



# Cathedral Connections

FALL 2018

*We are a Eucharistic faith community, inspired by the Gospel,  
committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR

We are regularly reminded that it is in the parish where “one becomes engaged with the church community, learns how to become a missionary disciple of Jesus, is nourished by Scripture and the sacraments, is formed in faith and ultimately becomes a disciple of Jesus.” (ref: *Living as Missionary Disciples*, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops).

This is our call as it was the call of the early church. Then the people, who were faith-filled, had come to expect a messiah who would lead them into the days they had ahead of them. They tried as best they could to figure out what kind of person this would be. But it was Jesus himself who told them and tells us how we are to understand him.

Some suggested he would be a political leader. He wasn't. Some expected he would be a member of the priestly leadership elite. He wasn't.

He is the one sent by God to us from heaven.

It is as simple and profound as that.

However, he startled them by announcing that he will be rejected and eventually killed. What a shock to them - they had been waiting a long time. Why would they put him to death? He simply did not meet their expectations.

They didn't like the suggestion that they too would be asked to take up their cross as well.

What does “taking up the cross” mean to us today? Jesus spoke to his disciples not about practices of “giving things up that are difficult” but about the suffering that is likely to come their way for being his followers.

Hard times are not limited to Christians. Everyone experiences them and Jesus regularly confronted and tried to stop suffering that came from abuse or neglect whenever he encountered it. He is trying to get us to understand that there will be negative consequences for those willing to be a disciple of Jesus. It will cost us as we choose

daily to place the common good and Jesus at the centre of all we do. People who commit themselves to each other constantly give of themselves out of love for the other. The love into which Jesus invites his followers is a costly one that regularly asks more and more of us.

All of that leaves us today with a great privilege and responsibility. There are some who think that God is just “out there” waiting for just the right time to come down and save us from all the difficulties we experience, the crisis in our church and the call to change,

transformation, restoration and renewal. And they're already very unhappy when this does not happen.

Part of the reason it hasn't happened is that the work is given to us. In other words our lives every day must demonstrate what we say we believe Sunday after Sunday when we gather for the Eucharist.

If we believe what we profess - that Jesus has in fact already initiated this plan for God's kingdom in our midst - our lives must demonstrate this. It is up to us to be the evidence that the good work God intended is already in place. We don't have to go looking for it. We are invited to embrace the invitation to follow Jesus and be the catalyst for a meaningful and enriching life for ourselves and others.

This will take root as we continue to grow in living out the mind and heart of Jesus.

*Father Jim Mockler*



## Annual Mass for Victims/Survivors of Abuse



*Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro was the chief celebrant at the Annual Mass for Victims/Survivors of Abuse and for Reparation in our Diocese, held on September 13 at St. Michael's Parish. Bishop Fabbro was joined by parishioners and clergy from our Family of Parishes-St. Michael, St. Patrick-Lucan, St. Josephine Bakhita African-Caribbean Catholic Community, Christ the King University Parish and St. Peter's Cathedral, and also clergy from St. Peter's Seminary. Bishop Fabbro's Episcopal Letter to the Diocese concerning clergy sexual abuse and the diocesan Safe Environment Policy can be found on page 3.*



**ST. PETER'S**  
CATHEDRAL BASILICA

533 Clarence Street London ON N6A 3N1

• Tel: 519 432 3475 • Fax: 519 432 5358 • Email: basilica@dol.ca

[www.cathedral.dol.ca](http://www.cathedral.dol.ca)

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# Thank you, Hilary!

This edition of Cathedral Connections marks a significant milestone in the evolution of our parish newspaper.

Hilary Bates Neary, who has guided the paper during the past four years, has stepped aside as editor but in doing so leaves a rich legacy. On the technical side, we now have colour on all 16 pages and the photo reproduction is vastly improved. More importantly, on the creative side, we have attracted a larger and more diverse group of writers, resulting in articles with wider scope and subject matter for our readers, plus several talented photographers and recruits for the volunteer editorial committee.

These positive developments have not happened by chance. They are the result of Hilary's dedication, vision, inquiring mind and research skills, and especially her unflagging good humour. Fortunately, she has agreed to remain on the committee and continue as a regular contributor.

Also, with this issue we bid adieu to longtime contributor Susan Brown, who is relocating to Montreal, and we welcome Morris Lamont, a recently retired London Free Press photographer, to our group.

Hilary has built a very large editorial "tent" -- if you wish to join us and enrich the paper's role in helping to build parish community here at St. Peter's, just contact the parish office!

*Paul Carson, Editor*



# We Remember...

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

**Janina Rzepecki**  
June 17, 1925 - June 12, 2018

**Benjamin "Joki" Pinto**  
July 4, 1945 - July 26, 2018

**Joseph Robert Bruno Renaud**  
May 13, 1924 - July 27, 2018

**Juliana Diasnes Carnie**  
January 27, 1954 - August 6, 2018

**Phyllis Dorothy Marchand**  
January 27, 1933 - August 10, 2018

**Gordon Alderick Cochrane**  
July 18, 1925 - August 5, 2018

**Eileen Ruebsam**  
May 8, 1927 - August 1, 2018

**Stanley Rezar**  
November 10, 1928 - August 28, 2018

**Tyler Bradley Biro**  
December 13, 1990 - September 4, 2018

**Sophia Warmels**  
March 30, 1922 - September 5, 2018

## ST. PETER'S CEMETERY & HOLY ROSARY WALKWAY

### CEMETERY PRE-PLANNING *For the love of your family*

PRE-PLANNING IS NOT ABOUT DEATH -  
It's a Celebration of your Life

#### PRE-PLANNING MAKES SENSE

- Takes the burden off your loved ones.
- Gives you a voice in how you would like to be remembered.
- Provides protection from rising costs.
- Greater choice of options.
- Eliminates financial worries for your family later.
- Decisions can be well planned free of stress, grief and confusion. Enables families to make decisions together.
- St. Peter's Cemetery offers convenient monthly payment plans, interest free, on all cemetery pre-arrangements.

*Our knowledgeable staff would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience or send you additional information concerning our many services.*

*For further information please contact a Family Service Counsellor.*

#### HOLY ROSARY WALKWAY

St. Peter's Cemetery is pleased to announce the completion of its latest project which honours the wishes of Pope John Paul II that Catholics renew the practice of praying the Rosary.

The project has also provided for the cemetery needs of those who are more comfortable with the option of cremation and the many choices that this opens up to them.

#### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES MINISTRY

*Caring for the living and faithful departed as we await the resurrection of the dead.*

#### FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**ST. PETER'S CEMETERY AND  
HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM**  
806 Victoria Street, London, Ontario 519-451-9120

## DONOHUE FUNERAL HOME

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OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
WILL ASSIST IN ALL AREAS OF BEREAVEMENT, BE IT BURIAL,  
CREMATION, PRE-NEED OR AT NEED SERVICES.

*John and Patrick Donohue,  
Margaret Bloomfield, Martina McGrenere-Vanderidder,  
Philippe Lauriault and Roberta MacNeil*  
MEMBERS OF ST. PETER'S

362 Waterloo Street at King **519-434-2708**



DIOCESE OF  
**LONDON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



10 September 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The media has given much attention to the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report which was recently released. The report investigates clergy sexual abuse of minors in six dioceses in Pennsylvania dating back to 1947. It found that 300 priests engaged in the abuse of more than 1000 children. The extent of the abuse is shocking. People have reacted with anger and shame, and grief for the many victims.

It is devastating to read the accounts of profound evil that occurred in our Church. Since I have been bishop, I have met with survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their families. It was heart-wrenching to listen to their stories of the pain and the sufferings they have endured throughout their entire lives – sometimes for 30, 40 or 50 years after the abuse occurred.

The Grand Jury Report details the failures of the bishops who covered up the abuse by moving priests around. The cover up was terribly wrong. Catholics are rightly outraged that the bishops failed to put a stop to the abuse. How could they have failed so grievously in their calling to be shepherds of their people and in their responsibility to protect the most vulnerable among us?

The report investigates what happened in the Pennsylvania dioceses over the past 70 years. Our Church has learned from the mistakes that were made in the past. Bishops have acknowledged these tragic mistakes. We have apologized to survivors and asked their forgiveness. We have compensated them for the harm they suffered and provided counselling.

Since 1989, our diocese has implemented a strong, comprehensive Safe Environment Policy. It is periodically updated and improved. It includes a number of sound procedures to prevent abuse from happening. A priest who commits an offense against a minor or any other vulnerable person is removed from ministry.

