

Catholic Herald

the voice of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Regular contributors:

Bishop	3
David Beresford	4
Kathleen Moquin	5

Special Features

Campus Ministry	6
Youth and Vocations	8-12
Year of the Sacred Heart	18
Jubilee of Hope	2, 19, 21-22, 30
School snd Education	23-27
Pope Leo XIV	28-29

Parishes:

St. Alphonsus	14-16



EDITORIAL

Fr. Ray Rick

Reclaiming the Rainbow

Following the publication of our Christmas 2024 edition, I learned just how unhappy some of our readers are with the logo for the Jubilee Year of Hope, which was featured prominently on the front cover. Likewise, the presence of the same logo on banners in our churches is upsetting to some. Why? Because it reminds them of a rainbow; and the rainbow has been coopted by certain segments of our secular culture to signify something quite at odds with its original meaning.

The rainbow is ours! It was given to our Jewish ancestors; it is the patrimony of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The rainbow is a sign of God's saving power and His commitment to our welfare. Couldn't, then, the use of this logo be a real step forward for the People of God to reclaim our rainbow?

It first appears in Sacred Scripture in Genesis 9:13 in the context of God's covenant with Noah, which is described as a unilateral promise from God, emphasizing His initiative and grace. This covenant is not contingent upon human merit but is a commitment by God to preserve life on earth. The text states, "I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."

The rainbow is also mentioned three times in the Book of Sirach and twice in the Book of Revelation.

In the context of Christian morality, the rainbow serves as a reminder of the dignity and inviolability of human life, which God desires to uphold despite the presence of sin in the world. The covenant with Noah reinforces the idea that, even in the face of human wickedness, God's commitment to humanity remains steadfast. (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine* #429, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2006.)

When I look at the Jubilee's logo, I think I see four stylized figures travelling together, holding onto each other in pursuit of the cross and an anchor. The meaning of the cross is obvious to all; the anchor – historically, the anchor was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of safety and security, reflecting its importance in navigation. In ancient times, the anchor was a familiar emblem, and Christians reinterpreted it to signify their hope in eternal life and salvation through Christ. The anchor appears frequently in early Christian art, particularly in the catacombs, where it was often inscribed alongside phrases expressing peace and hope for the deceased.

We certainly fight an uphill battle when it comes to converting the attitudes or values of the secular world around us. But that doesn't mean we should back down, much less adopt the new spin on imagery that has been important to our generations past. We should, however, proceed with caution, knowing that misunderstandings can occur.

The rainbow is ours! It remains God's pact with us, His promise of new life in spite of our failures. ✠

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

Vol. 21, No. 1 — Easter 2025

NEXT ISSUE

— Fall 2025 —

will be distributed to the parishes in mid-September 2025.
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.

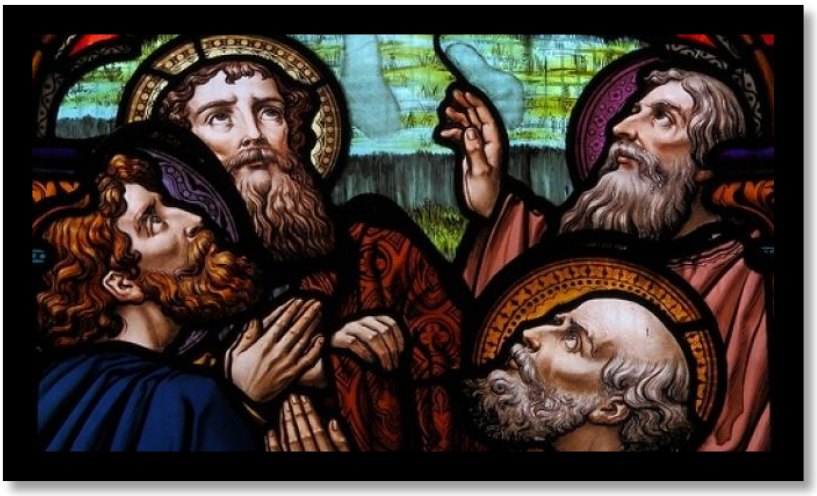
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Easter Message 2025

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen" (Lk 24:5).

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Diocese of Peterborough,

The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter, when we commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, are the high point of the Christian year. This is always true, and even more so in this Jubilee Year with its theme that calls us to be "Pilgrims of Hope."

A pilgrim is someone who journeys to a holy place and hope is the virtue that keeps us focused on the final goal of our lives. As Christians, we are people who journey in this life, treasuring every blessing, contending with challenges, all the while keeping our eyes fixed beyond, to the life that does not end. In his letter announcing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis wrote, "The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope." The reality of death is a painful one yet, because of the grace of the risen Christ, shared with us in baptism, we trust that "life is changed not ended."

There are many things that distract us on our journey through life and we face challenges that may weaken our hope. No one is immune to the realties of sickness, death, economic uncertainty or family strife. Yet the great Easter mystery of the risen Christ instills in us a hope that can never be extinguished. As the Holy Father notes, it is this hope that "makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called."

May the celebrations of this holy season instill in us the grace of God which enables us to journey as Pilgrims of Hope and share that hope with others. I pray that God may bless you and your loved ones richly throughout this Jubilee Year.

Yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

Note: in the message above, written before Easter, "Holy Father" refers to Pope Francis, who departed this life on 21 April 2025.
— ed,



FROM THE PEW

David Beresford

Milk Snakes

We were just starting supper, grace said, food hot and everyone sitting at table when the phone rang. After a brief introduction "Hi, I am E, you know F, I got your name from G, and I live by H near J who knows your cousin. . . " This necessary preamble, typical of rural life, took about 5 minutes.

"Sure, no problem, I can come tomorrow morning," and I hung up the phone.

I was excited! Milk snakes, while not rare, are secretive beasts. I have seen only a few in my life and caught only two. Snakes we had known dominated conversation during the rest of supper that night.

"Remember the pet snake we had?"

"We! I remember you brought one into the house after I said you couldn't."

"It was a pet, just for a few days, so everyone could see it . . . "

"I told you it would get out of its cage, but you said it could not climb!"

"How was I to know it could crawl straight up glass?"

"And, there was my mother sitting at the table. You knew she was afraid of snakes .. ."

"And frogs; she did not like frogs either. She said so when we told her about the frogs in the pond," someone chipped in helpfully.

I steered the conversation back to snakes, "It was just small harmless red belly snake about ten inches long…"

"We all saw it crawling across the floor under her chair and then climb into one of her shoes at the back door!"

"Good thing she did not see it. Yes, she was touchy about snakes if I recall."

"And mice."

"And rats."

"And bats."

"And toads."

"Pretty well everything apparently."

"Yes. Especially when they are in her shoe!" my wife Theresa said with finality.

"Yes. Especially when they are in her shoe!" my wife Theresa said with finality.

I have caught lots of snakes, and only been bitten once. It was a water snake that I had grabbed as it swam beside the canoe. Its head flung up and slashed my arms with its teeth, leaving bleeding cuts all over my forearms before I could catch its head. It was 28 inches long, the biggest snake I had ever caught. Of the other snakes around Peterborough, garter snakes do not normally bite, green snakes are calm if you can even find one, and the little red belly snakes like the one that crawled into my mother-in-law's shoe are completely docile. But arguably the best friend of rural folk is the milk snake, a voracious predator of rats and mice.

The next morning I got a pillow case and my wife and I drove out to rescue the new mother from the snake in her cellar.

