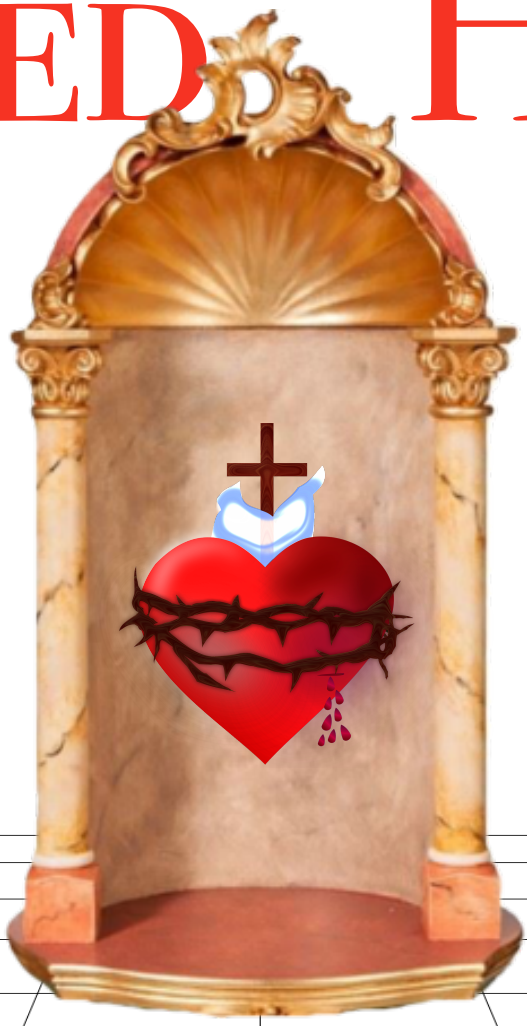
Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

Year of the

Sacred Heart



27 December 2023

27 June 2025

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EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

Controversial Blessings

Upon reading the introductory remarks of Pope Francis to participants in the International Conference *"Man-Woman: Image of God. Towards an Anthropology of Vocations"*, (https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/march/documents/20240301-convegno-uomo-donna.html 1 March 2024), I felt a revival of the plan I had already dismissed of commenting (briefly) on the recent document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith about blessings.

But first, the Pope's remarks about anthropology: he notes that modern gender ideology "erases differences and makes everything the same; to erase differences is to erase humanity." He goes on to quote Cardinal Newman: "I am created to do something or to be something for which no one else is created… He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission… Somehow I am necessary for His purposes."

For some time now, our culture has leaned heavily on the mantra: "we are all created equal", and this is certainly true on some fundamental level. But it does not mean that we come into this world as a blank slate or a shapeless lump of clay that can be made into anything at whim. God has a purpose for each and every one of us. Which is to say, every one of us is important and unrepeatable; each one is put here to contribute in some way to the development of the Kingdom. It doesn't matter whether that contribution is great or small by any human measurement; it only matters that "Thy will be done."

The real question, then, is: what is God's will or plan for me? And arriving at an answer seems easier for some people than for others; I don't mean to minimize the challenge.

Yet there is some thing, or things, not left up to the individual to determine. I am reminded of St. Paul (1 Corinthians 12), where he considers the various parts of a well-functioning body and no part should be dissatisfied because it isn't something else; all are important as they are. "God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose", St. Paul says (v. 18).

Now, turning to the controversy stirred up by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith: on 18 December 2023, a relatively short document was issued: *Fiducia Supplicans* – On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, (https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_ddf_doc_20231218_fiducia-supplicans_en.html). This is, of course, the document that addresses (in part) the topic of blessing persons in same-sex relationships.

My reading of the document led me to rejoice that it brought some insight into the various kinds of blessings. I note that it says, even before we get to the "introduction", "one can understand the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage." Yet other readers somehow get to a conclusion that such is exactly what the document ***is*** doing. I am perplexed.

There are different kinds of blessings – some liturgical, many not. If someone comes forward with health issues or moral struggles, a solemn or liturgical blessing may not be necessary, just a sincere prayer for health or strength or guidance. Surely blessings are about gaining health or grace to follow God's plan, not necessarily one's own.

This fits with the anthropology comments: we are all created in the image and likeness of God, with dignity and purpose, similar yet unique. Each of us could use a blessing once in a while, not to continue in our weakness but to grow in pefection. ✠

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

Vol. 20, No. 1 — Easter 2024

NEXT ISSUE

— Fall 2024 —

will be distributed to the parishes in mid-September 2024.
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: 2,500 per issue.

Editor: Rev. Father Raymond Rick

Publisher: Diocese of Peterborough
350 Hunter St. W. P.O. Box 175
Peterborough, ON, K9J 6Y8
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Comings and Goings



Bishop Daniel Miehm

I love the line in the Psalm 121 that says, "The Lord will guard your going out and coming in from this time forth and forever." The Psalmist speaks of a God who is with us in the many changes of our lives, whether individually or collectively.

The Lord has undoubtedly done a lot of guarding at our Diocesan Pastoral Center lately, as we have had our fair share of "coming and going" in recent months. All of this speaks of the vibrancy of life in the Diocese and of the many facets of ministry that we deal with at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. I trust it also reflects that, whatever changes may happen, we are always under God's providential care.

He wasn't exactly a new arrival, because Chris LeBlanc worked for a couple of years as a Development Officer for Peterborough Campus Ministry. But we decided to expand the horizons of his work and in September brought him in to be the Director of the Stewardship and Development Office for the Diocese of Peterborough. Chris has already been an invaluable help to several parishes as they embark on various campaigns, and he has produced good material for use on a Diocese-wide basis, like the different stewardship reflections for the Sundays of Lent.

Father Stephen DeCarlo has been carrying the Vocations portfolio for a couple of years, balancing it with the demands of parish ministry. In the summer, he departed the parish and set up shop in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, relaunching an Office for Youth. Already the office has sponsored some good activities for youth and young adults and has taken over coordination of the Outdoor Way of the Cross. If you are looking to launch or revive Youth ministry in your parish, Father Stephen is the man to call!

We were sorry to say goodbye to Jennifer Campitelli this fall, as she worked so well for many years in Temporal Affairs as the Financial Administrative Assistant. In her place we have welcomed Lori Beal, who has come with extensive experience in business and finance and is now acclimating to the specific demands that we face here in the Diocese with its many parishes.



Our Volunteer Screening was ready for some revival after the pandemic and its after-effects. So, we were very happy that Sr. Dorothy Nzekwe, a member of the SOLI Sisters, joined our little diocesan team in November. She works with us a couple of days a week and is doing a lot to enhance our Volunteer Screening program, balancing with it some work in the Archives.

Refugee sponsorship in the Diocese of Peterborough over the years was thanks to the great volunteer efforts of people like Sr. Ruth Hennesey CSJ (Rest in peace.), Aspa Bouzinelos, Maggie Baker and Nancy McLeod. But the task and its demands have grown, so we were delighted to engage Jack Gillan recently as the new Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator. He is on the job part-time and working very hard to make sure that this important task of welcoming newcomers to Canada is well-done, according to all the government requirements.

Lastly, we were saddened to learn that Deirdre Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop and Communications Director for the Diocese, will be retiring in April. Deirdre came to us from the world of Catholic education and became an invaluable part of our operation in these past seven years. She will wrap up her responsibilities here soon, and we pray for the very best for her in the future!

And yes, we are working now to find her replacement, who will be the very next newcomer to the DPC. So, may the Lord continue to guard our going out and coming in.

Easter blessings to one and all!

Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

Office of the Bishop

DECREE

The Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough
decrees

PLENARY AND PARTIAL INDULGENCES

in celebration of the 350th anniversary of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Whereas canon 995 §1 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law provides that "In addition to the supreme authority of the Church, only those to whom this power is acknowledged in the law or granted by the Roman Pontiff can bestow indulgences." and

Whereas eparchial or diocesan bishops ... have the right to enter into pastoral office:

- To grant **a partial indulgence** to all the faithful in their own territory, and outside the territory to the faithful belonging to their jurisdiction;
- To grant **the papal blessing with a plenary indulgence**, according to the prescribed formula, to be imparted in each eparchy or diocese three times a year, on solemn feasts designated by them. This blessing is given at the end of the Mass in place of the usual blessing, according to the norm of each and the Ceremonial Bishops. (*Enchiridion, Manual of Indulgences*) and

Whereas Most Reverend Bishop Benoit Riviere (Bishop of Autun, Châlon-sur-Saône-Mâcon-Cluny, France) has decreed a great Jubilee to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacocque in Paray-le-Monial, France, starting on December 27, 2023, and concluding on June 27, 2025, and

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Whereas, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough has the following churches dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- Sacred Heart Parish, 208 Romaine Street, Peterborough;
- Sacred Heart Parish, 165 Main Street West, Trout Creek; and
- Sacred Heart Mission, 494 Bethesda Road, Baltimore.

Recognizing the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese have a long-standing and rich tradition of faithful devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Therefore, I decree the granting of a partial indulgence to the faithful who fulfill the following obligations:

- a pilgrimage to any of the Sacred Heart churches noted above beginning December 27, 2023, to June 27, 2025, and
- offer the Litany of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Further, I decree the granting of a plenary indulgence when the following obligations are observed, noting the conditions entailed herein:

- Attend Mass and receive Holy Communion at one of the Sacred Heart churches noted above on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 7, 2024, and June 27, 2025), and
- make a sacramental confession [within several days of the act], and
- pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

Partial and Plenary Indulgences are granted noting the required observances referenced in Canons 992-997 and the *Enchiridion, Manual of Indulgences*, 26-29 – those observances having been noted above.

Given at Peterborough, Ontario, this 12th day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two-thousand- and-twenty-three.

+ D. Miehm

+ Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop
Diocese of Peterborough

ROMAN CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CORPORATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

Rev. Fr. Raymond Rick, JCL
Chancellor

+DJM/dlt

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Jubilee

To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial.

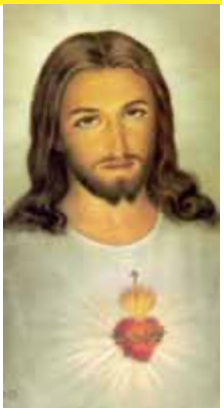
Render Love For Love

Calendar for Sacred Heart Parish Trout Creek

December 27, 2023	The jubilee will begin on the anniversary of the first apparition ✓
Every Friday during the Jubilee	a prayer to The Sacred Heart is provided to all parishioners to be said at Mass and at home every Friday ✓
January 5, 2024	Votive Mass to the Sacred Heart of Jesus ✓
May 30th to June 7th, 2024	A Novena to the Sacred Heart, ending on June 7th, the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with Veneration of Relics, a short talk, and Mass beginning @ 5:30 p.m. to commemorate this Feast Day
June 27, 2025	Bishop Daniel Miehm will be with us to celebrate Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Reparation and Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



When Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary Alacoque for the Nine First Fridays in Reparation to His Most Sacred Heart, it was to atone for neglect, irreverence, abuse and sacrilege committed against the Holy Eucharist.

Saint Margaret Mary received several private revelations of the Sacred Heart, the first on December 27, 1673, and the last one eighteen months later. These revelations instructed the faithful how to honour His Sacred Heart through this devotion, including reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month, Eucharistic adoration during a Holy Hour of Reparation, and the celebration of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In her visions, Saint Margaret Mary also received twelve promises from Jesus for those who honour His Sacred Heart. It was Pope Pius IX who made the Feast of the Sacred Heart a celebration in the universal Church, on the Friday after the Feast of Corpus Christi.

(The Sacred Heart of Jesus: Fount of God's love and mercy - Vatican News)

On May 28, 1928, Pope Pius XI published ***MISERENTISSIMUS REDEMPTOR***, an Encyclical on Reparation to the Sacred Heart. In it he stated: "We are holden to the duty of reparation and expiation by a certain more valid title of justice and of love, of justice indeed, in order that the offense offered to God by our sins may be expiated and that the violated order may be repaired by penance: and of love too so that we may suffer together with Christ suffering and "filled with reproaches" (*Lam*. iii, 30), and for all our poverty may offer Him some little solace. For since we are all sinners and laden with many faults… we must need make satisfaction to God the just avenger, "for our numberless sins and offenses and negligence's." (Miserentissimus Redemptor (May 8, 1928) | PIUS XI (vatican.va)

Attending First Friday Mass and a Holy Hour of Reparation, once per month, for nine consecutive months, is our opportunity to repair the suffering of Our Lord caused by sins and sacrilege committed against the most Blessed Sacrament. Let us endeavour to show our love for our Lord by honouring His request.

A Short Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



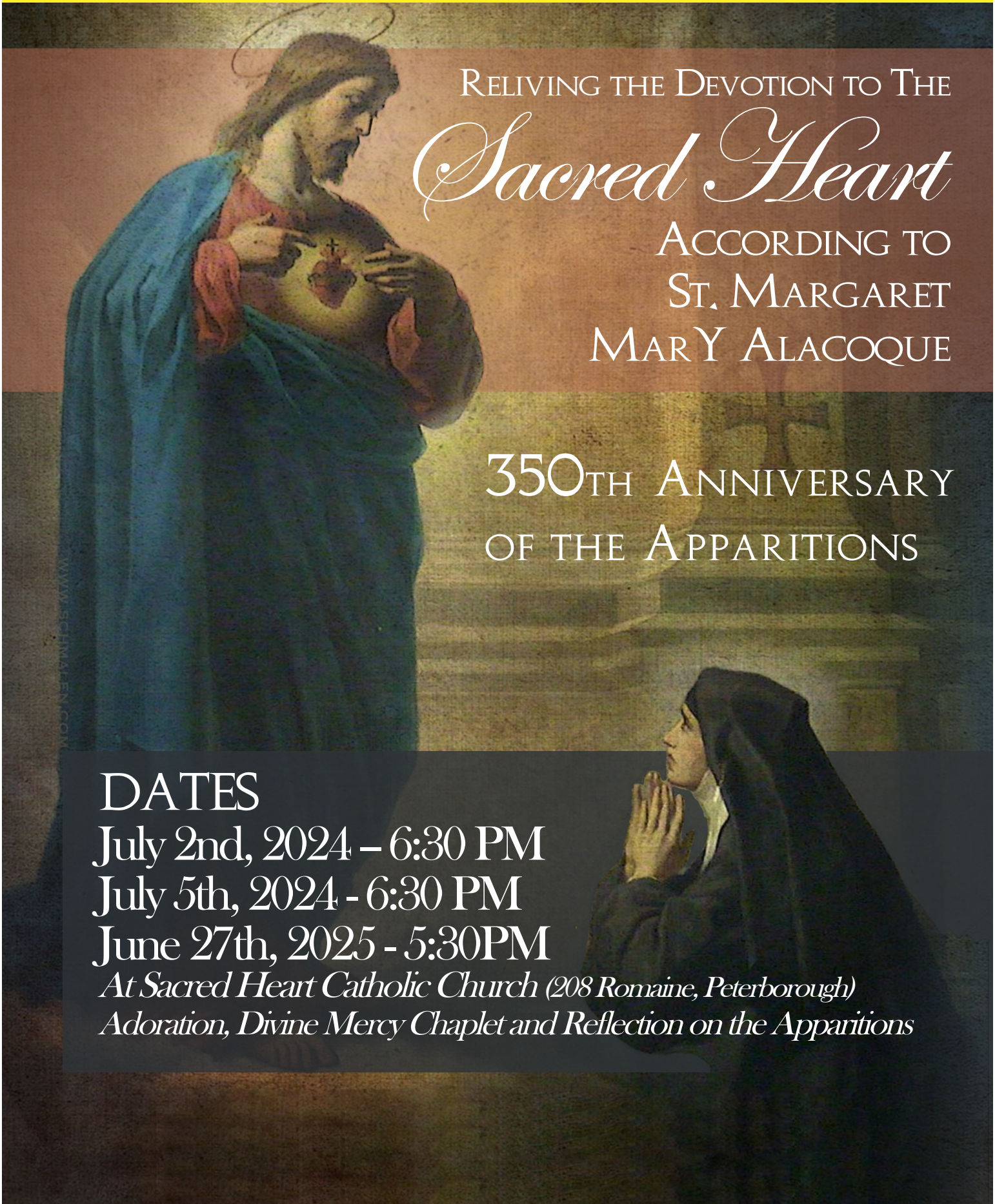
Sacred Heart of Jesus,
filled with infinite love,
broken by my ingratitude,
pierced by my sins,
yet loving me still,
accept the consecration that I make to You,
of all that I am and all that I have.
Take every faculty of my soul and body,
and draw me, day by day,
nearer and nearer to Your Sacred Side,
and there, as I can bear the lesson,
teach me Your blessed ways.
Amen.