My goal is to protect people against abuse. A Safe Environment Policy for our diocese, and the steps we have taken to prevent sexual abuse and to protect our children and the vulnerable, are available on our diocesan webpage at [www.dol.ca/safe-environment-policy](http://www.dol.ca/safe-environment-policy).

The clergy abuse crisis has brought to light the brokenness in our Church. For these wounds to heal, we must first acknowledge our brokenness before the Lord. We must do penance in reparation for the grave sins committed. And, we – bishops, priests and lay people – must be courageous in carrying out the reforms needed in our Church.

In his letter to the People of God on 20 August 2018, Pope Francis said, "No effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated".

The pope calls all of us to penance and prayer which, he says:

- opens our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings;
- opens our ears to the cries of pain felt by children, young people and the disabled;
- makes us hunger and thirst for justice;
- impels us to walk in the truth;
- leads us to be committed in truth and charity with men and women of good will to combat all forms of abuse.

On Thursday, 13 September, our annual Mass for the Survivors of Clergy Abuse was celebrated in the parishes of our diocese as a votive Mass in honour of Our Lady of Sorrows. People who have participated in this special Mass over the years have told me how moving it is. On that day, our whole diocese is united with Mary at the foot of the Cross. Together, we join in prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse and their families, for the perpetrators and for healing in our Church and in our communities.

May the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows, grant us the grace of conversion and the resolve to combat the grave sins committed in our Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.*

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

**You Can Reach Us At...**

**519-432-3475**

**FAX: 519-432-5358**

**Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro C.S.B.**

*Bishop of London*

**PARISH STAFF..... EXT.**

Fr. Jim Mockler,  
Rector ..... 228  
[jmockler@dol.ca](mailto:jmockler@dol.ca)

Fr. Gary Ducharme,  
Parochial Vicar..... 224  
[gducharme@dol.ca](mailto:gducharme@dol.ca)

Deacon Len Hughes ..... 223  
[lhughes@dol.ca](mailto:lhughes@dol.ca)

Deacon Rudy Pflanzner.... 227  
[rpflanzner@dol.ca](mailto:rpflanzner@dol.ca)

Cathryn Hall,  
Pastoral Minister ..... 225  
[chall@dol.ca](mailto:chall@dol.ca)

Brian Galea,  
Business Manager..... 226  
[bgalea@dol.ca](mailto:bgalea@dol.ca)

RoseMary Cleary,  
Financial Secretary ..... 222  
[basilica@dol.ca](mailto:basilica@dol.ca)

Patty Aldrich,  
Receptionist/Secretary ... 221  
[paldrich@dol.ca](mailto:paldrich@dol.ca)

## Cathedral Connections Committee

**Paul Carson - Editor**

**Cathryn Hall**

**Mitch Lenko**

**Ina Pakkert**

**Susan Brown**

**Dawn Munday**

**Morris Lamont**

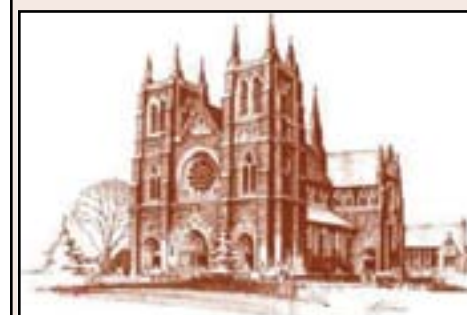
**Susan T. Howard**

**Hilary Bates Neary**

#### Photo credits:

**Larry Barrett, Matthew Bermudez, Brian Galea, Morris Lamont, Dawn Munday, Teresita Oliveros, Carl Vanderwouden**

**Design: Pam Harrower**





## MEET OUR NEW GRAND KNIGHT

Fifteen years ago, the Knights of Columbus was formed here at St. Peter's Cathedral as Council 13404. The Council's current fraternal year runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, and the Knights have cause to celebrate. It is fitting as well that the new Grand Knight, elected in June of 2018, was one of the founding members of that Council. That person, Roger Khouri, has remained with the Council, holding various positions on the Executive Board for the entire period until his recent election as "Grand Knight."

In a recent interview, I asked Roger what he regards as his biggest challenge for our Council of Knights today. In his view it is the recruitment of new members to meet the many needs and projects that the Knights could and should undertake. For example, the new executive has agreed to take on at least one project each month. These initiatives will not be undertaken for the sole purpose of raising funds to be dispersed to various charities. In fact the criteria for a successful event will not be the generation of the most possible gross net proceeds. Rather, the success of the project will be judged on whether it contributes to the sense of community in the parish and whether it makes life better in the community at large.

The Knights already undertake ventures which generate no income—they partner in events where their role is to provide manpower. At the community level, for example, they are working with the local food bank to solicit donations of food and manned the table at a Fall Food Drive earlier this month. At the parish level they provided manpower for the parish picnic and also for the annual "Winter Welcome" luncheon for the clients of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

While discussing changes, Roger referred to the core values or principal reasons for the Knights of Columbus—Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. "These values anticipate some spiritual function assisting its members to be good Catholic men for their families and for their parish," stated our new Grand Knight.

"Many believe that the Knights of Columbus are only a service club or a charitable group. It goes beyond that. There is a spiritual component. For example, we have masses offered, we have a prayer at every meeting, we always begin our meals and meetings with a prayer wherever we are. I would hope at some point we could hold a day of prayer, something like a retreat, perhaps later in our fraternal year."

To accomplish all those objectives, the new Grand Knight hopes to appoint an Activities Director to plan and oversee programs relating to the Culture of Life and for service programs involving the Church.

An active schedule presupposes an active Grand Knight. Roger has always managed a very active lifestyle. He holds down steady employment at a health club and regularly lifts weights there. For the last 22 years he has hosted an award-winning radio show on CHRW 94.9 FM called "Splendors of the Catholic Church", which

can be heard Mondays from 6:00pm to 6:30pm.

In addition he is a weekly volunteer visitor at Marion Villa and part of a volunteer chaplaincy program at the local prison. He is also active in several blindness-related organizations in London. Did I not mention that? ... Roger Khouri is legally blind ... complete with a white cane! At best he can detect a strong light, but nothing more.

But that has not stopped Roger from doing what he enjoys, and from enjoying what he is doing! He makes his way each day on a London transit bus, does his own grocery shopping with assistance from the service desk and makes his way back home with a knapsack full of his groceries. His trips to and from the Cathedral for Mass and meetings are also by LTC bus.

After one meeting, I offered him a ride home. He lives in a built-up area but had no difficulty in giving me specific instructions based on our changing location. Once home, he unfolded his white cane, emerged from the car and closed the car door without assistance. Then, using his cane, he moved easily and rapidly through a 90-degree walkway to his front door.

Roger represents an ideal model for others who may have a disability. His blindness does not prevent him from completing his many tasks, and from achieving the highest elected position with the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Peter's Cathedral.

### Executive Officers

- Fraternal Year - July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Grand Knight – Roger Khouri; Deputy Grand Knight – Martin Healey; Chaplain – Fr. Jim Mockler; Chancellor – Larry Barrett; Trustees - First Year: Nathan Marchand, Second Year: Terrence Holcombe, Third year: Matt Aristone; Financial Secretary – David Houghton; Treasurer- James Vollmer; Advocate – Doug Pursglove; Warden – Robert Holmes; Recorder – Michael Butler; Inside Guard – Joe Tornabouno; Outside Guard-Tony Zylstra

For more information about the Knights at St. Peter's Cathedral contact Sir Knight Larry Barrett at (519) 657-0819.

Mitch Lenko



**St. Peters Knights of Columbus Council**  
is pleased to present our annual

# Elimination Draw

and Evening of Entertainment

## Saturday, November 10

6:30 pm to Midnight in St. Peter's School Hall

**For \$25 per ticket**

you will enjoy

- Buffet Dinner with Cash Bar
- Live Music and Dancing

A portion of the proceeds raised will support Parkwood Institute's "Veterans Tree of Caring"

For further details or tickets, please contact Dave Houghton - houghtonde@gmail.com

### Prizes

Last Ticket \$1000, 2nd last \$500,

3rd Last \$100, plus up to 9 additional prizes of \$50

Early Bird Draw on October 11 - \$250

## WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE OF THE 21ST CENTURY



The goal of the Catholic Women's League is to make a difference to our parish, our community and our country.

Membership in the CWL is open to any Catholic woman over the age of 16. Our Membership Drive will take place during the weekends of October 13-14 and October 20-21. Come and see us in the Narthex before and after all masses.

Friendships that are made can last a lifetime. We enjoy working on different projects. We pray for each other and support each other as needs arise. We learn about managing various health concerns and help promote Catholic Education. We discuss concerns on issues such as human trafficking, homelessness and mental health.