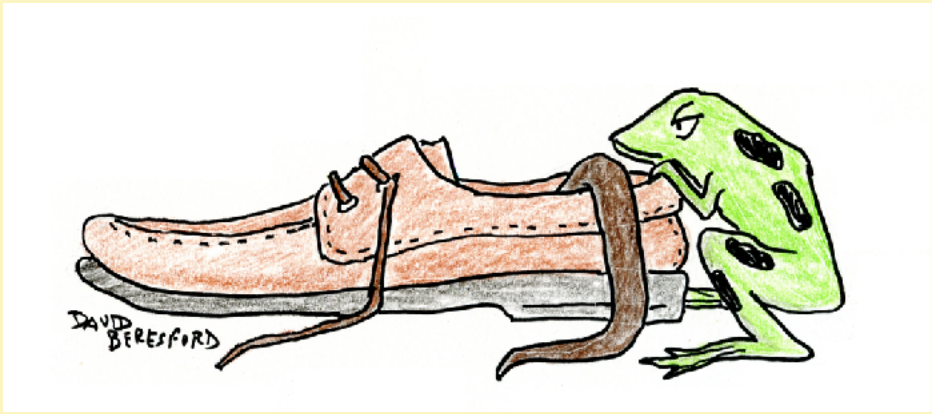
"Can't her husband catch the snake?" my wife asked. A reasonable question.

"Maybe he doesn't want to hurt it. Lots of people don't know how to catch snakes."

We pulled into the gravel driveway of a house with lumber in the front yard, two sawhorses, and the sound of a skill saw coming from behind the house. I walked around back and a big, youthful, smiling fellow put down his saw and came over to me holding out his hand.

"Dave?"

"Yep. You got a snake?"



"Yep. So you know, I can't do snakes. Don't know why. I can deal with bats, rats, racoons, anything else really. It's just snakes that creep me out!"

"I know what you mean, I too am good with most things, but with me it's bats that give me the willies."

We entered into a cool cellar, and he pointed to the dryer. Underneath but only half hidden was spectacular milk snake. I picked it up gently and it wrapped around my hand for warmth. I dropped it into the pillowcase.

"Congratulations on the baby. If you do not mind, I am going to let this go where it will be safe and not come back, ok?"

"Thanks. It's nice being a dad."

I put the pillowcase on the floor of the truck under Theresa's feet and we drove home where I measured it – 34 inches, a new record for me! And released it in the hop garden to catch mice. ✠

David Beresford teaches biology at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay, and lives with his wife Theresa on a farm near Lakefield Ontario.

Roofing Tales

THE CHOIR LOFT

Kathleen Moquin



Did you ever build a blanket fort when you were a kid? Driven by enthusiastic imagination and tempered by maternal patience, this perfect rainy-day construction project was ultimately limited by the availability, number, and size of chesterfield cushions and throw pillows. Incorporating pieces of furniture into the design allowed for increased square footage, but freestanding models were ideal settings for war games, mobilizing fort occupants to defend against attacks advanced by spurned siblings. In peacetime, our forts were homey oases festooned with Barbies and plush toys; sleeping bags and pillows; and books and transistor radios. A flashlight was a necessary home décor item.

The most challenging element of couch fort construction was roofing. How often did the whole thing collapse under the weight of chenille bedspreads and beach towels? And one inhabitant always managed to stretch just a little too much, which caused the roof to collapse to accompanying screams and giggles. Rebuilding efforts rarely followed a roof cave-in, which more typically signaled project abandonment until another play day.

The childhood blanket fort is an awkward yet workable metaphor for a grown-up life spent trying to keep the "roof over (our) heads." We find our dwelling place, fill it with things, and share it with people we love. Keeping it safe from threats and danger, we are as grateful for strong roofs as we are for those who live beneath them.

Talented songwriters and artists have crafted memorable, relatable roofing analogies. Life's frustrations send lyricist Gerry Goffin and songwriter Carole King "Up on the Roof":

When this old world starts getting me down
And people are just too much for me to face
I climb way up to the top of the stairs
And all my cares just drift right into space
On the roof, it's peaceful as can be
And there the world below can't bother me
Let me tell you now
When I come home feelin' tired and beat
I go up where the air is fresh and sweet (up on the roof)

In 1970s Motown, The Supremes gain wider perspective when they go "Up the Ladder to the Roof":

Come with me
And we shall run across the sky
And illuminate the night
Oh I will try and guide you
To better times and brighter days.
Don't be afraid
Go up the ladder to the roof where we can see heaven much better.
Go up the ladder to the roof where we can be oh closer to heaven.

The Scripture authors raise roofs so that biblical characters can draw closer to Jesus. His friends remove the roof for the paralytic: "And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'My son, your sins are forgiven'" (RSVCE, Mk 2:4-5). A centurion responds to Jesus' offer to cure his servant: "'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed'" (Mt 8:8-13).



When I echo the centurion's words at Mass, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed," I am acknowledging the Real Presence. In a most intimate, sacramental encounter when Jesus is placed on my tongue, beneath the roof of my mouth, I receive His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity into my body which is the dwelling of my soul.

For the ultimate proverbial roof-raising experience, Jesus invites the faithful to receive an outpouring of the Father's graces in the sacramental life of His Church, especially in the Holy Eucharist. ✠

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

Campus Ministry

Importance of Campus Ministry in the lives of the students

Fr. Chukwudi Jieme, SMMM
Chaplain to Trent University &
Sir Sanford Fleming College



The Peterborough Campus Ministry is a special ministry established by the Catholic Diocese of Peterborough for the students of Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College. Both learning institutions are in Peterborough. The goal of the Catholic Campus Ministry is to assist and accompany the students in their journey of faith, helping the students to grow in their faith and build a strong relationship with God through Holy mass, socials, faith sharing and study groups, sacramental life, and lots of more. We provide emotional, spiritual, and psychological supports to Trent and Fleming students as they navigate their educational life.

The reason why we should pay special attention to our university students is that they are the hope and future leaders of the church. We need to support them now, so that they can be strong in the faith in order to continue the legacies we are building now.

The Chaplain holds office hours every week in the University. This time affords the students the opportunity for private consultation, counselling, to access the sacrament of reconciliation, and have the student's questions on issues of faith and morals attended to. The Chaplain also celebrates mass in the University on Thursdays for/with the students, affording the students the opportunity of growing more in their love for the Holy Mass.

On Sundays, the majority of the students attend the 10:30am mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chain. After the mass, the students are normally invited for a social at the Student Center located across the Cathedral at 376 Rubidge Street, where they have time to see and talk with their fellow students. They are treated to coffee, tea, food, drinks, etc.

In Trent University, the Catholic Diocese of Peterborough employed the services of the Catholic Christian Outreach. These young missionaries are on ground in the university to journey with the students in their faith journey. They organize bible studies with the students. They hold praise and worship time for the students.

Every second Thursday of the month, the Catholic Christian Outreach in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Peterborough Campus Ministry organize a night of adoration for the students. This spiritual event takes place in the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-chains and begins at 6:30pm. It normally begins with testimonies, followed by a talk, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, adoration, praise and worship songs, confession, and benediction.

Advent and Lenten retreats are normally organized by the Campus Ministry for the students. The students are from time to time taken on pilgrimages to holy places and sites.

We are asking for those who have passion for Campus Ministry to please join "Campus Ministry Support Team". Campus Ministry needs our financial and spiritual support.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOLY CANADIAN MARTYRS

SAVE THE DATE



The 11th Annual Walking Pilgrimage - In the Footsteps of the Holy Canadian Martyrs will take place on August 10-15, 2025. We will depart from St Joseph's Church Powassan on August 10 and walk 130 km over 5 days to reach Holy Family Church, Britt where we will venerate the relics of the Martyrs. Further information and registration to come soon.

PRECEDING THE REHEARSAL
FOR THE ORDINATION OF PETER BISSONNETTE
TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD...

