



# THE VINEYARD



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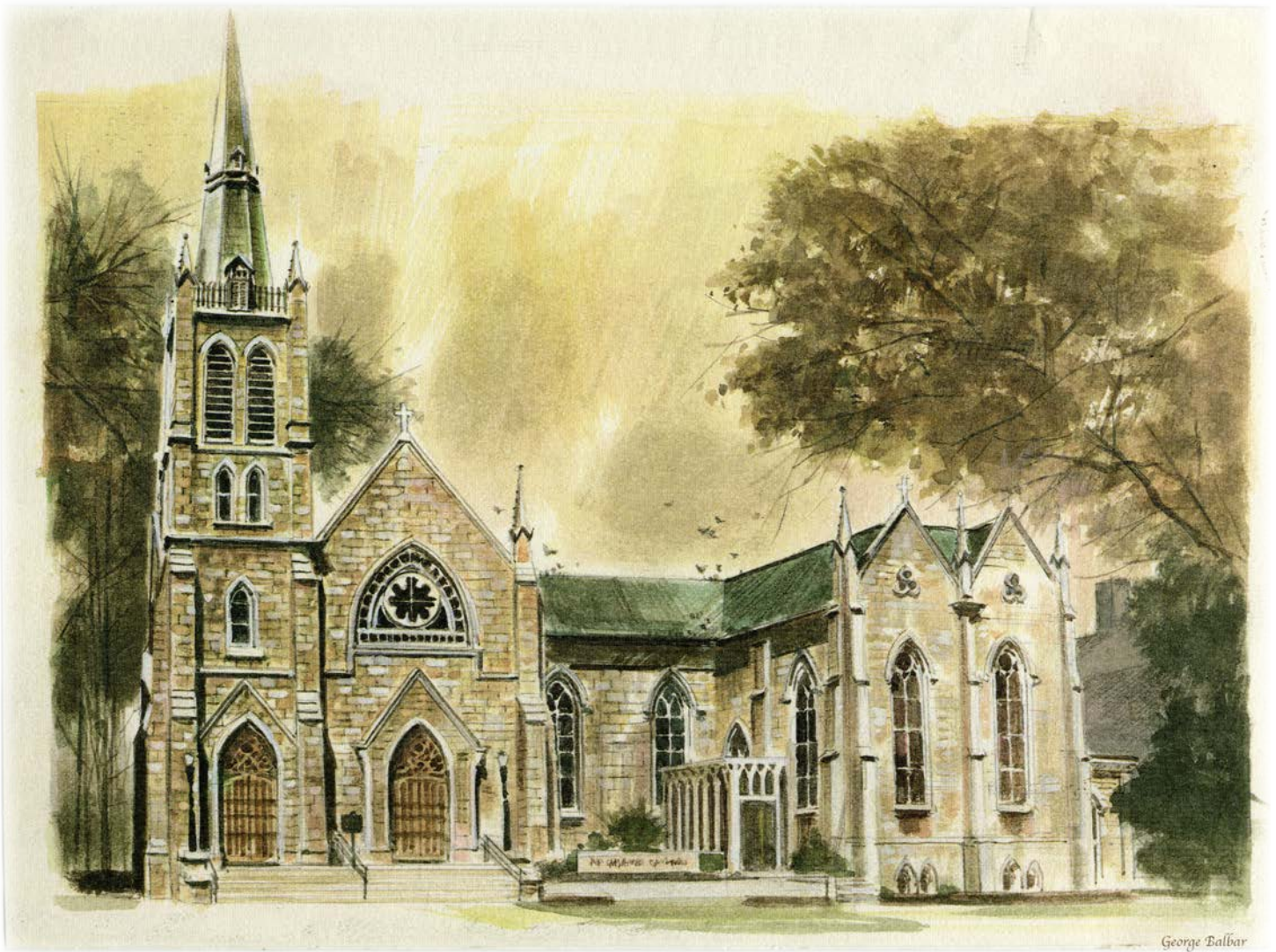
THE JOURNAL OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

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THE HOMELESS CRISIS PAGES 1,4,5 & 7





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COVER ART: The Homeless Jesus, Michael Adams Gallery

**THE CATHOLIC CENTRE OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES**  
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# THE GOSPEL PRESENTS US WITH THE FINAL EXAM OF LIFE

by BISHOP GERARD BERGIE

When I was a student in high school, I had a classmate who always asked the teacher what was going to be on the final exam. He wanted to know what areas to study. The teacher never gave the exact questions that would be asked; however, general areas to focus on were offered to the students.

From a spiritual perspective, we are very fortunate because we know exactly what will be on the final exam.

What do I mean?

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we are presented with the 'final exam' of life. If we pass, we are welcomed into paradise. If we fail, we are condemned to eternal punishment.

Here is the familiar passage:

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.*

*"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

*"Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'*

*"Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*  
(Matthew 25:31-46)

We know what the Lord will ask us on judgement day.

How well did we care for those most in need: those who hunger and thirst, the stranger, migrant and refugee, the naked and homeless, the sick and suffering, those imprisoned, those who lack freedom due to addictions and poor choices in life. How did we respond to these persons in need?

Most of us are easily impressed by money, position, prestige, power and authority. So often we try to associate with those who possess these attributes. We feel important because we have 'friends in high places'.

It is quite incredible that in this gospel passage, Jesus states that he associates with those in 'low places'. In fact when we help them, it is as if we are doing it directly to Jesus. When we neglect them, we are neglecting him.

Today we are faced with the issues of homelessness and drug addiction. It is something that is present both in big cities and small towns. It affects many families and presents many challenges to our social safety net. Many people are falling through the cracks as these issues intensify.

What can we do?

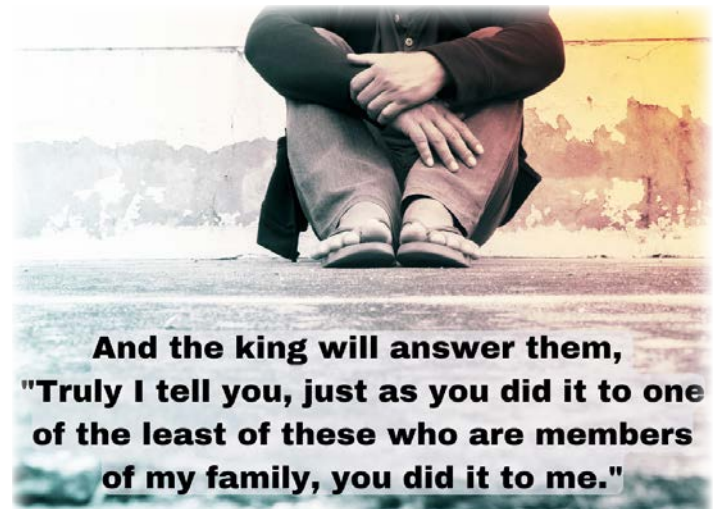
When we feel overwhelmed, a sense of helplessness prevails. We become less compassionate in order to cope. We can begin to forget that these individuals are persons despite their struggles. There is little to attract us to extreme poverty and addiction. It is not beautiful or pleasant.

What we need to do is remember the gospel. Jesus is present in these vulnerable persons and that is something beautiful indeed! Despite what might appear offensive, it is Christ whom we should see. It is our love for Christ that compels us to action.

So let us take comfort in knowing what will be on the 'final exam'. God will ask us how we treated those who were the least among us.



Bishop Gerard Bergie



**And the king will answer them,  
"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one  
of the least of these who are members  
of my family, you did it to me."**

**Matthew 25:40**

## VOCATION CORNER

by FR. GREG SCHMIDT

The month of September brings new and fresh beginnings as young people from parish communities return to Catholic elementary and secondary schools for the start of the new academic year.

New beginnings are also the story as seminarians return to formation for the Diocese of St. Catharines. With the help of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the faithful from the diocese, the seminarians continue their formation journey.

This summer, Yohander Sanchez successfully completed his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Experience) at a hospice in Brantford. He now begins his pastoral year assignment at St. Alexander, Fonthill, under the guidance and mentorship of pastor Fr. Paul MacNeil. Let us pray for a grace-filled experience for him and for the St. Alexander community.

Brian Izzard, having completed his spiritual year, now begins his first year of theology at St. Augustine's Seminary, Scarborough. A new initiative this year is the opportunity to engage in a pastoral experience of formation in a parish and is complementary to the formation in the seminary. On select weekends during the academic year, he will be assigned to St. Stephen, Cayuga, under the guidance and mentorship of pastor Fr. Ronald Angervil.

Jacob Willms returns to St. Philip's Seminary, Toronto,

## SEMINARIANS BEGIN ANOTHER YEAR OF DISCERNMENT AND FORMATION

for his second year of formation, to continue his studies of philosophy. Philosophy lays the foundation for his theological studies to follow.

A vocation to the priesthood is mysterious, yet so very beautiful. Thank you for praying for an increase in vocations in the diocese. Thank you for praying for these men. Thank you for praying that during this time of formation they are able to discern that this is where God is calling them. May our prayers continue to be felt by them and that this new beginning of the academic year be filled with abundant graces for these men who have so generously responded with a yes to God.



Fr. Gregory Schmidt  
Photo by Denis Cahill

*And he said to them, 'Follow me,  
and I will make you  
fish for people.'*

Matthew 4:19

## WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Last fall the Office of Vocations launched a new initiative for our diocese – a monthly Men's Discernment Group. This is an opportunity for men of all ages to gather together in prayer. We begin with adoration, where we sit in silence before our Lord. It is in silence that the Lord speaks to us. The opportunity to encounter Christ in the Sacrament of Confession is also made available. We pray evening prayer together. A simple dinner follows as we gather in fellowship and conversation.

Vocations take various shapes and forms: a vocation to single life, married life, and sometimes, the mysterious vocation to religious life. It is in this setting where, I pray, we create a comfortable place to have the conversation and ask the question, "where is God calling you?" A vocation to the priesthood is, indeed, what I call, a "gentle whisper" from God. There is a stirring in the heart, that maybe, just maybe, I may be called to serve God, to serve the church, and to serve the people of God. These discernment nights give men the opportunity to explore and have these conversations, and to let them know that they are not alone, and that others may be hearing that "gentle whisper" as well. It is my prayer that we create a group that gathers from month-to-month, that journeys with one another, where we listen and share, and, if it is God's will, to answer that call, all with a generous heart, and to know that they are being supported along the way. All in God's time.