The League takes concerns to the various levels of government, asking them to effect change. Because we are such a large national organization, we are invited to consult both federally and provincially.

We support many charities in our community as well as our parish and its many ministries.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 3 from 9:00am until 2:00pm. CWL members have held several organizational meetings in planning for the Bazaar, but we still need your help. If you have been "fall" cleaning and have treasures you would like to pass along, they can be dropped off on **October 28** between 9:00am and 12:30pm in room 105.

Baking can be dropped off on **Thursday, November 1 and Friday, November 2**. The ladies will be working in the gym from 10:00am onward and will be available to accept your baking.

At the Bazaar, our bake table will feature homemade apple pies and a selection of delectable desserts, including cakes, cookies, loaves and candy. You may purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win our Christmas Hamper.

Check out the treasures at the Silent Auction, Penny Table, Nearly New Table, Christmas Table and the General Store where clothing and jewelry are featured, as well as a White Elephant area. Pick up a few good reads for winter. Along with books, there will be an assortment of CDs and cassettes. You will also find a religious items area.

## CLARENCE, THE CATHEDRAL MOUSE



A few days ago, I was wandering across the Cathedral lawn, looking up at our fine maple trees to see if any were yet changing colour.

As I wandered, I found myself humming the old hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful." It's not heard much any more, but some of you may remember the first few lines:

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.*

Well, in the midst of my wandering and humming, I happened to bump into Gopher. (As I mentioned in a previous column, Gopher kindly helped me build snow tunnels last winter so that I could escape the watchful eyes of a pair of red-tailed hawks.) Anyway, Gopher heard me humming, and it turns out that he is particularly fond of this hymn. In fact, he had some interesting perspectives on it.

He said that as the first line could be about things that are both bright and beautiful, like flowers and autumn leaves; then the second line could be about creatures that are

And, as usual, there will be a Tea Room where you can have lunch, dessert and coffee/tea.

**Save the date—Saturday, November 3.** We are successful only with your support. Bring your friends.

Dora Dannecker



**St. Peter's Parish CWL**

## Annual Christmas Bazaar

When: Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: St. Peter's Cathedral School Auditorium  
533 Clarence St. (enter Richmond St. door)

White Elephant Table	Nearly New Table	Christmas Hamper
Tea Room	Religious Table	Toonie Table
Bake Table	Clothing Boutique	Penny Table
Jewelry	Christmas Table	Silent Auction
Toys	Plants/Flowers	Books, DVDs, Tapes
Gift Card Raffle	Door Prize	Quilt Raffle

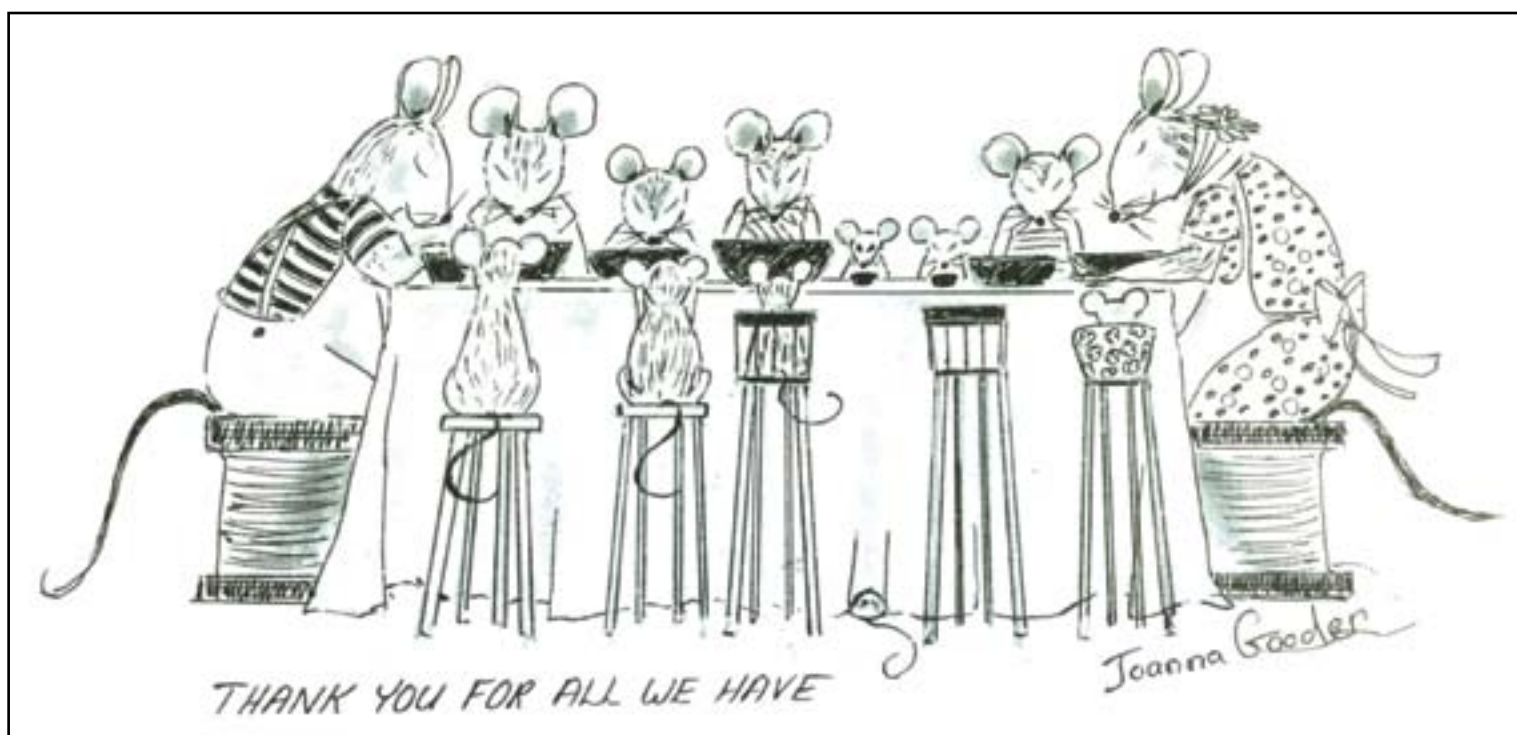
Free Parking off Clarence Street!!

both great and small. I always thought the line meant "great" or "small," but I rather liked Gopher's viewpoint.

It also got me thinking. I sometimes worry that I'm too small to make much of a difference in the parish, that only great actions and contributions are meaningful. But maybe I've been missing the point. Maybe when I make my best efforts, even if small, God makes them great and meaningful.

So, if any of you have been hesitant about helping out at the church, perhaps by joining one of our parish ministries or committees, why not give it a try anyway? Everyone has something to offer, and you may just discover that you made a wise and wonderful choice.

Clarence (with editorial assistance from STH)



Used by permission. More information on the artist's portfolio is available at jogooder@gmail.com



## OUR PARTICIPATION IN MISSIONARY WORKS



I was having a difficult time getting this article started because I was overwhelmed by the many missionary activities our Canadian parishes sponsor annually.

Let me share with you the list the missionary activities we support as a parish: in the month of June we receive donations from you, our parishioners, for the various mission projects in Canada and overseas that we have personally chosen to assist; in the month of October we contribute to the World Mission Sunday campaign joining our efforts together as a universal church offering aid to four Pontifical Mission Societies-The Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood Association, Society of St. Peter the Apostle and the Missionary Union of the Clergy and Religious. Please visit the Pontifical Mission Society online to learn more about each society ([www.missionsociety.ca](http://www.missionsociety.ca)).



In November we will undertake another form of missionary activity in the annual Development and Peace Fall Action Campaign. This campaign presents educational information for growth in awareness of several peace and justice initiatives that we as Canadian Catholics ought to promote. Please visit Development and Peace—Caritas Canada ([www.devp.org/en/education/fall2018](http://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2018)) for more information.

As a parish team we have chosen to use the **World Day of the Poor**, observed this year on **Sunday, November 18**, for our call to action serving as a voice for those who are forced migrants in search of a new homeland. The missionary works listed above do not include the many other missionary efforts carried out by other parish groups like the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus.

By our participation in all of these mission activities, as numerous and diverse as they are, we are responding to the great commission of Jesus, "Go, make disciples of all nations...baptizing them...and teaching them... I am with you always" (Mt. 28:19-20). We are acting as missionary disciples.

### The Missionary Disciple

You and I are missionary disciples when we do whatever we can to promote the message of Jesus Christ in our homes, the places



Pontifical Mission Societies  
Toronto, Canada

where we work and socialize, the places where we pray and worship, and whenever we offer our financial support to those far away from us who then have the necessary resources and training to spread the message of God's love and compassion to other people whose hearts are open to faith.

