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VINEYARD



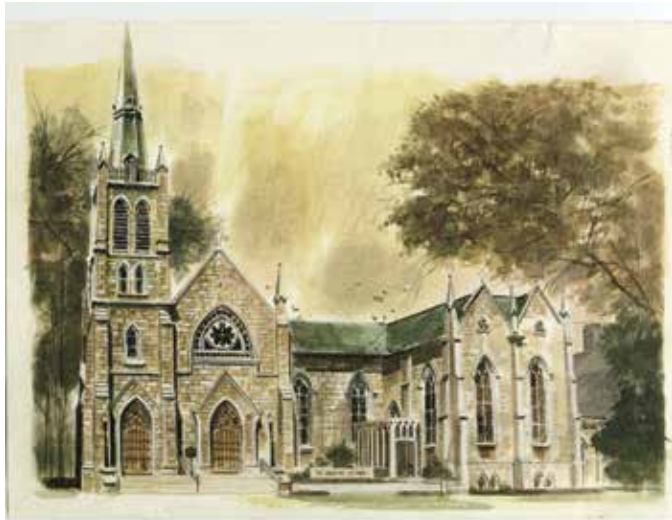
BULLETIN
BOARD

Happenings around the
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NEXT ISSUE
JUNE
2019

Where
Faith
Lives



Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria by George Balbar

VOLUME 32 NO. 2

THE JOURNAL OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

www.saintcd.com

LENT IS A TIME OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

by Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

When it comes to the spiritual life, it is easy to be complacent. We can become comfortable with the status quo and make little effort to grow in holiness. The 'minimum' becomes the measure when the 'optimum' seems impossible.

In the Book of Revelation the Lord states, "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth." (3:16) We cannot be tepid about our faith. This means we need to work at the spiritual life. Whether we are clergy, consecrated men and women, or laity, we should all want to be saints. This desire becomes the 'fire within' that compels us to Christ and moves us to be more like Him in thought, word and deed. It makes the impossible seem possible.

In her wisdom, the Church provides the season of Lent in order to shake us out of our complacency and help us fan the flame. During these forty days we are called to be disciplined and focused. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we are given effective tools to help us grow in holiness. How can these three 'pillars' of Lent help us?

We need to spend time in communion with our God. This can

be achieved through prayer and meditation. Set aside time each day to meditate with scripture and offer prayers like the Stations of the Cross and the rosary. We should also consider attending daily Mass and spending some time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer is foundational to the spiritual life. Saint Jean Vianney states that prayer stretches the heart and makes it capable of loving God.

When we fast, we say 'yes' to God and 'no' to ourselves. It is rooted in self-denial and penance. We simplify our meals and our lives by eating and drinking less and denying ourselves more. There also needs to be a humble acknowledgement that we are sinners in need of God's mercy. Once again we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance throughout our diocese on Saturday April 6, 2019, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We should never be afraid to celebrate this sacrament of healing and hope. Fasting helps us to see our dependency upon God which leads to spiritual renewal.

We see the beauty and generosity of God all around us. When we share with others what we have received, we acknowledge God's bounty. Almsgiving is such a significant part of Lent because it responds to the Lord's preferential option for the poor, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Mt. 25:40) By generously giving of our time, talents and treasure, we are able to help those who are most in need. This helps us to grow closer to Christ.

When we think about personal holiness, we should be focused on someone rather than something. Holiness is about Jesus and the more we become like Him, the holier we become. A saint is someone, who despite limitations, is able



Most Reverend Gerard Bergie

Photo by Denis Cahill

to radiate Jesus to the world. To be another Christ is the calling of every baptized Christian.

It is my hope and prayer that during the forty days of Lent, we will make the effort to try to be more like Jesus. Let us work at being saints and reject the minimum so that the optimum will become our spiritual measure.

POPE FRANCIS ON LENT

The season of Lent is a favourable time to remedy the dissonant chords of our Christian life and to receive the ever new, joyful and hopeful proclamation of the Lord's Passover. The Church in her maternal wisdom invites us to pay special attention to anything that could dampen or even corrode our believing heart.

Lent is the ideal time to unmask temptations, to allow our hearts to beat once more in tune with the vibrant heart of Jesus. The whole of the Lenten season is imbued with this conviction, which we could say is echoed by three words offered to us in order to rekindle the heart of the believer: pause, see and return.

Pause a little, leave behind the unrest and commotion that fill the soul with bitter feelings which never get us anywhere. ... that scatters, divides and ultimately destroys time with family, with friends, with children, with grandparents and time as a gift... time with God.

See the faces of our children and young people filled with yearning for the future and hope, filled with "tomorrows" and opportunities that demand dedication and protection. Living shoots of love and life that always open up a path in the midst of our selfish and meagre calculations.

See our elderly whose faces are marked by the passage of time, faces that reveal the living memory of our people. Faces that reflect God's wisdom at work.

Return without fear, to join in the celebration of those who are forgiven.

Return without fear, to experience the healing and reconciling tenderness of God. Let the Lord heal the wounds of sin and fulfil the prophecy made to our fathers: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezek 36: 26).

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- CATHEDRAL RESTORATION PG 12



Where Faith Lives

The Diocese of
St. Catharines
invites Catholics
to celebrate the
Sacrament of
Penance

Saturday April 6, 2019
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available to hear individual Confessions. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of reconciliation and healing.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ENCOURAGES VOCATIONS

Submitted by the team from the organization *The Real Presence Eucharistic Education & Adoration Association.*

One of the great fruits of perpetual adoration is priestly and religious vocations. It provides fertile ground for those that God has called to respond.

As a centre for the establishment of **Eucharistic Adoration**

in Canada, we were pleased to receive an inquiry asking to help a parish in the Diocese of St. Catharines to start perpetual adoration. After contacting Fr. Paul MacNeil, pastor, Our Lady of the Scapular, Niagara Falls, an **Adoration Invitation Sign-Up** weekend was scheduled.

For about a month in advance of the weekend, Fr. MacNeil and associate pastor, Fr. Stephen Bruzzese, preached on adoration and implemented suggestions for pre-evangelization and catechesis to prepare parishioners to become adorers.

On the weekend of February 2, 2018, sign-up instructions were conveyed by a lay speaker from the association and distributed at each Mass. Fr. MacNeil stated in his homily that Bishop Gerard Bergie had asked him to start perpetual adoration.

About a month after the sign-up and a start-up meeting, perpetual adoration began March 19, 2018, on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. It runs around the clock Monday – Friday and may be extending to weekends.

When the team was in the diocese organizing another sign-up weekend last September, they visited the adoration chapel and met with Fr. MacNeil. He smiled as he reported the chapel "is doing extremely well.



There are often 5-20 people in the chapel. I do a 5 a.m. and a midnight hour and Fr. Bruzzese is also scheduled for two hours. Everyone finds it so peaceful. From 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. anyone can drop in and after 9 p.m. there is an access code for entry. We have not had any issues with people not showing up for their scheduled hours."

Adorers report that this is the greatest blessing in the parish. One said, "It's amazing how many people make time in their day to pray. It is so encouraging seeing not just the person who signed up, but also so many others praying during any given hour. Students from the local schools come to pray, one class at a time, as well as some teachers during a PD day. Some of them would never have experienced or known about adoration if the parish had not started it."

All of this led to another sign-up and the start of perpetual adoration at St. Denis, St. Catharines, that began November 1, 2018, Monday – Friday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. with the possibility of incorporating Saturday as well.

For information on how to establish and sustain Eucharistic adoration, contact www.EucharisticAdorationCanada.com or call 416-527-0839. The organization has a registered Canadian charitable status.

WHAT IS THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS?

by BOB FOLEY

Today, the first Sunday of Lent, those who have been journeying together in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will gather at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines, for the Rite of Election.

What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a formal program of catechetical instruction and liturgies whereby adults, those unbaptized and those baptized in other Christian denominations, are formally admitted into the Church and receive the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism for those not already baptized, Confirmation and Eucharist.

During the course of RCIA, individuals follow a spiritual journey of 'steps' accomplished through defined periods punctuated with formal rites. The first period is that of inquiry (pre-catechumenate) where inquirers find out about the faith and receive evangelization.