May we unite our prayers together: "May more men hear that gentle whisper to a vocation to the priesthood and answer that call with a generous heart." Amen.

### Men's Discernment Group

FOR MEN AGES 18+

Adoration & Evening Prayer    Dinner  
Opportunity for Confession    Social & Conversation

Meets monthly from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

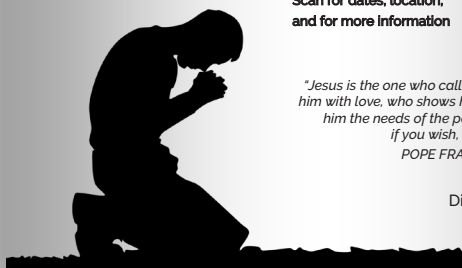
Just drop in, or to confirm your attendance  
& for more information please contact  
Fr. Greg Schmidt: [vocations@saintcd.com](mailto:vocations@saintcd.com)

Scan for dates, location,  
and for more information



*"Jesus is the one who calls...It is Jesus who gazes at  
him with love, who shows him the people, who shows  
him the needs of the people of God and says,  
if you wish, come help."  
POPE FRANCIS*

Diocese of St. Catharines  
Office of Vocations





# A DEACON'S DAY WHERE DOES GOD WANT YOU TO BE?

by DEACON FRANK BERARDI

Where does God want me to be? What is his will for me in my life? These are two of the many questions that I asked myself many times in my vocation journey. Was he calling me to the diaconate?

Permanent deacons have been around since the very beginning of the Church when in the Acts of the Apostles (6:2-6) the twelve apostles called together the whole community of the disciples and selected seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom. The seven men stood before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. This was the beginning of the permanent diaconate. It flourished in the early centuries of the Church, but began to die off in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

Revived by Vatican Council II, the permanent diaconate is flourishing in many parts of the world, especially in North America. According to the February 2020 publication **Deacons Bench**, there are approximately 48,635 permanent deacons worldwide.

After our marriage, my wife Teresa and I were, what I would consider, lukewarm Catholics. We did not practice our faith. It was not a very good place to be spiritually. On a visit to my parents in Mississauga, I spotted a brochure about Our Lady of Fatima. I asked my mom if I could take it home and I read it and learned everything I could about the apparitions at Fatima.

My sister visited Fatima with her husband a short time later and brought me back the book of Sr. Lucia's memoirs; one of the visionaries of Fatima. This book had a tremendous spiritual impact on me and one night as I was reading it, I decided to move towards God. This experience began a change in my life. I no longer wanted what I had previously valued so much—wealth, stature and all the trappings that came with it. What I now wanted was to learn all that I could about the Catholic faith that I had ignored for so many years.

I noticed at Sunday Mass that there were no altar servers. I approached the pastor about becoming an altar server and within a few days I was being trained.

Over many years I served with my whole heart and soul. I loved serving at Mass and did so at all the major liturgical celebrations during the year.

In 2003 the diocese implemented a Diaconate Formation Program and the director, Deacon George Newman asked me if I had ever considered becoming a deacon. My answer was no. I really didn't know much about what a deacon does.

Around the same time, Deacon Jack Gauthier, from Toronto, was assigned to the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria and I started to learn more about a deacon's ministry. He also asked me if I had considered becoming a deacon.

I spoke to Deacon Newman in 2004 and my wife and I decided that our children were still too young, and it wasn't the right time. In a way, I felt relieved.

In the summer of 2012 though, things began to happen. Teresa and I attended the ordination of Msgr. Wayne Kirkpatrick to the Episcopate and were invited to his luncheon. At the luncheon he spoke and said something that really struck me.

He said he had not considered becoming a priest until one day someone asked him if he had ever considered becoming a priest. I said to myself, "This is what has happened to me too!" At the end of the reception, I asked the new bishop for God's blessing for Teresa and I, which he did.

I don't know if it was the timing of his blessing or if it was just God's timing but only a couple of days later while I was working and driving, I felt the most overwhelming rush of spiritual grace that I have ever experienced. It filled me with indescribable joy and I immediately felt God's call to become a deacon. All my fears and hesitation melted away and were replaced with trust and confidence in God.

I was so overcome with joy that I knew I had to have my wife Teresa's blessing to continue so I went home for lunch and asked her, "What would you say if I told you that I want to become a deacon?" She replied, "I think you'll be a great deacon." I just received the confirmation I needed.

I entered formation that fall and in 2016 was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons. It has been a tremendous gift from God. I know now that this is where God wants me to be and that this is his will for me in my life. I thank God for calling me to work in his vineyard as a permanent deacon.



Deacon Frank Berardi



## Diocese of St. Catharines

### Are you called to be a Permanent Deacon?

To be a deacon is a  
specific call to minister  
to the People of God  
through the three-fold  
services of charity,  
liturgy, and word.

If you feel that God may be calling you to this special  
ministry, then contact:

Director Office of Permanent Diaconate  
Catholic Centre  
P.O. Box 875, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6Z4  
Phone 905.684.0154 Ext. 204  
Email [deacons@saintcd.com](mailto:deacons@saintcd.com)



# SERRA CLUB: PROMOTING, VALUING, PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

by DEEDEE ALEXANDRE

Do you value vocations? Do you want to promote and pray for the men and women in religious formation? Then there is a place for you in the Serra Club of St. Catharines. Meetings are once a month at St. Julia, St. Catharines, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m. followed by the meeting. The next meeting is October 10.

Each year there are two Evenings of Reflection, a Christmas party and a June gathering. The next Evening of Reflection is scheduled for October 30, 2023, St. Julia at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Yohander Sanchez Mora, a seminarian spending his pastoral year at St. Alexander, Fonthill. Everyone is invited.

On September 17, 2023, the Serra Club held its final fundraiser for the year, the annual golf tournament at Cardinal Lakes, Welland. It was a success—a huge thank you to everyone who participated on any level in any way. The date of the 2024 golf tournament will be announced soon.

Two other annual fundraisers slated for 2024 are: Heaven Help Us Trivia Night May 18, and the Bishop's Altar Servers' Awards Mass June 2. Further information for these events will be published in future issues of *Vineyard*.

Has your interest in the Serra been piqued? Contact 905-732-4782 or visit [serrastc.ca](http://serrastc.ca)

*Deedee Alexandre is the president of Serra Club St. Catharines.*



 **Serra St. Catharines**  
Presents

**Fall Evening of Reflection**  
**Monday, October 30, 2023**

**St Julia Church**  
**St. Catharines**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Light Refreshments

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Our Guest Speaker**

 **Yohander Sanchez Mora**  
Yohander is a seminarian in the Diocese currently in his pastoral year serving the congregation at St. Alexander. Born in Venezuela, he immigrated to Canada to pursue his calling. He will be returning to St. Peter's seminary in the fall of 2024.

[www.serrastc.ca](http://www.serrastc.ca)

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## A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for  
calling men and women to  
serve in your Son's Kingdom as  
priests, deacons and consecrated  
persons. Send your Holy Spirit  
to help others to respond  
generously and courageously to  
your call. May our community  
of faith support vocations of  
sacrificial love in our youth  
and young adults.

## Help me to Remember

O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;  
When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;  
When I have a home,  
help me to remember those  
who have no home at all;  
When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,  
And remembering,  
help me to destroy my complacency;  
bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;  
By word and deed,  
those who cry out for  
what we take for granted.

Amen



## WHY DOESN'T ANYONE CARE?

by VANESSA RAPANARO

Picture it. January 2020. You're sitting in your warm living room watching the evening news. The newscaster is talking about something called the Coronavirus. It has ravaged most of Europe and has finally made its way into Canada.

Fast forward a few months to cities being in lock down, people getting laid off of work and businesses closing. That's what happened to John. (*Name changed to protect the privacy of the individual*).

John was working full time when suddenly he was laid off. The apartment that he was comfortably living in for years was no longer affordable. He was evicted when he couldn't pay the rent. He finds himself homeless, living on the streets and in parks.

I met him outside of the library on Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, where he is most recently staying. As we spoke, I learned a little bit about his life and how difficult it has been for him to find work. He explained the challenges of not having access to a phone, a shower, or clean clothes to attend job interviews. At one point during the conversation, John looked up to me with tears in his eyes and asked, "Why doesn't anyone care? Why don't I matter to anyone?"

Like John, many others are one pay cheque away from being homeless. It can happen to anyone.

There are currently over 700 people in the Niagara region living with no fixed address.<sup>(1)</sup> It is believed that this number is much higher, as the statistics recorded are only those that are reported. These numbers may not include those who are couch surfing or staying on the street and not counted.

According to the Niagara Region's Affordable Housing Strategy, St. Catharines has the 11th highest rents in Canada with one-bedroom apartments renting for more than \$1500/month and two-bedroom apartments renting for more



than \$1800/month.<sup>(2)</sup> With these statistics, a person earning minimum wage needs to work over 81 hours a month to pay the rent.<sup>(3)</sup> This leaves no funds for other things like bills, clothing or food.

In order for anyone to succeed at work, school or be an active, productive member in the community, they need a proper place to rest their heads at night. Housing is a basic human right that everyone deserves but is unfortunately not a reality to everyone.

There are many different outreach resources available to community that are doing great work. Some of these resources include— **Niagara Falls:** Project Share, Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army Community and Family Services, and St. Patrick Church; **St. Catharines:** Out of the Cold, Silver Spire Church, Start Me Up Niagara, Rad Snax, Westview Women 4 Women, **Welland:** Niagara Mobile Closet; Harvest Kitchen.

Sources: *Niagara Region Affordable Housing Strategy* <sup>(1,2)</sup>; *United Way of Niagara*.<sup>(3)</sup>

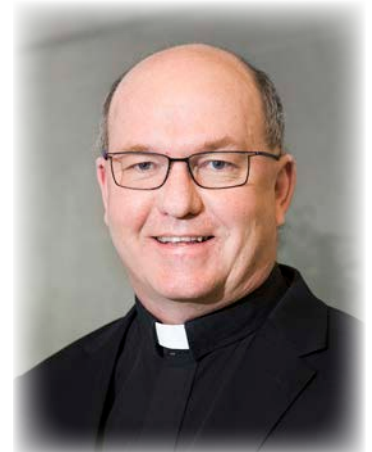
Vanessa was a Harm Reduction Outreach Worker serving the homeless for 13 years.