Just for a moment, let us consider what a missionary *disciple* is. To begin, a disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus. As Christians we are students of Jesus Christ. We take time to get to know Jesus and his message. We develop a friendship by spending time with him and his other followers. A *missionary* is someone who is sent on a mission. Our mission as Christians is to act like Jesus, bringing his message of faith to others. We have grown in a friendship with Jesus and now we want others to meet the one who has changed our lives for the better. Our mission is to lead others to faith in Jesus as the one who saves.

Fr. Alexander Osei, C.S.Sp., the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Canada speaks of the necessity of faith in our work as missionaries. He writes, *"Faith and Mission go hand in hand; the stronger the former is, the greater we feel the need to communicate it, share it, and bear witness to it (that is, our faith). If, to the contrary, it (mission) wanes, then missionary impulse declines and the capacity to testify loses vigour. Mission then can be said to be the surest 'antidote' against the crisis of faith."*

This year, Pope Francis has asked the Church to focus the World Mission Sunday (October 21) on the theme, ***With Youth, we proclaim the Gospel to all***. The Holy Father chose this theme because the XV Ordinary Synod of Bishops will be meeting in Rome to share with one another on the topic of ***Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment***.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis addresses the young people of the world, telling them, *"Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on earth."* Here, he is re-working a lesson first given to us in his Apostolic Exhortation "Joy of the Gospel", when he wrote about the calling of each person, *"I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world."* (Evangelii Gaudium, 273)

The Pope continues his message by exhorting the youth of the world, and us as well, that our mission is to tell others about Jesus Christ. However, in order to speak about Christ, we must know him personally. When we know Christ who dwells within us by his Holy Spirit, then we are able to bear witness to the love he brings to the world.

### Walking with the Immigrant

Shifting our focus from World Mission Sunday, I would like to consider the **World Day of the Poor (November 18)**. In our observance of the World Day of the Poor, the Universal Church

### Prayer for Mission Month 2018

We pray to the Lord our pledge to preach with our youth the Gospel to everyone:

You call us to preach your Good News to all nations, in every situation!

Inspired by you, we come out from our churches and our houses to preach the Good News. Inspired by our youth, their dreams and their questions, we are keen about your Mission.

Together, we will build a new Earth, which will be more just, more in solidarity and more fraternal.

We will build relationships marked by trust, sharing and openness to other people.

We will not erect walls of division, but we will build bridges to connect your large human family!

Amen!



Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
2219 Kennedy Road, Toronto, ON M1T 3G5  
[www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca)

## OUR PARTICIPATION IN MISSIONARY WORKS

is summoned to open minds and hearts to the poor who require missionary disciples willing to act as advocates and sponsors for them. The Cathedral parish will use the World Day of the Poor in conjunction with our annual peace and justice education campaign.

Using resources from Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, I will let the publishers of this year's campaign guide for the fall action and educational program describe how we might serve the world's poor:

*This year, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada is joining forces with Pope Francis and Caritas Internationalis by inviting Canadians to share the journey with those living the tragedy of forced migration.*

*Launched in Rome in September 2017, the Share the Journey campaign aims to create a "culture of encounter" by educating the public to the realities of those forced to flee their homes and creating opportunities for encounters between them and local communities. Together, let's walk in solidarity with forced migrants to make their voices heard loud and clear. Let's reach out to meet them, listen to their stories, and try to understand what drove them to flee. Let's open our hearts to their suffering and dreams, and offer them our compassion. Beyond the chill of number and statistics, let's focus on the human face of forced migration.* (Introduction, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, Campaign Guide, Fall 2018, p. 2)

The educational component of this year's program is entitled **Share the Journey**. The theme urges us to: 1) learn about who is a forced migrant, 2) how many forced migrants there are in the world at this time, 3) which countries are refugees fleeing from, and 5) where they have gone. The last item deals with the reason why migrants must flee to another land and nation. Never forget, "Flight is not a choice but a necessity."

The second component of the campaign is a call to action and advocacy. You will be asked, encouraged, and hopefully persuaded to send a preprinted postcard to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asking the Canadian government to address the root causes of forced migration, and to provide humanitarian aid to refugees and their host countries. Our great hope and prayer is that we, as Canadians, will make a commitment to support grassroots organizations working for peace, democracy and human rights. Also, that we might invest more in diplomatic and peaceful solutions to armed conflicts. No one should be forced to flee their home.

Please watch for future bulletin announcements, flyers and educational resources, and the postcard campaign to the Prime Minister of Canada. Also, please make an effort to learn more about forced migration by visiting our parish website and the



Development and Peace—Caritas Canada website ([www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)). You will discover the many ways in which we as Canadian Catholics currently serve the world as missionary disciples advocating for peace and justice for those who struggle to be heard.

### Principal Missionary Disciples of the Universal Church

St. Francis Xavier  
St. Tèrese of Lisieux

### Missionary Disciples of Canada

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys  
St. Marie of the Incarnation  
St. François de Laval  
St. Marguerite d'Youville  
St. André Bessette of Montreal  
Holy Canadian Martyrs  
St. Kateri Tekakwitha  
and many other Venerable and Beatified Canadian men and women who came to the New World as missionary disciples bringing with them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Father Gary Ducharme



and

**Amabile BOYS & MEN'S CHOIRS present:**

## IN REMEMBRANCE~

*A Concert of Canadian Courage, Heroism, and Resilience*



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

**3:00 P.M.**

**ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA**

196 Dufferin at Richmond

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR FROM AMABILE CHOIRS OF LONDON**

Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$10,

Veterans, CAF Personnel, & Children under 10 Free



# Parish Engagement and the Annual Summer Picnic



Auditioning for "Dancing with the Stars"



Parish Bakers Strut their Stuff



Painted Angels



Strike up the Band!

Successful events, such as the Parish Picnic held in June, don't just happen – they're the result of lots of planning and organization. Recently, I chatted with Jane Jeffery, chair of the Parish Engagement Committee, who provided some insights into this dedicated group of volunteers and how our parish picnic is organized...

The Parish Engagement Committee was formed in response to the Strategic Plan Survey, done several years ago. Parishioners wanted opportunities to participate together in social activities that reflect St. Peter's unique and diverse community, which includes young families, single and married young adults, a growing multicultural community, a large student population and a vibrant senior presence.

The mandate of the Committee is to "Create social experiences and events that address the diversity of interests and perspectives of our members, allowing them to meet one another, to contribute and to be fully engaged parishioners."

Since September 2014, the Committee has been working to identify and develop ideas for events that encourage our parish family to meet informally more often, beginning with "farewell" receptions for Frs. Steny and McNamara. A "Let's Go to the Movies" series featured a monthly movie over a six-month period. Once a month, the "Cathedral Café" offers free coffee, juice and goodies in the narthex of the Cathedral after each weekend Mass, and has engaged many parishioners.

In addition, the Committee has sponsored day trips to Kinkora and Guelph, and has taken two buses of parishioners to accompany Bishop Fabbro on a day-trip pilgrimage to the Martyrs' Shrine and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons near Midland. Although there have been some changes over the years, the Picnic Committee arm of the Engagement group has very dedicated parishioners who have been, or are still involved with the planning and execution of the event: Larry Barrett, Ron Schroder, Sherry Hogan, Dominic Tang, Karen Diesbourg, Ed Kabel, Julie Sans, Marian Strom and Emily Gedge.

Nearly 300 parishioners enjoyed the first annual (in recent years) picnic in June 2016. In 2017 that number rose to 310, and although 450 signed up for this summer's event, inclement weather and the World Cup put a damper on that figure; eventually more than 300 attended. Due to increased participation and an extremely tight timeframe for the picnic at the current venue, alternatives to the locale are being considered.

In the last three years, almost 130 parishioners have volunteered to help with the picnic. This year, 70 volunteers helped to unload cars, set up, BBQ, serve food, run events and clean up. There is a tight timeline to accomplish everything from unloading cars filled with food and supplies, through setup, takedown and of course, the cleanup.

The volunteers ran our events, including a baseball game ("Cathedral White Sox vs Holy Black Sox"), Ron Schroder and his "Fifth of Jazz" band, beach volleyball, and a big hit this year, the new St. Peter's Cathedral Bake-Off pie-baking contest. We were also able to add bingo, golf and a kids' scavenger hunt.

The picnic is made possible by generous donations from the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League, in addition to support from the Cathedral. Parishioners also make very generous donations – food, printing materials (posters, flyers), door prizes and game items. At all three picnics the ice cream has been donated by a parishioner who would like to remain anonymous.