Pope Leo XIII: Daily Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most sweet Jesus, redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before your altar. We are yours and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your most sacred heart. Many, indeed, have never known you, many too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your sacred heart. Be you king, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be you king of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one shepherd. Be you king also of all those who sit in the ancient superstition of the Gentiles and refuse not you to deliver them out of darkness into the light and kingdom of God. Grant, O Lord, to your Church, assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor forever. Amen.

The 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.
5. I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall grow fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honoured.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment



Reliving the Devotion to The Sacred Heart According to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

350th Anniversary of the Apparitions

DATES

July 2nd, 2024 – 6:30 PM
July 5th, 2024 - 6:30 PM
June 27th, 2025 - 5:30PM

At Sacred Heart Catholic Church (208 Romaine, Peterborough)
Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reflection on the Apparitions

Contemplating the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"Meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine".

What does it mean to be meek and humble of heart? In this age, people would assume that one who is meek and humble of heart, is weak, easily conquered, seen as giving in and even a 'doormat' to others. And yet, with our spiritual senses and understanding do we see that in Jesus? How did He witness to us? What can we learn from His meekness? His humility? His example?

Jesus taught us that meekness is strength in silence. When He was being condemned by Caiaphas and Annas, He offered no defence. When Pilate told Jesus he had the power to release Him or to crucify Him, Jesus humbly replied, "You would have no power over me unless it was given to you from above; therefore, he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." (John 19:11). Jesus could have easily prevailed over their arguments however, a few words and His silent witness was His meekness accepting unto death the Father's plan which ultimately bought our redemption.

So how do we demonstrate that same meekness in our world? We can turn our eyes to He who taught us. We bear our burdens, injuries, and hurts, calmly and patiently minimizing our anger. "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44). Learn to bless, rather than curse those who annoy us, who cut use off on the road, who talk over us or those who treat use poorly. Joining our sufferings to His helps us to carry our cross.

As for humility we can learn from Mary, our Mother. She shows the way to devout humility, saying yes, and saying thank you to God, in every moment of her life. Her *fiat*, her yes, was in every decision and every action of her life. It was leaving her family to take the child Jesus to Egypt with St. Joseph. It was surrendering Jesus to the Father when he was lost in Jerusalem. It was teaching us at Cana, to do whatever He tells us. It was meeting her Son on the *Via Dolorsa*, in humble acceptance of His Way of the Cross, and sharing His agony and His suffering as a silent witness. It was standing at the foot of the cross enduring the ultimate suffering of her Son. Always, she redirects any praise towards herself back to her Son. She is the ultimate teacher of humility, that we are nothing without God.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, teach us to conform our hearts to the Heart of Jesus.

Meekness: The virtue that moderates anger and its disorderly effects. It is a form of temperance that controls every inordinate movement of resentment at another person's character or behaviour. (Catholic Dictionary)

Humility: The moral virtue that keeps a person from reaching beyond himself. It is the virtue that restrains the unruly desire for personal greatness and leads people to an orderly love of themselves based on a true appreciation of their position with one's total dependence on God. Humility is opposed to pride. (Catholic Dictionary)

Spiritual Affaris Office
https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/JubileeSacredHeart/

Faith, Service and Social Justice
Pillars of the CWL



Since 2021, The Catholic Women's League of Canada has undergone a strategic renewal. At an annual national convention, members from across Canada were invited to answer:

1. What makes you proud to be a member?
2. What should the League emphasize and promote?
3. What is the biggest change, challenge or opportunity facing the League?
4. What would you like to see the League do differently?
5. What would you like to see the League stop doing?
6. What does the future of the League look like to you?

The results of the session overwhelmingly confirmed that the environment under which parish councils were operating is sound but there was a need to address the structure of the League - the alignment of standing committees with the core values of faith, service and social justice.

Historically, one member was elected as chairperson of each of eight sub-committees: Organization, Communications, Christian Family Life, Education & Health, Community Life, Spiritual Development, Resolutions, and Legislation. Each chairperson updated their council monthly on the status of activities completed or being planned. Usually, the chairperson worked alone but it became obvious that responsibilities and activities overlapped those of other chairpersons. National concluded that, through restructuring, members could work toward common goals if they worked together in teams and thus able to become more inclusive of member contributions, ideas and talents. They could save time (which many don't have) and, as a team, continue to nourish their faith journey in love, friendship and laughter, and impact their community in a more fulfilling way. Thus, the new Three Pillar Structure was developed under the umbrellas of Faith, Service and Social Justice (see chart). While the new structure seems over-whelming, a council chooses only one or two projects on which to focus i.e. homelessness, palliative care or a shower for the pregnancy centre.

In three workshops in May, October and February, Peterborough Diocesan parish councils explored the new restructuring format. Each is now prepared to choose, in dialogue with their Spiritual Advisor – a key player – one small project that will best serve the parish community.

The League's purpose is "uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world." Through the core values of faith, service and social justice, members are called to live the Mission Statement to "grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service."

The envisioned future of the League is that through the work of these three standing committees, "The Catholic Women's League of Canada will become an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith." The members will be vital participants in the church, valued partners for social justice, respected advocates at all government levels and connected to the world.

In addition to contributions to parish community life, the National CWL remains the largest and only Women's Organization in Canada (70,000 members) which has a voice to stand up for Catholic teaching and is a respected advocate at all government levels.

Maria Fitzgerald
President
Peterborough Diocesan Catholic Women's League

Your Will! Not Mine! Mark 14:36



Members of the Cathedral CWL with Father Begin form an honour guard to escort their sister in Christ, Jackie Burke, to her final place of rest.