## THE HOMELESS, THEIR NAMES ARE JESUS.

by FR. PAUL MacNEIL

In 1992 I spent two months volunteering with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity in Calcutta. They would go out and bring the dying in off the streets and minister to them. I was working with Sr. Christina and we were cleaning up a patient they had just brought in. He was in a bad way and he died a few days later. He was using a dialect that neither of us could understand. So, I asked innocently, "I wonder what his name is?" She said to me, "You don't know what his name is? His name is Jesus." And then she went on to say, "All we have to do is love him."

When you see a homeless person holding a sign, sleeping on the ground, or just sitting with all their worldly goods packed around them, remember, regardless of why they are there—addiction, mental health problems, or cannot afford the rent for a roof over their heads—each one is named Jesus and all you have to do is love them.



Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Photo by Denis Cahill

# ST. PATRICK'S AND THE HOMELESS

by FR. GERARD POWER, O.CARM.

Being in the heart of downtown Niagara Falls, encountering homeless persons is not new. It's a part of life. Since the on-set of the COVID 19 pandemic, the city has been faced with a huge increase in homeless persons with nowhere to go and with very little to eat. Tent cities were set up throughout town by the homeless, one being in the shadow of St. Patrick's church steeple. Shelters were full. Some refused to go into shelters out of fear. This was heartbreaking to learn. I drove to the nearest tent city in the old parish truck (Church on Wheels, we call it) to take a look. My heart dropped. Action was needed immediately. Let the people of God know! And we did. We all heard the cries of the poor.

Well, that cry ignited hearts, and before long, word got out and St. Patrick Elementary School gymnasium was filled with food, water, sodas, clothing, tents, blankets, sleeping bags, pillows and personal hygiene products. The gospel was put into action.

For two summers we kept the homeless fed and helped them sleep at night. Prayers were answered. Nothing less should be expected from the people of God, the Carmelites, and from those with whom we Carmelites minister. The co-ordinators of the homeless projects were able to share the supplies throughout other areas of the city. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

As time went on, the homeless were removed from properties and scattered throughout the city. It was heartbreaking. Some were hiding deep into the woods. St. Patrick parish collected clothing items so the homeless could be warm.



The old parish truck (Church on Wheels) loaded and ready to deliver some provisions to those in need.

Another major outreach has been the distribution of Tim Horton's gift cards. Through the generosity of the people of the parish, \$10 and \$15 Tim's cards were donated and since the summer of 2020, we have been driving around Niagara Falls at night in the Church on Wheels, distributing cards to the homeless. What joy and dignity for our homeless brothers and sisters to be able to go into a coffee shop and quench their thirst and fill their hunger on a hot summer day. What comfort to get something hot to eat and drink on a cold winter night. Jesus was fed. Jesus was quenched. "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty?" (Matt 25:37) This outreach is still going on weekly by the parish.

Last year St. Patrick partnered up with LifePointe Bible Church and began collecting milk bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The members of LifePointe either crocheted them or weaved them on a loom. These have been so welcomed and appreciated by the homeless. They place them on a bench, on the concrete, or on the grass. And it cushions them as they try and get some sleep through dire circumstances.

Jesus said that we will always have the poor among us. And indeed we do. We can't turn a deaf ear to the cries around us. As long as there's people who are cold and hungry and thirsty, there's gospel work to be done. And if not by us, then by whom? I remember Mother Teresa being asked by a senator, "How are you going to feed 2 million people?" Her reply was "One at a time." And that's precisely what we try and do.

May God bless all who reach out to the homeless.



Laura Fast, from LifePointe Bible Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, with Fr. Gerard Power, O.Carm, pastor, St. Patrick, Niagara Falls, showing one of the sleeping mats made from milk bags



## ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED IN THE NIAGARA AREA

### OUT OF THE COLD ST. CATHARINES

November 1, 2023 — March 31, 2024

#### Meals

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (\*take out)

Sunday	Knights of Columbus Hall 235 Church Street
Monday	Silver Spire United Church 366 St. Paul Street
Tuesday	Cathedral of St. Catherine 67 Church Street
Wednesday	St. George Anglican Church 83 Church Street
Thursday *	St. Alfred Roman Catholic Church 272 Vine Street 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Friday	Knox Presbyterian Church 53 Church Street
Saturday	Queen Street Baptist Church 57 Queen Street

### HARVEST KITCHEN — WELLAND

Schedule to be determined  
Watch for schedule in December 2023 *Vineyard*

### SOUP KITCHEN — NIAGARA FALLS

Information forthcoming  
Watch for it - December 2023 *Vineyard*

*“Go to the poor:  
you will find God.”  
St. Vincent de Paul*



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



If you would like to get involved in the work of the Society contact the store in your area, or your parish.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORES

116 Lock St. E., Dunnville 905-701-9999  
36 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie 905-871-0203  
5970 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls 289-296-3807  
67 Queenston Street, St. Catharines 905-684-2042  
51 East Main Street, Welland 905-788-3413

Your St. Vincent de Paul store needs you to

<b>Shop</b>	enjoy our excellent prices
<b>Volunteer</b>	your time at a local conference
<b>Donate</b>	your gently used items
<b>PRAY</b>	for the success of our missions

### OUR PRAYER FOR THE HOMELESS

*Hear our prayer today for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this cold winter day. For those sleeping under bridges, in abandoned buildings, in doorways or bus stations.*

*For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime.*

*For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent.*

*For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.*

*For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them who they are.*

*For those who are cold, afraid and hopeless.*

*For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope.*

*We pray for those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds that we not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.*

*Jesus, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed, and through the political means we have, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless.*

*Amen*

# YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE FOR A STUDENT IN NEED

by JIM MARINO

With an ending to summer vacation, in early September school buses started rolling again and Niagara residents resumed passing students on the streets as they headed back to 'hitting the books' in their quest to devour the knowledge required to assist them in their pursuit of a rewarding education. Many of these students may be wearing a happy smile; but taking it for granted that all of them are starting their school day with a happy disposition is a far cry from reality. Some of those radiant faces are likely very genuine, but others could be a complete camouflage of the daily worries they carry in their minds and back packs.

Every day in the Niagara region, one in five students goes to school hungry depending on a healthy breakfast or nutritious snack to help them to sustain their day. In recent school years, over 1 million meals have been served annually in Niagara Catholic District School Board schools nutrition programs.

An increase in the number of students depending on school nutrition programs for food and higher costs for food and delivery has triggered budgetary challenges and an unprecedented need for financial support to maintain the current levels of quality programming in the NCDSB schools. The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education (NFCE) and Niagara Nutrition Partners have been working co-operatively in an attempt to rectify the problem. Sadly, if no increase or newly found funding is forthcoming, the essential nutrition program to feed students in need in NCDSB schools will result in disappointing cutbacks.

As an example, instead of a well-rounded meal consisting of three food groups, students would receive a granola bar. For some schools it may even mean ending their program before the school year is over, or reducing to three days instead of five. Any amount of financial support you can offer to the nutrition program in NCDSB Board schools would be greatly appreciated.

Other statistics reveal that 80% of classroom learning is done through the eyes and that one child in four suffers from some kind of vision problem severe enough to impact learning. The NFCE has developed a **Seeing Clearly** program designed to purchase required glasses for students whose families cannot afford the cost. A donation

of \$150 will fund a student in need for the purchase of two pairs of glasses.

Many students have the aspirations, dreams and intelligence of a bright and rewarding higher level of education, but their families don't have the financial means so they can secure that education with optimism and worry free. One of the NFCE's main sources of revenue is the Annual Golf Classic. Since the first tee-off, the foundation has provided funding for over 750 scholarships over the years. You can help fund a scholarship with a donation of \$500.

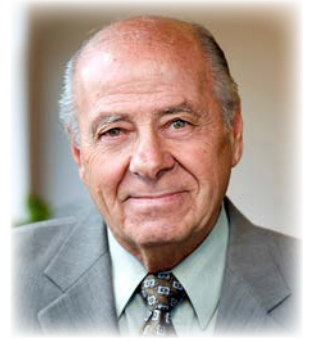
Roman Catholics in the Diocese of St. Catharines are known for their generosity and they support many worthwhile causes both at home and abroad. However, very often poverty is associated with developing countries and other missionary destinations we regularly hear about and support, little realizing that poverty exists right here at home in Niagara. Those in need could very well be residents of our own neighbourhood.

Your financial contribution will make a positive difference in the life of a student in need. However, it's much more than a donation. It's a long-term investment that will pay big dividends in the future of a young individual who needs your assistance right now. It can be offered in a number of ways: monetary donations; donations in memory of someone; bequests; wills; life insurance policy proceeds; and stocks and bonds. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

In his scripture writings about the Lord's judgement of the nations, the apostle St. Matthew tells us about the words of Christ when he speaks of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty and welcoming the stranger; "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my brothers, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40)

Thank you for your consideration and God's blessings be with you always.

The NFCE is a registered charitable foundation and tax receipts are issued. Mailing address is 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario, L3C 7C1. Donate on line at [www.nfce.org](http://www.nfce.org), or contact 905-735-0247 ext. 210, email [jim.marino@nfce.org](mailto:jim.marino@nfce.org)



Jim Marino

*"Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts, but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom."*

*Pope Saint John Paul II*



# HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by SHELLEY TAMAS

The Ontario Provincial Annual Meeting of CWL members was a great opportunity to connect with sisters in the league from across the province. The gathering was held at the Civic Complex, Cornwall, Ontario, July 9-12, 2023.

The resolutions dialogue, where members discussed two resolutions being considered, was the first meeting following the pre-convention conference. The first resolution concerned the need for health coverage for persons requiring catheter tubing, **to establish a sustained universal intermittent catheter coverage**; the second was **to add compassionate community care to the National Voluntary Fund**. Both were adopted by the delegates.

National Voluntary Funds constitute monies forwarded by councils through national office for disbursement annually to the appropriate agencies. Parish councils of the CWL complete the National Voluntary Fund Remittance Form indicating which funds they wish to support and forward to the national office.