Bishop Fabbro, who braved the inclement weather, called the picnic "a wonderful community-building experience." Fr. Jim agreed, saying, "This event, other than Sunday Mass, is the one that brings together the greatest representation of our diverse parish."

Future plans are still at the "idea stage." If you like to help plan social events, share ideas and insights for future events, serve coffee to your seat-mates in the pew, share your computer or other skills, or just help with a specific project, please consider volunteering.

The Committee would love your help, and you will have fun and make new friends in the process. In the midst of working to build our faith community, our volunteers always remember to enjoy what they are doing.

If you are interested in being a part of this great group of volunteers, please contact the parish office.

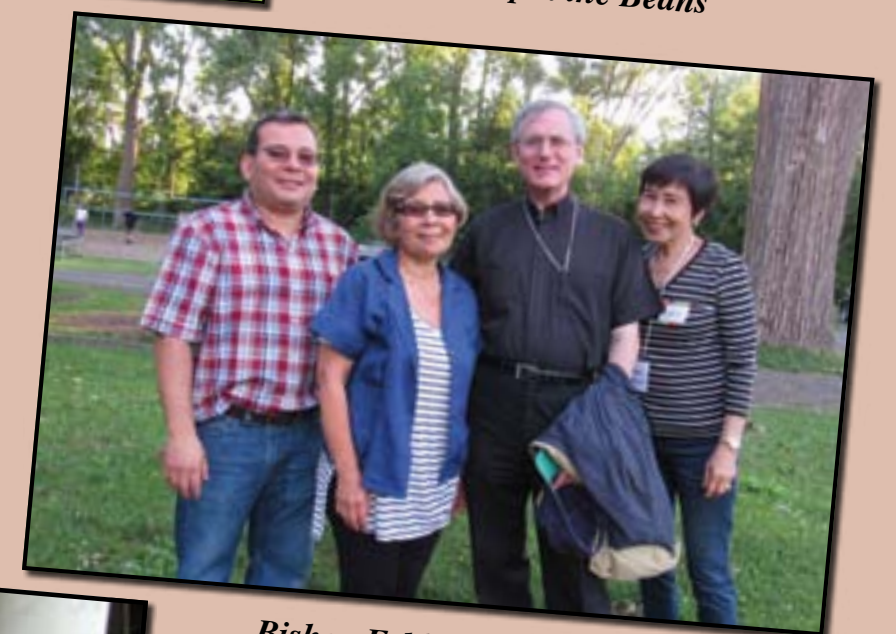
Jane Jeffery as told to Dawn Munday



Catch me if you can!!



Don't Spill the Beans



Bishop Fabbro with Parishioners



Fastball on its way



Volunteers flip for the Parish



Sharing a Laugh



...Pirates of the Caribbean



Hot Diggity Dog!!

Picnic Photos by Morris Lamont and Teresita Oliveros  
To view more Picnic Photos, visit the parish website.



## MEET YOUR ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Canon Law in the Roman Catholic Church requires every parish to have a Finance Committee, whose primary responsibility is to advise and support the Pastor and the Business Manager in the administration and good stewardship of parish property including its financial resources.

Membership in a Finance Committee consists of the Pastor/Rector, and at least three volunteer parishioners. The usual term of a volunteer member is three years, subject to extension if the Pastor wishes.

At St. Peter's, regular meetings of the Finance Committee are held in the evening of the 3rd Tuesday of the month (except July and August). The agenda for the meetings customarily includes:

- Review of the previous month's and year-to-date financial results including offertory, donations, rental and other sources of income, parish expenses, cash on hand, bank deposit accounts and other investments, loans outstanding and other liabilities. Each item is carefully reviewed by comparison to budget and to the previous year.
- Review and discussion of a report from the Property Committee, covering building and grounds maintenance issues, required upgrades, status of ongoing projects, etc.
- Suggestions and ideas from committee members in such areas as additional or enhanced sources of revenue, new ways to control expenses, proposed property or facility upgrades, etc.

In addition, most meetings will contain at least one or two additional agenda items for discussion including review and approval of a budget for the following year, reviewing a draft annual financial report to parishioners, and so on.

From time-to-time, special sub-committees may be formed to explore or develop particular areas or initiatives. Keeping track of plans for London's Bus Rapid Transit proposal is one recent example.

It is important to note that the Finance Committee does not "run" the parish. The Pastor/Rector (Fr. Jim in our case) is the chief administrator of the parish and is ultimately responsible for all decisions made.

Currently, our Finance Committee consists of Fr. Jim plus eight dedicated volunteers. We would like to recruit one or two more. This is a relatively large committee, which is appropriate in light of the size and diversity of the St. Peter's parish community. We try to keep the committee membership similarly diverse, in order to properly represent the interests of all of our parishioners.

**Current volunteer Finance Committee members include (in alphabetic order):**

**Tom Boone** joined St. Peter's parish earlier this year and is a recent addition to the Finance Committee. Tom is a professional accountant with considerable recent financial and administration experience at Holy Family parish and at the Diocesan level.

**Dave Houghton**, another new member, is an active businessman with experience in sales, service and management roles. He currently serves as financial secretary of the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus.

**Susan Howard** moved to London about three years ago and runs a small scientific writing and editing business. Susan joined the committee out of a desire to help preserve our beautiful cathedral for future generations.

**Jay Jeffery** was born and raised in London and is an active consulting actuary. After his family, Jay's second love is boating in the Georgian Bay area, and he has been a long-time active volunteer and instructor in the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons organization.

**Frank Jurjevich** is VP and Portfolio Manager at a national securities firm. He currently serves on the board of Mission Services and has a long history of board, foundation and committee involvement with King's University College at Western, St. Joseph's Hospital, Robarts Research Institute, LHSC and several others.

**Jordan McLoughlin** operates his own financial advisory practice. Jordan and his wife were married in St. Peter's Cathedral in 2010 and he joined the committee several years ago "to give back to the place we call our spiritual home."

There must be some members with financial expertise, but it is also important that the committee include members with other skills and knowledge in areas such as law, construction, aesthetics, to name a few. You don't need to be a financial wizard to serve on the Finance Committee.

Important objectives of the Finance Committee for the future include enhancing our communications and transparency so that St. Peter's parishioners will feel engaged and well informed with respect to the parish's financial status and progress.

Thanks to a history of good stewardship of St. Peter's resources over the years, the parish's financial position is sound. However, with continually increasing costs such as hydro, insurance, maintenance and others, "balancing the books" is a constant challenge. With your help, the St. Peter's Finance Committee will do its part to meet that challenge.

*Jay Jeffery*



*Members of the St. Peter's Finance Committee at their September 18 meeting: Front Row (from left): Dave Houghton, Brian Galea (Business Manager), Jay Jeffery (Chair), Dawn Munday, Tom Boone. Back Row (from Left): Bernie Smit, Jordan McLoughlin, RoseMary Cleary (Recording Secretary). Absent: Susan Howard, Frank Jurjevich, Fr. Jim Mockler.*

**Dawn Munday** is a well-known, long-time St. Peter's parishioner and committee member. Prior to retirement, Dawn served at Western University as an Academic Counsellor and Office Manager, and has extensive experience in budgeting, negotiation and human resources.

**Bernie Smit** joined St. Peter's parish five years ago and has been an enthusiastic member of the Finance Committee for three years. Bernie works as a financial analyst at a company in St. Thomas.



*Join us  
for Breakfast!*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
**9:30a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**  
**In the Parish Hall**

*Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus*



**Admission by  
Free Will Offering**

## PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

It has been a busy few months for the committee, dealing with a number of projects that will benefit the Cathedral Parish. Below is a summary for your information.

### Cathedral Steps Project

The steps at the west front entrance have eroded considerably over the years and many parishioners have to be careful when negotiating them due to the uneven surface. In addition, the centre top step also must be replaced because the limestone is breaking apart. Further, one of the east front steps needs to be repinned. We approved a bid of \$31,000 from the quotes received. The stone has been cut and installation should happen in early to mid-October.

### Fence Project

This project involves revitalizing the wrought iron fence posts and chains that add to the regal nature of the Cathedral. Unfortunately, the paint has been wearing away on the chains and the fence posts surrounding the property. The chains will be replaced with new powder-coated chain that will last for many years. Repainting the existing chains would be expensive and time-consuming, so we have chosen a more cost-effective long-term solution.

The posts will either be heat-sealed with a film or painted. The former is preferred as it reduces Cathedral staff labour and volunteer time. In addition, we have replaced a number of fence posts and utilized some of the old Cathedral chains to properly enclose the parking lots and create a better-looking entrance to the Parish Centre.

