

DEC
2019

The
VINEYARD



BULLETIN
BOARD

Happenings around the
diocese
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NEXT ISSUE
SPRING
2020

Where
Faith
Lives

TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY
IN THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOUR, WHO IS THE
MESSIAH, THE LORD.

LUKE 2:10



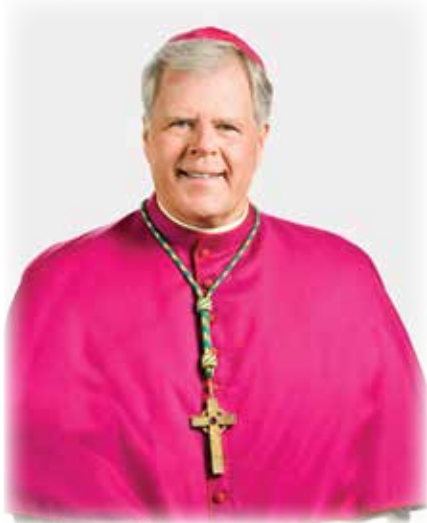
Detail from The Adoration of the Shepherds by Hugo van der Goes 1480

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GOD'S GREATEST GIFT IS THE FAMILY



Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

Photo by Denis Cahill

My dear brothers and sisters in
Christ,

One of the more significant
traditions associated with Christmas
is gift giving. Gifts are tokens of
love and affection for others. One of
the greatest gifts that God has given
to us is the family and we see this
most clearly when we celebrate the
birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of St. Luke we
are told that a group of shepherds
are tending sheep at night and an
angel appears telling them, "Do not
be afraid; for see—I am bringing
you good news of great joy for all
the people: to you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour, who
is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke
2:10) When the angels had left,
the shepherds went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph, and
the child lying in the manger. The
shepherds were not disappointed
that they only found a simple family

in a stable. They understood
this profound truth—what
seemed so ordinary was truly
extraordinary.

The Holy Family was not
rich or surrounded by comfort
and material possessions. What
they did have was profound
love for one another and this
created a sense of peace and
security. Even though they had
experienced difficulties and
uncertainties, their faith in God
did not waver. Jesus, Mary and
Joseph, provide a model of
family life for us all.

Due to the fact that we are
so familiar with family life, we
can so easily take it for granted.
We forget that what seems so
ordinary offers us something
quite extraordinary. Parents
become the first educators of
their children with regard
to faith and life. It is within
the family that life and love
are nurtured. Relationships
are strengthened and trust is
established. We learn what it
means to live in community
as family members relate to
one another in a spirit of co-
operation and respect. It seems
self-evident that the greatest
learning institution in the
world is not a university or
school; it is the human family.
A gift that is both precious and
fragile.

It has been said that "...
as the family goes, so goes the
nation." This simple statement
reminds us that families are the
foundation of society. Today we
know the many struggles that

families face and that undue
stress can cause them to break
down. This has a profound
impact on us all. What we need
to do is support family life by
helping each member grow in
appreciation of this incredible
gift from God that is both
precious and fragile.

Christmas is a wonderful
time to focus on the family and
spend time together to create an
environment that is filled with
love and support. Let us turn

to the Holy Family as a perfect
example of what it means to
be a father, mother, son or
daughter. Let us celebrate the
'extraordinary' that is found
in the ordinary. "So they went
with haste and found Mary and
Joseph, and the child lying
in the manger." (Luke. 2:16)

May you have a blessed
Christmas and a grace-filled
New Year.

COUPLES HELP DIOCESE CELEBRATE 61ST ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating 65 years of marriage at the diocesan anniversary dinner
held at Club Roma, St. Catharines, November 25, 2019 were, on
the left, John & Diane Buckley from Star of the Sea, St. Catharines
and on the right Annette & Nicholas Ostryhan from St. Elizabeth,
Wainfleet, seen with their former pastor Fr. Brian Bevan. Fr. Bevan is
now pastor at St. Patrick, St. Catharines.

The Diocese of St. Catharines celebrated its 61st anniversary
on November 25, 2019, the feast of its patroness, St. Catherine of
Alexandria.

Bishop Gerard Bergie presided at the Solemn Mass at the
Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. He was joined by
priests from across the diocese, along with deacons and their
wives, seminarians, religious sisters and laity. Fr. Ben Weber was
the Master of Ceremonies. There was a recognition ceremony
for priests, married couples and religious celebrating significant
2019 anniversaries.

Lucas Chorosinski, music director/organist, along with
conductor Timothy Marrie, led the combined diocesan choir.
They provided prayerful and uplifting music throughout the
Mass.

The celebration continued with a delicious meal at Club
Roma, St. Catharines, where Fr. Paul MacNeil, MC, honoured
special guests again.

For more photos see pages 6 & 7

See Bishop Bergie's homily page 2

Midnight Mass

88th annual broadcast from the
Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

NEWSTALK

610

C K T B

Christmas music by the Cathedral choir
directed by Lucas Chorosinski
choir conducted by Timothy Marrie

Begins at 11:30 p.m.

'Glory to God in the
highest heaven,
and on earth peace
among those whom he
favours!' Luke 2:14



BISHOP REMINDS US WE NEED TO STAY UNITED TO CHRIST

by BISHOP GERARD BERGIE

Bishop Bergie's homily from the Anniversary Mass November 25, 2019

In the Gospel just proclaimed (*John 15:1-8*), Jesus states that he is the vine and we are the branches. He reminds us that if the branch is not connected to the vine it cannot bear fruit and if it is cut off, it withers and dies. We need to stay united to Christ.

The image of the vine and branches also reminds us that we too are interconnected with one another in Christ. We see this most clearly in the Sacrament of Baptism.

In this sacrament we are configured to Christ as we die and rise with him in the saving waters of our salvation. We know that Jesus is the true High Priest who offered in sacrifice his life for us on the cross. He is the great mediator uniting heaven to earth. He is also the greatest prophet as he proclaims the good news and His Father's Kingdom. As we were reminded on the Feast of Christ the King, Jesus has dominion over all things and shows us the way to salvation.

At baptism, the priest or deacon anoints the newly baptized with sacred chrism and states: "God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as members of His body, sharing everlasting life."