Ontario provincial spiritual advisor, Bishop Thomas Dowd, Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, presided at the opening Mass held at the historical St. Andrew parish, St. Andrews West. Fr. Richard Kowalchuk, diocesan spiritual advisor, Diocese of St. Catharines, con-celebrated along with other diocesan spiritual advisor counterparts. From the Sunday gospel (*Matthew 11:25-30*) Bishop Dowd concluded, "that the yoke of the CWL is a right fit for all members."

Wilma Vanderzwaag, provincial 1st vice president and spiritual standing committee chairperson, Star of the Sea, St. Catharines, succeeded in providing an outstanding spiritual program for the entire event.

The keynote speaker, Fr. Eugene O'Reilly, C.Ss.R., from Toronto, whose topic was **How We Can Make a Difference**, entertained attendees with a response that had us bursting with laughter throughout the entire presentation. To make a difference we need to start with who we are as persons. Catholic Christians were initially called People of the Way.

His inspiring message focused on the cross, the greatest sign of God's love for us. He explained that we must live in the present and not let the thieves of the past, or of tomorrow, steal this day because today has enough troubles of its own and not to dwell and hold on to others.

We also need to listen to the voice of Jesus who is present to us daily. The Beatitudes of Jesus establishes the way to Catholic Christian living and if these take root in our hearts it will help us to make a difference.

Monday concluded with diocesan night, themed **Good Things Grow in Ontario**. All enjoyed a buffet dinner and entertainment provided by diocesan councils of the province.

On Tuesday, following the celebration of the Eucharist, the business session resumed with the diocesan presidents and provincial officers reporting. Four new life members

were introduced by Shelley Tamas, provincial life member liaison. A blessing imparted by the provincial spiritual advisor. The crowning of Our Blessed Mother was followed by a Memorial Service with the presenting of roses on behalf of the deceased members of the province. Deedee Alexandre, diocesan president elect, laid the rose for the Diocese of St. Catharines. Lisa Fillingham, diocesan president, was unable to attend due to an untimely accident.



Shelley Tamas

Reports were received by the diocesan presidents and table officers. The instructed vote on the use of virtual meetings was held and passed for this revision to the constitution and bylaws. A selection of mini workshops, facilitated by the executive, were held with an opportunity to choose four of the 23 presentations.

On Wednesday the closing Mass was held at St. Peter, Cornwall. An invitation to attend the next CWL annual meeting in Sudbury, Ontario, July 7-10, 2024, was made by the future host diocesan members.

The National Council Annual Meeting of Members was held in St. John, New Brunswick, August 13-15, 2023. National council approved Resolution 2023.01,

**Combating Textile Waste in Canada**, urging the federal government to institute new programs and establish subsidies intended to reduce waste.

The newly elected national council was installed and is under the capable leadership of Shari Guinta, president, Diocese of Hamilton.

Betty Colaneri, Diocese of St. Catharines, was elected to the position of national vice-president. Colaneri is a member of St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls. God willing, she will automatically assume the position of national president in 2025. Congratulations are extended to her and may she be blessed abundantly for her league service to God and Canada and the 60,000 members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.



## OUR MISSION

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

# CANADA HAS A LONG THANKSGIVING HISTORY



by PATRICIA WATERS

Thanksgiving weekend. For most Canadians, this long weekend, celebrated this year October 7-9, kicks off the autumn season. People across the country will spend it raking leaves, harvesting, going for walks in the country or shutting down the family cottage. Students will return home after their first foray into university life to join family and friends as they enjoy a delicious meal.

But where did this tradition come from?

Although all are most familiar with the story of the first North American Thanksgiving celebrated at Plymouth Plantation, Massachusetts, in 1621, believe it or not Thanksgiving in Canada, or what would become Canada, has its own history predating that familiar tale.

First Nations have traditions of thanksgiving featuring feasting, prayer and other ceremonies, to give thanks for surviving winter and for receiving crops and game resulting from hard work that go back centuries.

In 1578, explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew, celebrated what is generally considered the first Canadian Thanksgiving in Frobisher Bay, Baffin Islands, to give thanks for surviving a crushing ice storm that destroyed one of the ships of the fleet on the journey to find the Northwest Passage.

Mayster Wollfall, appointed minister and preacher of the fleet by His Majesty's Counsel, gave thanks once they had anchored in Frobisher Bay, "for their miraculous deliverance in these so dangerous places."

Forty-eight years later, on November 14, 1606, inhabitants of New France, under Samuel de Champlain, held huge feasts of thanksgiving between the local Mi'kmaq and the French, 43 years before the first American Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving has been officially celebrated as an annual holiday in Canada since November 6, 1879, although the date varied by year and was not fixed. On January 31, 1957, Vincent Massey, governor general, issued a proclamation stating, "A day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed, to be observed on the second Monday in October."

As we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving, it is time once again to recall all the blessings received over the past year. When we survey the world around us, we can see how truly blessed we are. However, there are still many who need food, housing and support to experience even the basics of everyday life. Let us all find ways to support those in need, not only at Thanksgiving, but all year long



Pat Waters

## THE ENVIRONMENT: FR. SCAREL, THE POPE'S CLIMATOLOGIST

by DENNIS MALONE

Pope Francis quickly acquired the moniker of 'the climate pope' with the release of his environmental encyclical, **Laudato Si'**, in 2015. A key contributor to that encyclical was Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm, who has gained the reputation of being Pope Francis' climatologist.

Prior to being ordained in 2007, Fr. Scarel earned a Master of Science in Atmospheric Sciences (2000) followed by a Ph.D in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (2006) from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is well regarded in the scientific community with numerous articles and research in international publications. He has received several awards for his research work and works closely as a senior advisor on climate change mitigation with the Laudato Si' Movement.

Fr. Scarel attended COP27 (Conference of the Parties) in Egypt in 2022. This was the first time the Vatican was officially a party to it, as opposed to simply being an observer. The Vatican can now make policy decisions

beyond just providing moral guidelines.

In his address Fr. Scarel focused on what we as individuals can do to lessen the effects of climate change. He stressed the need to consume less energy, fewer products because "...human life is not just about consuming." The challenge is to engage in responding to the challenges humanity faces in dealing with climate change since "...when humans do not see or feel a problem directly, we often find it hard to react to it."

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, Pope Francis released a follow-up environmental document to the 2015 encyclical **Laudato Si'** titled **Laudate Deum**. Watch for a report on this in the next issue of Vineyard.



Fr. Eduardo Scarel, O.Carm



# YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY FLOURISHING IN THE DIOCESE

by TERRI PAUCO

The diocesan Young Adult Ministry – YAM – is in its fifth year of serving those between the ages of 19 - 39 in the Diocese of St. Catharines. Its mission is to connect, empower and equip young people in the mission of the Church.

In a special local listening session for the **Synod on Synodality**, these young people shared that being able to talk, to listen, and to learn about their faith in the context of their daily lives was very important. Their lives are busy and often riddled with many stresses and uncertainties. In Pope Francis' message during his homily at the closing World Youth Day Mass in Lisbon, Portugal, this past August, he reminded them that they are not alone and to "be not afraid; be not afraid, be encouraged."

Around the table, at the regularly occurring **Feed Your Faith** evenings, lives are shared and friendships fostered. Topics like prayer, work and life balance, reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, palliative care, and ways of getting involved in parish life and in the larger community, are explored.

A growing number of YAM members are new to the area and have found this ministry using social media, like the private Facebook page – **Catholic Young Adult Ministry Diocese of St. Catharines** – set up by YAMMER, Erin Josefchuk. There, one can find information about upcoming YAM events. Of special note this fall is a road trip to the **RENEW Toronto** Conference November 4, 2023, held at Canada Christian College, Whitby, Ontario.

For information about **RENEW Toronto** or how to get involved in the YAM ministry, contact Terri Pauco 905-684-0154 x 208 or [familyandyouth@saintcd.com](mailto:familyandyouth@saintcd.com)



Terri Pauco



## Young Adult Ministry

### Diocese of St. Catharines

Upcoming Events

<b>August</b> <b>25</b>	<b>Feed Your Faith</b> Gather at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, for a shared meal, fellowship, and quiet prayer beginning at 6:00 pm.
<b>September</b> <b>30</b>	<b>Clifton Hill</b> Become tourists in our own backyard. Details to be emailed out.
<b>October</b> <b>14</b>	<b>Port Dalhousie</b> Gather for 5:00 pm mass at Star of the Sea Parish and then explore this lively neighbourhood.
<b>October</b> <b>20</b>	<b>Feed Your Faith</b> Gather at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, for a shared meal, fellowship, and quiet prayer.
<b>November</b> <b>24</b>	<b>Feed Your Faith</b> Gather at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, for a shared meal, fellowship, and quiet prayer to prepare for Advent.
<b>January</b> <b>06</b>	<b>Christmas Season Soiree</b> Dress up and celebrate in style an early Epiphany with this special Feed Your Faith at the Catholic Centre.



For detailed information: [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)  
 Call Terri: 905-684-0154, #209 or email [Familyandyouth@saintcd.com](mailto:Familyandyouth@saintcd.com)

## INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established to accept donations from 73 Catholic entities across the country, and to advance healing and reconciliation initiatives, fulfilling the \$30 million financial commitment made by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in September 2021.

“There is no single step that can eliminate the pain felt by residential school survivors, but by listening, seeking relationships, and working collaboratively where we are able, we hope to learn how to walk together in a new path of hope.”

*Bishop William McGrattan*  
 Bishop of Calgary, Vice President of the  
 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

See the next issue of the Vineyard for further details



[www.renewtoronto.org](http://www.renewtoronto.org)

## PARISH LEADERSHIP DAY HELD AT GETHSEMANE MINISTRIES



Ron Huntley addressed how collaboration and shared vision, when supported by the right structures and planning, will foster successful parish renewal where hearts are set on fire.

### GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER!

Lorraine McCarthy, a member of the Huntley Leadership Team from Melbourne Australia, shared how understanding the thresholds of discipleship—initial trust, spiritual curiosity, openness, seeking, and intentional discipleship—can help parish teams create many different experiences to bring people to a personal encounter with Christ.