### Security Camera Project

The Cathedral has security cameras that capture some images in the worship space but we do not have any in the Narthex concentrating on the entrance ways. We have had a number of security incidents over the past year that have necessitated more cameras. The camera footage is used only when police need images for investigative purposes. In addition, we have installed cameras that look onto the



*The deteriorating steps at the Front Entrance*

parking lots in order to capture footage of any problems in this area. The reality is we are a downtown parish that is faced with security incidents more frequently than a suburban parish, and cameras act as a deterrent as well as an investigative tool.

### Lighting Project

The lighting project is 100% complete on the sides of the Cathedral but the Sanctuary and centre aisle lighting need to be upgraded. Our goal is to have even, soft light throughout the Cathedral and eliminate any dark areas that make reading difficult.

Cathedral parishioners have always been generous for the various projects that we have undertaken and any donation to assist in offsetting the cost, no matter how small, is certainly appreciated.

*Brian Galea*

## CHOIR MEMBERS ENJOY SUMMER CHORAL ADVENTURE

Over the summer, two of our very own cathedral singers, Matthew Bermudez and Christopher Pitre-McBride, were a part of an amazing choral experience. The two, now 2nd-year Western University music students, were involved in first international tour of the National Boyschoir of Canada!

The choir of nearly 40 boys from across Canada met in Newfoundland at Gros Morne National Park. There, they spent a week filled with hours of rehearsals learning their repertoire, ranging from traditional church music to popular choral pieces. After touring throughout Newfoundland and spending some time at Podium, a large Canadian choral event, they flew from St. John's to Milan to start their tour in Italy.

The choir was invited to be the honour choir for the Zelioli Mass Festival in Lecco. Most known for its choral history, the festival is held in recognition of the late musician, Giuseppe Zelioli (1880-1949), and takes place every 2-3 years at the Basilica of San Nicolò in Lecco.

The two 19-year-olds, along with the rest of the choir, experienced many aspects of not only Italian culture, but the cultures of the other countries that were represented at the festival, including Russia, Ukraine and Czech Republic. The choir also traveled throughout Italy, performing and touring through many towns and small villages.

What made the trip even more amazing was the fact that the



*The choir in beautiful  
Gros Morne National Park*



*Matthew Bermudez and  
Christopher Pitre-McBride*



*Outside the Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica  
of the Nativity of Saint Mary in Milano*



## PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS – CHIEF JOHN PARE

Chief John Pare, a 29-year veteran of the London Police Service, was named Chief in May, 2015. He had served in Uniformed Patrol and the Major Crime Section, followed by several management positions. Promoted to Deputy Chief in January, 2012, he served as the Deputy Chief of Administration and the Deputy Chief of Operations.



**Chief John Pare**

Chief Pare is Vice-President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), Chair of the John Howard Society of London and District and a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario.

### **How long have you been a parishioner?**

My wife, Lee Ann and I became parishioners about eight years ago.

### **What do you find most satisfying/rewarding about the parish environment at St. Peter's?**

We have always found the environment to be very welcoming, a real sense of community. The Cathedral reminds me of Assumption Church in Windsor where my family were long-time parishioners.

### **How does your life as a parishioner and your faith impact your role as the Police Chief?**

My father used to stress to us the importance of faith and family. What he taught me is that both faith and family will keep you grounded and balanced in life.

As a police officer there are challenges and stress whether responding to calls for service, leadership within the Police Service, managing society's expectation or dealing with personal matters. My faith and family helps me to cope with and address stress and challenges that work and life can bring. It allows me to have a good balance in life.

### **Do you sense anything different/special about the experience at St. Peter's because it is a "downtown parish"?**

Downtown is really the heart of the city and provides an insight in the city's past, present and future. St. Peter's is one of those landmarks that stand out for me as a symbol of the strength of our community.

### **What brought you to St. Peter's and why have you continued to be a parishioner?**

It was getting to know Fr. Mockler through the Chaplaincy Program at London Police Service. We are so fortunate to have him as part of our lives and because of this relationship we felt a strong meaning and purpose to become parishioners at St. Peter's.

Fr. Mockler has been a Police Chaplain with the London Police Service for over 25 years. The Chaplaincy Program is part of our

Wellness Program and support for members; four clergy including Fr. Mockler are involved. His role is an important component of the spiritual health of the men and women of the London Police Service. Also, he has taken extra training in order to become one of 33 members on our Peer Support Team and we sincerely appreciate his commitment.

He provides confidential guidance and counseling to members and their family. Not only does he offer support in times of stress, loss, depression, or grief but he also is an important part of celebrating important milestones with LPS members and their families such as promotions, awards or swearing-in ceremonies for new police officers.

Fr. Mockler is a regular visitor to the LPS and members are always happy to see him. We always know when Fr. Jim has been in the building because of the positive vibe. He has the skill to reach out at the right time to send a personal message to myself or to others. St. Peter's parishioners are lucky to have this wonderful man as part of our parish life.



### **Do you sense that the London downtown environment is/will be changing, and if so, how do you see the role of St. Peter's parish changing with this?**

I think it is fair to say that our downtown is changing as an essential part of the continuing efforts to make London a vibrant and healthy city. We also have our challenges to support individuals in our community that are often struggling with mental health and addictions and homelessness and who are disconnected from the health and social services system. I believe we all have a role to play in connecting them to the services they need in an effort to improve outcomes for these vulnerable individuals.

Parishioners at St. Peter's are very giving and demonstrate much empathy and compassion for individuals that need a hand.

*Interview by Paul Carson*



**Chief John Pare speaking at the Ceremony marking the 10th Anniversary of the Consecration of the London Police Service Colour, held at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica in September, 2017. "Our Coat of Arms and our Colours are a memorial to the great deeds, sacrifices and dedication to service," he said. "The London Police Service Colour belongs to the citizens of London and is a representation of the sacred trust within the community and our commitment to providing excellent service."**



*Announcing ... A Special Musical Event ...*

# Sound the Trumpet!

**Featuring: Dr. Alan Klaus (Trumpet/Flugelhorn) and Mr. Stephen Candow (Organ)**

## Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm

*St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica*

*Music by Bach, Handel, Hovhaness, Tomasi, Perischetti, Tartini and Plog . PLUS new arrangements of traditional folksongs from Newfoundland, and Labrador (for Trumpet/Flugelhorn and Organ) by Stephen Candow*

**FREE PARKING Admission by Free Will Offering – in support of the Musicians and St. Peter's Cathedral**

## NEW CONDUCTOR FOR CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

*Last month, Rachael Litt joined our music ministry team as conductor of the Contemporary Choir at the 7:30pm Sunday evening Mass. Rachael comes to us with a solid background and education in voice and choral music. On meeting her, you will immediately be welcomed by her energetic and joyful spirit. Read on to discover more about Rachael's vision for the choir and what has inspired her to respond to God's call to music ministry.*

*Gloria Gassi, Director of Liturgical Music*

### **Tell us about yourself?**

As a London native, my love of music was sparked at a young age during my participation in school choir and private voice lessons. Choral music-making, musical theatre, and solo vocal performance experiences throughout adolescence and early adulthood fostered my passion for music. These experiences inspired me to pursue both my bachelor's degree in vocal performance and my Master of Music Education degree from Western University.

Complementing my studies, I have taken part in several opera and musical theatre productions, including my attendance at the Center of Opera Studies program in Sulmona, Italy. As a certified Kindermusik instructor, parent-child music class teacher, and private voice and piano teacher, I enjoy interacting with music-lovers of all ages. I strive to generate and encourage a positive interest in music while honouring, nurturing, and developing the natural gift of every unique voice. Currently, I am pursuing my Bachelor of Education degree at Western University.

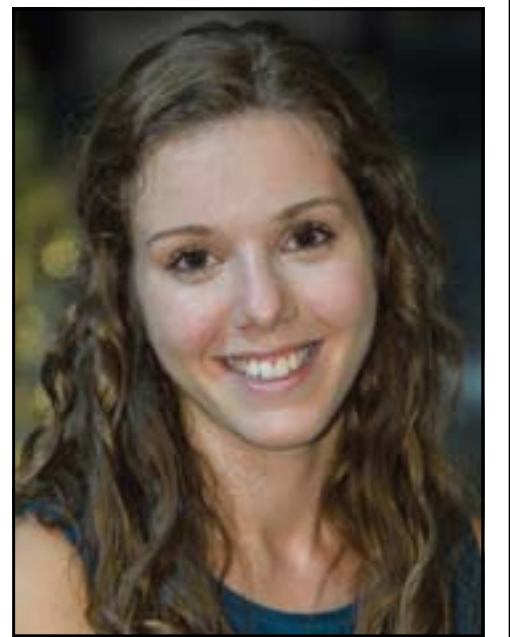
### **Why would you like to be involved in music at St. Peter's?**

I believe that vocal music is an art form that lifts ordinary text to another level and inspires us and nurtures our souls. As a chorister who has participated in a variety of ensemble settings, I have experienced first-hand how choral music-making brings people together to form a strong sense of community. Choir is a place where friendships are created, and like-minded people come together to achieve a common goal. In a church setting, choir members are shaped together as a community of faith to worship God and serve the Liturgy. This community building is what drives my dedication and enthusiasm for choral music-making and my desire to work with the Contemporary Choir at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica.