Holy Hour for Vocations

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH, 4:00 PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER-IN-CHAINS,
PETERBOROUGH

COME PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND FOR DEACON PETER BISSONNETTE AS HE PREPARES FOR HIS ORDINATION ON MAY 30TH



round up
vocations & youth ministries

VOCATIONS

Fr. Stephen DeCarlo



Ordinandi Dinner 2025



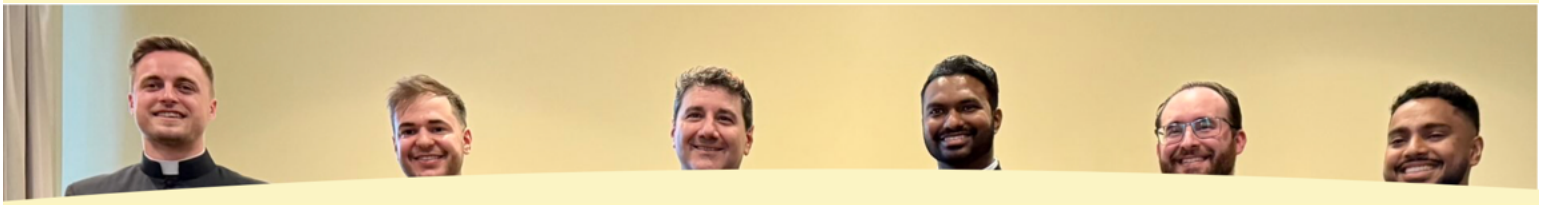
On the eve of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the Diocese of Peterborough was well represented as we travelled to the 2025 Ordinandi Dinner. Five transitional deacons (see quiz below and full photo, next page) from St. Augustine's Seminary spoke to over 1,800 people about their vocation stories and how God called them to the priesthood. One of these men was Deacon Peter Bissonnette, who mentioned how his parents raised him in the faith and their example of vocational fidelity and dedication to prayer served as the basis for him to hear God's call to the priesthood. Deacon Peter will be ordained to the priesthood on Friday, May 30th, at 7:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, Peterborough.

Wayside Chaplaincy

In addition to my work in youth and vocations, I am also the chaplain of Our Lady of the Wayside/Chesterton Academy in Peterborough. It is a private Catholic school in the classical tradition serving grades K-12. My duties include daily Mass (a blessing for any school), weekly Adoration and Confessions, and visiting the classes and speaking about different topics ranging from philosophy, theology, logic, vocations, you name it. I also take part in school activities such as spirit days, community meals, and the March for Life, just to name a few. As you can see from this picture, I took part in an athletic spirit wear showing my fandom of the Green Bay Packers! Don't worry, I didn't wear it at Mass.



When I say I wear multiple hats, I mean it!



Quick Quiz!

Which one of these young fellows is not a Deacon, but actually the Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto? (Hint: it's not the one of the left. Answer will be clear on next page.)

Andrew Roelands
Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders

On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, our seminarian Andrew Roelands was admitted to Candidacy to Sacred Orders, making him an official candidate for the Sacrament of Holy Orders! He was admitted alongside 17 other seminarians for various dioceses:

"It will be possible to admit the seminarian among the candidates for Orders (petitio or candidacy, etc.), when it is deemed that his intention, marked by the required qualities, has reached sufficient maturity. For her part, in accepting the seminarian who offers himself, the Church chooses him and calls him so that he may prepare to receive Holy Orders in the future. Since it presupposes a responsible decision on the part of the seminarian, admission among the candidates for Orders is an invitation for him to continue with his formation, in configuring himself to Christ the Shepherd, through a formal recognition on the part of the Church." *(Ratio Fundamentalis*, 67.)

Congratulations, Andrew!



Peter Bissonnette
Priestly Ordination

It is with great joy that that we announce: Bishop Daniel J. Miehm will ordain Rev. Mr. Peter Bissonnette to the sacred priesthood on May 30th , 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains (411 Reid Street, Peterborough, ON)!

Fr. Peter will celebrate his 1st Mass of Thanksgiving on May 31st at 1:30 PM at St. Michael's Parish in Cobourg (379 Division Street) as well as at St. Joseph's Parish in Bracebridge at 11:00 AM (118 McMurray Street) on Sunday, June 1st. All are welcome to attend these Masses.

Pray
for vocations
to the Priesthood

Can you spot the Archbishop, Francis Cardinal Leo, now?



Way of the Cross
April 18th, 2025

Once again, local youth reenacted the annual Way of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18th. Beginning with a prayer service at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, the youth began the stations at the Cathedral and continued through the streets of downtown Peterborough, ending on the front steps of Immaculate Conception Parish. It is always a moving and powerful event that shows the devotion and dedication of the young participants, as well as many behind-the-scenes volunteers. This is an event which draws people from far and wide.

One of our young participants from last year commented on her experience:

"It was an experience that deeply touched me and one that I will cherish for a lifetime. Through portraying the role of a Woman of Jerusalem, I felt a deep connection to the emotions and experiences of those who witnessed the crucifixion of our Lord. Morning it was -3 so cold and I deeply prayed to Jesus to give us a hot sun as we were literally shivering under our costumes. When the walk of Jesus started from the Cathedral we all experienced the hot Sun which actually made me cry in tears, He does listen to us! It has been a journey of spiritual growth and reflection, allowing me to contemplate the significance of Christ's sacrifice in a profoundly personal way."



Young People and St. Carlo Acutis

It has been widely noted amongst groups of people that we are facing a crisis in maturity, especially in many young men and women. Fewer young adults seem willing and able to take on committed responsibilities such as long-term work, marriage and family life, or discerning a religious vocation. As a result, fewer marriages are taking place, both religious and secular, and more and more industries are in dire need of new workers to replace retiring ones. And to make matters more interesting, this is not a recent trend amongst millennials (my own generation!) and Gen Z. Generations far back have complained about the same for peoples younger than themselves, making us wonder if the problem is the same as it always was, or is getting worse.

In my experience, I have certainly seen this trend happening. I have had meetings with young people about their vocation only to be met with unanswered emails, prolonged discernment, and lack of direction despite advice given. I have heard numerous young women complain about not being able to find a mature man to marry, as it seems so many young men are content to grow up in their own sweet time. Many a time have I encountered young adults into their late 20's and 30's still living at home despite having sufficient income to afford their own place (it should be noted that economic times are tough, so I understand why many are still living at home.) While these people are certainly not bad people (indeed, I know most of them to be good, honest, and faithful, individuals), it does indicate areas of concern that will only disadvantage them for the future. What happens once they are beyond childbearing age and want a family? What happens if someone wants to enter the seminary or religious life and are told they are too old to enter?

However, it would be unfair to characterize all young people as the above; my personal experience also shows the opposite. I have met many young adults who are well mature and who are dedicated and generous in their occupations. I have presided over the weddings of young couples who have committed themselves to each other in Holy Matrimony. They beget children and are faithful to their vocations as spouses, fathers, and mothers. They pray at home, attend Mass regularly and participate in it willingly; they seek to grow in their knowledge of God and the Catholic faith. When I visit the seminary, I see so many wonderful young men who have answered the Lord's call to "Come follow Me". They are faithful and zealous for their future ministry as priests. These young men are examples to others that being young doesn't mean you can't do anything. The Lord calls young and older alike.

Thus, negative characterizations of younger people are unfair since many do not fit the stereotype of lazy, unmotivated, and unfocused people. I can also draw examples from my work in youth ministry. I saw over a million young people at World Youth Day 2023 who were actively participating in their faith, coming together from all corners of the world to worship Christ and encounter one another. So many have made personal sacrifices to make it there; I recall meeting three young Polish pilgrims who took a bus from Poland to Lisbon, totalling three days of travelling, and sleeping on a hard gym floor so that they could take part in an amazing event with Pope Francis. They also travelled back the same way immediately after the closing Mass despite being tired and sore! Several others fundraised and worked hard to make sure they were able to attend. They gave up two full weeks of their already busy and stretched lives to be able to attend a life-changing experience.