This period ends with the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens where inquirers are formally introduced to the parish community. The unbaptized

are now called catechumens; those already baptized are called candidates. This Rite of Acceptance then begins the period of the catechumenate, during which the catechumens and candidates receive further instruction and faith sharing.

The Rite of Election is the last liturgical ceremony before the Easter Vigil. At this rite, upon the testimony of sponsors and catechists, and the catechumens' affirmation of their intention to join the Church, the Church makes its 'election' of the catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. In the presence of the bishop they inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect at the cathedral as a pledge of fidelity. Now the catechumens are called 'the elect' and begin a period of purification and enlightenment—the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. The candidates, those already baptized, are acknowledged and presented to the bishop and the congregation.

On the next five Sundays of Lent, three scrutinies (rites for self-searching and repentance) and the presentations of the **Creed** and **Lord's Prayer** take place. This period concludes with the celebration of the



Bob Foley

Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

After the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized and confirmed members of the Church are called neophytes and they enter the period of post baptismal catechesis or mystagogy. The neophytes grow in their understanding of the mysteries of the faith and strengthen their bonding with the rest of the faithful. They should enter more fully into the life and unity of the Church. This period ends at Pentecost.

RCIA is a spiritually moving process beneficial to the whole parish community. As the celebration of Easter draws closer, let us pray in particular for those elect who will be entering parish communities as full members this Easter.

Diocese of St. Catharines



Day of Reflection for Women

on the

GIFT OF HOPE

with

Dr. Josephine Lombardi

Saturday June 22, 2019

9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Gethsemane Centre, Wellandport

84008 Wellandport Road, Wellandport

Lunch provided

(Free Will Offering)

Registration Information:

Contact Rose Marie

Office of Religious Education

905-684-0154 x207 or offreled@saintcd.com

LOMBARDI TO SPEAK AT DAY OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN



Dr. Josephine Lombardi

Dr. Josephine Lombardi is assistant professor of Pastoral & Systematic Theology and director of Lay Formation, professor of Field Education, St. Augustine Seminary, Scarborough, Ontario. She is the author of a number of books and articles.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



Some of the guests at the Ecumenical Prayer Service for the 2019 Week of **Prayer for Christian Unity** are seen here with Bishop Gerard Bergie: (l-r) Deacon Jerzy and Danuta Wagner, St. Alfred Parish; Medhat Ibrahim and Fr. Antonius Samaan, St. George & St. Mercurius Coptic Orthodox Church; Rev. Cherie Inksette, St. Giles Presbyterian Church.

by **DEACON MAURICE PRINDIVLLE**

A small but committed group, representing a number of Christian faith traditions, gathered on a snowy Sunday January 20, 2019, with Bishop Gerard Bergie at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines, for an ecumenical prayer service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme of the week of study, prayer, dialogue and action was: "Justice, only justice shall you pursue." (*Deuteronomy 16:20*)

The prayer service focused on moving from words of justice to concrete actions for justice. Those attending the service made a commitment to perform a specific act of personal justice and also committed to praying

specifically for one of the others' personal commitment; such prayer is fundamental to ecumenical efforts.

Bishop Bergie's remarks on the readings and themes began and ended with comments on the Letter to the Romans. (12:1-13) We are one body made up of many diverse parts. These parts are unique and each has particular gifts. We do not seek uniformity of the parts – but for these parts to work powerfully together: to act together and to pray together. He expressed the sadness we feel at the lack of unity among so many expressions of faith in Jesus Christ and urged everyone to work and pray for greater unity.

Bishop Bergie pointed to how in the gospel (*Luke 4:14-21*) Jesus calls us to work for justice. Jesus, reading from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, instructs

us, together "...to bring good news to the poor; ...to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Working together against injustice in the world unites the Body of Christ.

Bishop Bergie returned to the Letter to the Romans (12:9) quoting these words, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord." He concluded saying, "If we did these things, we would be acting with justice."

This celebration reminds us that the most important thing that we can do is to pray for Christian Unity.

POPE VISITS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

by **BISHOP GERARD BERGIE**

It is easy to become discouraged. This is especially true when we look at the state of our world today. There seems to be more division, animosity, anger and far less trust, respect and co-operation between individuals and nations. That is why when something positive happens it is always welcome news.

Pope Francis has just completed a historic three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (February 3-5, 2019). This is the first time that a pope has travelled to the Arabian Peninsula. The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, invited the pope to inaugurate a national **Year of Tolerance**. This visit is a very significant step forward in the Christian-Muslim dialogue.

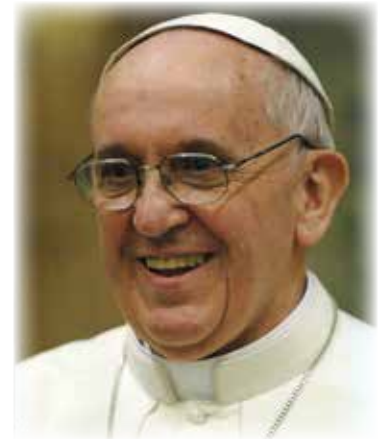
On the final day of the trip Pope Francis met with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb. He is a Muslim scholar, former university president and is considered to be one of the highest authorities in Sunni Islam. They signed a statement entitled **A Document on Human Fraternity For World Peace and Living Together**.

This is very significant because these two religious leaders pledged to work together in perpetuity and to reject violence and radicalism. In the declaration they highlight the fact that despite the diversity of cultures and traditions, the Christian and Islamic world appreciate and protect common values: life, family, religious sense, honour for the elderly, the education of young people, safeguarding creation and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need.

It is addressed to all persons, both religious and non-religious, and extends to them an invitation to work together to help advance a culture of mutual respect. War, hatred and extremism can be overcome if we promote the values of mutual understanding, human fraternity and harmonious co-existence.

The document acknowledges that religion has at times been a source of conflict; however, it can also be a source of peace and harmony when people of faith work together.

"We thus call upon all concerned to stop using religions to incite hatred, violence, extremism and blind fanaticism and to refrain from using the name of God to justify acts of murder, exile, terrorism and oppression... These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings. They result from a political manipulation of religions and from interpretations made by religious groups who, in the



Pope Francis

course of history, have taken advantage of the power of religious sentiment in the hearts of men and women in order to make them act in a way that has nothing to do with the truth of religion."

The document invites all people of the world to work together to overcome division and extremism through tolerance.

"Through this document we call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace... We call upon intellectuals, philosophers, religious figures, artists, media professionals and men and women of culture in every part of the world, to rediscover the values of peace, justice, goodness, beauty, human fraternity and co-existence in order to confirm the importance of these values as anchors of salvation for all and to promote them everywhere."

The document has raised some controversy because of a statement that seems to imply that God willed that there be a diversity of religions. The declaration states, "The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in his wisdom, through which he created human beings."

A proper interpretation of this statement would be that God permits the diversity of religions (permissive will of God) because this is the result of the natural desire found in the human person to know God. God would not will division because this would deny the supernatural good of one true religion. This is the desire of God (active will) that we all be one (*John 17:21*).

Pope Francis has stated that it is his hope and prayer that **A Document on Human Fraternity For World Peace and Living Together** will be like scattered seed that will eventually bear much fruit in the dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

It is not a long document and is well worth the read. What was once unthinkable has taken place. This small step is indeed encouraging and offers hope.

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

John 17:20-22



YOU ASKED CATHOLIC MARRIAGE Q & A



Margaret Jong
by MARGARET JONG

Why do Catholic weddings have to take place in a church?

For Catholics, marriage is not just a social or private family event, but a Church event and so Catholics are bound to observe “canonical form” for marriage. When they marry, a man and woman enter a new, public state of life and the public—especially their faith community—has an interest in witnessing and supporting them. For this reason, the Church prefers that marriages between Catholics, or between Catholics and other Christians, be celebrated in the parish church of one of the spouses. In particular cases, the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another place of regular worship.

Is there a difference between a valid marriage and a sacramental marriage?