Lorraine McCarthy



COME  
HOLY SPIRIT  
Set our  
Hearts on  
Fire



Moderated by Lisa Poort, St. Martin, Smithville (standing) panelists (l-r) Jeremy Harb, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines; Fr. Paul MacNeil, pastor, St. Alexander, Fonthill; Joseph Ling, St. Ann, Niagara Falls; Diana Conidi, St. Alfred, St. Catharines. They spoke of their experiences and shared some advice on forming successful Parish Pastoral Councils.





Team from Immaculée-Conception, St. Catharines, (l-r) Monique Finora, Jean Paul and Alphonse Touzin.



Some of the attendees from Brock University, St. Catharines, at the diocesan Leadership Day (l-r) Olivia Zych, Mary Schiestel, Kailey Sarabia Meehan, Naomi Misquitta, Fredy Sarabia, Christian Huntley, Huntley Leadership Group, Bruno Touzin.



Fr. Robert Novokowsky, FSSP, pastor, St. Aloysius, Thorold, with team members Marie Monust Helmers, Allison Continisio and Jocelynn Boilard.

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Heavenly Father,  
I lift my prayer for our spiritual leaders;  
for Bishop Bergie and all priests and deacons,  
in the Diocese of St. Catharines.

I thank you for the many holy men of God,  
who throughout my life have guided,  
and nurtured my ever-deepening Catholic faith.

Bless them with wisdom, discernment,  
and deep intimacy with you.  
Strengthen their faith and empower them,  
to teach and preach your word boldly and with clarity.

Help them to embrace co-responsibility,  
and synodality in their vocation to the priesthood.  
Protect them from spiritual attacks,  
and grant them endurance in their service.

Pour out your anointing upon them,  
as they lead your people,  
in worship, discipleship and ministry.

May they walk in humility,  
be filled with your love,  
and be witnesses to Christ.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

## PRAYER FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS

Gracious God, I lift my prayer  
for my Parish's Pastoral Council.  
Thank you for each serving member,  
and for their unique and diverse gifts and talents.

Grant them unity, harmony and a shared vision,  
as they work together,  
for the advancement of your kingdom.

Grant them a spirit of prayer,  
wisdom in decision-making,  
creativity in problem-solving,  
and strength to carry out their responsibilities.

Help them to lead with servant hearts,  
humility and a deep reliance on you.  
Help them to think beyond the boundaries of our parish,  
and to be truly catholic—universal—in their service.

Bless their efforts and let everything they do,  
bring honour and glory to your holy name.

In Jesus' name, I pray.  
Amen.

# *Perpetual Adoration*



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# D & P: DEFENDING WATER AND LAND IN HONDURAS



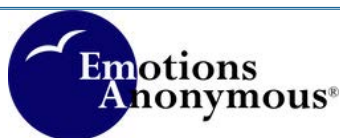
by Mayalène Lavigne-Martel

Around the world people who defend the environment, water and land are often threatened, criminalized, imprisoned or even killed. Honduras is one of the five most dangerous countries in the world in this respect.



Daniel Márquez, a 44-year-old farmer, stood up along with others from the Honduran communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector to protect their rivers and the environment from damage by an open-pit iron mine that was irregularly set up in Carlos Escaleras National Park. Since 2015, the communities have been mobilizing against the project.

"We have filed complaints because they are affecting the river, they are destroying the national park. But with all the complaints we file, they do not answer a single one; there is no result. And with the very first complaint that the company filed against us, they quickly issued an arrest warrant and we were deprived of our freedom." — Daniel Márquez



A support group for anyone with the desire to become well emotionally. EA is a 12-step organization that meets weekly with the purpose of working towards recovery from emotional difficulties. Meetings every Tuesday evening at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, 7-8 p.m. For information contact Fr. Chris 905-356-4113 or [www.emotionsanonymous.org](http://www.emotionsanonymous.org)

Márquez is one of the Guapinol Eight who were detained for over two years. Their 'crime' was defending the national park, from where the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers arise. Since January 2023, three people from Guapinol have been killed, adding to the heavy toll of more than 135 who have been murdered in Honduras since 2014.



Daniel Márquez

Although mining was temporarily suspended for two years this summer the situation remains very tense for the people of Guapinol. They continue fearing for their safety and even the lives of their children. Many community members have been forced to flee their homes.

This is why Development & Peace — Caritas Canada is responding to a call by our Honduran partner ERIC-Radio Progreso. Canadians are asked to join the **Stand for the Land** campaign and support the Guapinol and San Pedro communities by signing a letter to the Honduran ambassador to Canada, asking her government to:

- Bring to book everyone involved in murdering the three Guapinol defenders.
- Fairly recompense the Guapinol Eight and their families.
- Better protect all Honduran human rights and environment defenders.
- Stop all mining in Carlos Escaleras National Park and restore it.
- Cancel all irregularly granted mining permits.

"It is urgent to cancel all mining in this area of the park. The company must be stopped. All the damage it has caused to the rivers and mountains must be repaired."

— Daniel Márquez

*Elvin Hernández, a human rights investigator for ERIC-Radio Progreso will be visiting Toronto and Ottawa October 18-24, 2023, to update Canadians about the situation and share the community's on-going concerns. To learn more about the campaign and sign the letter visit [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act).*

**Mayalène is campaigns officer, Development & Peace—Caritas Canada**





# ST STEPHEN PARISH MARKS 150TH ANNIVERSARY



MP Leslyn Lewis (centre) presented Fr. Ron Angervil, pastor (left) and seminarian Brian Izzard (right) with a Certificate from the House of Commons on the occasion the 150th anniversary of the parish.

by FR. RON ANGERVIL

While St. Stephen parish in Cayuga is celebrating its 150th anniversary, it carries on a much longer history of the Catholic Church in Haldimand County. With the building of the feeder canal to run water from the Grand River to the Welland Canal, the influx of Irish workers called for the building of a church at Lock 1 in the village of Indiana. St. Rose of Lima Church opened in 1841 and served the community until 1874.

As early as 1849, some Catholics in Cayuga were meeting in homes with visiting priests celebrating Mass. Soon the centre of commerce shifted to Cayuga and the need for regular Sunday Mass in the village grew. Thus, in 1872 the parish of St. Stephen was established and worship at St. Rose of Lima was phased out with the church closing in 1874.

One hundred and fifty years later we stop to remember those that went before, to celebrate those presently serving the community and praying for those who are yet to come.

The celebration kicked off with a Fish Fry Dinner on Friday July 7 with Leslyn Lewis, MP, presenting the parish

with a Certificate from the House of Commons.

A carnival for younger members of the community was held the following day. It featured bouncy castles, a maze runner and axe throwing. Hot dogs and slushies were served in the hall. This was followed by Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. with a professional choir leading the congregation. The day was topped off with a pull pork dinner with a live band, **Turning Corners**, entertaining until 11p.m.

On Sunday July 9, Bishop Gerard Bergie re-consecrated the church followed by a papal blessing. He also blessed a portrait of the first pastor, Fr. Stephen Wadel. The celebration concluded with a parish BBQ.

St. Stephen looks forward to keeping the faith alive in the community it serves.



Fr. Ron Angervil making the first cut on one of the anniversary cakes.



Bishop Gerard Bergie re-consecrated St. Stephen, Cayuga, as part of the anniversary celebrations.



by BOB FOLEY

Over the last 20 years we have seen the polarization of the secular society to the point that today all the emphasis is concentrated on the fringes of the right and the left. Unfortunately, we have allowed the labels of the political ideologies of secular society to permeate attitudes within the Church, the Body of Christ.

While the Church is in the world and must operate in it, it is not of the world. We should not be using terms like Liberal, Conservative, Progressive and Traditionalist in dialogue within the Church.

The Church is a group of pilgrims on a journey together toward eternal life. The road is straight and well paved. Now, some walk on the right side of the road, some on the left, with the majority walking between the two. All who follow the Church's teachings and gather each week to worship as a community of believers are just good Catholics journeying together. To label them Liberal or Conservative only leads to division and threatens the unity of the Church.

The problem lies when those walking on the edges of the road, be it right or left, wander on to the shoulder and begin questioning the validity of those walking on the other side, or on the road itself. For those who have wandered on to the shoulder, St. Paul's letter to Timothy should be the guide in our dialogue with them: *"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, to do his will."* (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

How do we discern who is on the road and who is on the shoulder, or even in the ditch? Fortunately, we have a guide, the pope, who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, directs traffic. While those walking on the shoulder may not like his directions, they are obliged to get back on the pavement ASAP. That doesn't mean they should not seek to influence the Church for what they believe; but they must do so within the boundaries set by the Magisterium.



Bob Foley

There was a film titled, **The Shoes of the Fishman** released in 1968 starring Anthony Quinn as a Russian cardinal elected pope. In a crisis he made a controversial decision regarding the wealth of the Vatican. The curia was considering doing something to stop him, but one of the cardinals simply said, "but he is Peter" and they backed down. In other words, whether or not we like what Pope Francis says, "he is Peter" the Vicar of Christ and we must accept his teaching on matters of faith and morals.

Two quotes from Jesus should give us pause in our labelling of each other: *"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35)

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."* (John 15:12, 16-17)

## VINEYARD SUBSCRIPTIONS

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**Special offer!**

The first 40 new subscribers to the Vineyard will receive a **FREE** Daily TV Mass Prayer Intentions Calendar for 2023-2024, a \$10 value.

## REFUGEE CENTRES

within the

Diocese of St. Catharines

### Casa el Norte

281 Central Avenue  
Fort Erie, Ont  
905-871-4483

### Chez Marie Refuge

16 Pelham Road  
St. Catharines, Ont  
905-682-5795



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL

by CAMILLO CIPRIANO

Another exciting new school year is under way across Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB).

Excitement filled the air at schools from the outer edges of west Niagara to Fort Erie, as students and staff returned to school September 5, 2023.

NCDSB senior leadership team stopped by schools on the first day to welcome students and staff back. For those who have spent time as teachers, principals and vice principals, it's a wonderful way to experience the thrill of that first school bell of the year and a powerful reminder of our calling as Catholic educators.

I'm happy to say that for the third year, NCDSB has seen an increase in enrollment, with nearly 1,000 new students joining this September. New staff were also welcomed, including a new Indigenous Lead, Gary Parker. Parker's reputation within the Indigenous community locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally, is impeccable. NCDSB is fortunate he chose to bring his experience and insight here. His focus will be on supporting Indigenous students, but he has already become a leader for NCDSB on the truth and reconciliation journey.