So, what does this mean going forward? Not all young people are having these issues, but some do. Young people want a challenge; they need a challenge. To be challenged means that they are given opportunities for growth and for deepening their sense of identity, helping them build character and skills necessary for life. We cannot be content with allowing them to be passive spectators; rather, encourage them and enable them to be more involved, especially in the life of the parish. During my many travels, I met several young people who are involved in their parish. Bravo! I also unfortunately heard of examples in which young people were pushed aside. One young woman told me that she was only allowed to be an altar server despite being in her late teens, meaning she couldn't be a lector or communion minister. One young man told me that, despite him being a trained organist, he wasn't allowed to play at his parish because the pastor told him "we don't allow children to play the organ." He was in his 20's!

No, we cannot treat young people like that, but should instead encourage and enable them to become the leaders the Church needs right now. I know all the young people are capable of this; all of them are capable of becoming the husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, priests, sisters, nuns, monks, and brothers that the Church needs now and in the future.

One of the best examples of the faith and determination of young people can be seen in the example of Blessed (soon to be Saint) Carlo Acutis. Born in 1991 in the UK to Italian parents, Carlo moved with them back to Italy, growing up in Milan. While his parents initially didn't practice the faith, Carlo's questions later led them to rediscover it. He was known to practice his faith as a child and became a catechist at the age of 12 in his local parish. He loved the saints, reading their stories, and prayed to them daily and often. He was very devoted to worship of the Blessed Sacrament, spending hours in prayer before Our Lord. One of his passions was computer engineering and at one point created a website for his parish (which took more skill in those days.) He was diagnosed with leukemia and passed away in 2006 at the age of 15. Even during his sufferings, his faith never wavered but grew stronger.

Carlo Acutis is thus a great example in the modern age of young people being role models of our faith. He is the first millennial saint (which is special for me, being a millennial myself!) and yet, upon his canonization, will serve as an example of young holiness for future young people. To me, he's special because he and I are contemporaries; we lived around the same time with only an ocean apart. We enjoyed much of the same activities despite never having met each other. Still, I feel so close to St. Carlo Acutis and he serves as an inspiration for me and those to whom I minister.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

Fr. Stephen DeCarlo



Summer, 2025

Pastoral Appointments

The Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough, announces the following appointments of clergy. These are effective on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, unless otherwise noted.

PASTORS

Father Jithin Jose, CMI	Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Honey Harbour and St. James the Great Parish in Mactier (These two parishes will henceforth be twinned)
Father Francis Mensah	St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook (Effective on July 30)
Father Collins Okafor	St. Alphonsus Parish in Wooler and Holy Angels Parish in Brighton
Father Charles Orchard	Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Port Hope
Father Erwin Rodrigues	St. Aloysius Parish in Fenelon Falls and Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish in Bobcaygeon

ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Father Peter Bissonnette	St. Joseph's Parish in Bowmanville *(Ordination on May 30)*
Father Cyprian Ijezie, MSP	St. Mary's Parish in Huntsville (Arrival TBD)
Father Chuka Obiadi, SMMM	St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cobourg (Effective on July 9)
Father Richard Acheampong Opoku, CSSp	St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Father Joseph Devereaux	St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook (June 25- July 30)

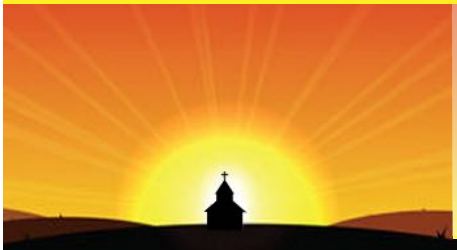
RETIREMENTS

Father Antonio Barol	Retires as Pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook
Father Luis Lapinid	Retires as Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Fenelon Falls and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Bobcaygeon
Father Gerard McMahon	Retires as Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Port Hope

DEPARTING THE DIOCESE

Father Joseph Devereaux	Relocating for ministry in the Diocese of St. John, New Brunswick (Effective on July 30)

Issued on Friday, May 2, 2025, by + Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough.



25th Anniversary

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Open 25 years February 13th, 2025

PARISH: St. Alphonsus

Perpetual Adoration was officially started in Peterborough on February 13, 2000. Ever since, the presence of the adoration Chapel, located at St. Alphonsus Parish, has been a light and solace to countless members of the Catholic community.

Preparation began in late 1999, by the Secular Franciscan Order in Peterborough, who was connected with the U.S. based Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament. This organization contacted Fr. Asisclo Podelino, who was then pastor of St. Anne's Parish in Peterborough, about getting the movement started in the city. Fr. Podelino contacted Fr. Leo Coughlin, then pastor of St. Alphonsus, about a joint effort between the two churches.

It wasn't long after that a seminarian from this missionary order came to speak at all the Sunday Masses at both churches, and a large number of people signed up to commit one hour a week as an adorer. Bishop James Doyle was exceedingly happy about this response, and following a meeting with the pastors, made the decision to use an existing chapel at St. Alphonsus that was separate from the church, for security reasons.

The hours of adoration began from 7:00 am to midnight, seven days a week; the Sunday opening was moved to 12:00 noon [because of morning masses]. There are many committed adorers from other parishes, inside and outside the city, who have joined the list. The scheduled adorers are guardians of the Blessed Sacrament, and their presence is very necessary to keep the door open for people to drop in as they feel the need.



Each person that spends time in the presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament grows in holiness. Communally, increased Mass attendance, conversions, the return of the fallen-away Catholics and vocations to the priesthood and religious life are among the many fruits of Perpetual Adoration. Through the Holy Hours of prayer, the Holy Father declared that we are contributing to "the radical transformation of the world."

This is one key way in which the laity have an important role to play in the ongoing mission of the Church. If you have not yet been to the chapel, please feel free to drop in. The chapel is located off the back parking lot beside the church office. Next to the entrance is a sign marked "Oratory". The chapel is tiny, with one kneeler and six chairs, so you are always physically very close to Jesus.

Since Covid, the hours of the Chapel have changed from Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 9:00pm and the number of chairs has been reduced.

All are most welcome to come and adore! Please call Mary Ellen, 705-917-1637 or Renata, 905-321-3384 for more information or if you would like to schedule a weekly time to come.

Written by the late Dorothy MacIsaac in 2010 –
one of the co-ordinators of
the Peterborough Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

SENIORS FAITH CAFE

St. Alphonsus, continued

We have been having wonderful success with our Seniors Faith Cafe at St. Alphonsus Liguori. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, October to May. Between 65 to 90 seniors come each month for Mass in the church and then over to the parish hall to listen to a guest speaker and then enjoy wonderful lunches!

In January we had two police officers, **Ryan Black** and **Michael Tisdale** come and talk about scams: what to watch out for, and what to do to help ourselves.

In February, **Fr. Stephen DeCarlo**, Director of Vocations and Youth Ministry, came and spoke about the ministries he is in charge of in the Diocese - mainly working with the youth and young adults and men discerning for the priesthood, as well as men and women contemplating their vocations.

In March, we had a parishioner, **Rick Stankiewicz**, give a talk about his passion - God's Wonders From Above. He had beautiful pictures of the skies, day and night, and explained how these wonders are created. It was fascinating!

To go along with these amazing talks, we had amazing meals!

January was a pizza lunch provided by a parishioner who owns **Pizza, Pizza**.

February, **Royal Gardens** brought over some soup, chili and lots to go with it.

March, as it was Shrove Tuesday, the **Knights of Columbus** came out in full force to give us pancakes, sausages and bacon with fruit cups for dessert.