### **What musical gifts do you bring to this choir?**

As a young professional, I look forward to bringing charisma, creativity and passion to my rehearsals and conducting. I have a powerful musical vision that will be exciting to communicate through collaboration with the choristers. My academic credentials and experience as a music educator have provided me with performance, technical and conducting skills, and extensive and insightful

knowledge of music and the arts in general. My experiences participating in diverse choral ensembles and solo vocal performances has equipped me with the musicality, leadership skills and a deep love for vocal music that I believe to be integral for success in this new role.



**Rachael Litt**

### **What visions do you have for the Contemporary Choir?**

My vision for the Contemporary Choir is to exalt God by utilizing our – my own and each chorister's – musical gifts to sing His praise beautifully and powerfully and tell of His goodness and love through song. In this way, the choir will continue to prepare the hearts of the worshipping community at St. Peter's to receive and apply the Word of God while fostering a healthy and vibrant music ministry. It is my vision for each chorister to form caring relationships and community within the ensemble as we learn and grow in faith together and glorify God through song, prayer and worship.



**Conductor Rachael Litt rehearses with members of the Contemporary Choir**

## ST. PETER'S ASSISTS A SECOND REFUGEE FAMILY

Two years ago, our parish sponsored a refugee family to come to Canada and settle in London. When the sponsorship ended, there were funds remaining in our refugee account-not enough to sponsor another family but sufficient to help another private group do so.

Fr. Jim and I set about the task of identifying how the Cathedral Refugee funds could be maximized. I remembered that my friend and former co-worker, Harry Joosten, was trying to set up a group of donors to support a refugee family. Fr. Jim also remembered Harry and his wife, Katherine, because they were married in the Cathedral.

Harry and his small group had successfully sponsored a family to come to Canada: in fact, the Azimi family had just arrived from Syria. Harry and Katherine, always generous with their time and money, had renovated their basement to house the family of four so they could be independent and have their privacy.

All refugee families have to pay for their transportation to Canada and the bill is due after one year in Canada. Some sponsors have enough funds to cover the cost and others do not; it is a significant cost to the refugee family. As Harry's group-sponsored funds were allocated for other purposes, we decided to utilize some of the excess donated refugee funds to pay for the Azimi family's travel to Canada.

Fr. Jim and I were able to meet the Azimi family in July and present the cheque at their new home. Hasan, Hakima, Ehsan and Hadis had fled Afghanistan fearing for their lives because Hasan was a reporter, writing about atrocities by the government in Afghanistan. They chose Syria because it was safe for them there but encountered persecution and had to flee to a refugee camp in Damascus.

Their story was harrowing; they are very grateful to be in Canada and extremely grateful to receive the funds from our parishioners to offset their travel costs.

*Brian Galea*

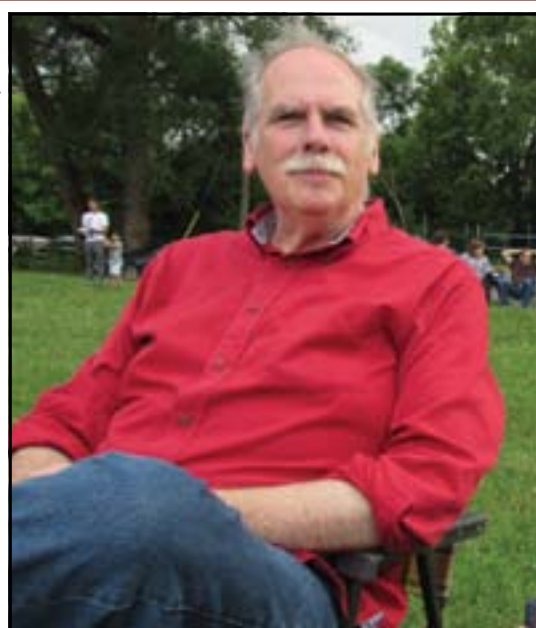


**The Azimi family (from left)--Hakima, Ehsan, Hadis and Hasan**



## WHAT ARE YOU READING, VIEWING OR CONSULTING?

Herman Goodden, a long-time parishioner at St. Peter's and member of the Ministry of Reader, is a prolific author. His six plays were collected together in last year's "Speakable Acts" and among his 10 other books, is 2016's "Three Artists: Kurelek, Chambers & Curnoe." He also posts a weekly free essay at his website: [www.hermangoodden.ca](http://www.hermangoodden.ca). This column is adapted with permission from his "Hermaneautics" blog on September 4th.



Herman Goodden

Some of his novels – like *The Man Who Was Thursday* and *The Ball and The Cross* – read like the work of a decidedly non-suicidal Franz Kafka. Of all his fiction, my own favourite is *Manalive*. Maisie Ward, his first and best biographer, calls *Manalive* the Chestertonian acid test; if you can stand it, you can stand anything he wrote. He is so cheerful, so funny, so brilliant in this book, that he's obnoxious.



In *Orthodoxy*, Chesterton explains how it was that he eventually came to Christian belief. He'd dabbled in spiritualism and Ouija boards just long enough to get sickened, to attain what he called "a bad smell in the mind." There were dark powers to be tapped into but Chesterton knew enough to know that he wanted nothing more to do with them. He turned and walked away, shut that door for good. But still he was spiritually hungry. He hung onto the idea of God by what he called "a thin thread of thanks." He didn't particularly hunger for Heaven or righteousness or salvation. All he really wanted was someone to say "thank you" to. That enormous impulse of gratitude is, I expect, fairly rare. If you don't feel it in any measure, then I suspect that Chesterton is not your man.

Chesterton was fond of recalling an old riddle from his childhood: What did the first frog say when he finally met God? "Lord, how you made me jump!" That too was an exclamation of thanks and a distillation of the wonderful spirit of this man – ungainly, high-spirited, grotesquely beautiful, jumping for joy in the face of God.



G. K. Chesterton

This column covers books, articles, videos and websites that parishioners are consulting to expand their spiritual knowledge. If you have something to recommend, please contact Hilary Neary through the church office.

Etienne Gilson, the renowned Thomistic scholar who devoted entire volumes to single facets of Aquinas' life and thought, greeted the appearance of Chesterton's 180-page study of the saint by saying, "Chesterton makes one despair. I have been studying St. Thomas all my life and I could never have written such a book."

Chesterton's two literary surveys, *The Victorian Age in Literature* and *Heretics* (a book-length dispute with most of the influential writers of the Edwardian era) also display to stunning effect his knack for diving through walls of preconceptions and clichés and emerging with new and essential insights.

His two greatest works of Christian apologetics, *Orthodoxy* (his 'slovenly' spiritual autobiography) and *The Everlasting Man*, (a God-centred history of the world – his answer to H.G. Wells' *Outline of History*) stand alone with some of the books of C.S. Lewis (who himself was profoundly influenced by Chesterton) as the best Christian apologetics of the 20th century.

Although I cherish many of his novels and stories, I feel a little sorry for anyone who first approaches Chesterton through his fiction. He never created a full character in his life but preferred to dress up ideas in human form and make them fight and dance. While some of his mysteries required that he create the semblance of a plot, these never received half so much of his attention as the weirdly charged atmospheres and settings of these stories and the moral and philosophical debates which ensued at their climax.

The *Father Brown* mysteries were so hugely popular in their day that they supported both Chesterton's household and his less than profitable weekly newspaper, first called *The New Witness* and then *G.K.'s Weekly*. But nowadays it's Chesterton fanatics and not your usual mystery buffs who have much use for the Father Brown series at all.

**Get "Connections" on the Web**

You can read this issue of "Cathedral Connections" – and every issue back to Spring 2012

**On the St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica website: [www.cathedral.dol.ca](http://www.cathedral.dol.ca)**

From the home page, click on "About" and then select "Cathedral Connections"

**We welcome your comments and suggestions for future articles.**

## IMPACT OF THE BRT PROJECT ON ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

One of the defining issues of the fall 2018 London municipal election is the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT or SHIFT) project. St. Peter's parishioners may be interested to learn about the potential impact of the BRT project on the Cathedral, particularly its effects on access, traffic patterns and parking at and around St. Peter's. Jay Jeffery, chair of the St. Peter's Finance Committee, has attended numerous public meetings on the BRT project and in this article he provides an update. Further articles will be published as additional information becomes available.