All the baptized are called to share in Christ's role as priest, prophet and king. We share in his priestly office whenever we offer ourselves with him in the celebration of the holy sacrifice of the Mass. When we offer up some penance or prayer on behalf of another, these intercesso-

ry prayers remind us that we are a priestly people. We participate in the prophetic office of Christ whenever we witness to the truth in the world today. This is so important because of all the confusion, lies and alternative facts. We need to proclaim Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And finally, we participate in the kingly office of Christ when we assume leadership in our world modeling ourselves on Christ.

If you remember the Gospel from yesterday (*Luke 23:35-43*), our King's throne was a cross and his court consisted of two thieves. Jesus models for us true leadership. It is found in being a humble servant who gives his life in sacrifice. To be a Christ-like leader is not about power and control—it is all about giving oneself in loving service to others. Ultimately, if we follow the example of Christ the King, then as Jesus said to the Good Thief, we must help each other to get to heaven.

Connected to the vine, Jesus Christ, all the branches are intertwined and connected. This means that as the Church, it is the laity, clergy, and consecrated religious, both men and women, working together, fulfilling their baptismal call.

I wish to thank, in particular, all of the married couples present at this anniversary Mass, for your witness to the world. You have remained faithful to one another in good times and in bad. You have raised children and formed loving families. You have been in the world as leaven to help give flesh to the Gospel of Christ. This is the primary role of the laity. To be in the world and to bring the priestly, prophetic and kingly voice of Christ who helped to transform the face of the earth.

We know that other than the common priesthood of Jesus Christ, that we all share, there is also a ministerial priesthood. Tonight we acknowledge the

priests who are present who are configured to Christ in a unique way. They offer sacrifices on behalf of God's people and celebrate the sacraments to help build up the Body of Christ. I wish to sincerely thank all of the priests present for their calling to lead God's people as a Shepherd cares for his flock. They do so much good together with the deacons, consecrated sisters and brothers, and all of you, the laity of our wonderful diocese.

Today we also celebrate the Feast in honor of St. Catherine of Alexandria, our patroness. Our

diocese, under her protection, celebrates its 61st anniversary. One of the greatest tools that Satan has in his evil arsenal is to sow division—divide and conquer. As a diocese we must always be united. We should never allow ourselves to be divided by arguing about what group is better or more important than the other. Clergy, laity, religious—we all have a unique role to play in the Church and diocese and we must be always deepening our understanding of what we are called to be and what we are called to do. What

is most fundamental though, is that **We are all United in Christ**, as branches to the vine.

To all celebrating significant anniversaries I congratulate you and assure you of my prayers and best wishes. Together we are strong in Christ. May we all remain faithful to our calling as baptized Catholics, whether as ordained clergy, vowed religious, married or single laity. With our lives, may we always proclaim Christ the priest, the prophet, and the king! May God bless you.

Happy 95th Birthday Bishop O'Mara

Most Reverend John O'Mara celebrated his 95th birthday on November 17, 2019. Bishop O'Mara was born in Buffalo, New York and moved to St. Catharines at age 15. Both his parents were born in St. Catharines.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1951 and celebrated his first Mass at what is now the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. His first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Four months later he left for Rome to study canon law for two years at St. Thomas Aquinas University. On returning to Canada he held various positions in the Archdiocese of Toronto including chancellor as well as president of St. Augustine Seminary before becoming Bishop of Thunder Bay.

His appointment as bishop of St. Catharines to replace Bishop Thomas Fulton, who was retiring, was a homecoming for him. He served as bishop of the diocese from 1994-2002.

Despite his retirement he has continued to minister to the faithful as bishop emeritus, especially at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold, where he resides.

The diocese continues to be blessed by his presence and we wish him blessings and good health on reaching this milestone.



Bishop John O'Mara

KNIGHTS RAISE \$10,000 FOR BISHOP'S CHARITIES



The Bishop's Charities Dinner was held at Club Roma, St. Catharines, on October 19, 2019. Presenting the cheque to Bishop Gerard Bergie are members of the planning committee (l-r) Al Craig, Ronaldo DiSanto, Bill Amodeo, Charles Johnston, Mario Durand, Josie Rocca, CWL diocesan president. Bishop Bergie donated the funds raised (\$10,000) to the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, a mission diocese.

Rite of Election the first Sunday of Lent

March 2, 2020
at 2 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

Presider: Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

Catechumens and candidates who have been journeying in the RCIA program in Parishes across the diocese will gather with their sponsors, families and friends.

Catechumens will inscribe their names in the

Book of the Elect

Candidates will also be recognized

A social will follow

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES PRIESTS

- 60 years Msgr. Dominic Pizzacalla
- 50 years Fr. Norm Bordage, CSC, Fr. John Tracey, CSC, Fr. Peter Nobili, C.P.P.S
- 45 years Fr. John Croal, Fr. Andrew Morasse, CSC, Fr. John Vickers, CSC
- 40 years Fr. Raymond Fenech Gonzi, Fr. Stan Pietlock, Fr. Peter Rowe
- 35 Years Bishop Gerard Bergie, Fr. Randy Gallant, Fr. Andrew Goodwin, Fr. Peter Walton
- 30 years Fr. Michael Basque, Fr. Antoni Degutis OMI, Fr. Mathew Pendanathu

RELIGIOUS

- 65 years Sr. Loretta Rollheiser, CSJ



TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY – AN UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES ON PROTECTING MINORS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE



In light of the questions recently raised regarding the efforts of the Catholic Church in Canada to respond to the legacy of clergy sexual abuse, for example by way of the publication of names of the 'credibly accused', the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) wishes to provide an account of some of the steps the bishops of Canada are currently taking on this transformative journey.

In October 2018, following its unanimous adoption by the bishops of Canada, the CCCB released the updated and expanded national guidelines for the protection of minors in Canada entitled **Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation**. Over the past year, bishops have taken the time to consider with their diocesan/eparchial staff how to ensure its implementation within their dioceses/eparchies as well as how to best inform and educate clergy, members of

religious communities and lay personnel.