We would like to thank all those who come and bring treats like cookies and muffins for everyone, and thank you to Bernice who has crocheted little ornaments for every single person! Also, to Betty and Jackie, who are seniors as well, but are there every month to get the coffee on and to prepare the snacks.

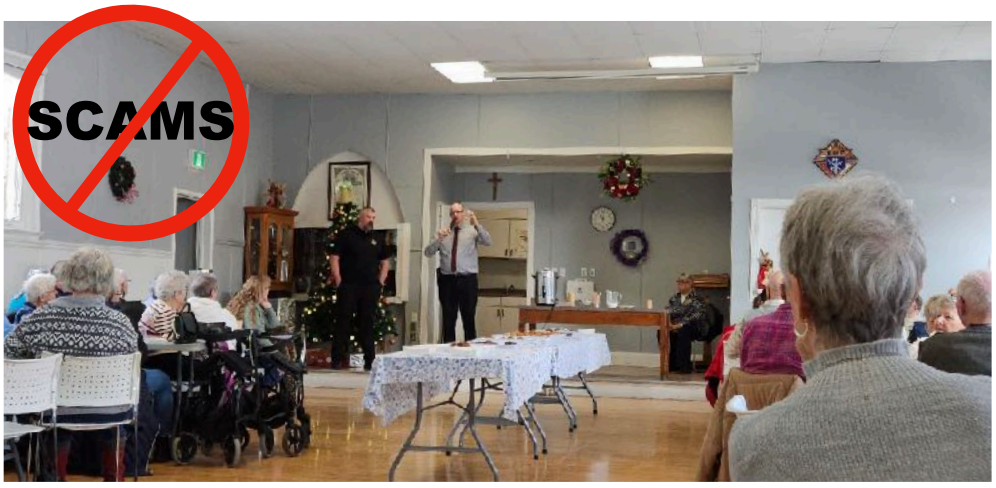
This cafe was an inspiration by Fr. Simmy who brought it with him from out west.

He was elated with the number of people who came to the first one, a year ago December - 65 seniors! He was hoping for at least 20 😊

What a wonderful way to build community!







Bible Study

St. Alphonsus, continued

People have been asking about a bible study; so we engaged Doug Finbow (a St. Alphonsus parishioner) and he presented us with *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: A Journey through the Gospel According to Luke."*

It was very well received and over 30 people attended the sessions which took place over 6 weeks during November and December. Needless to say, we moved from the small room to the church and then to the hall!

After the introduction: "What is a Gospel? Who is Luke? When and why and for whom was this Gospel written?", topics included:

- The Infancy Narratives (Luke 1:5-2:52),
- The Galilean Ministry (Luke 3:1-9:50),
- Journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:27),
- The Jerusalem Ministry (Luke 19:28-21:38),
- and Passion Death and Resurrection (Luke 22:1-24:53)

SHORT BIO:
Douglas J. Finbow, Ph.D.(Ottawa U.), S.Th.D. (St. Paul U.), Catholic Biblical Scholar and Catholic Educator, retired principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Professor Emeritus of St. Paul University, Ottawa, and Trent University School of Education and Professional Learning. Academic advisor to the Diocese of Peterborough Permanent Deacon Formation Program. Parishioner of St. Alphonsus, happily married to Deirdre Thomas.



Jubilee Celebration

We celebrated the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Hope with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Eve, December 31st. Bishop Miehm lit a candle atop our Year of Hope stand and which is lit before every Mass this year. The Jubilee Prayer is also read before every Mass.







Dancing in the Dark

Fr. Paul Massel



It has been a gift beyond measure, being assigned as Catholic chaplain at PRHC, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre. As I write this, it is Ash Wednesday and I have just returned from placing ashes on the foreheads of patients, family and staff alike saying: "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return." I shared the words of Paul to the Corinthians: "*So we are ambassadors for Christ*" (2 Cor 5:20). Beneath the ash placed on our foreheads, in the frailties of our humanity, God's Holy Spirit is abundantly present! You and I are ambassadors for Christ: our hands… our eyes…and our voices of love.

The ashen cross testifies that all the "matter" of the universe evolves through suffering and even death to new and greater life (resurrection). God loved us so much as to become us, walking his calvary journey and ours too, so that everyone and every thing would be sacred, and holy and part of the redemption of all creation. As Richard Rohr said, the particular (each of us) becomes one with the universal (with Christ). God became human who knew no humanity, so that we might become "the righteousness of God."

Pastor Otis Moss, in his book, "Dancing in the dark," writes of a midnight walk through his home and hearing a noise, leading to his daughter's bedroom. He opened the door to see her "dancing in the dark." In his homily the next day, he spoke of the beauty of the Christian story and how all creation comes together to "dance in the dark." Yes we dance…even in the dark!



I sat that day with a wonderful lady of 95 years, soon to pass from this life. With her husband of 67 years, her children, grandchildren and great grandchild, four generations witnessed the Easter event! In the neighbouring room, a lady gifted me with this crocheted cross. Battling debilitating arthritis, I couldn't imagine how she managed to crochet such a beautiful cross. Eight months now as chaplain at PRHC, this ministry brings me full circle having begun my journey to priesthood 27 years ago at St. Michael's hospital in Toronto.

Ilia Delio, a Franciscan theologian, and cosmologist writes: "It has taken me years to realize that love is the very breath of God and that this love is also the breath of my life; for it is love that awakens me in the morning, love opens my eyes and draws me forth into the light of a new day, but it is also love who bears the weight of my sorrows and feels my inner pain when I am crushed or weighed down by life's difficulties." T*he ashes remind us of this love.* "You search me, O God, and you know me, you know my resting and my rising; you search my thoughts from afar ." (Ps 139:1-2)

Born to this earth, God placed our spirits in earthen vessels: fragile, beautiful, mysterious, and holy, all enfleshed through the joys and struggles that life brings. In this Jubilee year of hope, Pope Francis reminds us that miracles abound each and every day if we open our eyes to see. That is the invitation and gift of Easter . Each and every day, I see an amazing staff at our hospital, reaching out to care for the vulnerable and their families. They are witnesses to hope and to see the risen Christ every day in each other and in all creation.

Happy Easter!

— Fr. Paul



A Flame of Love:

Celebrating 350 years of Devotion to the Scared Heart.

This year our parish, Sacred Hear of Jesus, Trout Creek, is honoured to host the closing celebration of the 350th year anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For three and half centuries, this powerful devotion has inspired countless hearts down through the ages and till now to burn with love for Christ. As we commemorate this significant milestone, we reflect on the rich history and enduring significance of this stunning devotion.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has its roots in the 17th-century visions of St Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun. In 1673, Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary, revealing His Sacred Heart burning with love for humanity. This divine revelation sparked a profound devotion, which quickly spread throughout the world.

Since then, it has spread like wildfire, igniting hearts with a deep love for Christ. Our Parish has been blessed to be a part of this legacy, and we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone anniversary. As we celebrate 350 years of devotion to the Sacred Heart, may we rekindle our passion for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, embracing its transformative power in our lives. May our worship, reflection, and charity be animated by the love that flows from his Sacred Heart. Together, let us renew our commitment to spread the message of mercy, compassion and reconciliation that Our Lord embodies. And rekindle our love for Christ and to share that love with others. Through prayer and fellowship, may this celebration deepen our union with Christ and inspire us to become beacons of His love in our world.

Join us in Trout Creekas as we celebrate 350 years of devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus! Let us come together to honour this epoch-making event and ignite a new flame of love in our hearts.