Faith Service Social Justice Standing Committee Responsibilities

FAITH

WAS-Spiritual Development
-Spiritual Growth of Members
-Study of Catholic Teachings
-Role of Women in the Church
-Lay Ministries
-Ecumenism & Inter-faith endeavours

WAS-Christian Family Life
-Sanctity of Life
-Vocations

SERVICE

WAS-Spiritual Development
-Evangelization & Mission Assistance
WAS-Christian Family Life
- Marriage & Family
- Ministry to various
WAS-Community life
- Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship
- Development & Peace
- Developing Countries
WAS-Education and health
- Catholic education
- Literacy & Continuing Education
-- Scholarships & Bursaries
- Wellness & Sickness/Disease
WAS-Communications
- Pornography
WAS-Parish activities
- Liaison with Pastoral Councils
-Parish Assistance

SOCIAL JUSTICE

WAS-Community life
- Dignity & Rights of Persons
- Social & Economic Justice
WAS-Education and health
- Environment
- Genetics
WAS-Resolutions
- Research & Preparation of Resolutions & Briefs
- Study & Implementation of Resolutions
- Presentation of Resolutions to Government
WAS-Legislation
- Monitor & Study Legislation
- Preparation of Briefs on Proposed Legislation

NOTE:

Organization is now Vice-president

Communications is now secretary



THE CHOIR LOFT

Kathleen Moquin

Finders Seekers

One of my favourite pages on X, formerly known as Twitter, features videos of infants and toddlers demonstrating normal gross motor, emotional, and social development achievements. Reposted from parents' social platforms, the videos are engaging, adorable, and often humorous. Knowledgeable commentary and encouraging feedback for parents by the host, an early childhood development specialist, contributes to the account's popularity in the competitive social media space. Informed by this engaging content, I happily confess diminished bewilderment regarding the seemingly disorganized, random, and heretofore purposeless movements demonstrated by my young grandchildren at play.

Take hide-and-seek. In a conventional game, a chosen player ("it") counts to a predetermined number while the other players hide. After reaching the predetermined number, the player who is "it" announces "Ready or not, here I come" and commences to locate the other players. The game ends when "it" finds all the players, with the first found player becoming the new "it" for the next game. In a common variation, a "home base" is established, from which the seeker counts to the predetermined number and to which the hiders may opt to reach so as to avoid being found and tagged during the game. In their version of hide-and-seek, my grandchildren employ a creative counting method (there are many ways to count to ten) and reliably revisit hiding places, which do not always hide toddler toes! Hiders are expected to cooperate by vocalizing hints regarding their whereabouts to the seeker who never forgets to announce, with loud enthusiasm, their readiness for seeking. The greatest delight is reserved for being found. All victories are celebrated at "home base" with praise and encouragement by older or parental players. This game is achieving legendary status in our extended family.

The metaphor of humanity playing hide-and-seek with God is imperfect but consider the ways we attempt to hide from Him. In the game of life, favourable circumstances may persuade us to live without God, and fear and confusion may limit our engagement with Him when life becomes difficult. Our sinful brokenness directs us to hiding places of shame and guilt, but God never stops searching for us:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways." (Ps.139:1-3 NRSVCE)





When we act as seekers, God is ready to be found. The beauty of creation and our experiences of providential graces strongly hint at His presence. In his Incarnation, Jesus reveals the Father: "They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' . . . Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24: 32-35). From the earliest days of the Church, the doctrine of the Eucharist emphasizes the belief in the Real Presence, that Jesus Christ is wholly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine. Before the Blessed Sacrament, we open to Jesus eyes of faith and hearts that seek. Even when we cannot seem to find Jesus or understand God's plan for our lives, we are consoled by the knowledge that Jesus is present to us when we receive Him into our very bodies.

Through its sacraments and the prayers of the communion of saints, the Church accompanies the faithful to our ultimate victory found with God in Heaven:

"Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.
For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Mt. 7: 7-8). ✠

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

round up
vocations & youth ministries

VOCATIONS

Fr. Stephen DeCarlo



As Vocations Director, I get a lot of queries about discernment, about how to discern one's vocation, what are the signs, where am I supposed to be, and so on. For young people, these questions come naturally as they are at a stage where they begin to make major decisions for their lives. Issues of what education to pursue, what job to apply for, what spouse to find, what vocation to enter into, and so many more. These are top of mind of young adults as they transition into life as adults.

My role is not to tell them what path they should follow; I am not the giver of vocations but instead I work to help young people realize what path God has in store for them and to encourage them to follow it. Are we obliged to follow our vocations? The frank answer is no; God does not force us to choose what He has given us but we are free to choose otherwise. However, being obedient to our vocations means, alongside the mediation and guidance of the Church, that we will be seeking our fullest happiness.

Most people are called to married life. A certain few are called to the priesthood and religious life, and others will remain in the unmarried state. Whatever the path for each person, we are sure that if we are open to it, God will bless us abundantly in those vocations. All vocations carry challenges with them. Married life will certainly bring headaches and frustrations. Priesthood will have days in the valleys and moments of doubt. Religious life will challenge brothers and sisters to love each other and to be charitable. Single life will have moments of doubt whether or not this path was right or if mistakes have been made. However, there will also be so many joys. Married couples will grow in their love for each other and bear children, whom they will love. If no children are possible, then couples can share this love in other ways by being generous with themselves for others. Religious sisters and brothers all relate the joys of their vocations and single people still radiate with joy and faith, a faith that is often really deep and meaningful.

And for priesthood, I can attest to the many joys that priests experience. From my conversations with older and retired priests, one fact always stands out: their gratitude to God for the priestly vocation. I have countless testimonies of priests who have said that the priesthood was worth it, that despite the many challenges it brought, if they had to live life over again, they would certainly become a priest. They have years of stories of being in the most sensitive areas of people's lives. They have celebrated Mass innumerable times, absolved countless sins, anointed many sick, witnessed the marriages of scores of couples and later baptized their children. They have seen parishes grow and others shrink. They have buried young and old, bringing consolation and healing to those who needed it most. They have counselled people in their darkest and most difficult times; they have rejoiced with those who rejoiced, wept with those who weep. They have experienced so many struggles and grown in their awareness of their own weaknesses; yet, they still say that the priesthood is worth it.



And so, to those considering the priesthood, please don't neglect that vocation but give it some proper discernment. The seminary is the best place to discern a priestly vocation. We don't discern to apply; we apply to discern. At a certain point, we have to stop just thinking about it and instead take a step forward. Whereever that path leads is up to God but you will not regret taking it. Whether it's into the priesthood or into another vocation, an application to the seminary is a step forward towards finding some peace as to where God is calling you.

Quick updates

- 1 -

Mr. Peter Bissonnette is in the final stages of 3rd Year Theology. He is expected to be ordained, God-willing, to the transitional diaconate, sometime in Spring of 2024. Please stay tuned to bulletin announcements and our social media feeds for updates. The transitional diaconate is the second-last step before priestly ordination.

- 2 -

Mr. Andrew Roelands is concluding his Spiritual Formation Year at St. Augustine's Seminary and will be assigned to a parish for the summer of 2024. God-willing, he will begin Theology studies in the Fall of 2024.

- 3 -

Rev. Mr. Edmund Monroe Scott is completing a parish assignment at St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough. God-willing, his priestly ordination will be in the not too distant future. Again, stay tuned for parish bulletin and social media announcements for updates.

Costello Classic

The Costello Classic is an annual hockey game that pits local Catholic young men in a competitive but fun game against priests and seminarians from St. Augustine's Seminary. Taking its namesake from Fr. Les Costello, the founder of the Flying Fathers hockey team composed of priests, the format has changed over the years but remained faithful to its essential mission: encouraging vocations to the priesthood. During the game, young men interact with seminarians and priests in a relaxed environment of hockey to have fun and interact with each other. Young men have said that they were pleasantly surprised at how normal seminarians really are, that they are regular guys just like them, and that they can bond over a shared passion of hockey. This year's game was held on March 1st at the Warsaw Arena.

Discernment Groups

Second to actually applying to different seminaries or orders, or even dating, a good way to begin to discern one's vocation is taking part in a discernment group.

Over the past year, I have worked with two separate groups, one for women and one for men, and the goal was to lay the groundwork of what it means to discern one's vocation. We read, studied, and discussed at length the book Pray, Decide, and Don't Worry, co-authored by Fr. Mike Schmitz and Bobby and Jackie Angel. The book begins with a general sense of God calls us and narrows that sense down to God calling us to specific vocations. While such a group is not a one and done approach to discernment, or 10 easy steps to finally figuring out your vocation, it is still a very valuable tool towards growing in knowing what is your vocation. A new group will start up soon and interested men and women should contact Fr. Stephen for more information.