Yes, there is a difference. A marriage between a baptized Christian and unbaptized person, or a marriage between two unbaptized spouses, is presumed to be valid (binding according to canon law) but it is not sacramental. When a marriage is between two baptized persons, it is valid and also sacramental. The sacrament of marriage confers a grace to strengthen the couple’s indissoluble unity so that they may “...help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating children. (*Lumen Gentium* 11§2)

If a Catholic wants to marry a non-Catholic or an unbaptized person, how can they assure that the marriage is recognized by the Church?

The Catholic party should speak with his/her parish priest. On the Catholic party’s behalf, the priest would assist with the necessary paperwork, and request permission or dispensation from the local bishop for the marriage to take place. This permission is a kind of pastoral safeguard since inter-faith or mixed

marriages may require more careful discernment on the part of the engaged parties. The permission/dispensation is readily granted, provided the Catholic party promises to do all in his/her power in the circumstances of the marriage, to raise any children in the Catholic faith. In these cases, a dispensation may also be granted for the marriage to take place outside of the Catholic Church.

Are weddings permitted on Sundays or during Lent?

In the Diocese of St. Catharines, weddings can be celebrated most days of the year, except on Sundays or during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter).

If two Catholics, or a Catholic and non-Catholic decide to marry in a non-religious setting, can a priest or deacon witness the marriage?

No. Catholic clergy are not permitted to officiate at any civil union/marriage that would not be valid in the Catholic Church. Catholic clergy cannot officiate at any marriage that would not be recognized by civil law without the permission of the local Ordinary. (c. 1071)

Is a couple allowed to prepare their own marriage vows?

No. The content of the marriage vows is for the validity of the act of entering marriage and so the given wording and formula is to be carefully observed. There are opportunities elsewhere in the ceremony for the couple to have creative input.

If a couple wants to have their civil marriage recognized by the Catholic Church, what can they do?

In this situation, the couple should speak with the parish priest. If both parties are free to marry, that is, they are not bound by any prior marriage to another person, the priest will be able to proceed with a convalidation of the civil union. This would usually include a renewal of vows before the priest or deacon, with two witnesses present. It would be the choice of the couple if this renewal was done with simplicity or with a more public celebration including families and friends. If either

party was previously married, the priest will offer direction on how to proceed.

For a child to be baptized, do the parents have to be in a valid marriage?

No. The marital status of the parents is not a factor that would prevent a child’s baptism. What is required is that at least one of the parents (or guardians) is a baptized Catholic, and that there is a founded hope that the child will be raised in the Catholic faith. To determine this ‘founded hope’, when someone asks to have a child baptized, the priest or deacon would likely inquire about the parents’ marital status and faith practice, and offer encouragement and guidance as appropriate. A couple should never be pressured to marry as a condition to have their child baptized—the baptism would be valid, but a marriage entered without freedom or under duress, could be invalid.

Margaret is vice-chancellor for the Diocese of St. Catharines.

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

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 for information and registration.

VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

Diocesan Catholic Centre, Thorold

Saturday March 30, 2019

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For anyone interested in becoming a children’s catechist, volunteering for Vacation Bible School, Children’s Liturgy or Sacramental Preparation of school age children

For information contact Family & Life Youth Office familyandyouth@saintcd.com or 905-684-0154 x 209

FIRST FRIDAY WITH BISHOP O’MARA



Bishop John O’Mara, bishop emeritus, Diocese of St. Catharines, with the group of young Catholics at a recent First Friday gathering held at the Diocesan Catholic Centre, Thorold, (l-r) Larissa McMaster, Jessica Soul, Craig Lundy, Clark & Andrea Piller, Bishop John O’Mara, Krista Wood, Nic Botero Medellin, Kevin Kim, Ann Nguyen.

by TERRI PAUCO

On February 1, 2019, at the monthly First Friday gathering held at the Diocesan Catholic Centre, Thorold, young adults from across the diocese learned firsthand about accompaniment from Bishop John O’Mara, bishop emeritus, Diocese of St. Catharines.

After enjoying a meal with them, Bishop O’Mara shared his personal experiences and lasting memories from Vatican

Council II, the ecumenical council that was called by Pope John XXIII to bring the church up to date. Bishop O’Mara was in attendance at three of the four sessions—1962, 1963, 1964—as a ‘periti’ or ‘expert’, accompanying the contingent of Canadian bishops. He served as the personal secretary to James Cardinal McGuigan, who at the council’s start, was archbishop of Toronto.

Throughout the evening Bishop O’Mara fielded many

questions and celebrated Mass with the group. His wisdom and wit made a lasting impression and memorable experience for those in attendance.

All 18-39 year old Catholics are invited to attend First Friday. It begins at 6 p.m. with a meal and the evening is focused on fellowship, faith-filled discussions and prayer. For information call 905-684-0154 #209 or visit Events @DioceseofStCatharines facebook page.



LIFE MATTERS

A STEP TOO FAR?



William Mathie

by WILLIAM MATHIE

For several years Canada's federal government has offered taxpayer-funded grants to organizations employing students under its Canada Summer Jobs program. Over 70,000 jobs were funded in 2017.

In December 2017 the current government announced that only organizations willing to 'attest' that they agreed with Trudeau's own belief that Canada's Charter guarantees an unlimited right to abortion would be eligible under the jobs program. Many religious and non-religious organizations protested against this use of government funds to discriminate against organizations that have moral objections to abortion or to compel those organizations to violate their conscience. Some have gone to court to argue that the government's policy itself undermines the freedom of conscience and freedom of expression guaranteed by Canada's Charter.

In revising the rules for the jobs program for 2019, the government seemed to acknowledge that it had gone too far in attacking the beliefs of Canadians who object to abortion. Under the program's new rules, organizations no longer have to 'attest' their

support for unlimited abortion.

But they are required to promise that any funding received will not be used "...to undermine or restrict the exercise of rights legally protected in Canada." Projects that "...actively work to undermine or restrict a woman's access to sexual and reproductive services," are declared ineligible for funding.

What does the new rule mean? Does it mean that an organization need not say it agrees with the government's abortion policy, but may not do, or even say, anything in support of its belief?

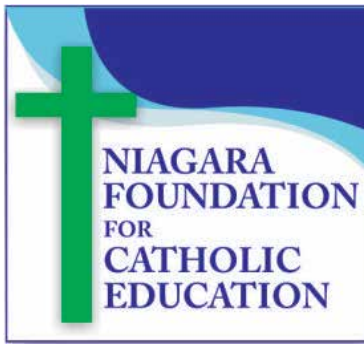
On this reading, the new requirements still violate the freedom of conscience and expression guaranteed by the Charter.

Some Canadian pro-life organizations intend to test this question by applying for funding to hire students under the jobs program. They point out that the supreme court, in its Morgentaler decision, did not make unlimited access to abortion a Charter right, nor say that parliament could never make a law that was both constitutional and restricted abortion.

They also point out that an organization that seeks to inform women of the scientific facts about prenatal life does not "...undermine or restrict their access to sexual and reproductive services." Nor does it restrict anyone's access to abortion to identify the help that is available for those looking for an alternative to abortion.

Whether those who judge applications for student job grants will proceed fairly remains to be seen. What is clear is that the defence of life is also the defence of truth.

NHL LEGEND TO ATTEND NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION'S ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA



by JIM MARINO

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education's Annual Benefit Gala being held March 30, 2019, at Club Roma, St. Catharines, will have a special after dinner speaker who is a big favourite of many sport's enthusiasts in the

Niagara region.

National Hockey League legend and 1972 Team Canada member Pat Stapleton, has a warm personality and sense of humour that is much appreciated by sports fans who have had the opportunity to meet him in his previous visits to the area. His presence at the Benefit Gala will be a welcome addition to what is already a very pleasant evening with excellent cuisine.

Bishop Gerard Bergie is the honorary guest for the annual charity fundraiser that is also the venue for the Niagara Catholic District School Board's **Award of Distinction**.

The evening starts at 5:30 p.m. with a sumptuous

antipasto bar and cash bar cocktail reception, followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$80 each which includes one complimentary drink per person and 2 bottles of wine on each table during dinner.

Tickets can be purchased online, individually or by table at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and sent to Sherry Morena, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario, L3C 7C1. A \$30 tax receipt per ticket will be issued upon request.