Schedule of Events:



- Holy Adoration from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Confessions
- Chaplet of the Sacred Heart at 1:30 p.m.
- Talk on the Feast of the Sacred Heart at 2:00 p.m.
- Benediction at 3:00 p.m. by the Dean of the Northern Deanery Fr. Roy Villas
- Holy Mass with His Excellency, Bishop Daniel Miehm and guest Priests at 3:30 p.m.
- Prayer for Indulgence.
- Reception to follow in the Parish Hall

All are welcome to join us for these special events. Don't miss out! ***Fr. Isaac Ogwu, Pastor***

JUBILEE 2025

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

May 2025

14 May

Jubilee Mass , Warkworth Prison

30 May

7:00pm: Ordination of Deacon Peter Bissonnette to the Sacred Priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

31 May

1:30pm: First Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Michael's, Cobourg.

June 2025

1 June

11:00am: Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's, Bracebridge.

2 - 5 June

Diocesan Priests Retreat. Jubilee Mass for Priests on June 4th. Mississauga.



27 June

Pilgrimage and Closing Mass for Year of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart Church, Trout Creek.
11:00am - 3:00pm : Adoration
3:30pm: Mass
Plenary Indulgence.

July 2025

9 July

12:10pm: Mass Celebration of Retired Priests at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

16 July

10am: Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick's, Kearney.
Reception to follow.

20 July

10:30am: Mass Celebration of Local Cultural Groups at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

27 July

11:00 am: 150th Anniversary Mass and Parish Celebration at St. Joseph's, Bracebridge

August 2025

9 August

9:00am: Lakeshore Deanery Pilgrimage to St. Michael's, Cobourg.

10 August

10:30am: Peter Robinson Settlers Bi-Centennial Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

10 - 15 August

In the Footsteps of the Canadian Martyr's Pilgrimage from St. Joseph's, Powassan to Holy Family, Britt.

15 August

Marian Spirituality Celebration Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's of the Assumption, Huntsville.
Mass and Reception

17 August

9:00am - 2:00pm: 150th Anniversary Mass and Celebration at St. Mary's, Grafton.

September 2025

13 September

Diocesan Altar Servers Event at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

20 September

10:00am - 3:00pm: Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. Check local parishes for busses.

October 2025

4 October

10:30am: Jubilee Mass and Celebration of Lay Movements & Diocesan Groups at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.



12 October

11:00am: Jubilee 9 Ships Mass at St. Michael's, Cobourg

November 2025

16 November

11:00am: Jubilee Mass for the Poor at St. Joseph's, Bowmanville.

27 November

7:00pm: Jubilee Mass 200th Anniversary of 9 Ships at St. John the Evangelist, Keene.

December 2025

31 December

5:00pm: Jubilee Mass at St. Luke's, Downeyville.

January 2026

4 January

10:30am: Closing Mass of Jubilee Year of Hope at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains, Peterborough.

peterboroughdiocese.org
jubilaeum2025.va

Go Big ! or Go Home !



Butch Foster was somewhat disappointed in the first "pull tab for service dogs challenge" weigh-in on March 30th. Butch submitted 17.2 pounds of tabs representing St. Paul's Parish, Lakefield and the Municipality of Selwyn.

Fr. Bill Moloney smiled as the scales tipped 25.6 pounds collected by St. Mary's Parish Campbellford and the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Butch's disappointment swiftly changed to resolve and vowed the results would be different at the next weigh-in at the end of June.

As you may remember from the initial article about this 2025 challenge all tabs are redeemed for scrap and the proceeds to **Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.**

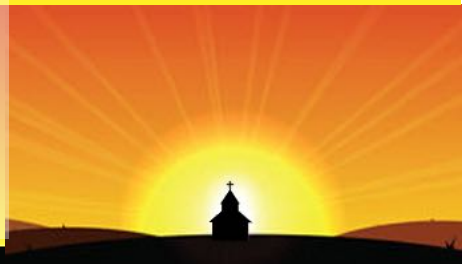
For more information or a location to drop off tabs call 705-768-0844.

FYI – Word has it that Butch already has 45 pounds collected for June.



Jubilee Celebration of Consecrated Life

February 2nd, 2025



Greetings of peace and joy in this Jubilee Year of Hope!

PARISH: Lindsay

St. Mary's in Lindsay was declared a Diocesan Pilgrimage Parish by Bishop Daniel Miehm at the start of this Year of Jubilee. We were blessed to celebrate the parish's Feast Day on February 2, 2025. Not only were we celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but it was also the World Day of Consecrated Life, and the Jubilee Mass for the Parish! We were delighted to have Bishop Miehm celebrate Mass, along with many members of the various Religious Orders throughout the Diocese.

Hundreds attended the Mass and luncheon afterwards. It was a true Jubilee celebration! The Hymn for the 2025 Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", was jubilantly sung and the energy of the parish was evident throughout the celebration. Numerous altar servers assisted at the Mass, impressing even the Bishop. He was pleased to see such a prayerful group of servers at St. Mary's and complimented them. One server commented he was able to focus on his specific role knowing the other servers were confident in their roles. Huge thanks to Fr. Felipe Preciado and Terry Laviolette for their efforts in formation and training of the servers, and to the servers and their parents for their dedication!

Many other groups within the Parish helped make the day a blessing: The Knights of Columbus formed an Honour Guard and helped with setup and take down; the Catholic Women's League distributed prayer cloths and helped co-ordinate the luncheon; Society of St. Vincent de Paul gave out prayer request cards for the Clergy and Religious to all in the Church. Special thanks is also due to the students and teachers from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School in Lindsay for serving and cleanup during the luncheon. Of course, the efforts of the Parish pastor Fr. Dominic Clovis, associate pastor Fr. Felipe Preciado, and office administrator Karen Quinn cannot be understated. It was truly a team effort!

The Mass was also live-streamed on YouTube for those unable to attend in-person. Thanks to the technical knowledge and skill of Fr. Felipe, the blessing of the Jubilee Mass was accessible to every corner of the diocese.

We are grateful for Bishop Miehm celebrating Mass, and we look forward to continuing growing in faith and love as 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this Year of Jubilee!





St. Patrick's Church

Pilgrimage Site for the Northern Deanery

PARISH: Kearney

Greetings of peace and joy in this Jubilee Year of Hope!

We are profoundly blessed that St. Patrick's Church has been designated as a pilgrimage site for the **Jubilee Plenary Indulgence** in our Northern Deanery. Recognizing that many parishes in our deanery—including St. Patrick's—are especially vibrant during the summer months, we have planned this Jubilee Year to align with this season of grace and gathering. This sacred year invites us all to renew our faith, embrace God's mercy, and journey together as **Pilgrims of Hope.**

To ensure everyone can fully participate in this grace-filled opportunity, St. Patrick's will extend its opening hours from **May 1 to October 31, welcoming pilgrims daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

Special Pilgrimage Programs – July 1 to 15

In preparation for our grand Jubilee celebration, we invite the faithful to deepen their devotion through:

- Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions
- Holy Mass
  Schedule (Monday–Friday):
- 10:00 AM: Holy Hour & Confessions
- 11:00 AM: Holy Mass

Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Mass – July 16 | Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Join us for a celebration of the Jubilee Year

- Chief Celebrant: Most Rev. Bishop Daniel Miehm
- Time: 11:00 AM
- All clergy and faithful are warmly invited

Let us come together as one family in Christ, seeking renewal and hope. May this Jubilee Year be a time of abundant grace for all who pilgrimage to St. Patrick's.

— Fr. Aji Sebastian



Archbishop Philip Pocock Award
for Excellence in Religious Education

Congratulations to **Andrew Miller**, teacher and curriculum chair of Religion at St. Stephen CSS in Bowmanville, who was awarded on March 25, 2025 the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

This annual award presented by CARFLEO, the Catholic Association of Religious & Family Educators in Ontario, recognizes an exceptional K-12 Catholic educator from across the province. Principal Trevor Poechman noted that "Mr. Miller is a shining example of what it means to be a Catholic educator—not just in academics but in life. His passion, generosity, and unwavering faith make an immeasurable impact on the school community. For all he does, we are deeply grateful and blessed to have him as a guiding light for so many".