Ordinandi Dinner-March 14th, 2024

The Ordinandi Dinner is an annual event hosted by the Serra Club of the Archdiocese of Toronto which showcases the men who are about to be ordained priests from St. Augustine's Seminary.

This year, eight men were featured as the ordinandi (Latin term for "those to be ordained") and the 2,000+ attendees heard their vocation stories and what inspired them to become priests. The Peterborough Vocations Office brought two tables-full of young people to attend to and hear these amazing stories. Even though we didn't have one of our own seminarians featured this year, nevertheless we heard deeply inspiring testimonies of following God's will for our lives.

Next year, God willing, we will be seeing Peter Bissonnette take the stage and share his vocational story! Stay tuned for further information in the coming months, as we will likely be sending a larger delegation from the diocese to his Ordinandi Dinner!

Youth Office

The past few months have been a busy time for the Diocesan Youth Office. Since our beginning in June of 2023, we have been busy with youth and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Peterborough. A main focus is supporting and encouraging parish-based youth ministry, as the parish is the primary place for Catholic ministry and where we often go to grow in our faith. Thus, we have been focused on encouraging parishes and pastors to support youth ministry and have heard feedback as to what is needed in each parish setting.

I am glad that there are many dedicated and generous people, both clergy and laity, paid and volunteer, who see the importance of youth ministry.

Way of the Cross 2024



The Way of the Cross is an annual Passion play where young people reenact Jesus' Via Doloroso through the streets of downtown Peterborough.

It is a live-action Stations of the Cross where the young people don costumes and present an accurate but also deeply moving and spiritual experience. It will be happening on Good Friday (March 29th) beginning at 10:00 AM inside the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, and we will be walking east through the downtown on Hunter Street towards Immaculate Conception Church, where the final stations will be held.

It is a great way for our young people to witness their faith. All are welcome to walk with us. Shuttle busses will be available for those with mobility issues.

Steubenville 2024



The Diocese of Peterborough will be sending a substantial representation to the Steubenville Youth Conferences on June 28-30, in Steubenville, Ohio, numbering almost 30 from the diocese! We will be joining the delegation from the Archdiocese of Toronto as well as the Archdiocese of Kingston, to bring a combined total of 400 from southern Ontario!

The vast majority of our group will be attending Steubenville for the first time and we are all excited to take part in this potentially life changing experience.

Young Adult Ministry

Peterborough is home to a vibrant campus ministry at Trent and Fleming. Every year, students can rely on a vibrant Catholic ministry at both campuses and meet other Catholic students. But what happens when they graduate? Many students remain in the area after graduation and feel a little lost and looking for other young adults for a sense of community. And that is where the Youth Office comes in.

There is presently an active young adult ministry in the city of Peterborough where people can meet with each other and grow in their faith. There are regular meetings beginning with Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral every Friday at 7:00 PM and afterwards we head out to a restaurant for food and fellowship. There are also regularly scheduled outings and sports events, including every Monday night in the gym at St. Anne's Elementary school. We also hold occasional faith nights, coming to Sacred Heart Parish for Adoration, Mass, a talk and a pizza social. We work closely with the Young Rosary Prayer Warriors of Canada, a online-based group that meets nightly and prays the rosary together, who come and help with the music ministry led by Carina Sandejas. For more information, feel free to contact Fr. Stephen.



September 30, 2023 7:52 p.m.

While that is happening in the Peterborough area, we are actively working with other young adult ministries throughout the diocese. Anyone who is interested in doing so is encouraged to approach your parish priest and suggest such a ministry. Your work and leadership is so important in helping people come together for Catholic fraternity and to grow in the faith together. The Youth Office is very happy to support you in this work and to provide various resources and opportunities to help with this ministry. ✠

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) — by Daniel Silva



As a cradle Catholic I grew up going to a private Catholic school where I studied for 14 years from kindergarten to high school. During all those years, I went to Mass, received my first Holy Communion and learned how to pray. It was also there that I met my wife, although we only actually dated when we were adults, but that's a topic for a different article.

One day I was at school minding my own business when some friends invited me to a retreat weekend for teenagers at their Parish. Even though I was used to going to Mass, I had never spent (or maybe at the time I was more thinking 'wasted') a whole weekend in a church. I was not particularly interested in signing up for that and I do not remember how exactly the invitation went because I have not been a teenager for a while now. What I do remember, though, is that one of my friends got me interested when he said: "There are many girls there". Silly boy! Little did I know that I was actually signing up for something that was going to change my life forever, and it had little to do with the girls.

All of that happened in Brazil, where I lived for most of my life. I always say that, growing up in a Catholic school, I constantly heard about Jesus Christ, but more as a historical figure. However, that retreat weekend helped me find out that Jesus Christ is alive, therefore I could try to nourish a relationship with Him. I remember vividly how

at the end of that weekend I felt the immense love that Jesus had and has for myself. It was sublime. And I once again have to hold my tears while I type this and remember that moment.

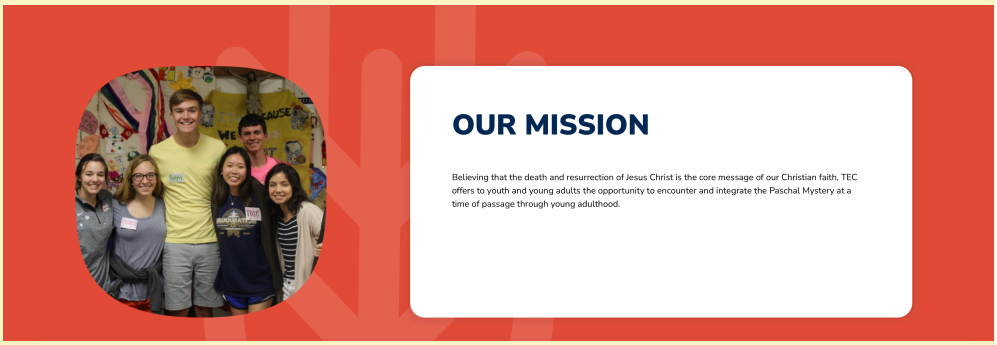
That weekend kindled a fire in my heart that I recently found out is still lit. I now live in Port Hope along with my beautiful and loyal wife. As immigrants we faced many of the common challenges that other immigrants can relate to. As Catholics, though, we had an extra trial. You can imagine how drastic of a change we felt (and still feel) when, in a span of less than 24 hours, we came from the country that has the largest number of Catholics in the world, and is still opening up new churches, to a country where Catholics have seen brighter days before. In Canada, we close churches. We just closed one in our own diocese. It is heartbreaking. We cannot get used to this.

I once spoke to a friend who is a priest and came from Brazil to serve as a Parish pastor in Edmonton. He was telling me how he felt like the church in Canada is in 'maintenance mode' just trying to keep the lights on. This is not how it is supposed to be. The church is apostolic. We ought to be apostles. This is not a task just for priests and bishops, but an essential and noble task that we should all be dedicated to every single day of our lives. Every single day! I was blessed that a couple of friends cared to invite me to go to that retreat weekend for teenagers. I don't know where I would be today without that little but essential nudge (certainly not writing this article about it). You probably had similar help in your life. Be grateful for that too by paying it forward.

That retreat weekend was promoted by a group called TEC, which stands for Teens Encounter Christ. I cannot think of a better name for that group, for I have encountered Christ and have witnessed many other encounters throughout the years I had been part of it. And it is not a coincidence that I am combining apostolate with TEC in the same story. For the most part, new encounters are preceded by someone else's apostolate. But someone's apostolate necessarily stems from an earlier encounter. This naturally brings you and I to ask ourselves honestly: if I have not been an apostle, is it possible that I haven't truly met Jesus Christ? The answer to this question only you can find out. But I think a TEC community can help you get there.