Further information at 905-735-0240 x 213 or foundationgala@nfce.com

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education's

Annual Benefit Gala

with honorary guest,
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines

Supporting students in need and scholarships

Saturday, March 30, 2019
Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON

5:30 p.m. Antipasto Bar
7:00 p.m. Dinner

After Dinner Speaker, Pat Stapleton
NHL Legend & Team Canada 72 Member

Complimentary drink ticket per person & 2 bottles of wine per table
~ Cash Bar ~
Silent Auction ~ 50/50 Draw ~ Raffle
Wine Tasting Compliments of Arterra Wines Canada

Tickets - \$80 each

Tickets can be purchased online at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education** (\$30 Tax receipt available upon request)

Tickets must be purchased by March 25, 2019

Send your cheque and ticket information to Sherry Morena, Corporate Services & Communications, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd, Welland ON L3C 7C1. For further information call 905-735-0240 Ext 213 or email foundationgala@nfce.com

Name _____ # of Tickets _____ Payment \$ _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Payment Options

Annual Diocesan Respect for Life Mass

Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

Monday March 25, 2019, 7 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

Presider: Bishop Gerard Bergie

Catholic Women's League,
Knights of Columbus,
Daughters of Isabella and other groups
are invited to send representatives
and carry banners in the procession

Reception to follow in the parish hall
hosted by the diocesan CWL

Information: Elise & William Mathie 905-684-7569
Diocesan Respect for Life Committee

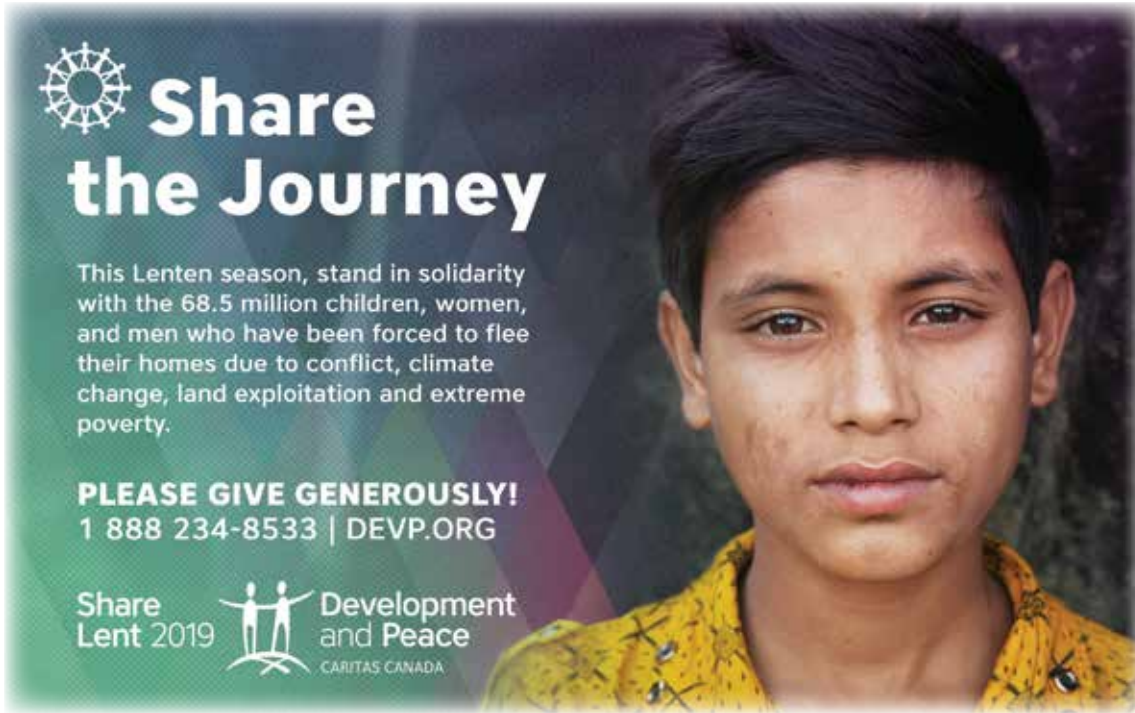
March for Life

May 9 & 10, 2019
Ottawa, Ontario

For information:
St. Catharines Right to Life
905-684-7505
Welland / Port Colborne Pro-Life
905-714-0547
or visit ChooseLife.ca



SHARE LENT



D & P SUPPORTS ROHINGYA CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH

by LEONE STRILEC

“Faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.” (Pope Francis, May 18, 2013)

As Catholics, we recognize that Lent is a sacred time. It is a time to connect with ourselves, our loved ones, our neighbours, our community, and with God. It is a time that offers the opportunity to deepen and enrich our faith.

It is in solidarity with the 68.5 million displaced men, women and children of the world, that Development & Peace - Caritas Canada, invites all to embark on a journey of faith, love and hope. To share the journey with those whose lives have been affected by forced migration.

The first step on the journey of encounter is listening to the migration stories. This culture of encounter requires us to hold a deep commitment to reach out to others, to listen to them and to give a little of ourselves.

Development & Peace - Caritas Canada supports partners in 37 countries whose projects directly impact 19 million people. One of these partners is Caritas Bangladesh. Since August 2017 more than 850,000 Rohingya children, women and men have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence and persecution. Caritas Bangladesh responded immediately and built emergency shelters, safe latrines and showers for women and girls, and clean water stations. In addition, they distributed hygiene kits and provided instruction on staying safe in the refugee camps.

Shominara, an 11-year-



Shominara, an 11-year-old Rohingya refugee.

old Rohingya refugee, shares her story of flight. “It took us 4-5 days to get here from Burma. We brought some snacks with us for the road and that’s what we ate for several days. At night we hid in the forest. We drank a bit of water when we were thirsty if we found some in the forest. We suffered a lot to get here.”

As we become fellow travellers with our sisters and brothers who have had to flee their homes, we can be the force that transforms words of hatred and fear into messages of love and compassion.

In February 2019, members of Development & Peace, Star of the Sea, St. Catharines, organized a meeting with Chris Bittle, MP for St. Catharines. Topics discussed included more financial support to address the root causes of forced migration and aid grassroots organizations working in the global south.

The meeting concluded with gratitude for the encounter with hopes it becomes an annual tradition.

This year at Share Lent, please give generously to aid Development & Peace - Caritas Canada in their continued support of children like Shominara. To continue the culture of encounter and to read stories of forced migrants go to

www.devp.org/en

TESTED AND APPROVED FUNDRAISING IDEAS

When we encounter our brothers and sisters in the global south through their stories, we want to help. Where do we start? Committed members of Development & Peace - Caritas Canada across the country have used many fun and easy ways to raise money. Here are some of them.

SHARE YEAR-ROUND

“My passion for Development & Peace has been concentrated on the **Share Lent** campaign, with a particular focus on the monthly donor program, Share Year-Round, which I actively promote. While in university, I started giving \$5 a month and each year since then, I have increased my monthly donation by one dollar. The money is taken directly from my bank account and I don’t even notice it - but they do; it makes a big difference for vulnerable communities in the global south.” –Desiree Nelson, member since 2006, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

WALK AND FUNDRAISE

Pilgrimage is a long tradition with the schools of the NCDSB, where every October the secondary schools raise money for our sisters and brothers in the global south. It doesn’t matter if the walk is short or long, walking in solidarity with the forced migrants of the world helps to share the journey.

ThinkFast

Fasting is a spiritual practice and a way to stand in solidarity with the poor, hungry and oppressed. It is also a part of Catholic tradition. **ThinkFast** is an inter-active learning experience geared to youth who are passionate about social justice. An Organizer Toolkit can be found at devp.org/thinkfast.

SCREENING EVENTS

Showing a film, like *After the Storm: Building the Pope Francis Village*, followed by food and fellowship is another great way to generate funds and interest in helping Development & Peace.

USED STAMPS

Did you know that every year members of Development & Peace who are philatelists organize used stamp sales to raise money for D & P? To date they have raised more than \$500,000. To participate, cut the stamps from envelopes without damaging perforations and send them to: Development & Peace STAMP PROJECT, 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3rd Floor, Montreal, Québec, H3G 1T7.