PVNC Catholic District School Board Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan, in his congratulations said of Mr Miller, "You have clearly made a meaningful and lasting impact - not only within your own classroom but across the broader Catholic education community in Ontario".



Deacon Shawn Panio (chaplain), Joan Miller, Andrew Miller (teacher and chair of Religion) and Trevor Poechman (principal) attend the CARFLEO Awards at Queen Apostle Renewal Centre in Mississauga on March 25, 2025.

St. Thomas Aquinas

Catholic Secondary School, Lindsay

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Lindsay has had a busy year strengthening community connections through social justice initiatives and living out their Faith in Action. With so many incredible activities taking place, here are just a few photos capturing some of these meaningful moments from the past few months.



The City of Kawartha Lakes school staff gathered for Faith Day beginning with a beautiful Mass at St. Luke, Downeyville celebrated by Fr. Israel Oruebi.



After attending Mass, the St. Thomas Aquinas staff came together for a morning of learning, followed by an afternoon of community service, volunteering at various local organizations.



St. Thomas Aquinas Grade 12 students ventured out into the Lindsay community as part of the *Service With Seniors* program, helping seniors with essential outdoor yard work.

The St. Thomas school community once again showcased their incredible spirit and generosity through the *Be an Angel* Christmas initiative, in partnership with SSVP at St. Mary's Parish.

Through fundraising and homeroom classes purchasing wish list items, numerous local families in need received support. Thanks to this collective effort, many bags were filled with gifts and essentials, ready for delivery to brighten the holiday season.



An Inner Journey of Discovery, Formation, and Growth

Submitted By: Anita Maryam
(Chaplaincy Team Leader at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School)

At Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, the Religion Retreats for all grades are more than just one event. They are transformational experiences that allow students to reflect on their self, strengthen their spiritual connections, and grow as community members. Through the retreats, students are invited to build up their relationship with God, reflect on the purpose in their lives, and consider how they can live their faith and beliefs more authentically in their daily lives.

Retreat activities are designed to provide a place for self-confidence, where students can consider their life direction, their struggles, and their blessings. Whether guided prayers, journaling, or small group discussions, students are encouraged to connect with their inner selves and listen to God's voice in their hearts.

One of the major elements is prayer. Students participate in prayer services, including mass or a teaching mass and personal prayer time, which allow them to encounter God in a very personal way. These prayer experiences help students to cultivate the habit of praying and invite them to reflect on their spiritual needs.

The second valuable aspect of the retreat is the spirit of community. Students participate in group activities, prayer circles, and discussions that allow them to relate to each other. For many students, this shared experience strengthens the feeling of belonging to both the school and the wider Catholic community.

Service is also an integral part of the retreat experience. Students are often encouraged to engage in acts of service, both as a group and individually, to remind them of the importance of living their faith through action. Whether helping others in the community or having time to serve their fellow students, they are challenged to put their faith into practice and cultivate compassion.

Although Catholic High School provides a growing environment for spiritual development, the journey is not always easy. Adolescence is a moment of personal questioning and identity formation, and many students can struggle reconciling their faith with the pressures of society, the influence of peers, and personal doubts. It is not uncommon for students to experience moments of uncertainty or even rejection of certain aspects of faith as they sail through their adolescence. However, these challenges usually serve as opportunities for deeper reflection and growth.

The retreat experience helps students recognize that faith is not a unique event but a continuous journey. They learn that spiritual growth is something that requires continuous effort, reflection, and a willingness to open their hearts to God. The connections made during the retreats usually continue to inspire students, helping them to remain grounded in their faith, as they face the challenges of high school life.



Black History Month

at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School





The Black History Month Assemblies were a huge success. They showcased our student's talents with 2 groups singing (Lily & Stella, and Stacy, Jaunita and Christiana), our school poet Fareed, who shared a poem that he wrote, and all the Tik Tok videos and Powerpoints, etc. Our fabulous speaker was Jeff D Martin who really reached and inspired our students and staff. It was truly wonderful.

Deacon Shawn Panio
Chaplain
St. Stephen's CSS
300 Scugog St
Bowmanville, ON, L1C6Y8



St. Peter Catholic Secondary School
PETERBOROUGH

SERVICE FOR SENIORS



High School Students are doing:

- volunteer work (outdoor only)
- engage in conversation
- pastoral visit to Seniors in the community

Service for Seniors is a longstanding TRADITION of Community Service.

To know more about the school program, please contact through 705-745-1358 or send an email to Chaplaincy Office rfuerzas@pvnccdsb.on.ca

Service for Seniors is a longstanding tradition of community service with students at Saint Peter Catholic Secondary School.

During the height of the pandemic, it was stopped. In 2023, the school started to revive the program by promoting it through the parishes, social media, and different communities around Peterborough. Now, it is fully alive and happening twice in a school year, one in the Spring and the other during Fall.

We were able to accommodate the different walks of life of our Seniors in the community.

It is our hope that our students, especially the graduating class each year, would participate in this kind of volunteer work as they live out the Catholic Graduate Expectations. With the motto of the school, "Per Angusta, Ad Augusta" (Through Trials, To Triumphs) from the life of the Patron Saint Peter the Apostle, our Catholic school identity would bring us all to the service of everyone especially the lost, the last, and the least in society.

Saint Peter the Apostle, pray for us.

Rico Fuerzas, MAAPT
Chaplaincy Team Leader
Pastoral Care/Chaplain's Office
(Room 1049)
St. Peter Catholic Secondary School
30 Medical Drive,
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M4

CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Press release
For immediate distribution

CCCB Welcomes Pope Leo XIV with Rejoicing and Prayers

8 May 2025, Ottawa – Today, the Church in Canada and throughout the world rejoices, as His Eminence Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost, O.S.A., after being duly elected by the College of Cardinals, has accepted to become the 267th Bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, and vicar of Christ on earth!

Taking the name Leo XIV, the Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Saint Peter, is the "perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the Bishops and the whole company of the faithful" (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 23). As our loving shepherd and spiritual guide, Pope Leo XIV's ministry is to orient Christ's flock toward the kingdom of heaven, where the citizenship of Christians truly lies (cf. Philippians 3:20-21).

Pope Leo XIV was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 14 September 1955. As a member of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.), in which he held various leadership positions, he dedicated many years of service to the Augustinian missions in Peru as a priest and seminary professor. He was eventually appointed Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, by Pope Francis. As a Bishop of the Church in Peru, he served as Vice President and member of the Permanent Council of the Peruvian Bishops' Conference. In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as Prefect of the Dicastery of Bishops and elevated him to the College of Cardinals. Pope Leo XIV holds a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical College of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Commenting on this historic moment, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary, asks the faithful to embrace the new Pope: "I encourage the faithful in Canada to unite with their local Ordinary in welcoming Pope Leo XIV as our new Holy Father, and to remember him daily in their prayers so that he may embark on his Petrine ministry with fidelity, confident that the Lord will help him."

As the Church in Canada rejoices today with Christians throughout the world, let us remember our new Holy Father in prayer, that despite the considerable weight of his role and responsibilities, his yoke may be easy and his burden light (cf. Matthew 11:28-20).

May God grant strength and wisdom to our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, and may Mary, Mother of the Church, be ever at his side, guarding him with her mantle of protection.