With a few weeks of the school year now behind us, I

can tell you that we're in full swing. Secondary sports are now being played, auditions for school musicals are taking place and Grade 9 and 12 retreats are under way. At the elementary level, events and activities are being planned, such as our annual cross-country meet. It's a time of the year filled with what seems like endless potential.

Throughout the year, NCDSB's Program & Innovation department will

focus on ensuring students have strong foundations in literacy and numeracy. Program & Innovation will work closely with Student Support Services to provide early intervention to students who struggle with literacy to help them reach the provincial benchmarks by Grade 3.

At the secondary level, NCDSB's Advanced Placement program grew to five schools for the school year 2023-2024. More than 1,200 students are enrolled in classes, Grades 9 - 12, at—Blessed Trinity Secondary School, Grimsby; Holy Cross Secondary School, St. Catharines; Lakeshore Catholic High School, Port Colborne; Notre Dame College School, Welland; Saint Paul High School, Niagara Falls.

NCDSB continues to find ways to embed faith into programs where the fit might not seem connected. Last year, we had a very successful session on Food and Faith through the Culinary Arts program. We will continue that this year and expand it in other ways to fully infuse faith into all that we do.

In keeping with that, NCDSB is a provincial leader in supporting Development & Peace; 34 NCDSB schools are registered as D & P schools, more schools within a board than elsewhere in Ontario. We are proud to support D & P and its many humanitarian and social justice initiatives.

We are also happy to share that five teams from NCDSB will present at the 2023 **When Faith Meets Pedagogy** conference in Toronto, October 26-28, an incredible recognition of the board's innovative approach to linking faith and learning. (Watch for more about **When Faith Meets Pedagogy** in an upcoming issue of *Vineyard*).

NCDSB will continue to focus significant attention on equity, unity and bias-free education, to ensure that all students feel safe, accepted, welcomed and included, as we look at the issue of equity from a lens of cultural humility. Programs aimed at anti-sex trafficking awareness continue to be sadly all too important, as NCDSB grapples with the issue of on-line safety, particularly for young people.

We will also continue to promote and support student mental health and well-being in the schools, aware that many continue to struggle with mental health challenges identified



First day of the school year at St. John Henry Newman Catholic Elementary School, Niagara Falls.

continued on page 19



# Chaplaincy leaders support students' faith experiences

by JAMES CARNEGIE

The Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) chaplaincy leaders lead and support a variety of faith experiences at our schools.

The elementary chaplaincy teams support the religious education curriculum through engaging class visits to students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. In the secondary schools, chaplaincy leaders provide retreat experiences for Grade 8, 9, and 12 students. They also support the faith life of the school communities through prayer and the planning of liturgies in collaboration with parish priests.

Chaplaincy leaders encourage students and staff in their faith journey. They foster an active prayer life within the elementary and secondary schools. They encourage and support social justice awareness initiatives and share in the building, sustaining and development of Catholic culture. The work of chaplaincy leaders is a ministry of presence and a bearing witness to the truth, love and goodness of Jesus Christ.



James Carnegie

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## continued from page 18

during the COVID-19 pandemic. NCDSB will continue to provide mental health supports to students to ensure they are well in mind, body and spirit, so that they thrive academically and socially.

Summer provided a wonderful change of pace for most NCDSB staff. The Facilities Services staff worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure the schools were in tip-top shape for the return of students and staff. Six schools underwent major renovations to the tune of \$28 million, with nearly \$4 million invested in kindergarten playgrounds at six schools, \$7.6 million for turf fields at secondary schools and more than \$11 million for accessibility up-dates in buildings. Roof replacements, lighting, mechanical, gymnasium and security up-grades have also been completed.

During the summer Human Resources Services held a very successful employee expo at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Catharines. Nearly 150 people attended and 90 people were hired on the support staff to provide support and services to schools. Kudos to the team for organizing such an outstanding event.

Finally, we are finding new ways to reach out to the Catholic community, including a regular presence in the diocesan newsletter, *Vineyard*, and through NCDSB's new newsletters for family and staff. We hope that you will share the good news with others so they know NCDSB is a great place to work and learn.

# CCO aids Brock chaplaincy team

by KAILEY SARABIA MEEHAN

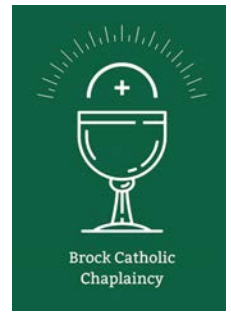
The chaplaincy at Brock University, St. Catharines, has exploded with vibrancy over the past five years, especially in the past two years with the expansion of Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) to Brock.

CCO is a university student movement across Canada that is dedicated to accompanying students to know Jesus in a personal way. It helps build them up to be multiplying missionary disciples who will share Jesus with others.

The chaplaincy was marked with two significant changes in the 2018/2019 school year. First, it started the CCO Connect Program, a program in which a CCO missionary remotely mentors two students in implementing CCO outreach, programs and accompaniment. Second, Brock University recognized the importance of the Faith & Life Centre in the lives of the students and officially gave the Faith & Life Centre its own building on campus. Two things set the foundation for the growth that has happened in subsequent years; one began the development of people and culture and the other the home they would exist and grow in.

Many religions are supported at the Centre including the role of chaplain for the Roman Catholic faith.

As the result of a great amount of prayer, in addition to the partnership through the Connect Program, and an invitation by Bishop Gerard Bergie, CCO officially expanded to Brock University in 2021 welcoming three full time missionaries to the team.



The Brock Chaplaincy team; (l-r) Gregory Schiestel, Mary Schiestel, Naomi Misquitta Kailey Sarabia Meehan, and Fredy Sarabia.

# HOLY NAME SOCIETY HOLD ANNUAL RETREAT

by JIM MARINO

The Holy Name Society held a spiritual retreat September 8-10, 2023, at Stella Niagara Centre for Renewal, Lewiston, New York. Fr. Rico Passero, pastor, St. Joseph, Grimsby, was retreat animator and spoke on the topic of **Salvation**.

COVID-19 had a negative effect on what has become an annual tradition, and forced the retreat to be cancelled for three years. Fortunately, this year on the weekend of September 8-10, men from the dioceses of St. Catharines and Buffalo joined together once again for an annual spiritual get together spearheaded by St. Catharines and Buffalo diocesan Holy Name Societies.

Following what seemed to be a lightning quick passage of time, participants left the Renewal Centre with the refreshed knowledge of having participated in one of the most rewarding, uplifting and awakening times of our spiritual lives. This accomplishment was due in very large part because of the magnificent presentations delivered by Fr. Passero.

Also playing a big part in ensuring a successful and informative retreat were Fr. Paul Sabo, spiritual director, Holy Name Society, Diocese of Buffalo, and Deacon John Shalala, president, Holy Name Society, Diocese of St. Catharines.



(l-r) Deacon John Shalala, president, Holy Name Society, Diocese of St. Catharines; Fr. Paul Sabo, spiritual director, Holy Name Society, Diocese of Buffalo; Fr. Rico Passero, pastor, St. Joseph, Grimsby, and retreat animator.

Before commencing his first presentation Fr. Passero asked retreatants their definition of salvation. Their responses were similar and meaningful with examples such as, 'the joy of everlasting life with God', 'freedom', 'eternal



Holy Name Society members from the St. Catharines and Buffalo dioceses during a retreat held in Lewiston, New York. Participants attending from the St. Catharines Diocese were: Fr. Rico Passero, Deacon John Shalala, Frank Agnoletto, Fred Ponikvar, Ron Rockx, Bill Culligan, Dennis Paganan, Grahame Abbott, Christopher Turner, Peter Uko and Jim Marino.

life', 'the goal achieved through the generosity of God', 'peace' and 'the ultimate reward'.

During the weekend of prayer and reflection the men contemplated their own personal mission of achieving salvation and how they interpreted their road map of success. Some of the younger men indicated their plan was not a subject of late life consideration, but a process of on-going concern, while the more senior members, stated that salvation became more relevant, concerning and challenging as they advanced in age.

Fr. Passero complimented the men on their initial thoughts and definitions on the subject and said that they would blend in with his presentations. The men were encouraged to remember that God created all for a purpose, and when our lives are over, he will call us home.

Fr. Passero reminded the men that God is an ever-loving God, full of compassion and forgiveness, promising eternal life with him, if we obey. We should be ever mindful that Christ loved all the world, so much, that he gave up his life on the cross for all to be redeemed. The bottom line—it is imperative that our words, behavior and attitudes should always reflect that we are sincere and honest in our desire to be saved by Christ.

The proof of the pudding that Fr. Passero's topic and presentation were a total success was the profound impact it had on the lives of attendees concerning the process and journey of salvation. It is also evident by comments made by some of the retreatants who have offered personal observations.

One wrote, "The Holy Name Society retreat guided by Fr. Passero on the topic of salvation was truly eye opening for me. He helped me to dig deep into my spiritual depths and awaken my spirit. It helped me better understand what God's plan for my life and salvation is, as well as to identify

**Continued on page 24 see HNS**



# K OF C COUNCIL MARKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

by JOE BARKOVICH

A Catholic fraternal organization in Welland celebrated its 100th anniversary September 16, 2023, three years late.

Council #2146, Knights of Columbus (K of C), had its start in 1920 when it was based at St. Mary, Helles Avenue. The 100th anniversary celebration had been planned for 2020 but had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The council is now marking 103 years of service in the community.

Bishop Gerard Bergie celebrated Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul, Welland, where the Knights are now based. A reception followed in the parish hall.

Bishop Bergie said the anniversary was a joyous, significant milestone. "Today, we give thanks for 100 years of fidelity, witness, faith and sacrifice," he said in his homily.

Turning to the gospel of the day (*Luke 6:43-46*) Bishop Bergie referred to its parable about two men who built houses: one on rock which provided a deep, solid foundation and the other on less stable ground, perhaps sand. The house with the deep foundation was able to withstand a flood but the other could not and was swept away.

"Lately, we're seeing how floods can cause a great deal of damage," he said about current times.