TEC is perhaps the most apostolic group that our Parishes can count on. It is a spiritual movement that flows from a dynamic retreat weekend that promotes a powerful and life-changing encounter with Christ. If I were to summarize this flow in a few words they would be: you come to a retreat, encounter Jesus Christ and go invite family and friends to the next retreat. And it goes on in such a way that the movement was created in 1965 in Lansing, Michigan. Many dioceses in the US have been running TEC for decades. There are TEC communities in many other countries, including Canada.

I had conversations with Bishop Daniel Miehm and Father Stephen DeCarlo about the possibility of bringing TEC to our diocese. With their blessing, I have now found 5 other apostles that are willing to commit to this work that can impact the life of thousands of people in our diocese for many years. We need more apostles. If you are interested in helping, feel free to send me an email at danielsilva.rj@gmail.com. You can find out more about TEC on their website https://tecconference.org/ .



350th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Sacred Heart



Visit the page on the

Diocese of Peterborough website:

https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/JubileeSacredHeart/

St. Alphonsus



PARISH: Peerborough

A Deacon @ St. Alphonsus Liguori

Moving house can be a very stressful time. In fact, it is right up there as one of the biggest stressors of adult life. My wife, Martha, and I have been in the process of moving house for quite some time. We actually have not moved from our physical home, but we have moved from one spiritual home to another. When you think of moving house, there is that time when all of a sudden you realize that the house you are living in no longer suits your needs, or satisfies your requirements for a space you can call home. This is how I was feeling as I was ministering as a priest in the Anglican Church. In the last few years, the place I called my spiritual home just wasn't feeling like home anymore. I retired as soon as I could see myself surviving financially. We started looking for a new home, and found the perfect place to reside in the Catholic Church. Martha and I were received into the church on December 15, 2019 and we became regular attendees of St. Joseph's parish in Douro.

Since that time, I have discerned a call to ordained ministry in the church and began, after some preparation, my ministry as a transitional deacon following my ordination on November 24, 2023. I was given the opportunity to begin that ministry through the generosity of the leadership and the people of St. Alphonsus and at the request of the bishop. I want to thank everyone for their kind acceptance of me as I become oriented to this new ministry for our Lord and His Church.

St. Alphonsus parish has been such a good fit for my continued formation, as my passion is parish renewal. St. Alphonsus has been on that path for some years and it has been good to witness what has brought about that renewal and what is needed to sustain it going forward.



The people and staff of St. Alphonsus have been very generous in allowing me into their lives and giving me the space to carry out the ministry I have been given to do. Fr. Simmy and Fr. Jithin have been patient guides along the way. This place does really feel like home.

But this is only one stop on a continuing journey. As a transitional deacon, the eventual goal is the priestly ministry, and I will need to move on from this place to whatever God calls me to under the leadership of our bishop. I await that exciting challenge in whatever role is chosen for me. I wish to thank Bishop Miehm for his continued trust in me and for his support as I continue in ministry, and to also thank Fr. Tom Lynch for walking with me. Only God knows the rest of the story, but this new house has many rooms to explore.

I look forward to meeting more of the people of this diocese in the years ahead.

Deacon Edmund Scott

Seniors Cafe

A monthly cafe for seniors is proving to be very successful and appreciated. Over 50 people have joined together each month for Mass at 10 AM in the church followed by events, food and social time at the parish hall. When this article appears, we will have met four times. We have had Deacon Edmund and Fr. Simmy each speak about their life experiences, and we've watched short videos followed by Q&A. Some people like to play the table games - beer pong (without the beer!) and more but many like to just sit around and chat while having a bite to eat.

We have also been blessed with some of the participants bringing in delicious desserts! Thank you also to **Jackie** and **Betty** (seniors as well) who help organize our cafes each month.



More from St. Alphonsus, next page



Free Presentation by the Alzheimer Society

We had two free, very informative presentations offered by the Alzheimer Society in the Parish Hall.

January 23rd was titled "Heads Up For Healthier Brains". We listened to Talia Nepotiuk tell us how the brain is one of our most vital organs, playing a role in every action and every thought and that it is never too late to make changes to improve or maintain brain health. Talia offered tips and strategies to take action and learned the benefits of challenging the brain - reduce stress, eat well, be physically active, socially active, volunteering and make healthy choices.

The second presentation "Everything You Need to Know About Dementia (But Were Afraid to Ask) was held on February 27th. Here Talia aimed to increase our understanding of the various types of dementia that exist, including both reversible and irreversible types. We learned that Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and how it impacts the brain and is likely to progress.

Talia will be coming back at least once more on April 23rd at 2:30pm in the Parish Hall.

The topic is "Ten Easy Ways St. Alphonsus Can Fight Dementia-Related Stigma".

Positive change starts with learning. When you know the facts behind dementia, you will be able to challenge assumptions and false beliefs when they appear. By sharing your knowledge, you can reduce the negative impact of stigma against people living with dementia, their families and caregivers. We'll take a look at the harmful stigma associated with dementia and explore the ways that we can use our voices to raise awareness and bring about change. All are welcome!

Learn more at alzheimer.ca/pklnh. Thank you to Talia Nepotiuk for presenting these topics and to Lorraine McCallum for making these gatherings possible.

Ever wonder?

Alpha is a place where you can explore this question and the meaning of life in small groups, free of judgement. You can ask the big questions, like what's my purpose in life? Is there more to life than this? Or does God even exist? Alpha is for everyone, regardless of your religious background, your education, or your personal history. We invite you to come share a meal with us, watch a talk delivered with a specific theme or question, and then join in small group discussion. You can share your thoughts and feelings on the subject or just sit and listen, contemplating your inner thoughts, all without feeling pressured or judged.

This year at **St. Alphonsus**, we have approximately 40 participants and 15 volunteers. We meet every Tuesday night at 6:30 to 8:30pm in the parish hall for 11 weeks. The evening starts off with a delicious meal like Shepard's Pie, or a Chicken dinner, and socialization, getting to know one another and catching up on each other's week.

Once the meal is completed, we watch a video talk about a specific subject, for example 'How I can have faith?', then we break into small groups of 5-8 people for discussion. We have had fruitful conversations talking about our greater purpose in life, who was Jesus and why He died for us. We discuss how God plays a role in our lives, is the bible important, and how can I resist evil?

We hope to see you in the next course we offer. Keep your eyes open and keep wondering!

Supporting Retired Priests






In the heart of every parish community lies a cornerstone of faith and guidance - the devoted priests who have selflessly served their congregations throughout their active ministry. As these faithful shepherds approach retirement, it is incumbent upon us, their parishioners, to extend our unwavering support and gratitude for their lifelong dedication.

Retirement marks a significant transition for priests who have spent decades ministering to the spiritual needs of their flock. While their official duties may diminish, their spiritual wisdom, pastoral care, and invaluable contributions to the faith community remain as steadfast as ever. Recognizing their continued importance, it becomes our responsibility to ensure they are embraced with the same love and care they have shown us.

First and foremost, supporting retired priests is a reflection of our gratitude for their tireless service. Their years of sacrifice, prayer, and guidance have left an indelible mark on our lives and our faith journeys. As they enter a new phase of life, it is our duty to express our appreciation and reverence for their dedication to the Church.

Moreover, providing support for retired priests is an embodiment of our Christian values of compassion and solidarity. Just as they have cared for us in times of need, it is now our turn to offer them the support and companionship they may require in their later years. Whether through practical assistance, such as transportation or errand-running, or simply through regular visits and heartfelt conversations, we can ensure that they feel valued and cherished in their retirement.