An integral part of confronting the sin and crime of sexual abuse involves ongoing meaningful encounters with victims-survivors. Their insights and counsel are key to the creation of safe pastoral environments and to the healing of those who have been abused. The bishops are attentive to the questions, concerns and hopes they bring forward, and are committed to finding the right solutions for all.

The tragedy of clergy sexual abuse is and will continue to be addressed with utmost seriousness and respect by the CCCB. Just as dioceses in other countries face the same challenge with regard to the legacy of clergy sexual abuse and have responded in various ways befitting their own circumstances, the bishops of Canada continue to work diligently to effect real and substantive change for the prevention of abuse, the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, and the healing of victim-survivors. They all recognize how important it is for dioceses/eparchies across our country to seek in their own contexts the

most responsible approaches possible, which are fully consistent with the law.

Working within the particular circumstances and requirements of each case, as well as the established boundaries of law enforcement, judicial proceedings and differing provincial/territorial laws, the CCCB in each diocese/eparchy are mindful of the situation and committed to promote the healing of victims-survivors, to redress injustices, to assure public safety and to regain the trust of the Catholic faithful and of all people based on pre-emptive, clear and effective action.

Here, we must be clear: the CCCB guidelines are recommendations contained in the protection of minors document firmly stipulate that once a church official receives a complaint about the minor, the police are informed without exception. Any alleged offender is removed from ministry pending investigation; if found guilty, all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the public and especially minors are protected from the recurrence of sexual abuse.

Once the police have been informed, it is for them

to determine whether it is in the public interest to disclose details of the investigation including, inappropriate cases and/or the name of the alleged abuser. It is the responsibility of the police to exercise their discretion and account for applicable privacy legislation, the privacy rights of victims, the integrity of their on-going investigation, the presumption of innocence and the right of an accused to a fair trial.

The bishops recognize that while the current procedure offers very clear guidelines on their pastoral and civil responsibilities, there remains an important question to consider related to publication of names of the 'credibly accused' who have not been charged and convicted. It is evident that a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer cannot be given to such a complex matter when seen through the lens of privacy laws (federal and provincial), the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** and the well-being of victims-survivors, some of whom do not wish for the names of their offenders to be published for fear they themselves will be re-victimized or identified. The bishops are obliged to weigh all of these factors as

they discern their individual responses to this question.

The process by which each Canadian diocese/eparchy seeks the appropriate solution will also often involve consultation with experts from a variety of professions, other faith groups and neighbouring dioceses/eparchies, and most importantly, victims-survivors. The members of the CCCB's new **Standing Committee for Responsible Ministry, the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults**, with backgrounds ranging from child protection/safeguarding, psychology and law (including victims-survivors) will continue to examine this question, among others, as it begins its work in 2020. The CCCB, with support from their own diocesan/eparchial teams as well as from the **Standing Committee for Responsible Ministry, the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults**, are committed to the healing and transformation of the Church so that each diocese/eparchy can provide a comprehensive and effective response to the diverse and multi-faceted needs of victims-survivors as well as to ensure abuse from occurring in the future.

SR. ANNE SCHENCK, CSJ, AWARDED THE SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL

St. Catharines' native, Sr. Anne (formerly Catherine (Kay) Schenck, Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto, was recently awarded the **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteering** in recognition of her initiative in inspiring and creating the Toronto Furniture Bank in 1988.

This initiative, since incorporated with a board of directors, continues to thrive in the Toronto area. Sr. Schenck and those who collaborated with her on the project have enabled the St. Joseph Congregation to reach out in a new way to people on the margins of society.

The official citation from the Governor General's office notes that, "...she has helped transform the lives of many people living below the poverty line. As a founder and volunteer with the Furniture Bank she has helped 100s of families facing financial difficulties to obtain appliances, furniture and other basic necessities." The award itself pays tribute to the "dedication and commitment of volunteers...[who] embody the caring country we aspire to build."

Spin-offs in other cities expand the work.

The Sisters of St. Joseph hosted a celebration tea. The Schenck family attended in large numbers. These included siblings, in-laws,



Sr. Anne Schenck, csj

nieces and nephews from St. Catharines, Oakville, Stoney Creek and Buffalo. Sr. Georgette Gregory, general superior, Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters, welcomed the guests and spoke briefly of the work of the Toronto Furniture Bank which welcomes gently used furniture and makes it available to people who need it like newcomers and refugees.

In her thanks for the award, Sr. Schenck expressed gratitude to the many people who shared in this recognition, especially the Sisters of St. Joseph, "...who called forth more gifts than I knew I had."

Sr. Schenck attended St. Joseph's Convent Academy for primary classes then continued at St. Catherine's Roman Catholic School on Lyman Street. For high school she attended St. Catharines

Collegiate, then St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, where in addition to a BA she won honours for her skill as a basketball player.

After attending the Ontario College of Education to gain credentials as a secondary school teacher, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph religious order in 1953. Her ministry included teaching and principalship at secondary schools in

Barrie, Toronto, Oshawa and Vancouver.

On retirement (1970) she managed the refugee residence where she saw that sometimes when groups could find an apartment or living space, they were still in need of furniture. That awareness and the fact that she noticed some people down-sizing and leaving furniture at the curb led her to the idea that both groups could benefit from

what she conceived of as a furniture bank.

Tippet-Richardson Movers assisted by making a van available at certain times and by offering the Furniture Bank any furniture left unsold at the end of estate sales. Friends, associates and volunteers also helped in many ways.

Sr. Schenck resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Residence, Toronto.



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Passion for our Community*






Pilgrimages raise \$123,000 for aid to Global South

by JENNIFER PELLEGRINI

This year marked the 44th anniversary of the pilgrimage that began in 1975 at Notre Dame College School, Welland. Over the years, the pilgrimage has grown to include all secondary schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB). On October 27th, 2019, students and staff from the secondary schools braved the rain and wind, in a day of sacrifice, as they walked beside alumni, former staff and elementary students along canal banks, trails and city streets, to support missions and projects around the world.

A total of \$123,491 was raised by the eight secondary schools for those in need.

Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Grimsby

Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School had a very successful pilgrimage with the theme **Two Worlds One Family**.

Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Catharines

The theme, **Let Love Rule**, was inspired by the words of St. Paul to the Romans: "Do not conform to the patterns of this world, let your heart be transformed." (*Romans 12:2*)

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, St. Catharines

Despite the weather and early start time, about 150 Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School students, staff and alumni gathered for the annual pilgrimage. Celebrating students' commitment to hope, this year's theme was **Hope in Haitian Creole**. The scripture inspiration was, "We are all one in Christ." (*Gal. 3:28*)



Pilgrims from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, St. Catharines, stand in front of the school before taking part in the annual pilgrimage on October 27, 2019. Hundreds of participants from Niagara Catholic District School Board's eight secondary schools, as well as students and staff from many of the Catholic elementary schools, trustees, alumni and other supporters, took part in the 44th annual pilgrimage for social justice.

Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School, St. Catharines

At Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School students formed a committee in early September to develop this year's theme. Starting with the song **Higher Love**, students decided to ask their classmates to **Look Inside Your Heart** and find it within themselves to come out and contribute to this year's pilgrimage.

Lakeshore Catholic High School, Port Colborne

Lakeshore Catholic High School has been walking a pilgrimage for 20 years to support organizations in Dominica. The organizations that inspired the pilgrims this year were varied—St. John's Primary School, a privately assisted school, known for its Catholic identity and the academic and moral uplifting of all; the Grange Nursing Home for Seniors; and a centre where adolescents learn to love and serve.

Notre Dame College School, Welland

Since 1976, the students and staff of Notre Dame

College School have gathered on a Sunday late in October to put their feet to the gospel through the annual pilgrimage for the developing world. For the 44th pilgrimage the theme was **Plant the Seed of Change** inspired by the parables of the mustard seed and the sower.

Saint Michael Catholic High School, Niagara Falls

On October 27, 2019, students from Saint Michael Catholic High School walked together with Saint Paul Catholic High School in their annual pilgrimage. This year's theme was **With Faith and Action, Nothing is Impossible**.

Saint Paul Catholic High School, Niagara Falls

On Pilgrimage Sunday, approximately 200 Saint Paul Catholic High School students, staff and feeder school students walked in solidarity for Haiti. They raised money for their sister school, Ste-Croix de Milot in Milot, Haiti. The funds raised will allow Ste-Croix de Milot to add classrooms to the existing school, have local carpenters build classroom desks and purchase chalk boards, paper and pencils.

FLYING FATHERS AID CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and Knights of Columbus councils partnered to bring the Flying Fathers to the Niagara Region for two games in November, 2019. On Tuesday, November 19, they faced off against a local team including Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) hockey all-star students, teachers, and local priests. The following night, Wednesday, November 20 they skated against the Thorold Mounts (Oldtimers Association) at the Frank Doherty arena in Thorold.



Back row: (l-r) Fr. John MacPherson, Fr. Stephen Helferty, Fr. Daniel Janulewicz, Fr. Matt McCarthy, Fr. Paul Patrick, Peter Doyle (discerner), Fr. Justin Bertard (Smitty the Clown); front row: Fr. Paul MacNeil, pastor, Our Lady of the Scapular, Niagara Falls; Fr. Patrick Beneteau, Fr. Kris Schmidt, Fr. Ron Angervil, pastor, St. Stephen, Cayuga; Fr. John Perdue.

ST. MICHAEL CWL MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY



On November 3, 2019, the CWL at St. Michael, Dunnville, celebrated its 60th anniversary. Seen (l-r) are: Fr. Sunny Sebastian, pastor; Fr. Don Lizzotti, former pastor; Bishop Gerard Bergie; Bishop Anthony Tonnos; Bernadette Poth, CWL president.



Snowflakes and Angels

2019 CAMPAIGN

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RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES AT CATHEDRAL

by CARLOS NUNES

The awarding of this grand restoration by the Diocese of St. Catharines, beginning in the Fall of 2018 to



Carlos Nunes,

be ready for November 2020, has put the Fine Painting Design Restoration (FPDR)

team on a very busy schedule. It is all consuming and tasks all our trades and artisans to deliver a beautiful restored Mother Church for the diocese.

Collaboration with the Cathedral staff and diocesan teams has enabled the interior to take on a new identity. It reflects the past and ushers in a new vision for the future. This visual narrative speaks of our faith and gives the Cathedral a beautiful place to worship and communicate the Catholic faith.

All of the murals and designs speak of scriptural passages relating to faith and complement the interior architecture of this very

deserving space. Extensive other work continues on the exterior, such as - the drainage to the mechanical infrastructure that many do not see, as well as improved lighting, air circulation and heating of the main body of the cathedral.



Fr. Don Lizzotti, Rector of the Cathedral

Reusing much of the historical materials, such as marble, has kept the authenticity of the interior and respects previous benefactors that have donated to the Cathedral. This marble is mostly being used in the sanctuary and its beauty surely speaks volumes.

As the whole team ramps up this enormous restoration for the up-coming year, we are greatly challenged to do this and look forward to having a Cathedral that speaks of beauty and peace.

May God guide and give us strength.

Carlos is director of FPDR Ltd., located in Innisfil, Ontario.



A view of the restoration work in the Cathedral from the sanctuary. Note the beautiful murals of the Ascension (foreground), Pentecost and the medallions that adorn the ceiling on either side of the murals.

The **CATHEDRAL APPEAL** needs the support of many to reach its target of \$1.2 million.

You can make an outright gift donation, participate in a parish fundraising event, or fund a specific element of the restoration.

Interested: Contact the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria at 905-684-3964 or e-mail: appeal@saintcd.com

Please pray for the successful completion of this restoration project.

THE NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION HELPS STUDENTS IN NEED

by JIM MARINO

We often associate poverty with third world countries, little realizing that it exists right here at home in our own backyard.

Christmas is a joyous time of year for most, but with families facing financial hardship it can be anything but merry. It's hard to believe that every day, one in five students goes to school hungry and waits in line to receive a breakfast. For lunch, some eat pizza scraps from the previous night's supper. During the 2017-2018 school year, in 54 programs, over 1 million meals were served in schools to hungry students. A donation of \$13.75 will provide a needy student with a breakfast and nourishing snack daily for a school week.