Because of the proximity of the proposed BRT northern route and its potential impact on the Cathedral, Fr. Jim, Brian Galea (St. Peter's Business Manager), and members of the Finance Committee have been closely following the developing BRT plans since the project's beginnings.

Very early in the process, we asked for a meeting with project planners. This was quickly granted by the City and a private meeting was held with a senior project consultant and the City's chief engineer in attendance. At that early stage, a tunnel under Richmond Row was still a key part of the project. The tunnel project might have been very disruptive for St. Peter's, particularly during the construction phase, which would have been lengthy. This part of the project has now been dropped.

The current state of the detailed design in the area of the Cathedral is illustrated in the chart (below), which comes from the Shift website. While the detail, may be difficult to discern in our reproduction of the chart, close inspection reveals the following aspects of the current design proposal:

- Clarence Street would be converted from two lanes of automobile traffic and two lanes of street parking to two lanes exclusively for BRT on the Victoria Park side: one southbound-only automobile lane and one lane of street parking on the west (Cathedral) side.
- Angel Street (the short street between Richmond and Clarence north of the Cathedral) would be converted to one eastbound only lane of automobile traffic with street parking on the south (Cathedral) side.

- BRT station stops are currently planned at the Clarence and Queens, and Clarence and Central Avenue intersections, approximately one block south and one block north of the Cathedral.
- The changes to Clarence Street would likely have a very limited impact (perhaps a few feet at most) on our parking lots. There is an opportunity to reconsider and re-design the specifics of the entrances and exits to our parking lots, in light of changing traffic patterns.

Some aspects of the probable effects on access and traffic patterns in the area of the Cathedral are apparent. Automobile access to Cathedral parking lots would not be possible by coming North on Clarence from Queens or Dufferin Avenue. Both the South and North lots would be accessible only from Richmond Street, either by turning East on Angel Street and then south on Clarence, or possibly by turning directly into the North lot from Richmond Street if such an entrance is implemented. Similarly, exiting from the parking lots on Clarence could only be done by going south on Clarence. While this could add a couple of blocks of driving for some parishioners, it would probably result in a smoother exit process after Sunday masses.

We can report that the project planners have been sensitive and responsive to the interests of St. Peter's in adjusting specific aspects of the proposed design to accommodate our needs and concerns. With the Richmond tunnel gone from the plan, we hope that the construction impact on St. Peter's along Clarence Street would not be unduly disruptive. The City proved to be very accommodating during a recent reconstruction project on Dufferin Avenue in front of the Cathedral.

Parishioners who are interested in more detailed information about the BRT plan and proposals can find it on the project website, [www.shiftlondon.ca](http://www.shiftlondon.ca). The Master Plan includes the full design details, business case and implementation plan. Among its hundreds of pages, Appendix J includes the "design plates" covering the whole BRT route, from which our chart reproduction is drawn.

Jay Jeffery





## A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

For the past two years, Jim McLandress has volunteered his weekday afternoons to the Cathedral. His ministry is one of simple presence. Jim has a comfortable swivel chair at the back of the nave, and greets visitors who enter for prayer, meditation or a quiet pause away from the bustle of downtown traffic and commerce. I wrote about Jim in *Cathedral Connections* over a year ago, and wanted to discover how his ministry has developed since then.

On a sunny Friday afternoon in mid-September when soft summer breezes carried many pilgrims into the peace of St. Peter's, I asked Jim about his observations of those who visit our church. He keeps an informal census of guests, and reports that there are 40 to 60 each afternoon (not including people attending noon Mass). Of these, perhaps five or six will stop to chat with him.

During my short time with Jim he exchanged greetings with teachers accompanying students from China attending the London International Academy. They were on an arranged tour of the Cathedral with parishioner John McGuire. Several tourists also introduced themselves, including a couple from Victoria, BC; many photos were taken of the beautiful interior of our church.

Some pilgrims expressed their appreciation of being able to visit St. Peter's with bows and gestures rather than conversation. People in the pews continued their prayers, seemingly oblivious of the gentle stir of visitors around them.

Not all who enter St. Peter's are seeking a quiet place to pray or meditate. Some who come are deeply troubled, and are seeking a friendly face and a listening ear. Jim provides both, while acknowledging that he is neither priest nor counselor.

Visitors in mental anguish will often sit with Jim and unburden themselves of troubles. Jim listens, offers reassuring smiles, accepts their tears, and inspires confidence. If someone is in need of a priest or counselor, Jim refers that person to the church office or to REACH OUT, the support line of the Canadian Mental Health Association. He is helped in making connections for visitors in difficulty by other members of the parish staff who have duties in the church - Trent Fieldhouse, our custodian; Larry Lewis, our sacristan; and Dale Fehrenbach, a faithful volunteer.

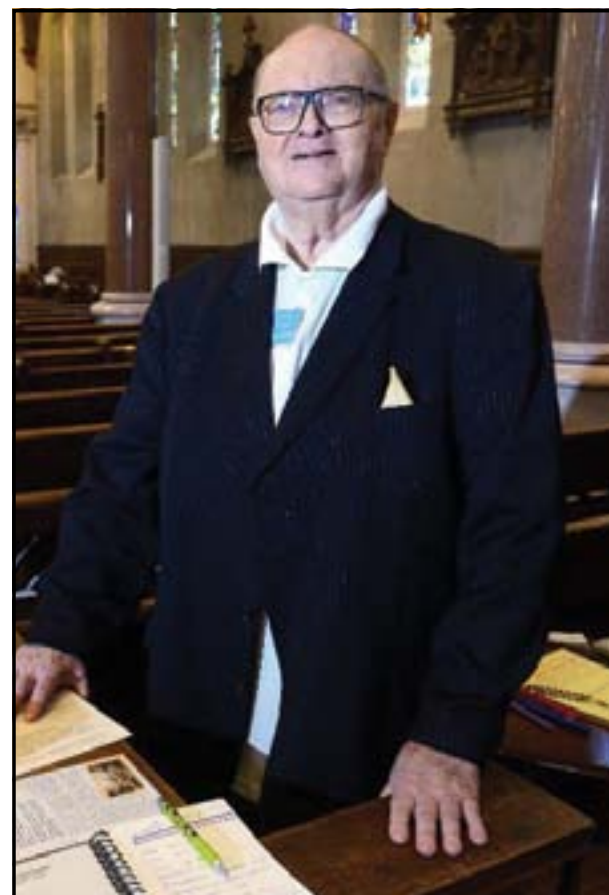
Another important role that Jim fulfills with his quiet but firm presence and imposing stance is that of protector of the Cathedral's sacred spaces. Not all who drop by are respectful of sanctuary and altar, and Jim occasionally has had to persuade visitors to honour the Cathedral's openness.

Jim's volunteer hours at St. Peter's enable us to keep our doors open much longer than any other downtown church. The subsequent rewards to parish, visitor and neighbourhood are many, but hard to measure.

Our open doors demonstrate that this place of prayer welcomes all well beyond Mass times: liturgies are central to the practice of our faith, but we are also called to private prayer and meditation. Jim's friendly presence invites both. In his special way, he welcomes all visitors and provides security both to them and the fabric of the cathedral.

Thank you, Jim McLandress, for your generous ministry of presence at St. Peter's.

*Hilary Neary*



## *Looking for a way to get involved at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica?*

*At the Cathedral we have many opportunities to share our gifts to be of service to others, to journey through faith and liturgy, and to assist and support the growth and development of our Cathedral parish community. Opportunities and invitations for involvement occur throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider where you can share your gifts and talents with your parish family.*

### **Liturgical Ministries**

Altar Guild  
Altar Servers (St. Stephen's Guild)  
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion  
Music Ministry  
Readers  
Hospitality-Ushers & Welcome Desk

### **Outreach Ministries**

Community Outreach  
Missions Committee  
Parish Visitation  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

### **Operational Committees**

Cathedral Connections  
Communications Committee  
Finance Committee  
Offertory Collection Counters  
Parish Office Assistant

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

Property & Maintenance

### **Other Parish Groups & Organizations**

Cathedral Tours  
Christian Meditation  
Parish Engagement  
Small Christian Communities  
Young Adults for Christ  
Catholic Women's League  
Knights of Columbus  
Legion of Mary  
Secular Order of Franciscans  
St. Vincent de Paul

**For full descriptions of all of these ministries, committees and organizations  
please check out our website – [www.cathedral.dol.ca](http://www.cathedral.dol.ca)**

**Contact our parish office to get involved.**