Additionally, supporting retired priests safeguards the preservation of their well-being and dignity. Many priests retire with limited financial resources or face health challenges that require additional care and assistance. By offering our support, whether through financial contributions or volunteering our time to assist with their needs, we can help alleviate their burdens and ensure they enjoy a dignified retirement befitting their years of service.

In conclusion, supporting retired priests is not merely a gesture of kindness but a sacred duty rooted in our faith and gratitude. As they transition into a new chapter of life, let us stand beside them with open hearts, demonstrating our appreciation, compassion, and unwavering support.

We invite you to actively participate in supporting our retired priests by contributing to the annual collection for the Priest Benefit Fund. This fund provides vital financial support to priests retiring from the Diocese of Peterborough, ensuring they can live their retirement years with dignity and peace of mind. **The next collection will be held on June 16, 2024**. Donations can be made through your parish or by visiting www.peterboroughdiocese.org. Click "Donate" and then select "Care for Retired Priests."

Let us come together as a community to show our gratitude and care for these beloved servants of God.



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SAINT PROFILE

Fr. Joseph Devereaux

St. Manuel González García

Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle



Manuel González García was born 25 February 1877 Seville, Spain. His father was a carpenter and his mother a homemaker. In his childhood he discerned the vocation to religious life and at the age of 12 he entered minor seminary and began his studies towards priesthood. He was an excellent student; he excelled in all his studies and was held in high regard by his teachers. He earned his doctorates in both theology and canon law. He was ordained to the priesthood on 21 September 1901 and during his first Mass entrusted himself to the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. Travelling to Rome to commemorate a jubilee of Pope Leo XIII, he wrote: "If I would be born a thousand times; a thousand times I would be a priest".

In 1902, he was sent by his bishop to preach a mission. Fr. Garcia found the church uncared for and abandoned. In prayer before a dusty tabernacle on torn altar cloths, he dedicated his life to Jesus' Eucharistic needs. He knelt before the tabernacle and decided that a central focus of his priesthood would be to dedicate himself to Eucharistic works in praise of Jesus Christ. Future pastoral assignments included nursing home chaplaincy, care of disadvantaged people and the promotion of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He was also concerned with the working class and helped provide food for the children whose parents worked as miners, some who were out of work.

On 4 March 1910, Fr. Garcia established a new religious community called the Disciples of Saint John, which grew and spread across Europe. Its charism was devotion to the Eucharist and to Saint John. Then on 6 December 1915, Pope Bendict XV, consecrated Fr. Garcia and appointed him to be the Auxiliary Bishop of Malaga. In 1920, he was appointed Bishop of the same diocese, and in1935 Pope Pius transferred him to the episcopal see of Palencia. On this occasion, King Alfonso XIII of Spain sent a congratulatory telegram stating: "I greet with affection and reverently kiss his pastoral ring".

Bishop García fell ill in 1939 and died the following year. He was buried where he had requested - in the Cathedral of Palencia so that he could be close to the tabernacle. His wish was: "I ask to be buried next to a tabernacle, so that my bones, after death, as my tongue and my pen in life, are saying to those who pass: there is Jesus! There he is! Do not leave him abandoned!"

Bishop Garcia was beatified on 29 April 2001 after investigation verified the cure of an eighteen-year-old woman from the disease of tuberculosis. A second cure of an aggressive cancer that was ravishing the body of another woman, after a relic of the bishop was placed on the woman, cleared the way for canonization, on 16 October 2016. Less than a week after the woman received the relic, doctors were amazed to see that the cancer had disappeared in full despite a wide range of tests. The medical report declared that "there has been a spontaneous regression" of the ailment.

What do we learn from the life of this holy priest and bishop? Like the beloved disciple, Manuel González García, rested on the heart of Christ. "He was proud to be an ambassador of the Eucharistic King in the world. It was his greatest joy to be able to speak on behalf of the love of his silent Sovereign and thereby draw souls to his Sacred Heart." Jesus isn't just the Messiah, he's not just the Lord, he's the Word made flesh - he was sent into the world to give his life for the salvation of the world and nowhere is that clearer than in the gift of the Eucharist itself. This daily bread is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ. That is the doctrine of the Real Presence and that is really important for us to understand. In John Chapter 6, Jeus says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven." Jesus is not only present in the word made flesh, not just in the incarnation, but in the Eucharist as well. And so, let us come before the tabernacle and remember the great gift of the Eucharist, the new manna from heaven, which for all who eat it worthily, will lead them to eternal life, where they will never die. ✠

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

Prayer to obtain favours through the Intercession of St. Manuel González García

Sacred Heart of Jesus,
You rightfully choose your servant Manuel
to be the Apostle of Your Abandoned tabernacles.
He devoted his entire life to repair these abandonments,
giving you and seeking for you with love,
faithfully and restoratively accompanying You
in the Blessed Sacrament.
Through his fidelity he had served You with his entire life,
and through his ardent zeal he had sought Your greater glory
by Christian Education of the poor children,
training of holy priests
and leading all people to you in the Holy Eucharist.
We humbly and fervently pray,
that if his merits and virtues be pleasing to you,
accept our entreaties
and grant us through his intercession
the grace we are asking wholeheartedly
if it is to be for the greater glory of God,
for the coming of Your Eucharistic Kingdom,
for the honour of your Immaculate Mother,
for the exaltation of your most faithful servant
and for the benefit of our souls.
Amen.

Diocese Refugee Sponsorship Program





My name is Jack Gillan and I have been hired by the Diocese to coordinate the refugee sponsorship program. I offer to the Diocese 8 years of experience supporting refugees at the New Canadians Center and over 40 years of experience working in the Developmental Services field. I am excited to work for the Diocese to continue the vital humanitarian work.

I am a Peterborough County resident living in the beautiful village of Warsaw. I feel privileged to be able to enjoy the wonders and peacefulness of the Indian River and Warsaw Caves conservation area, which are in my backyard. That privilege is not something many people in the world can enjoy. However, through the diligent and committed work of volunteers, parishioners, and other community members, over the past quarter century, many New Canadians have been able to enjoy all that Peterborough and Canada has to offer. Although I have not yet been able to dig deep into the records of the program, with the 2024 allocation, I have found that the Diocese, since 2019, has provided sponsorship support to over 138 people. In all cases, people have come from a homeland that is neither safe nor serene. In fact, they have experienced famine, war, brutality, and a life in a refugee camp with scant facilities. The one thing in common of all those that I have met is that they are thankful to the Diocese for saving them from such terrible conditions.

The Diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH). As an incorporated organization it has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. This agreement allows the Diocese to sponsor a certain number of refugees each year for resettlement to Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. Currently, there are more than 120 SAHs throughout Canada (excluding Quebec).

Without the hard work and dedication of Sister Ruth Hennessy, Aspa Bouzinelos, Maggie Bakker, Tracey McConnery, Nancy McCleod, the Sisters of St. Joesph and so many more that I have yet to meet those who have been helped by the Diocese would still be living a life of despair. There are many examples of those who have made Canada their new home through the Diocese. They are actively contributing members such as nurses, accountants, farmers, and business owners to name a few. The children of these New Canadians also, have a chance to live in peace and have hope for a prosperous future. It is immeasurable the impact that the Diocese has had on many people's lives.

Through future editions I hope to share with you some of these remarkable stories. For now, I am looking for a couple of administrative volunteers. It would be helpful if we had someone who had skills in the development of databases as well as someone who has expertise in file management, for consultation and development of a couple of small projects. If you or your community have interest in finding out more about sponsoring refugees, please e-mail me at refugees@peterboroughdiocese.org I would be happy to meet with you to share with you more about this program.