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. Many students do not have the financial resources to



Jim Marino

purchase eyeglasses.

Several students lack daily essentials such as warm clothing, shoes, personal care items, money for school uniforms, and equipment for students with special needs or the financial means to pursue a rewarding education.

In his scripture writings about the Lord's judgment 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. Christ says, "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." (Matthew 25:40)

Students who receive support from the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education are truly grateful.

One student writes, "Thank you for your assistance. I promise it will be put to good

use during my future endeavors in furthering my education and will promote the important lessons I have learned as a Catholic student."

Another writes, "It's not always easy to juggle school and work but with your generosity it has been made much easier. When I graduate, I hope I can make a difference in people's lives, like you have in mine."

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is a

registered charitable foundation and receipts are issued for tax purposes: Make cheques payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Credit cards are also accepted. Donate on-line using PayPal and view a video at www.nfce.org

The mailing address is: Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario, L3C 7C1. Contact information: Jim Marino at 905-735-0247 x 210, jim.marino@nfce.org



NIAGARA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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niagaracatholic.ca/register

Nurturing Souls and Building Minds

Merry Christmas



COUPLES AND CLERGY CELEBRATING MILESTONES IN 2019



Claudette & Jim Marino (60 years) from Our Lady of the Scapular, Niagara Falls.



Standing: Nadia & Agi Mete (25 years) from St. Kevin, Welland; seated: Frank & Lia Huibers (50 years) from St. Alexander, Fonthill.



Parishioners from Star of the Sea, St. Catharines, celebrating an anniversary were: standing: Bryan & Lorraine Urquhart (40 years); seated: (l-r) Dennis & Dorothy Marshall (40 years); Lyn & Paul Bourret (50 years).



Fr. Greg Schmidt, pastor, St. Julia, St. Catharines, with Maria & Charles McGann (60 years) at the diocesan anniversary dinner.



Sandra Gowans with her mom Rita Ross (60 years) from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines. Insert: Chester Ross who was unable to attend the celebration.



Anniversary couples from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines (l-r) standing: Deacon Frank & Teresa Berardi (40 years); seated: Kenneth & Paula Mista (50 years); Rene & Thelma Ongcangco (50 years).



Robert & Gerarda Savoie (50 years) with pastor Fr. Hugh Gibson, St. Alfred, St. Catharines.



Ray & Sharon Richard (50 years) seen with pastor Fr. Chris Gillen, St. Martin, Smithville.



(l-r) Standing: Ronald & Joyce Delia (50 years); seated: Roger & Mary Honsberger (50 years); Gregory & Louise Lyons (25 years) all from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines.



Fr. Antoni Degutis, pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Catharines, celebrated 30 years of priestly life. He is seen here with parishioners Piotr & Katarzyna Malinski (25 years).



Fr. Gerard Power (right) pastor, St. Patrick, Niagara Falls, with anniversary couples (l-r) standing: Susan & Rick Rogers (40 years); seated: Sandra & William DeFoe (50 years).



Fr. Peter Rowe (right) pastor, St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls, celebrated 40 years of priestly life. With him are parishioners (l-r) Daniel & Susan Galati (25 years) and Assunta Basile.



Fr. Paul Vellakannathu, pastor, St. Andrew, Welland, with anniversary couple Monique & Greg Shinton (50 years).



St. Joseph, Snyder, parishioners (l-r) Mary Jane & Paul Collee and Albert & Shirley Fasan, both celebrating 50 years of marriage, with Fr. Stuart MacDonald, pastor.



Msgr. Dominic Pizzacalla celebrated 60 years of priestly life. He is seen here with the first couple he married, Fran & John Read, St. Vincent de Paul, Niagara-on-the-Lake, also celebrating a 60th anniversary. Insert: Fr. Randy Gallant, pastor, St. Vincent de Paul, (35 years of priestly life).



George & Doris Mayer (60 years) from St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls.



Fr. Mathew Pendanathu, pastor, St. Mary, St. Catharines (30 years of priestly life) with Henk & Toni Ten Den (50 years).



Michael & Donna Dilse (25 years) with pastor, Fr. Sunny Sebastian from St. Michael, Dunnville.



Yvette & Lionel Gagnon (50 years) with pastor Fr. Vincent D'Souza, St. Mary/St. Ann, Hagersville.



Fr. Michael Basque, pastor, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold, celebrated 30 years of priestly life. With him are parishioners (l-r) standing, Don Lizzotti and Gino Romano; seated: Teri Lizzotti and Sandra Romano. Both couples celebrated their 30th anniversary.



Pastor Fr. Patrick Gilmurray, St. Michael, Fort Erie, with parishioners celebrating 40 years of marriage William & Pat Vernooy (standing) and Barbara & Charles Duhamel (seated).



Fr. Ben Weber, pastor, St. Denis, St. Catharines, with Elizabeth & Monty Newton who were celebrating 50 years of marriage.



(l-r) Standing: Carmelina & Enrico Antonio Passero (40 years) with Nancy & William Grodesky (50 years) from St. Alfred, St. Catharines.



Fr. Charles Moser, pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catharines, with anniversary couples (l-r) Christian & Delores Pynappels (60 years) and Marie & Clarence Gaudet (50 years).



Anniversary couples from St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catharines, (l-r) James & Clara Phillips (60 years) Brian & Dena LeBlanc (50 years).



Couples celebrating anniversaries from St. Joseph, Grimsby, are seen here with (l-r) back row: Fr. Christopher Kulig, Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls; Fr. Rico Passero, pastor; middle row: Conrad & Larysa Theriault (50 years); Shirley & William Soltesz (60 years); Tina & Ted Barnabi (50 years); seated: Bruce & Barbara Jones (60 years); Andrew & Eileen Palmer (60 years).



Additional couples from St. Alfred, St. Catharines, all celebrating 60 years of marriage were (l-r) standing: Howard & Gisele Beam; seated: Walter & Lucienne Chemerika; Gertrude & Frank Koch.

