reflect what they have written.

Staff, too, are invited to look through the cross and see their vocations to Catholic education. How are they inspiring their students to see Christ in each other and in the world around them?

It is the hope that each cross will reflect the school's faith identity, maybe the life of its patron saint, the community's history, its values and gifts as well as how faith is expressed throughout the school year. The first chapter in the life of these school crosses will culminate during Catholic Education week, May 1-5 and be on display at the board's Catholic Leadership Award's night May 4th.

As board chaplain, I am so proud of our construction classes for making these beautiful crosses for each of their elementary schools. I am proud of our Secondary School Chaplaincy Leaders who have travelled with me to each of our schools offering support and encouragement to Faith Ambassadors in each school. I am proud of our Principals and Vice-Principals who have so eagerly taken on these challenges despite ever busy days and challenges.

Most of all, I am proud of our schools. To walk into any one of them, is to feel the powerful presence of Christ, rooted firmly, despite the ever-challenging culture, which surrounds them. Our schools are our future. The children there will be our church, tomorrow. When you can, speak words of encouragement to staff and students in your parish schools. They deserve our love and support.

They are the hands and voices of our future and indeed, the voice of Christ. God bless you for a wonderful Lent and Holy Week! ✠



Bishop Miehm is Everywhere!



St. Joseph, Powassan

January 9, 2023

Thank you, Bishop Daniel Miehm, for preaching and celebrating Holy Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord! Thank you to all our parishioners who helped make this visit joyful and meaningful. May the glory of the newborn Saviour shine brightly in all of us!

— Fr. Eric Mason

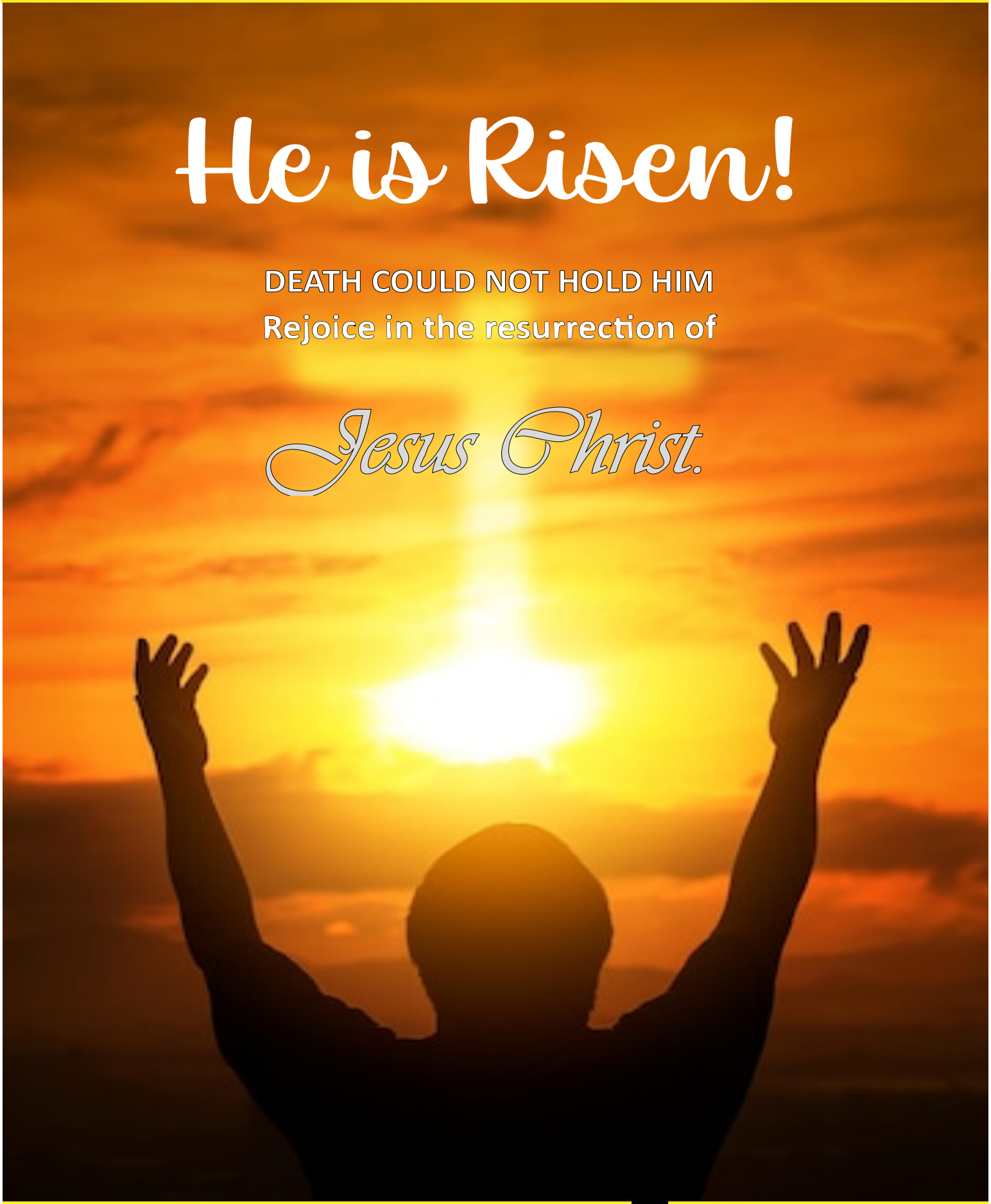


Bishop Miehm in Montreal

March 19, 2023

St Joseph Syro Malabar Parish Montreal was blessed to celebrate the Holy Qurbana on behalf of Eparchy of Mississauga in McGill University for the inter-religious group. The event was conducted under the leadership Canadian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Thank you very much Bishop Daniel J Miehm of Peterborough for your presence, Bishop Jose Kalluvelil for the guidance and direction and Fr Jomon for a wonderful homily,
— Fr George Joseph (Jojo)


He is Risen!
DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM
Rejoice in the resurrection of
Jesus Christ.

On Friday, 17 March 2023, Bishop Miehm posted on his weekly "From the Vinyard" page (https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/from-the-vineyard.aspx) the following announcement…

BISHOP TOM DOWD OF SAULT STE MARIE AND I HAVE A FRIENDLY WAGER!

He is dropping the puck at tonight's game between the Sudbury Wolves and Peterborough Petes and suggested a fun bet: "winning" bishop gets bragging rights; "losing" bishop has to wear the jersey of the winning team, like a figurative sackcloth and ashes. I have confidence in our Petes and am already preparing a jersey to be sent to Bishop Dowd by Priority Post.







Unfortunately, Bishop Miehm's "confidence in our Petes" was misplaced.

Here's hoping that Bishop Dowd is sufficiently "friendly" to absolve his Peterborough counterpart from the extreme penance of wearing Subury's sackcloth and ashes.

The Catholic Herald actively seeks the submission of photographs from across the Diocese. Photos need to be in focus and high resolution. Please email to: catholicherald@peterboroughdiocese.org and include the date, place and names of persons depicted. The Herald is published three times a year.