To pray for Pope Leo XIV, you are invited to use
https://www.cccb.ca/about/apostolic-nunciature/the-holy-father/

-30-

2500 promenade Don Reid Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 2J2 • Tél./Tel. : (613) 241-9461 • Télécopier / Fax : (613) 241-9048
Site internet / Internet : https://www.cccb.ca • Courrier électonique / E-mail : cecc@cccb.ca

CONFÉRENCE DES ÉVÊQUES CATHOLIQUES DU CANADA
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Press release
For immediate distribution

The Church in Canada Prepares for the Liturgical Inauguration of the Petrine Ministry of Pope Leo XIV

16 May 2025, Ottawa – This Sunday, 18 May 2025, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the liturgical inauguration of the Petrine ministry of Leo XIV, Servant of the Servants of God, during a Mass that will take place at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City. The faithful and all people of goodwill, wherever in Canada they may be, are invited to share in this moment of great joy for the Catholic Church.

Pope Leo XIV is the new successor of the Apostle Peter. Saint Peter, as described in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, was the first leader of the Church to whom were given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16:18); he strengthened the Apostles in the faith; proclaimed Jesus' Resurrection, and continued His ministry of teaching and healing (Mark 8: 28, Luke 22:32; John 20:6; Acts 2:14-49, 3:2-10).

From the moment he stepped onto the loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo has invited us to turn to the Virgin Mary for her protection and intercession. This was manifested when he led the crowd, which had gathered to greet him for the first time, in praying the *Hail Mary*. With Mary, Pope Leo introduced his ministry to the world, just as through Mary herself, the incarnate Word became flesh and entered the world.

Looking forward to Sunday's Mass of Inauguration for Pope Leo XIV, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary, stated from Rome: "We welcome our Holy Father, Pope Leo, with open hearts and trust that God, in calling him to this universal mission, will give him the courage and fidelity to proclaim the Gospel and thus strengthen the followers of Jesus in their witness of faith. Together, with Pope Leo, let us take up this responsibility in following Christ and thus promote a greater desire among our brothers and sisters to work for justice, peace and friendship in the world."

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Point of interest: the above communique is correct in identifying Pope Leo as the sucessor of St. Peter and not, as some media have reported, the successor of Francis. — ed.

MEANING OF THE LOGO

of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION
SECTION FOR FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS REGARDING EVANGELIZATION IN THE WORLD

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.



The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those in the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

OBITUARIES



Rev. Father Paul HICKEY

Peacefully, at Lakeridge Health Centre, Bowmanville, on Wednesday, March 05, 2025. Paul Hickey age 74, was the son of the late Aloysius and Mary (Flynn) Hickey. Loved brother and brother-in-law of Helen Hillier, Edmund Hickey (Maureen), Jack Hickey (Maureen), Aloysius Hickey (Mary), Mary Donnelly (Pat), Rita Shephard (Bill), Frank Hickey, Marie Hickey, and Rose Marie Hickey. Predeceased by his brothers Ambrose and Steven, brother-in-law Dave, and sister-in-law Bonnie. Survived by many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews.

Paul was born in Bird's Creek and was raised on the family farm. He attended grade school and high school in Bancroft. Paul graduated from King's College and received his Master of Divinity (M.Div) at St. Peter's Seminary in London, ON. He received his Deaconate Ordination on June 3, 1988, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Bancroft, and his Ordination to Priesthood was celebrated on May 26, 1989, at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, Peterborough, ON by Most Rev. James Doyle.

Cremation has taken place. A Mass of Christian Burial was be Celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church (18 Need St., Bobcaygeon) on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with Father James Serceley presiding. Interment Blackhouse Garden of Rest Cemetery, Mahone Bay, NS.

https://hendrenfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/6267/Paul-Hickey/obituary.html



Rev. Father Leo Timothy COUGHLIN

Roman Catholic Priest with the Diocese of Peterborough in his 67th year of Holy Priesthood). Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre after a brief illness, on Saturday, March 29, 2025, in his 94th year.

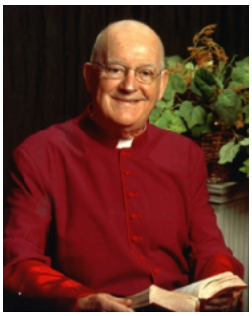
Leo, beloved son of the late Charles Coughlin and Agnes Cleary. One of eleven children, Fr. Leo is survived by his sister, Shirley Hartwick and predeceased by his siblings; Rita Dupuis (+Xavier), Patricia Carroll (+Leonard), Richard (+Flora), Audrey Faux (+Gus), Charles, Barbara Sanderson (+Bud), Mary Saliba (+Joseph), Carmel Coughlin, and Gerald (Anne, surviving). Remembered lovingly by several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. Farther Leo was ordained Priest in St. Peter's Cathedral on May 31, 1958 and for 67 years faithfully ministered in various parishes throughout the diocese.

Leo's real treasure in life was showing compassion to people who were finding life difficult or were carrying a heavy burden. He truly loved and enjoyed his ministry. His journey is complete, and he would say 'It has been a truly wonderful trip, and I'm glad I did not miss it, so many wonderful people, so many caring people... what more could a person ask for?'

A Community Celebration of Fr. Leo's Life will take place in Selwyn Outreach Centre 2686 Lakefield Road on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in St. Paul's Church, Norwood on Monday, April 7, at 11:00 a.m. Interment St. Paul's Cemetery. In his memory, donations to any organization that ministers to the poor.

Adapted from on-line publication of the *Peterborough Examiner*. Published April 1, 2025.

OBITUARY
Rev. Msgr.
John Thomas PEARSON



Roman Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Peterborough: Peacefully at Toronto General Hospital on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in his 92nd year.

Son of the late Thomas Daniel Pearson and Sarah Lillian Barkwell. Dear brother of Robert Pearson and Ranald Pearson and his wife, Shirley. Predeceased by his sisters, Corinne Conlin, Mary House, Margaret DiNoble and brothers, William, Peter and Thomas Pearson. Dear brother-in-law of Dorothy Pearson and Frank DiNoble and his wife, Shirley. Remembered lovingly by many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Monsignor Pearson was born in Peterborough on June 4, 1933, and educated at St. Peter's Elementary and Secondary Schools. Following his studies at St. Augustine's Seminary and the University of St. Michael's College, Monsignor Pearson was ordained a Priest by His Excellency Bishop Benjamin I. Webster in the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains on May 31, 1958. Monsignor served in several parishes throughout his priestly life including Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Hastings: St. Michael's, Cobourg; St. John the Baptist, Peterborough; Mount St. Joseph; teacher at St. Peter's High School, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains; St. Paul, Lakefield.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Monsignor founded the Roman Catholic Separate School Board(RCSSB) Office Of Religious Education in Peterborough, as well as the Carleton RCSSB. During his tenure as Cathedral Rector, Monsignor established the Cathedral Knights of Columbus Council, the first of the Parish Councils in the city. At the prompting of his father Tom, Monsignor established the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains Perpetual Fund, a public and not for profit organization that continues to fund Cathedral structural projects to the present day.

On December 4, 1982, in recognition to his dedication to the local Church, Pope John Paul II conferred upon Monsignor Pearson the title Prelate of Honour.

He will be fondly remembered by Priests, Deacons, Religious and laity of the Diocese of Peterborough for his approachability and dedication which endeared him to those whom he served so well.

His family would like to thank Alberto, Monsignor's long time health care provider for the care and compassion shown to Monsignor these past years and recognize the long established friendship with Bill and Beth Cooney.

Monsignor Pearson will Lie in Repose at the Cathedral of St. Peter-In-Chains on Monday, April 14th from the Rite of Reception at 5:45 pm until 9:00pm. Office of the Dead 7:00pm. Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on Tuesday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m. Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough officiating, assisted by his brother Priests of the Peterborough Diocese. Monsignor Pearson's nephew, Fr. Peter Conlin, will preach the homily. Interment St. Peter's Cemetery followed by a reception in Highland Park Reception Centre. In his memory, donations to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains Perpetual Fund would be appreciated by his family.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Highland Park Funeral Centre.

(Adapted from on-line Publication of the *Peterborough Examiner,* April 11, 2025