OTHER IDEAS

Across the country, Development & Peace members have generated funds through benefit concerts, Mason jar soup sales, Lenten soup and bun meals, box lunch auctions, etc. Anything that brings together the community in a fun-learning environment can work. Brainstorming with your community could inspire new and wonderful ideas. Good Luck!

CATHOLIC BISHOPS RELEASE D & P FUNDS

The Bishops of Canada and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP) continue to dialogue regarding the issue of ensuring that the moral stance of all CCODP partners is in conformity with Catholic moral and social teachings. Significant progress has been made in this area over the last number of months. CCODP and the Bishops of Canada are working together to create a robust partnership policy that will help to avoid problems in the future. Assurance has been given that no money collected from the Lenten Development & Peace Solidarity Sunday collection will be used to support any project or partnership that is currently being questioned regarding adherence to Catholic moral and social teaching.

The Diocese of St. Catharines continues to support CCODP and the 2019 Lenten Development & Peace Solidarity Sunday collection.



D & P YOUTH UPDATE

by LEONE STRILEC

Many youth in the diocese participated in Development & Peace activities this fall.

At the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference, held in Niagara Falls, a workshop on charity vs justice was delivered. Students from around the province had a chance to participate in **Prescription**, a **ThinkFast** activity created to encourage them to examine illnesses related to poverty.

In small groups they discussed solutions and then evaluated these solutions. Each student was encouraged to think beyond the immediate solutions provided by charity to the long term, permanent solutions provided by justice initiatives. Charity and justice represent the two feet of social justice that is at the heart of the mission of Development & Peace - Caritas Canada.

The annual high school education workshop put on for students of the Niagara Catholic District School Board was held at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold, in November 2018. Development and Peace - Caritas Canada theme of **Share the Journey** was explored. Students participated in an activity called 'Forced to Flee' where they were faced with the choices, decisions and consequences of people who have no choice but to leave their homes and/or their country.

In addition, they viewed videos of students telling stories of forced migration. Seeing other Ontario students and hearing their stories had an



Jennifer Pothier at the Wellness Fair held at Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Catharines.

emotional impact on the group. Students were encouraged to share what they had learned upon return to their respective high schools.

Development & Peace - Caritas Canada was represented at two events at Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Catharines. At the Wellness Fair, the value of

volunteering was highlighted. Emphasis was placed on the various employment opportunities available when working for a non-governmental organization.

At both events, students had a chance to hear more about Development & Peace - Caritas Canada and how they could put their faith into action.

*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*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Development & Peace - Caritas Canada Ontario Regional Assembly 2019

Host: Diocese of St. Catharines

Location: Niagara College, Welland Campus

Dates: Friday May 3,

mid-afternoon registration
to Sunday May 5, 12noon

If interested in volunteering and/or would like to attend the assembly,
contact Leone Strilec at iltld220@gmail.com

SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY

In the global south, the partners of Development & Peace – Caritas Canada stand side by side with people forced to flee their homes. These projects are designed to make their voices heard, to provide emergency assistance to displaced communities and host communities, or to fight against the root causes of forced migration.

These Symbols of Solidarity reflect the path travelled by displaced persons and the work done by Development & Peace partners:

A pair of old shoes to symbolize the road travelled by forced migrants.

A backpack to symbolize the precarious situation of forced migrants.

A lifejacket to symbolize the dangers and difficulties faced by forced migrants during their journey.

A dish to be shared (hummus & crackers or a fruit platter) to symbolize the culture of encounter and the connections between forced migrants and members of their host community.

"Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season."

Pope Francis 2018

BLD COMMUNITY EVANGELIZES FAMILIES

The BLD (Open in Spirit to God) Community is a global Catholic charismatic group of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit to be living witnesses for transformation in Christ to bring about a world of justice, human development and true peace. Programs include evangelizing families and building communities of faith through encounters, seminars and discipleship formation.

Some up-coming events are:

YOUTH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS 2019

Friday Sessions

Cathedral of St. Catherine, St. Catharines
March 15 & 22 8 – 10 p.m.

Weekend Session

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold
March 23 & 24

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

On-line registration at <https://goo.gl/K3cdSz>

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER 2019

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold

Friday Session

May 24 Begins 7 p.m.

Weekend Session

May 25 & 26 Begins 8 a.m.

On-line registration at <https://goo.gl/N6Lwki>



SENIOR MATTERS

CURSIVE WRITING, THE LOSS OF A SKILL



Patricia Waters

by PATRICIA WATERS

An issue of The Atlantic magazine recently offered a story titled 'How handwriting builds character', with the opening line boldly suggesting, "Learning handwriting may be good for the brain." The article was a reaction to a recent Indiana state decision to abolish mandatory cursive handwriting instruction.

Think of a time recently when you have written something by hand. Perhaps it was a note to a friend, a journal entry or even a grocery list. If you are of a certain age you probably wrote something today, or yesterday for sure, but if you are a young person in elementary or even secondary school, the answer may be not very recently, or maybe never.

In Ontario, cursive handwriting may be introduced to students but is not mandatory. Currently, cursive writing is only one of the suggested ways to publish and share writing, which can include print, script, different fonts and graphics. In an age when digital literacy matters more than good penmanship, it's now up to individual teachers to decide whether-or-not they wish to teach cursive writing. Teachers are so busy with all the other curriculum requirements there is just not enough time in the day to teach it.

Cursive writing was historically associated with good character and virtue; it was widely taught in the 19th

century as "...a Christian ideal occasionally credited with disciplining the mind."

The use of cursive writing declined during the 20th century as people shifted to typewriters, then computers, and now to powerful smartphones. Proponents of the script believe there are many cognitive and academic benefits to handwriting. Brain scans reveal neural circuitry lighting up when children first print letters and then read them. The same effect is not apparent when letters are typed or traced.

Virginia Berninger, a psychologist at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, argues the case that it is not a point of either/or, but that there is a good case for teaching cursive handwriting and keyboarding skills. She said, "I think your cursive handwriting identifies you as much as your physical features do."

Not being able to write by hand also results in an inability to read handwriting. Many historic documents, even letters from long deceased relatives are often written in spindly looping text that would be indecipherable if not familiar with cursive writing. Consider the case of the young girl at the till in a restaurant. When handed the waitress's handwritten bill she had to get some one to read it for her. "I can't read writing," she said. "We didn't do it in school."

Some schools may already have, or are considering, cursive writing clubs or lunchtime cursive lessons for students who think it would be 'cool' to learn.

As grandparents, teaching grandchildren cursive writing might be a fun activity during a visit with grandma and grandpa. As a former elementary teacher who taught cursive writing, maybe it's one of those things where I'm old fashioned, but I believe students should know how to write in cursive.

THE ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE IN OUR DAILY LIFE

by DENNIS MALONE

We are bombarded daily with news stories and articles about the dire consequences of not taking immediate and drastic action to reduce CO2 emissions. Without doing so, global temperatures are predicted to rise 1-2° Celsius within the next decade. That will result in rising seawaters, severe coastal flooding, crop failures, mass human migration from drought stricken countries and severe weather events worldwide. We only have to consider that 17 of the 18 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000.

Although it does seem to be a frightening future, especially for our children, we carry on with the daily routine without considering the possibility that our lives might be seriously affected also. In fact, we are experiencing the effects of climate change in many ways in our own backyard. It is

predicted that the average annual temperature in Ontario could increase by about 3.3° Celsius above its 1986-2005 average.

We pride ourselves in living in the fruit basket of Canada but wild variations in temperatures in 2012, first mild in March then severe frost two months later, resulted in an 80% loss of the apple harvest. Grape crops, especially certain varieties like Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc, were seriously damaged by extreme cold in 2014.

Ice coverage on the great lakes has declined between 19-42% since 1970, resulting in a much shorter ice fishing season. Plus the warming stream and lake waters affect the habitat of lake trout and brook trout that are sensitive to slight increases in water temperature. Milder winters and hotter summers produce favourable conditions for the spread of mosquito and tick-borne diseases, like Lyme



Dennis Malone

disease and West Nile virus.