He drew a comparison with our own personal circumstances; "Our faith is the rock-solid foundation on which we build our lives. With it," he said, "we weather storms because our faith is rooted in Christ, our foundation."

Bishop Bergie applied this to Council #2146's legacy, saying, "For 100 years you have been a positive example, not only to each other but to the community. Your example is found in your faith. You have weathered the storm; you are still standing. You have produced a great deal of good fruit over the 100 years, you have done more good than you can imagine."

But he also left them with a challenge—the Knights of Columbus need to attract more members. New members are needed to ensure the good work carries on.

Patrick Rothwell, Grand Knight, referred to some of the work by Council #2146—partnering with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide winter coats for children of fami-

lies in need; fundraising for Special Olympics and Harvest Kitchen initiatives in Welland; and North of 60, an outreach working in a community in Nunavut, Canada. Others are church breakfasts and scholarships for high school graduates.

In an interview, Rothwell said the council has about 75 names on the books, but only 20 - 25 active members. Taking Bishop Bergie's words to heart, he said the membership would be discussing recruitment strategies in up-coming meetings.

Tom Higginbotham, Deputy Grand Knight, said helping the community is one of the reasons he has been a K of C for 25 years. "We do as much as we can to help people in need—that's important to me. We try to provide faith, charity and fraternal opportunities not only to members, but also in the community, something the K of C has been doing for more than a century, and that's something to be proud of," he said.

Dan Toneguzzi, Past Grand Knight, said he belongs to a fraternal organization that has helped him in his home life and his community. "It's called giving back and it is so enriching. It's the camaraderie that impresses me, the charitable work and the fraternity," he related.

The K of C follow the guiding principles of Fr. Michael McGivney (unity, fraternity and patriotism) who started the fraternal organization in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882.

Frank Campion, Welland mayor, presented a certificate and plaque on behalf of the city. Other presentations came from the provincial and federal governments. Members of Chevaliers de Colomb from Église Sacré-Coeur, Welland, and from the provincial-level K of C attended the Mass and reception.

In recognition of the significance of the milestone anniversary, executive members who attended were: Fr. Mirosław Olszewski, O.M.I., chaplain; Patrick Rothwell, Grand Knight; Tom Higginbotham, Deputy Grand Knight and MC; Joe Caruso, chancellor; Carlo Esposito, financial secretary; Mike Dinga, financial treasurer; Dan Toneguzzi, recorder; Gary Graziani, warden; Clem Raby, advocate; Bob Grand, trustee; Dan Piagno, trustee; Kerry Stockford, trustee; Jesse Lepere, lecturer.



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# MARRIAGE MINISTRIES IN THE DIOCESE



**Marriage Preparation:** Engaged couples planning to be married in the Catholic church are expected to participate in a Marriage Preparation or Engaged Encounter weekend. At the present time, most of these weekends are held virtually. Parishes have the 2023 schedule with dates. For information contact [jennstoop@gmail.com](mailto:jennstoop@gmail.com)



**Catholic Engaged Encounter:** Couples preparing for marriage need to have realistic expectations of the challenges they will face. Catholic Engaged Encounter provides quality preparation for marriage in a weekend format, giving them the opportunity to discover the deep meaning of the sacrament of marriage with the Catholic Church. Couples are offered a unique experience focusing strongly on fostering good communication in marriage.



**Natural Family Planning:** Learn Natural Family Planning Online with an Ontario Physician. Natural Family Planning (NFP) involves using signs of fertility to avoid or achieve pregnancy. **Totally Yours Family Medicine** is a virtual clinic that has taught hundreds of couples across Ontario the Marquette Method of NFP which uses a both fertility monitor and natural signs of fertility.

NFP is easy to learn, effective, and allows couples to live with their God-given gift of fertility. To learn more, visit [www.totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com](http://www.totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com) or e-mail [info@totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com](mailto:info@totallyyoursfamilymedicine.com)



**Marriage Encounter:** For married couples looking to restore communication and rekindle romance, this program is designed to help share concerns, feelings and expectations in a non-confrontational way. A very private experience called a Weekend of Discovery, leading to a lifetime of love. Visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for information and registration.



**Rétrouvaille:** If your marriage needs help, Retrouvaille could be a lifeline. This is a process designed to heal and renew troubled marriages. The focus is on communication and provides couples an opportunity to rediscover themselves and their marriage relationship. For information, contact Angelo and Chiara 905-664-5212 or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)



**Separate & Divorced:** The diocesan Divorced & Separated group holds meetings the second and fourth Monday of the month at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, 7:00 p.m. For more information or to register for virtual attendance contact 905-356-4113, 905-684-0154 or [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)



**Marriage Tribunal:** If you are considering remarriage in the Catholic Church at some point, or hoping to enter a marriage with someone previously married, you should speak to a priest or contact the diocesan Catholic Marriage Tribunal in St. Catharines, 905-687-8817 or [tribunal@saintcd.com](mailto:tribunal@saintcd.com)



# ENGAGED ENCOUNTER: A GOOD START TO A MARRIAGE

by MARC de GROBOIS

In 2016 my wife Céline and I became parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catharines. During the course of the introduction, we met Mel and Anne Burtnik, at the time, co-ordinators of Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) for the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Catholic Engaged Encounter is a diocesan-approved marriage preparation program that provides quality marriage preparation in a weekend retreat format. The weekend is open to any engaged couple wanting to prepare for a deeper, more meaningful life together.

Catholic Engaged Encounter gives couples the opportunity to discover the deep meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage. It is primarily for couples being married in the Catholic Church; including Catholic couples, mixed marriages and interfaith couples.

Mel and Anne invited us to consider becoming a presenting couple for CEE after attending a CEE weekend being held in the parish. We had been married for 29 years at the time, but attended the weekend with 12 engaged couples, as if we were newly engaged ourselves, so as to be immersed in the experience and understand what CEE is.

What an experience. In retrospect, we both agreed that we wished we had had access to CEE at the time of our engagement. Even after 29 years, we learned a great deal from the Catholic perspective we had perhaps taken for granted. The icing on the cake was seeing the engaged couples experience the same revelations we were.

We embraced this ministry and over the next months wrote scripts for a number of presentations with the invaluable mentorship of the Burtnik's. We presented at a number of CEE weekends in various parish halls in St.

Catharines.

In my career as a financial planner, I have worked with clients experiencing a marriage breakdown a number of times. It is never pretty. It is one of the reasons I am involved in CEE. It truly gives engaged couples a change to pause and look at the big picture in the context of their faith and the faith of the people around them. Marriage is a cornerstone of society and as a sacrament, is a major part of the foundation of the Catholic Church. Preparing engaged couples to embrace God as the centre of their marriage will only make this foundation stronger.

In 2020, with the emergence of COVID 19 and the ensuing pandemic protocols, CEE adapted to a virtual format with teams of presenting couples from across Ontario and participating couples from across Canada and beyond. Over the course of the next two years, we prepared at least 100 engaged couples for their upcoming marriages. This new format may continue and we regularly present virtual weekends.

With the easing COVID restrictions, CEE Niagara decided to host a face-to-face presentation of the weekend with a small but significant change; CEE would have a permanent home at Jericho House in Wainfleet. This wonderful venue allows CEE to host up to 16 couples in a modern facility with up-to-date technology. The format allows more intimate experiences for the engaged couples.

The first in-person weekend will be held November 3-5, 2023. The topics being addressed are: **The Family We Grew Up In; Sacramental Marriage; Communication, Intimacy and Values.** All topics are approached from a Catholic perspective. Fr. Aji Vargheseoic, will contribute to the talks and be in residence for the weekend. Details of the weekend can be found at <https://www.ceeniagara.ca/>

## Catholic Engaged Encounter Niagara In-person Weekend

November 3-5, 2023

Jericho House, 10845 Rathfon Road

Port Colborne, Ontario

Cost: \$350 - includes fees, accommodations and meals

Contact Liz at 289-296-3539

or visit the diocesan website:

<http://www.saintcd.com/marriage/marriage-preparation/catholic-engaged-encounter>

The weekend is best experienced as an in-person weekend. However, if you and your fiancé/e are separated by distance, consider attending a virtual weekend: October 13-15, 2023.

For more information visit: <https://www.ceeeast.org/virtual-weekends>

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



Holy and Gracious God  
We pray for the people of Ukraine  
and the people of Russia;  
for their countries and their leaders.  
We pray for all those who are afraid;  
that your everlasting arms hold them  
in this time of great fear.  
We pray for all those  
who have the power over life and death;  
that they will choose for all people life,  
and life in all its fullness.  
We pray for those who choose war;  
that they will remember that  
you direct your people to turn our swords into  
ploughshares and seek for peace.  
We pray for leaders on the world stage;  
that they are inspired by the wisdom  
and courage of Christ.  
Above all, Lord, today we pray  
for peace for Ukraine.  
And we ask this in the name  
of your blessed Son.  
Lord have mercy.

Amen

## A PRAYER FOR AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

God of freedom, beauty and truth  
we believe that your deepest desire,  
your most powerful energy,  
is that all creation might know abundant life.

We raise our voices in anguished prayer  
for our sisters and brothers,  
women and girls, men and boys,  
who are modern day slaves;  
they are your beloved daughters and sons,  
exploited sexually or forced to work  
because of human violence and greed.

Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion  
that those who are trafficked might  
know healing and justice;  
that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion;  
that all of us might live in such a way  
that others are not made to pay the price  
for our comfort and convenience.

Hasten the coming of the day when all people  
and our precious Earth itself  
will be treated, not as a commodity,  
but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth.  
May it be so, Amen.

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his undying love for us. The mercy that we receive should be shared with our fellowmen. Jesus, through his life and death, brings salvation to us all. Our words, behaviour and attitudes should reflect our desire to be saved by Christ. We should truly accept his mercy in our lives. The weekend-bonding we all shared at the retreat, we should bring home to our everyday lives with more confidence and love."

*It should be noted that although the annual men's retreat is organized and spearheaded by the St. Catharines and Buffalo diocese's Holy Name Societies, it is open to all men who wish to attend. Planning for next year's retreat is already on the drawing board with a confirmed date of September 13 -15, 2024.*

HNS continued from page 18

a plan for me to better myself in the salvation process."