Congratulations to all married couples and clergy celebrating significant anniversaries in 2019



CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH ACTIVE AT BROCK UNIVERSITY



Young adult leadership team (l-r) Kailey Meehan, Brock University Catholic chaplaincy leader; Emma Mete Brock University con-current student; with St. Catharines Diocese seminarian, Daniel Corso.

by EMMA METE

My name is Emma Mete, a con-current student at Brock University, St. Catharines. I was raised a Catholic and have been an active member at St. Kevin, Welland, through youth ministry and liturgy.

The summer before entering university, I attended a Steubenville Youth Conference and it was there I first felt Jesus calling me to a deeper relationship with him. However, I was too afraid to answer that call. The following summer I attended another conference at Steubenville. During adoration I finally surrendered my heart to Jesus upon hearing the words, "don't be afraid, I love you." (John 14:27)

Since then, many aspects of my life have changed, one of the most important being my encounter and involvement with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) at Brock University.

CCO is a university student involvement in Canada that is dedicated to evangelization and creating strong Catholic leaders for the renewal of the world. After participating in a CCO faith study I have gone on to lead the faith studies myself, all while Jesus continues to reveal more of himself to me through prayer and the CCO support system at Brock.

In January, I felt called again to further my relationship with Christ. This took the form of a call to serve as a missionary in the CCO Scotland Mission. In May 2019, along with 19 other students from across Canada, I travelled to Scotland with four missionary leaders and served three weeks at St. Mary Cathedral in Aberdeen.

It was here that Christ revealed to me his call to be a missionary. I have been blessed to be living out the call here at home through being one of the CCO leaders at Brock University. Last year CCO ran faith studies for 90 students and this year God is surpassing all expectations by exceeding that number.

On a personal level, CCO has absolutely changed my

life and it has been a miracle to watch Christ work through the leadership team at Brock University. One of CCO's main tenets that have greatly shaped the way I live out the missionary call is having a 'heart for the world'. Christ offers salvation for each person we encounter and every person deserves to hear the gospel message and be invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

CCO at Brock University has provided me the opportunity to experience Christ's personal invitation in my own heart. My life has changed radically. The mission is to continue to share the gospel message and invite students, staff and faculty members to hear and accept the call to put Christ at the center of their lives.

Please pray for the CCO mission at Brock University, especially the students who will experience and learn about Christ's love for the first time.

Emma is a third-year concurrent education student at Brock University, St. Catharines.

ST. KEVIN SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

by JOE BARKOVICH

Four graduating secondary students are recipients of \$1,000 scholarships for exceptional social service in their schools and communities.

At their respective

studying medical science; Sarah Mojeski, Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Grimsby, going to Carleton University, Ottawa, architectural studies; Katrina Belcastro, Notre Dame College School, Welland, going to Niagara University, Lewiston, New York, special education; Ava Kelly, Notre Dame College School, Welland, going to University of Waterloo and St. Jerome's College, honours arts and business co-op.

"The scholarship is for students who envision not a perfect world, but a better one," said Joe Barkovich, committee chair. "By how the students lead their daily lives, they link faith and justice as taught in Catholic social teachings," he said, "They walk the talk by doing what they say."

Recipients were selected through an interview process that considers academic achievement, school and community social justice activities, as well as the students' future pursuits.

All applicants were required to answer eight pre-determined questions, two from each of the committee members. They also fielded impromptu questions, most of them based on content in their application documents that piqued the curiosity or interest of the committee.

For 17 years on the last Friday in January, the Social Justice Committee has raised money for the scholarships during its **Soup'sOn!** luncheon held at St. Kevin. Culinary programs from local high schools along with Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute and a local business, Stephanie The Lunch Lady, provide samplings of a variety of soups. They donate

their time, skills and materials to help build the scholarship fund. Tickets for this fundraiser went on sale in November.

The St. Kevin Social Justice Scholarship Committee has bestowed approximately \$50,000 to secondary graduates in addition to \$5,150 in special funding allocations. The scholarship amount has increased from \$300 to \$500 and most recently \$1,000.

Members of the committee are: Joe & Bernie Barkovich, Wayne Campbell and Jessica Soul.



Olivia Mete



Sarah Mojeski



Katrina Belcastro



Ava Kelly

For God loves a cheerful giver.

— (2 Corinthians 9:7)

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, OUR OUTREACH TO THE POOR

by JUDY McEWEN

Do you notice them as you hurry out of Mass, on your way to dinner or brunch? They're St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, holding donation boxes for your loonies and toonies. All that spare change helps the Society of St. Vincent de Paul help others in need.

About 20 St. Vincent de Paul Societies are active in the Diocese of St. Catharines. The better-off parishes help their less-fortunate brothers and sisters with financial contributions and volunteer help. Schools also help with food drives. For instance, St. Peter Catholic Elementary School and St. Julia SVDP hold two annual food drives (Christmas and Easter) for the St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Catharines, food bank.

Last Christmas, SVDP members, along with high school students earning their community volunteering credits, helped St. Mary of the Assumption parish fill and deliver 94 food hampers; found warm clothing and household articles for those in need, including newly-arrived refugees; and provided grocery gift cards to needy individuals and families in the parish neighbourhood.

Students at Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Catharines, 'adopt' a large needy family each Christmas and provide them with food and useful gifts.

SVDP works in partnership with Community Care, which registers the needy and helps families with clothes, shoes, linens, housewares, Christmas toys and direction.

Other financial support is given to the Ozanam Centre,



Judy McEwen

St. Catharines, which provides a \$1 hot lunch Monday through Friday (although no one is turned away for lack of a dollar). Co-ordinator Chuck Spry estimates that Ozanam, which has been around for almost 20 years, serves about 12,000 lunches annually. It shuts down only for about 10 days at Christmas and four days in mid-summer. Food support for Ozanam comes from local businesses such as Costco, Sobeys, Club Roma and La Farina bakery.

SVDP also supports Start Me Up Niagara, which directs the needy to local resources in finding jobs, writing resumes, finding shelter/housing, or arranging medical or psychiatric help. Start Me Up provides a free lunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

SVDP diocesan conference is committed to feeding the poor in Canada's far north, as part of the North of 60 Project. St. Julia has twice shipped 32 cases of peanut butter to food banks in remote areas where food is prohibitively expensive.