So climate change is not something that just threatens someone else in far off lands. It very much has a direct impact on this area. It doesn't happen overnight but we will experience the growing effects on an incremental basis. It is important to remember this as we go about our daily lives and make consumer choices that directly affect our carbon footprint.

IN MEMORIAM



Deacon Robert (Bob) Wood died February 18, 2019, at age 79. He is survived by his wife, Pirjo, children Erin (Brian), Rob (Laura), Cait (Jeff), stepchildren Laureen (Dave) and Patrick, as well as several grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

He attained his education in Welland at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Notre Dame College School and Niagara College. He was a sergeant in the military and in civilian life he was employed as a social worker.

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of St. Catharines in May 2008 by Bishop James Wingle. He was assigned as deacon to St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catharines, and his ministry was at the Niagara Detention Centre, Thorold.

His funeral was held February 22 at St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catharines. In his homily Deacon Jack Giroux said: "You know, today all of our hearts are heavy and burdened with grief at the

passing of Deacon Bob, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a stepfather, a step grandfather and a dear close friend. There was no finer example of a genuine man who loved his family.

"At no time did Deacon Bob ever feel sorry for himself. Whether visiting face-to-face in hospital or talking on the phone he never complained about his situation. He'd simply say, 'It is what it is; we can't change it. We accept it as best we can and keep moving ahead.'

"During one visit I asked him what he really missed and he said—being an active deacon and doing his ministry at the Detention Centre. He loved and missed his ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas. The parish support here is really special and he was grateful to share over 10 years with all of you.

"Though death has taken Deacon Bob from us, it is through each of us that his memory will live on.

May he rest in peace.

Holy Cross Cemetery

Operated by the Diocese of St. Catharines
50 Woodlawn Road, Welland.

We offer a comforting atmosphere in which our Catholic faith is celebrated and love for family and friends is remembered. A selection of burial services is available including ground burial, cremation and above ground cremation placement.

For further information call: 905-734-4172

My child, help your father in his old age,
and do not grieve him as long as he lives;
even if his mind fails, be patient with him;
because you have all your faculties do not despise him.
For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
and will be credited to you against your sins;
in the day of your distress it will be remembered in your favour;
like frost in fair weather, your sins will melt away.
Sirach 3:12-15



ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED IN THE NIAGARA AREA

NOVEMBER 2018 – MARCH 31, 2019

Out of the Cold – St. Catharines

November 2018 – March 31, 2019
Hot meal 6 p.m.

Meals

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

Overnights

- Sunday:** Silver Spire United Church
366 St. Paul Street
 - Monday:** Robertson Hall
85 Church Street
 - Tuesday:** Queen St. Baptist Church
57 Queen Street
 - Wednesday:** Robertson Hall
85 Church Street
 - Thursday:** Robertson Hall
85 Church Street
 - Friday:** St. Barnabas Anglican Church
33 Queenston Street
 - Saturday:** Knox Presbyterian Church
53 Church Street
- Out of the Cold:** 905-984-5310 ext. 103

Harvest Kitchen – Welland

November 2018 – March 31, 2019
Hot meal (no overnight)
905-788-0744

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Sunday: 5 p.m.
Central United Church
12 Young Street</p> <p>Monday: 5:30 p.m.
Sacré-Coeur Catholic Church
72 Empire Street</p> <p>Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
(except Jan. 29)
Hope Centre
570 King Street</p> <p>Wednesday: 5 p.m.
St. Kevin Catholic Church
307 Niagara Street</p> | <p>Thursdays: 5 p.m.
1st Thursday
Hope Centre,
570 King Street</p> <p>2nd Thursday
Southridge Church
414 River Road</p> <p>3rd Thursday
Holy Trinity Anglican
Market Square (use back door)</p> <p>4th & 5th Thursdays
Sts. Peter & Paul R.C. Church
300 Chaffey Street</p> <p>Friday: 5 p.m. (3rd & 4th)
Southridge Church,
414 River Road</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Emergency Shelter – 905-714-5007

Niagara Falls Community Outreach

(Soup Kitchen & Emergency Shelter)
November 2018 – March 31, 2019
Lawrence Avenue Christ Church
Dinner 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- 1st Sunday:** St. John Anglican
- 2nd Sunday:** Fallsview Brethren in Christ
- 3rd Sunday:** Holy Trinity Anglican
- 4th Sunday:** Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints
- 5th Sunday:** Ecumenical Partners
- Monday:** Glengate Alliance Church
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of the Scapular Catholic Church
- Wednesday:** Saint Paul Catholic High School
- Thursday:** Dutch Reform Church & Stamford Lane United
- Friday:** St. Michael Catholic & Stamford High Schools
- Saturday:** St. Andrew United Church

Niagara Falls Community Outreach: 905-354-1640

ROBERT WOOD SINGERS

St. Alfred Parish
272 Vine Street, St. Catharines
March 22, 2019
7:30 p.m.

Fundraiser for

Niagara Warehouse of Hope

Cost: \$15
Contact: 905-933-5919 or
adaboland@gmail.com

Established in 1989, **Warehouse of Hope**
collects, prepares and ships goods in sea containers to
Haiti, Uganda, Nigeria & Philippines



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Launches “The North of 60” Project

by **SHELLEY GILBERT**

The “North of 60” Project was truly a labour of love. From the very beginning the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences were excited to be able to help the people of Naujaat, Nunavut.

This past summer, St. Catharines Central Council, along with 20 conferences, were able to fill two sea containers with items that included hockey equipment, shelving and laptops.

They were fortunate to have other community groups and organizations join in their efforts—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. John the

Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. Francis Xavier Conference; Niagara Training and Employment Agency (NTEC); Mainstream; Catholic Women’s League; Knights of Columbus and knitting group from St. Mary, St. Catharines; Catholic elementary schools; and the Warehouse of Hope.

They were also blessed to have had help of local businesses—Bird’s Moving & Storage; E.D. Smith; Post; Crayola; Hilroy; Home Hardware (Grantham Plaza); Mark’s No Frills; as well as generous private donations.

The City of St. Catharines kindly provided pins while St. Ann Youth Group, Fenwick, provided pen pal letters and St.

Theresa Catholic Elementary School, St. Catharines, provided greeting cards. A binder of information was created about churches and conferences in the area and the students from St. Francis Catholic Secondary School, St. Catharines, painted bright and meaningful murals on the containers.

From the beginning to the end the team thoroughly enjoyed working to provide items that will benefit the people of Naujaat.

In summer 2019 the team will again be taking on this project and looking for donations. For information contact Shelley 905-329-8658 or Louise 905-684-4784.

YOUR 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

The Vincent’s Thrift Store at 5970 Lundy’s Lane, Niagara Falls, is part of the five St. Vincent de Paul Society stores in the Diocese of St. Catharines serving the needs of the community.

The Niagara Falls store is in need of volunteers and would like to hear from you if you have 2-4 hours per week to spare.

There are a variety of jobs to do and wonderful people to work with. As well as serving customers, activities may include sorting the donations of clothes, jewelry and household articles as well as cleaning, stocking and organizing items on shelves.

A person with a truck who is willing to pick up and/or drop off items from time-to-time would also be welcome.

Volunteer opportunities are open to persons of all ages and hours can be adjusted to suit schedules.

Contact Andrea at 289-296-3807 for volunteer information.



ANALOGY OF THE CELLPHONE

by DEACON GEORGE NEWMAN

Recently while our pastor was away, he assigned me to preach at the Confirmation retreat for the local Catholic Grade 8 students at Our Lady of Grace Retreat Centre in Ridgeway. Fr. Aji Verghese was going to say Mass and I was going to preach.

Since I had never preached to a group of young people before, I was a bit nervous. The evening before we went to Ridgeway, I was presiding at Adoration and Benediction at the parish, and as I sat there mulling over what I would say to the students, I was watching the smoke from the incense rise from the thurible.

As I reflected on the Old Testament saying that the smoke from the incense was rising to heaven like our prayers, I suddenly had an inspiration... use the analogy of the cellphone! As I pondered over what this might mean, it became clear what was going to be my message.

The next evening we went to Ridgeway and met the students and teachers. This was

the closing Mass and dinner for the retreat and parents were invited to participate.