Other comments were:

"It was an amazing opportunity to reflect on the theme of salvation. Fr. Passero provided a deep and thorough examination of the miraculous gift provided throughout our lives by God, who loves us."

"I learned a lot more about salvation, evangelization, what priests go through in daily life, how we have to bring lost individuals to Jesus, how we struggle to keep the faith ourselves. It allowed us to dedicate time to the Lord, and restore ourselves that we might be better disciples of Jesus Christ."

"The theme salvation was rich and thought provoking. Fr. Passero blended discussion with presentation in his sermons helping us to apply this general theme to our own lives in meaningful, practical ways. This 70-year-old was invigorated and charged by the weekend."

"This was the best men's retreat I ever attended. Fr. Passero hit it out of the ball park and the entire time being informative, interesting and interactive. I would highly recommend men to attend future retreats."

"We were asked to think of our lives as a gift from God and that we should live it as a form of thanks to God for



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## RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS 2023

October 14	Autumn Day of Retreat Presenter: Beth Woelk Learning How to Grieve Presenter: Anna Racine
Nov 3-5	Jesus: Today, Tomorrow & Always Presenter: Anna Racine
Nov 10-12	Retreat: The Gift of Anger Presenter: Anna Racine
Nov 18	The Blessing of Water Presenter: Anita Mascarenhas
Nov 25	Forgiveness: What and Why Presenter: Anna Racine
Nov 26-Dec 2	Retreat: Icon Painting Presenter: Phil Zimmerman

## ON-GOING PROGRAMS 2023

Mon-Fri 11:15 a.m.	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Ministerial Team Member
Tuesday Eve 7 p.m.	Emotions Anonymous Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
2nd Fri of month 6:30 p.m.	Lay Carmelites Presenter: Trudy Bretzler
Monthly By Appointment	Spiritual Direction Ministerial Team Member
By Appointment 9 – 11 a.m.	Lectio Divina Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
Mon, Wed, Fri 10 a.m.	Meditation Presenter: Fr. Thomas Hakala
By Appointment 9 – 11 a.m.	Through the Looking Glass Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
By Appointment	Dream Group Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
By Appointment 9 – 11 a.m.	Labyrinth Walk Ministerial Team Member

## LAY CARMELITES

Lay Carmelites, a group of Roman Catholic men and women who seek to enrich their spiritual lives by following the Carmelite tradition, hold a monthly meeting every 2nd Friday at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, at 6:30pm. For information, contact Trudy Bretzler 905-732-0670 or [trudybretzler9@gmail.com](mailto:trudybretzler9@gmail.com)

## Franciscan Third Order Fraternity (ofs)

Meeting schedules for this Fraternity are: Welland area, the 4th Sunday of the month, St. Kevin, 1 p.m.; St. Catharines area, the 1st Tuesday of the month, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 1 p.m. For information contact [deborahattessier57@gmail.com](mailto:deborahattessier57@gmail.com)

## SALT + LIGHT TV

Salt + Light is available in Ontario on Rogers Digital Cable (395), Cogeco Digital Cable (185 in specific areas) and Mountain Digital Cable (387). For information visit [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org) or call 1-888-302-7181.

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## WILLS

Have you made your will? When you are estate planning please do not forget your parish and diocesan family. A bequest to the Diocese of St. Catharines helps continue God's work in your name.

For information call 905-684-0154.

# "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED."

ACTS 16:31

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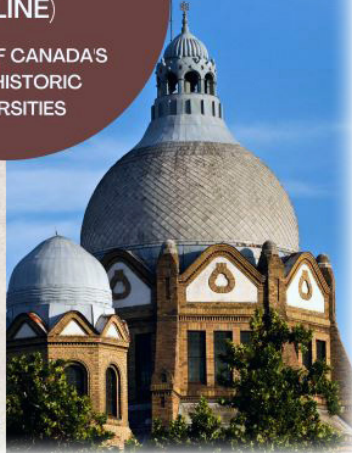
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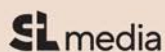
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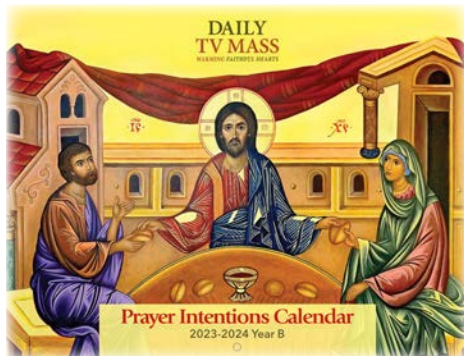
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# NCBC LAUNCHES PRAYER INTENTIONS CALENDAR



The National Catholic Broadcast Council has created a Daily TV Mass 2024 Prayer Intentions Calendar. This liturgical calendar includes a prayer intention for the month along with the feasts and readings for each day.

To purchase a calendar for \$10/copy please call the Daily TV Mass office toll-free at 1-888-383-6277 or order a copy at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

Our community prayer this month is for all those listed in the Daily TV Mass Book of Remembrance and for all the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them. We pray to the Lord.



## NOVEMBER 2024

**Jesus my Lord, my God & All**  
by George Granville Minton (1855 - 1932)  
captures a woman kneeling before an altar with her head bowed in prayer.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> ALL SAINTS (S) 1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a	<b>2</b> COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (C) All Souls' Day Book of Gospels
<b>3</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6 2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28 Gospel: Mark 12:28-34	<b>4</b> ST. CHARLES BORROMEO (M) 1st Reading: Philippians 2:1-4 Gospel: Luke 14:12-14	<b>5</b> ferial 1st Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel: Luke 14:15-24	<b>6</b> ferial 1st Reading: Philippians 2:12-18 Gospel: Luke 14:25-33	<b>7</b> ferial 1st Reading: Philippians 3:3-8a+9-10 Gospel: Luke 15:1-10	<b>8</b> ferial 1st Reading: Philippians 3:17-21; 4:1 Gospel: Luke 16:1-8	<b>9</b> THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F) 1st Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 or 1 Corinthians 3:9b-11, 16-17 Gospel: John 2:13-22
<b>10</b> 32 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Titus 1:1-9 2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28 Gospel: Mark 12:38-44	<b>11</b> ST. MARTIN OF TOURS (M) 1st Reading: Titus 1:1-9 Gospel: Luke 17:1-6 OM: Remembrance Day ~ Remembrance Day ~	<b>12</b> ST. JOSAPHAT (M) 1st Reading: Titus 2:1-6, 11-14 Gospel: Luke 17:7-10	<b>13</b> ferial 1st Reading: Titus 3:1-7 Gospel: Luke 17:11-19	<b>14</b> ferial 1st Reading: Philimon 7:20 Gospel: Luke 17:20-25	<b>15</b> ferial 1st Reading: 2 John 4-9 Gospel: Luke 17:26-37 OM: St. Albert the Great	<b>16</b> ferial 1st Reading: 3 John 5-8 Gospel: Luke 18:1-8 OM: St. Margaret of Scotland OM: St. Gertrude OM: Our Lady's Saturday
<b>17</b> 33 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st Reading: Daniel 12:1-3 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Gospel: Mark 13:24-32 ~ World Day of the Poor ~	<b>18</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5a Gospel: Luke 18:35-43 OM: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul	<b>19</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 3:14, 14:22 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10	<b>20</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 4:1-11 Gospel: Luke 19:11-28	<b>21</b> THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M) 1st Reading: Revelation 5:1-10 Gospel: Luke 19:41-44	<b>22</b> ST. CECILIA (M) 1st Reading: Revelation 10:8-11 Gospel: Luke 19:45-48	<b>23</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 11:4-12 Gospel: Luke 20:27-40 OM: St. Clement I OM: St. Columban OM: Our Lady's Saturday
<b>24</b> CHRIST THE KING 34 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Daniel 7:13-14 2nd Reading: Revelation 1:5-8 Gospel: John 18:33b-37 ~ World Day of Youth ~	<b>25</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5 Gospel: Luke 21:1-4 OM: St. Catherine of Alexandria	<b>26</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 14:14-19 Gospel: Luke 21:5-11	<b>27</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 15:1-4 Gospel: Luke 21:12-19	<b>28</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 18:1-2, 21:23, 19:1-3, 9a Gospel: Luke 21:20-28	<b>29</b> ferial 1st Reading: Revelation 20:1-4, 11:15, 21:1-2 Gospel: Luke 21:29-33	<b>30</b> ST. ANDREW (F) 1st Reading: Romans 10:9-18 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22



## NATIONAL CATHOLIC BROADCASTING COUNCIL PRESENTS

**W**e can experience God's compassion during different situations in our lives. **The Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Anointing** are means by which the Church is able to bring God's compassion and healing touch to people in a very real way.



**Cardinal Thomas Collins**

Cardinal Collins talks to us about the Penitential Psalms and the healing power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

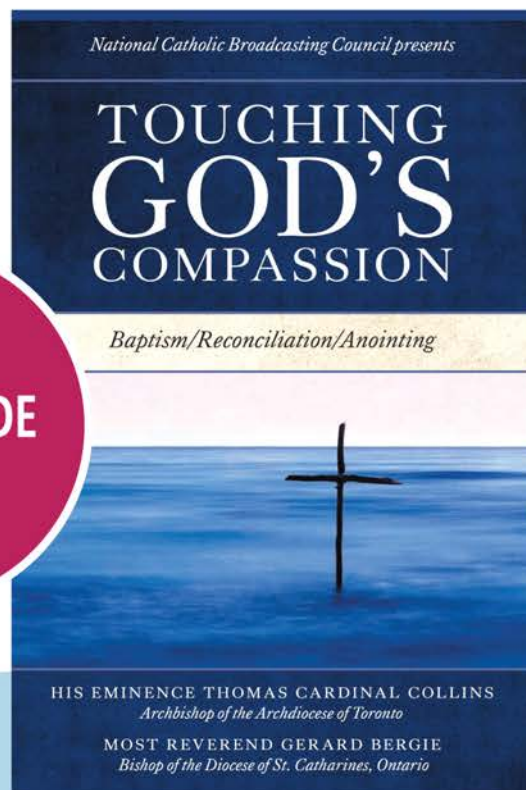


**Bishop Gerard Bergie**

Bishop Bergie uses our Blessed Mother as a role model of discipleship, and explores how to come into direct contact with God's compassion in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick.

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