St. Vincent de Paul Stores in Fort Erie, Welland,

Dunnville, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls offer gently used clothing, shoes and winter wear to needy families. Other volunteers seek out bargains in socks and toiletries to supplement men's Christmas hampers.

SVDP also supports Out of The Cold; Niagara Nutrition; Hannah House; Warehouse of Hope; Wells of Hope; Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education; Camp Vincent, which provides a nature holiday for needy kids; and—just recently—donated to Broken Spoke, founded by a Port Colborne man who repairs discarded bicycles and gives them to the poor.

Parishioners throughout the diocese may feel justifiably proud, both for their generosity and the activities of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Readers are encouraged to join this worthy organization in helping our poorest neighbours. Ask a parish priest for more information.

Who is St. Vincent de Paul?

St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. Renowned for his compassion, humility and generosity, he is venerated as a saint in the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. He was canonized in 1737 and was the founder of the Congregation of the Mission, and Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Whence the name Ozanam Centre?

The centre is named after

Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam (1813-1853). He was a French literary scholar, professor, lawyer, journalist and equal rights advocate. At age 20, he founded, with fellow students, the Conference of Charity. This group was influenced and informed by Sr. Rosalie, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who worked with the poor in the slums of Paris. The Conference later became known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Canada's first SVDP

In Canada, the first Society of St. Vincent de Paul began in Quebec City in 1846. Founder, Dr. Joseph Painchaud, learned of the organization while he was visiting Paris. He saw a grave need in his own

home city, where epidemics ran rampant and frequent economic depressions impoverished more families. He was instrumental in bringing prison management under government control. The members were also committed to caring for orphans, families, the elderly, the homeless and drifters.

SVDP today


In 2018, Canada had 781 conferences. The poor can count on help from 14,771 SVDP members.

Globally, some 800,000 members are working in 140 other countries, mostly in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, United States, India and Monaco.


VINCENT'S STORE IN NIAGARA FALLS MARKS 4TH ANNIVERSARY



The St. Vincent de Paul Store, Niagara Falls, recently celebrated its 3rd year of service to the community. Seen with Bishop Bergie (l-r) are: Luigina DePoli, volunteer; Marion Frenedo, store manager; and Rosie, a customer.



**The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul**



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CRUCIFIX RETURNS HOME

A crucifix, dating to the 1920s that was part of the main altar at St. Mary, Welland, has been donated back to the parish. It was given away when the three wooden altars were removed in the 1970s while the church was under-going renovations and the present marble altar was installed.

Since its return a couple of years ago, efforts have been undertaken to find a fitting and dignified place for it to be venerated. It needed a place of honour to remind the congregation of the work and sacrifices made by the founders and pioneers of St. Mary parish and community. It has been incorporated into the present main altar and was unveiled and blessed by Fr. Raymond Fenech Gonzi, pastor, on the Feast of Christ the King 2019.



Fr. Raymond Fenech Gonzi



The ensemble presents the crucifix in the centre with rays flowing out of the cross (to the ends of the earth). It is flanked by two symbols—the symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron saint of the parish, and the broken wheel of torture, symbol of St. Catherine of Alexandria, patron saint of the diocese.

The cross was designed by Fr. Anthony McCaffery, (1917-1929), The art design was done by Fr. Raymond Fenech Gonzo, pastor, and the metal work by John S. Angelo.



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- January 3-5 Welcoming the New Year
Presenter: Kathryn McMorrow
- January 10-12 & February 14-16 Weekend of Spiritual Accompaniment
Presenter: Kathryn McMorrow
- February 14 Valentine's Celebration
Presenter: Fr. Michael Wastag
- February 26 Ash Wednesday
Presenters: Ministerial Team
- April 8 Seder Meal
Presenter: Fr. Craig Morrison
- April 8-12 Holy Week Retreat and Triduum
Presenters: Ministerial Team



Founded in 1997, Gethsemane Ministries is a Lay Catholic Movement consisting of families dedicated to evangelization and seeking to live their life according to their vocation, thereby witnessing to the gospel. The Gethsemane Centre located in Wellandport is God's gift to the Ministry to continue its work of evangelization. The Centre meets the needs of the Catholic community by offering a dedicated Chapel, Grotto of our Lady of Fatima and conference rooms of various sizes. Our fully equipped in-house dining facility and religious gift store is available on an event basis. We offer a quiet setting for prayer and reflection, perfect for retreats, seminars and conferences.

Upcoming Events 2019

- JUNE 8-9: Pentecost Vigil (Saturday 8:00pm to Sunday 8:00am)
- JUNE 15: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- JULY 6: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & Intercessory Prayer (10:00am-1:00pm)
- JULY 13: 4th Anniversary & Picnic (11:00am-3:30pm)
- JULY 20: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- AUG. 3: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & Intercessory Prayer (10:00am-1:00pm)
- AUG. 17: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- AUG. 20-24: Summer Fiat (Children's Camp - Grades 3-7)
- SEPT. 7: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & Intercessory Prayer (10:00am-1:00pm)
- SEPT. 21: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- SEPT. 27-29: "Fire of the Holy Spirit" with Maria Vadia (Weekend Retreat)
- OCT. 5: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & Intercessory Prayer (10:00am-1:00pm)
- OCT. 5-6: "Enter Through the Narrow Gate" with Fr. Xavier Raj, CSsR (Weekend Retreat)
- OCT. 19: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- NOV. 2: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & Intercessory Prayer (10:00am-1:00pm)
- NOV. 16: Day Retreat (10:00am-4:30pm)
- DEC. 7: Christmas Celebration - Toronto
- DEC. 30-31: 40-Hour Eucharistic Adoration
- DEC 31: New Year's Eve Celebration

Every 13th of the month from May to October, Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima (6:30pm-8:30pm)
Every Wednesday, Mass, Adoration and Liturgy of the Hours (10:30am - 5:00pm)
Confessions are available daily by appointment.