After reading the gospel I began my homily by asking, "How many of you have a cellphone?" Many hands went up. I continued, "What do you do with your cellphone at the end of the day?" Hands went up and I asked one student, who replied, "You plug it in."

"Correct, and why do you plug it in," I asked. Other hands went up. One young lady said, "If you do not plug it in, it will die overnight and you will not be able to use it the next day".

"Correct" I answered.

Proceeding with the homily I continued, "Do you know that God installed a cellphone in your heart at your Baptism, and that cellphone has apps already on it that allow you to contact God anytime you wish? Whenever you need help, or want to pray, you just tap the app and God answers, "Hello Johnny. This is God, how can I help you?"

"Now as you approach Confirmation you will be given another set of apps. These ones you already know about, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of



Deacon George Newman

Right Judgement and Courage, the Spirit of Knowledge and Reverence, the Spirit of Holy Fear in God's Presence. Each of these apps will help you on your journey through life and you never need to worry about plugging in. Every-time you call God, the cellphone will recharge and the more you use it the stronger the signal will become."

A few weeks later Bishop Gerard Bergie confirmed the students. I hope they remember to use God's cellphone often.

Deacon Newman retired in 2007 as director of the Permanent Diaconate, Diocese of St. Catharines.

17TH ANNUAL SOUP'SON! BREAKS RECORD

by JOE BARKOVICH

Soup lovers showed up in record number for the 17th annual **Soup'sOn!** at St. Kevin, Welland, January 25, 2019.

Maybe it was the menu. Maybe it was the crisp, cold morning. Maybe it was the opportunity to savour soup and break bread with friends. Maybe it was all three working together that brought them there.

Just over 400 diners showed up for the servings, at 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m. It is the first time ever the 400-mark was surpassed and was the event's 17th consecutive sell-out.

"I'm here just because I love soup," said Monique Leonard, Welland, who was at her 'fourth or fifth' **Soup'sOn!** "We bought our tickets for this right after they went on sale. The soups here are always so good."

Seven soups were on the menu. They were prepared by teams from École secondaire Confédération, Eastdale, Lakeshore Catholic and Notre Dame secondary schools, as well as Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute and a local small business, The Lunch Lady, Stephanie Menicanin.

"I think this year's event was one of the best yet. I brought our newest team member, who recently relocated to our region, and it provided her with a great taste of Niagara—she loved it," said Michael Wales, Niagara College's manager of communications and a long-time **Soup'sOn!** attendee. "I think **Soup'sOn!** is a great opportunity for the students to



The soup preparation team from Notre Dame College School, Welland, show some of the ingredients that went into their soup (Mexican Pozole) at the annual **Soup'sOn!** fundraiser held January 25, 2019, at St. Kevin, Welland. Front row (l-r) Sophia D'Agostino, Tyler Errington, Aidan DeChellis, Alex Pamerleau and Kaityln Muise. In the background giving the thumbs up sign is chef instructor Nicholas Srbina.

put their skills and abilities to work in support of an important community initiative," he said.

After setting up his program's banner on stage, Eastdale chef instructor Roland Pouliot from Welland, said participating in the annual soup fundraiser has been a highlight of the culinary program at Eastdale for years.

"Along with showcasing soup specially prepared by the students for **Soup'sOn!** they gain valuable experience in a realistic setting that helps test them in interacting with the public and serving their product," he said.

And Joe 'Chef Pep' Fabiano, from Lakeshore Catholic, Port Colborne, said he looks forward to coming to **Soup'sOn!** year after year because it is an opportunity to take Lakeshore's culinary arts program to a high-profile venue and because he

enjoys the camaraderie with the other chefs.

Patrick Rothwell from St. Mary, Welland, walked past with three or four bowls of soup in the tray he was carrying and said, "Can't wait to try these." Mary Ellen DuPon, who was in Rothwell's party, said **Soup'sOn!** has become one of her favourite social events.

The soup luncheon is a fundraiser for social justice scholarships. Last June, four scholarships were presented to graduating students from Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Grimsby; E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Fonthill; École Secondaire Jean-Vanier and Notre Dame College School, Welland. Scholarship applications will be available at several schools in March.

Soup'sOn! is held the last Friday in January each year. Tickets go on sale in late November.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK: LIVING AS JOYFUL DISCIPLES

Catholic Education Week is held each year in the 29 Catholic school boards of Ontario. It will run from May 5 - May 10, 2019.



The theme, **Living as Joyful Disciples** was

inspired from three sources—**Renewing the Promise**, the pastoral letter on Catholic Education from the Bishops of Ontario; **Gaudete et exultate**, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the Call to Holiness; **Young People, the Faith & Vocational Discernment**, from the Synod of Bishops, October 2018.

The sub-themes for the week are—Rooted in Prayer; Living in Community; Doing Justice & Creating Hope; Journeying Together in Faith; Sharing the Good News.

The theme and sub-themes are very much directed to students, especially in their growth in holiness and their formation as disciples of Christ through the discernment of their vocational pathways.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYER

Loving God,
we thank you for our Catholic school community where we can journey in faith together.

Help us to accompany each other in learning as we grow,
living as joyful disciples of Jesus and bringing good news to the world.

May your love speak to our hearts,
helping us to bring hope to others and a commitment to justice in all we do.

We make this prayer through Jesus,
our Lord and teacher.

Amen.

Friends of Carmel Fundraiser

TRIVIA DAY

Sunday March 31, 2019

Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre

7020 Stanley Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Doors open: 1:00 p.m.
Trivia starts: 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (includes food)

Tickets available at
Mt. Carmel Monastery Store
or call Anna 905-558-3412

Trivia prizes; silent auction, door prizes

All proceeds towards Mt. Carmel renovations



COMING EVENTS

CWL Convention: The 2019 diocesan CWL convention will begin May 21 with Mass at St. Alfred, St. Catharines, 6:30 p.m. followed by an information session and reception with guest speaker Colleen Perry, president elect, Ontario Provincial Council. It continues May 22 at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Parkway Conference Centre, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines. Keynote speaker, Dr. Anne Jamieson will present the topic **A Recipe for Faith: Choosing & Using the Best Ingredients.** Cost: \$75 all day; \$50 banquet; \$35 luncheon. To register contact a council president.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: Join Fr. Krzysztof Szczepanik, St. Helen, Beamsville, on pilgrimage to the Holy Land September 29 – October 11, 2019. Bethlehem, Cana, Jerusalem and Elijah. Other points of interest will be visited as well as. For registration and information contact the parish office 905-562-7427.

ON-GOING

Bingo: St. Helen, Beamsville, will host a bingo every Thursday at the Royal Canadian Legion, 5545 King St. West (Hwy #8) at 11 a.m. There will be \$10 strip book packages and other special games available, a licensed bar and a \$1,000 cash prize each week. This is one of many fundraising activities planned to assist in reducing the debt incurred building the new St. Helen church.

Catholic Organization for Life & Family (COLF): The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has a section in its website to assist dioceses, parishes, movements and associations in a national initiative for **Building a Culture of Life & Family in Canada.** This follows the agreement by the CCCB that dioceses across Canada will implement the long-term pastoral initiative for life and family. The CCCB webpage also provides a link to the website of the **Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF)**, to help visitors in accessing COLF resources. In addition, the CCCB has invited COLF to assist in developing CCCB resources for the pastoral initiative. Contact information - 2500 Don Reid Dr., Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 2J2, 613-241-9461, www.cccb.ca or www.colf.ca

Contemplative Prayer: Contemplative prayer groups meet bi-weekly at St. Alfred, St. Catharines, and St. Kevin, Welland. For information contact Brenda at 905-646-1995 or bcoleman@bell.net

Diocesan Separated & Divorced: This support group meets the 2nd & 4th Monday

THE BULLETIN BOARD

of the month (except holidays) 7 - 9 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls. For information contact Mt. Carmel 905-356-4113, Diocesan Catholic Centre 905-684-0154, or separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

Emotions Anonymous (EA): 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 are held Tuesdays at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, 7-8 p.m. For information contact Fr. Chris 905-356-4113 or www.emotionsanonymous.org

Franciscan Third Order Fraternity (ofs): Are you called to a Franciscan vocation? Attend a meeting for information. In the Welland area, meetings are held 1st Sunday of each month, St. Kevin, 2 p.m. Contact Louise Cowan, ofs, 905-732-4063; in the St. Catharines area, meetings are held 3rd Sunday of each month. Contact Leona Watson, ofs, 905-937-0227.