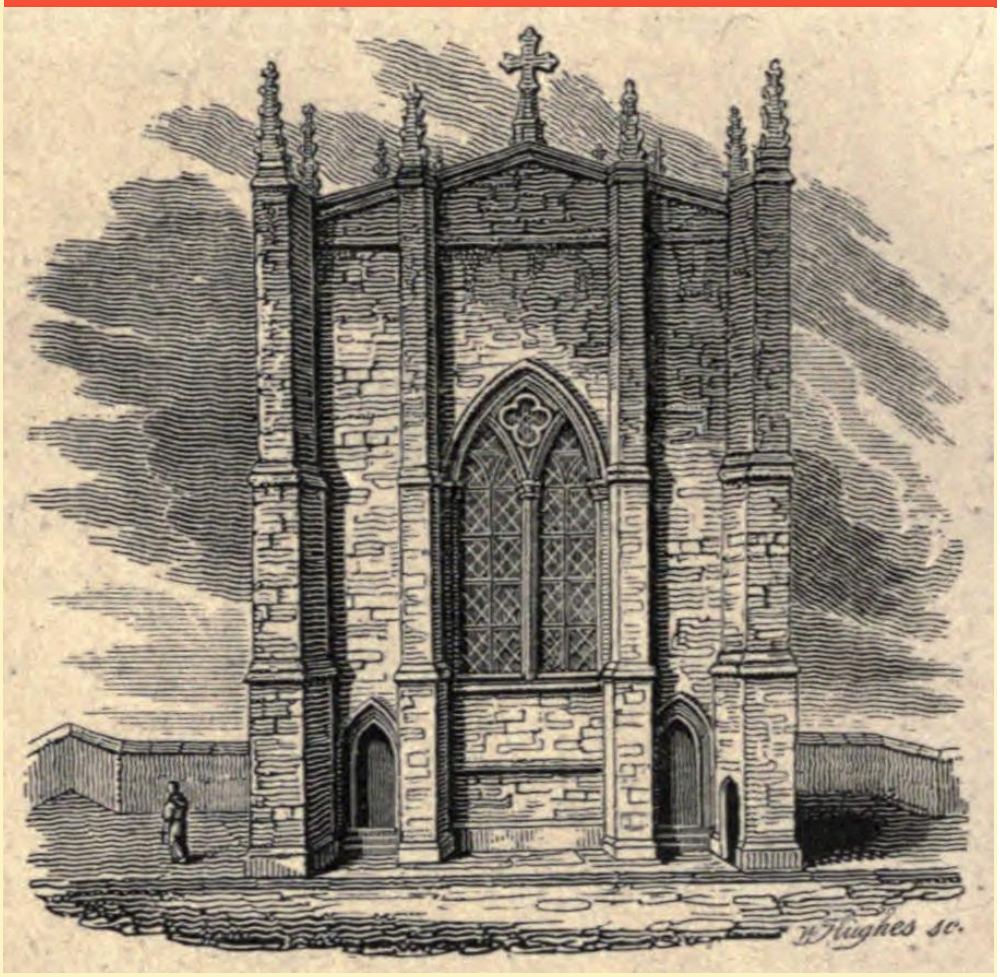




CATHOLIC CURIOSITIES

Stephen Retallick

Bridge Chapels:
Spiritual Way Stations



Imagine, if you will, that you're trekking across the countryside of medieval England on your way to a popular pilgrimage site, when you approach a large bridge with a structure protruding from the side of it. Crossing the bridge, you realize the structure is in fact a small chapel. You knock on the door, and a priest welcomes you in for Holy Mass.

Prior to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1536, in which Church properties and assets were confiscated by the Crown, bridge chapels were a common sight across England. Built on or near bridges, these chapels were constructed to serve the spiritual needs of travelers, especially pilgrims, who were journeying to religious sites or other destinations.

Typically built and maintained by ecclesiastical institutions and wealthy individuals as an act of charity, the chapels provided a place of rest, prayer, and worship for pilgrims. When priests were present, Holy Mass would be offered for the pilgrims' intentions and for the souls of the faithful departed, usually the benefactors and builders of the bridge and chapel.

The chapels varied in size, ranging from small buildings that accommodated only a few pilgrims, to larger structures that functioned as full-fledged churches, celebrating Holy Mass and other religious rites on a regular basis. In terms of design, some chapels were simple ordinary structures, while others were ornate with religious artwork, stained glass windows, ribbed vaulted ceilings, and statuary. Most were constructed of various types of stone.

Chapel of
St. Thomas on the Bridge

Dedicated to St. Thomas Becket (1118-1170), archbishop and martyr, the Chapel of St. Thomas on the Bridge was a bridge chapel built on the centre pier of the old London Bridge, which straddled the River Thames in London, England. When an older bridge was converted from timber to stone in 1209, the chapel and many shops and houses were built upon it. Peter de Colechurch, a priest and architect, oversaw the construction.

According to a 1598 survey of London, King John (r. 1199-1216) gave vacant spaces in London to build upon, with the profits from selling them going towards the building and repairing of London Bridge. The stonemason would build a chapel upon the bridge, which would be endowed for two priests to reside there and celebrate Holy Mass for the repose of the benefactors. The priests were known as the Brethren of the Bridge.

The building was two storeys high and consisted of upper and lower chapels. The upper chapel had eight large arched windows, and fourteen columns supported the vaulted ceiling. The lower chapel had a 20-foot high ribbed vaulted ceiling and black and white marble flooring. Visitors could enter the chapels through the doors at the bridge level, and fishermen could access them via an entrance at the river. The chapels were connected internally via a spiral staircase.

In 1548, as a result of the Reformation, the chapel was closed and deconsecrated. A year later, the building was converted into a grocer's shop. When the new (and current) London Bridge opened in 1821, demolition of the old bridge, the chapel, and other remaining buildings began right away

The Chapel of Our Lady of Rotherham

Built in 1483 of ashlar sandstone, the Chapel of Our Lady of Rotherham, also known as Chapel of Our Lady on the Bridge, is another example of a bridge chapel of gothic design. It was built alongside and connected to Rotherham Bridge, the four-arched stone bridge straddling the River Don in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, England. Of the four bridge chapels still in existence in England, Rotherham is considered the best preserved.

Like other bridge chapels that once existed across England, with the dissolution of the monasteries, the Chapel of Our Lady of Rotherham was closed in 1547 and converted into an almshouse. Over the years, the chapel would become the town gaol (jail), then finally a shop. In 1901, the citizens of Rotherham submitted a petition to the town council urging them to restore the chapel. It was finally converted back to a functional chapel in 1924, with further renovations over the years.



According to legend, when the chapel served as the town gaol, it's claimed that Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned there for a time after she was arrested by order of Elizabeth I. Whether this is true or not, what's known for certain is that Mary was confined at a location in Rotherham in January, 1569.

To view interactive 3D models of the chapels, check out the links below or scan the QR codes with your smartphone or tablet. ✠

Stephen and his family live in Peterborough.

Chapel of Our Lady of Rotherham: https://skfb.ly/6QXGq

Chapel of St. Thomas on the Bridge & Old London Bridge: https://skfb.ly/o6swr



OBITUARY

Father Allan Donald Hood



Passed away peacefully at Quinte Health - Belleville General Hospital on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in his 78th year.

Fr. Allan Hood served in the Diocese of Peterborough, where he was assigned at Associate Pastor to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, followed by Pastoral appointments at Our Lady of the Assumption in Grafton and St. Michael the Archangel in Cobourg, and in retirement, in the Archdiocese of Kingston. He was the only child of the late Donald F. Hood and the late R. May Hood (nee Coomes).

He is fondly remembered by his extended family and the many parishioners he served.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at The Church of St. Michael the Archangel, 296 Church Street, Belleville, Tuesday, January 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Interment followed at St. James Cemetery, Belleville.

Arrangements by the Steele Funeral Home, Bellville.

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.