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Buon Natale



SUPPORTING AND CELEBRATING MOTHERHOOD

by **TERRI PAUCO**

There is an exciting, grass roots approach to ministry spreading in the Diocese of St. Catharines focused on the vocation of motherhood. Small groups of moms, of different ages and stages, are meeting to learn and support each other as they raise their children in love and in faith. It is here that the domestic Church, through mothers and grandmothers who volunteer to be discussion leaders, prayer partners, baby cuddlers and toddler tamers, reminds them that they are not alone in the enormous gift and responsibility that parenthood brings. It is in this time together, that they explore what it means to pass on the faith and to be their child's primary educator in faith.

Each of the Catholic moms groups currently running in the diocese is unique but share these important features: a commitment to connecting

women and establishing new friendships among the families, opportunities to encourage a sense of belonging in the parish, and fidelity to communal prayer and ongoing faith formation. Those involved experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially those of joy, patience and love which is unconditional and non-judgmental.

Jodi DiDomenico, with a small team of volunteers, leads the Monday Morning Moms group at Our Lady of the Scapular, Niagara Falls, the third Monday of each month. She loves being a mom to her three sons and recognizes how important it is for families to feel a part of parish life. Last year, during Advent, the Scapular Mom's group hosted a special night of caroling and for the Feast of Epiphany, prepared House Blessing Kits to hand out to the congregation. Another mom, Susanne Taras, a member of St.

George, Crystal Beach is on a mission to begin this outreach to the Lake Erie corridor of the diocese in 2020. Susanne was first introduced to this ministry by Dorothy Pilarski, founder of Dynamic Women of Faith and Catholic Moms Group, while living within the Archdiocese of Toronto. She believes that "attending and leading a mother's group is just a small way to get help through laughter in a community of mothers who struggle to raise Godly children in this generation. In a world full of distractions and temptations, (the) meetings help mothers to love their families better and lead with gentle example before the children have grown up."

If you would like information or help in starting a Catholic mothers group in your parish, contact: the Family and Youth Office at (905) 684-0154, ext. 209.

Or join an established group...

Our Lady of the Scapular, Niagara Falls: Monday Morning Moms (for Moms of all ages and stages, tots welcomed) meet in the Lacey Room in the church hall every 3rd Monday of the month 9:00 am, following morning Mass. To learn more: contact Jodi 905-353-0158.

St. Joseph's, Grimsby: Moms Group (for moms, babies and toddlers) meets in the church's Gathering Room every Thursday morning 9:30 -11:30 am. To learn more: call parish office 905-945-2661.

FAMILIES ARE IMPORTANT TO THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

by **TERRI PAUCO**

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

Families are important to the mission of the Church and to each parish in the Diocese of St. Catharines. Families who attend Mass are helping their children learn about God and their call to holiness and discipleship. Through their senses, whether babes in arms, talkative toddlers, or sometimes fidgety school age children, the youngest members of the congregation experience the Mass through the sights and gestures, the prayers and rituals, the music and sounds, and of course, the living witness of those around them.



Terri Pauco

Parents and grandparents are instrumental in helping the youngest congregation members understand and interpret what is being proclaimed and what is happening in each part of the Eucharistic celebration. Reminded of the African

proverb that it takes a village to raise a child, in every church and at every Mass, every parishioner has a special role in helping to raise the children of the parish in faith.

So remember—smile; be welcoming and non-judgmental. Demonstrate patience towards the family and slide over if you see that they have arrived late and are looking for a pew. If during Mass, you sense that the adult caregiver needs help, offer it. Following Mass, if the opportunity avails itself, try to engage the parent and share how wonderful it was to have their family's witness of faith at church today—living and vibrant parishes need them.

Terri is co-ordinator of the Family and Youth Office, Diocese of St. Catharines.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY BRINGS FAITH TO BROCK



Renew TO 2019 Team (l-r) Kailey Meehan, Catholic Chaplaincy Leader, Brock University; Andrea and Clark Pillar, YAM Leaders; Terri Pauco, Family and Youth Office, Diocese of St. Catharines. Missing: Ben Johnson and Brielle Kaminsky, Brock Catholic Student Association.

by **TERRI PAUCO**

Members of the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Leadership Team have been busy this fall. Committed to bring greater awareness to and expansion of this growing ministry focused on ages 19-39 are Larissa McMaster, Andrea and Clark Pillar; Brock University Catholic Community representatives, Ben Johnson, Kailey Meehan; and diocesan staff advisor/elder, Terri Pauco.

The team participated in a four-week book study of **Christus Vivit**, Pope Francis' post-synodal exhortation on young people, faith and young adults.

vocational discernment and attended **Renew TO**, a young adult conference hosted by the Office of Youth, Archdiocese of Toronto, November 9, 2019.

The YAM leaders wish to invite all young people to the monthly **FEED YOUR FAITH** event held the last Friday of each month at the Diocesan Catholic Centre, Thorold, to become connected through the soon to be released **SAINTCD** YAM website. There, fellow 'YAMMERS' will find articles, videos, and an up-to-date schedule of events focused on fellowship, faith formation, and prayer opportunities geared to young adults.

FEED YOUR FAITH FRIDAY'S 2020

For young adults ages 19-39

- January 31
- February 28
- March 27
- April 24
- May 29

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Contact Terri Pauco
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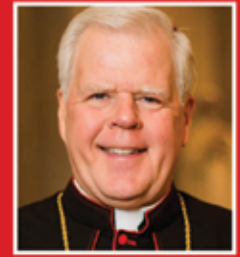


Ed & Ruth-Ann Nieuwesteeg



Join us for a special one-hour Christmas Mass

from the beautiful Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Our celebrant is the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of Saint Catharines. The choir from St. Thomas More Parish in Niagara Falls, joins us for this Christmas celebration.



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DATES & TIMES: One-hour Christmas Masses

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- Wed., Dec. 25 – 8:00 am and 12:00 pm

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- Wed., Dec. 25 – 10:30 am and 4:30 pm

Faith TV: Eastern Time (Broadcast Nationally)

- Tues., Dec. 24 – 8:00 pm and Midnight
- Wed., Dec. 25 – 2:30 pm

yesTV: Ontario and Alberta

- Tues., Dec. 24 – Midnight (Local Time)
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In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' Luke 2:8-12