Hotel Dieu Shaver Gift Shop: The Hotel Dieu Shaver Rehab Auxiliary Gift Shop (905-685-1381 x 84361) offers spiritual items and unique giftware that includes jewelry, purses, seasonal gifts, pashmina scarves, photo frames, framed wall art, china pieces, vases, jewelry boxes, stuffed animals, etc. The stock changes regularly making it a wonderful place to shop for any family member. Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays 1-4 p.m.

Hotel Dieu Shaver Volunteers: The Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre has openings available for volunteers at the coffee shop, gift shop, Nevada ticket sales, bingo and Eucharistic ministry. Contact 905-685-1381 ext. 85302 or volunteer@hoteldieushaver.org

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 for information and registration.

Marriage Preparation: Engaged couples planning to be married in the Catholic church are expected to take a marriage preparation course or an Engaged Encounter weekend. Parishes have the 2019 schedule with information about dates and places or look online at www.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

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Shrine: Open year-round, 4706 Miller Road, Port Colborne, situated in a rustic wooded area providing a special place where people can gather to reflect or enjoy solitary prayer. From May-October the rosary is recited Thursday at 7 p.m. followed by Mass. The shrine has large grounds, a meeting room and gift shop; donations of gently used religious articles are gratefully appreciated. The facilities are available for retreats and gatherings. For information call Cathy Kruger 905-732-7479, Pauline Coutu 905-732-1907, Carmelle Dubé 905-788-9982 or visit www.rosaryshreniagara.com

Pasta Dinner: St. Alfred, St. Catharines, hosts a pasta dinner the 4th Wednesday of every month 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. Enjoy penne, meatballs, sausage, salad and roll; cost—adults \$11; children 10 years and under \$7. Eat in or take out. Tickets available at the door.

Prayer Group: The Padre Pio prayer group meets the 4th Friday of the month, January-August, at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Thorold. The celebration begins at 6 p.m. with the rosary followed by Mass. Everyone welcome.

Retrouvaille: 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, in strictest confidence, contact Joyce and Larry Webb 905-664-5212 or retrouvaille.hamilton@cogeco.ca

Spanish Mass: Held at St. Alfred, St. Catharines, 7:30 p.m. Saturday. For information call 905-934-9703.

Warehouse of Hope: Wanted—a few good men, for

a couple hours a month or so, to help fill containers of relief goods, mostly school desks, chairs, mattresses, or boxes and bags of small items. A tow motor assists with the heavy material and takes 2-3 hours to load a 40' container (about 12 containers a year). No long-term or regular commitment required—just a few hours, once in a while. Please consider volunteering. The perks? Nice people to work with, generous coffee breaks, and the satisfaction of helping the poorest of the poor. For information call 905-646-7237. If no one answers leave a name and number to get a call back.

Warehouse of Hope Recycling: The Niagara Warehouse of Hope is able to recycle used electronics, small appliances, stereos, TVs, computers and accessories (working or not). Bring items Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and place them in the drop-off house at the back of the warehouse building, 46 Broadway Ave, St. Catharines.

2019 ECOLOGY RETREAT

Jericho House

10845 Rathfon Road, Port Colborne
Wednesday July 24 (begins 5 p.m.)
Monday July 29 (ends 12 noon)

TEILHARD'S MYSTICISM:
SPIRALING INTO THE COSMIC CHRIST

Speaker: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD
Professor of Physics, Chestnut Hill College
Director: Interdisciplinary Honours Program
Director: Institute for Religion & Science
Editor: Teilhard Studies
Author: Rediscovering Teilhard's Fire

Cost: Residents \$500; Commuters \$370

For registration and information:
leadership@jerichohouse.org
1-905-834-0553

Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre

7020 Stanley Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 7B7
905-356-4113 FAX 905-358-2548
email: mtcarmel@carmelniagara.com
www.carmelniagara.com

Tues & Thurs evenings	Emotions Anonymous Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
By appointment	Lectio Divina Group Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
March & April	Lenten Desert Wednesdays Presenters: Ministerial Team
March 23	Taizé—Prayer, Silence & Song Eunji Kim
April 22-26 & May 13-17	Directed or Private Retreat Presenters: Ministriel Team
April 13	A Day With St. Thérèse of Lisieux Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
April 17	Seder Meal Presenter: Fr. Craig Morrison
April 17-21	Holy Week/Sacred Triduum Presenters: Ministerial Team
May 4	The Spirituality of Spring Presenter: Fr. Michael Wastag
May 11	The Many Faces of Mary Presenter: Fr. Chris Kulig
May 31-June 2	Soul Care Retreat for Women Cathy A.J. Hardy

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



CATHEDRAL RESTORATION IN FULL SWING

by BOB FOLEY

Work has begun in earnest on the restoration of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines. The project, contracted to Fine Painting Design Restoration of Toronto, will take two years to complete.

Using old photos, Carlos Nunes and his team of artists, are recreating the beautiful frescos that adorned the ceiling of the cathedral. The lifting of the layer added to the floor in the sanctuary after Vatican II revealed a stunning mosaic floor that was installed when the church was built. An example can be seen in the photo on the lower right of this page.

The work on the ceiling will be accomplished with the aid of rolling scaffolding pictured below. The Stations of the Cross are being refurbished with the basic colours being first applied and then the shadowing and highlights added later.

The history of the Cathedral is tied to the growth of the Catholic faith in Niagara. The first Catholic church was St. Vincent de Paul, Niagara-on-the-Lake, built in 1826.

The influx of Irish labourers on the Welland Canal beginning in 1824 made the building of a church in St. Catharines a viable project, thus a wooden church was erected in 1831 to serve the workers on the canal. Since the Anglican church was already called St. Catherine the little church was named St. John. On August 23, 1842, the church burned to the ground and the pastor, Fr. Patrick McDonagh, wasted no time in beginning a campaign to replace the

loss.

The new church was literally built by the Irish labourers working on the Welland Canal as delays in the building of the second canal gave idle hands something to do. With the help of the local business community, who supported the effort, the cornerstone was laid on May 25, 1843. The first Mass was celebrated June 10, 1845. Since the Anglicans had built a new church honouring St. George, the new Catholic church was dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria.

A story in the "Centennial Souvenir; Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria" in 1945, tells of the dedication of the church: "In the year 1679 de la Salle, with a small party, was portaging from Lake Ontario to the Lake of the Eries and was following a route up a creek some four leagues (12 miles) west of the Niagara River . . . After Two days of awful toil the voyageurs reached a spot where now lays Oak Hill Park . . . and camped by a never failing spring. They rested there for a day and Père Hennepin, being with the party, solemnized his daily Mass. It was the feast day of St. Catherine, so the good father blessed the spring and called it St. Catherine's Well."

The total cost of the restoration is estimated at \$1.2 million. A financial appeal will be announced in the spring to raise \$500,000 to help restore the work that those Irish labourers carried out so many years ago.

Follow the progress of the restoration in future Vineyard issues.



One of the changes being made was the Tabernacle for the Blessed Sacrament was moved to the centre of the sanctuary. This is a work in progress and enhancements will be made to highlight its prominence in the cathedral Church.



As the work on the ceiling continues the scaffolding will be rolled along allowing the artists to do their work. To accomplish this process pews must be removed as the work progresses.



Here is a view of what the restoration will accomplish when the project is completed. The Stations of the Cross have been refurbished and the original frescoes have been replicated along with the trim.



The Stations of the Cross are first being painted with the primary colours and the shading is added later.



Artist Les Pomeroy adds the shading to the Station of the Cross previously painted by the crew in the basement of the Cathedral.



Here is a portion of the beautiful mosaic floor in the sanctuary. As you can see there is much work to be done in repairing and cleaning the floor.

*St. Catherine of Alexandria
Pray for us.*