



Cathedral Connections

SUMMER 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.*

FREE COPY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR

Recent messages from Bishop Fabbro have drawn our attention to the formation of Families of Parishes in our diocese. This restructuring will see our Cathedral Parish form a family with St. Patrick's, Lucan, St. Michael's, London and Christ the King Parish at King's College. Plans to implement this are being developed, and you will be kept informed along the way.

While we do not know exactly how this will look, we have begun to discern the process. Recently I addressed the matter at Mass and drew our attention to how the Feast of the Ascension may help our discernment.

Jesus has gone before us and because of that we can live every day with the hope of heaven. We can follow him there. The feast marked the end of his historical life and the beginning of a new way of relating to his disciples and us. His return to heaven is about a mission both accomplished and continuing.

Like the early disciples we are left two things: a mission and a promise. A **mission** to continue his work just as he taught them: to preach the Good News of God's love, hope and peace, to be living witnesses of his presence; and the **promise** that God's Spirit will continue to guide us. We have a big task moving into a new form of parish life and like the first disciples of Jesus we are at times uncertain and not sure where to look. At Easter we were told not to look down into the tomb because Jesus isn't there – he is risen. On the feast of the Ascension we are told not to look up to heaven. So, where are we to look?

We are to look outward.

Our mission is to be Jesus' living witnesses. Our mission is to bring him to all we meet and in all we say and do.

We test that when we examine ourselves to see if there is love, joy, peace, kindness and gentleness in all we do, if our lives are marked by compassion, faithfulness and gentleness, and if we try to teach, heal, and break down barriers.

Words are easy to speak. There is no substitute for active love.

When we witness to truth (living truthfully and with integrity), to justice (being fair in all our dealings), to love (relating to everyone from the heart), and to peace (stripping ourselves of anger and discord), we are witnessing to Jesus.

Every day we have the opportunity to follow in his footsteps. Placed firmly in the centre of our busy world we are to be his healing hands and comforting words. As one author described it, "Our lives may be the only book of the gospel open for people to read."

Jesus is asking for a commitment from us. If we commit ourselves to him, he promises what millions have found to be true. If we say yes to him and his call to a particular way of life, if we give him our spirit, poor and limited though it may be, he gives us his Spirit. He has already returned to your life and mine. All we need to do is realize it.

A lived faith invites us to believe in God but also to realize that God believes in us.

Our mission encourages us not to look down in discouragement or up in bewilderment, but rather outward to those who need us to be signs of God's love, and to walk with them with faith and courage. The question is not, "Where did Jesus go?" but rather, "Where does Jesus want us to go?"

Remember his promise, "Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time."

Father Jim Mockler



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MASS OF CHRISM



The sacred oils, blessed and consecrated by the Bishop, are ready to distribute to the parish representatives who took them back to their parishes for use throughout the year.



At the Mass of Chrism, the three oils used in the sacraments were blessed and consecrated by Bishop Fabbro. The Oil of Catechumens, used at baptism, was presented by Cathedral parishioners: the Zheng Family – Isabelle, Pauline, & Ionic, Shakya and Jenny Nguyen, and Paul Williams (pictured above) as well as Alicia and Charlotte Abel.

We Remember...

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

Aubury Roger Nichols
January 9, 1943 – March 24, 2018
Louissette Marie Smith
July 12, 1933 – April 14, 2018

Benjamin Peralta
April 26, 1938 – April 23, 2018
Caterina Palmeri
October 16, 1938 – May 2, 2018

Michael Milde
September 9, 1931 – May 6, 2018
Mary Therese Neill
January 2, 1932 – June 4, 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.
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- 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.

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.

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.

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

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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**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS REPORT

Many parishioners attended recent events hosted by our Knights of Columbus. They enjoyed the splendid spaghetti sauce and continental treats at the annual Italian Night, joined in the toe-tapping music and anticipation of a win at the Elimination Draw, welcomed Lent with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and enjoyed Sunday breakfasts in the gymnasium.

But did you know that Knights are great hosts AND that we contribute to many charities with the funds raised through those events?

In our fraternal year ending on June 30th, St. Peter's Knights assisted 18 different charities with a total of \$12,992. Our largest donation was \$6,000 to support the rising operating expenses of our parish.

Other beneficiaries are: Sisters of the Precious Blood, St. Peter's Seminary, Fresh Start Maternity Support, Parkwood Institute (Veterans Tree of Caring), Heartlinks, ANOVA (a merger of London's Women's Community House and Sexual Assault Centre), Canadian Council of the Blind, My Sister's Place, Coats for Kids, Hurricane Relief through International Knights of Columbus, Save A Family Plan (support of a family for one year), Mission Services, our Parish Picnic, Ark Aid Street Mission, St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London and Area Right to Life, and the Diocese of London (funds to support summer jobs).

Knights also participated in the London Food Bank's Food for Families project.

We collected 402 bags of food, or 3015 lb., valued at \$9,045.

Thanks to these men for their hard work and dedication. For some people, volunteering is about giving, but for our Knights, it is a way of living!

Mitch Lenko (with thanks to Dave Houghton)



Ted Misek at the food drive.



A table of smiling ladies at the Italian Night.



We all LOVE pancakes!

ANSWERS TO CATHEDRAL TREASURE HUNT

1. Holy Spirit at the top of the Coronation of Our Lady window - rear east nave.
2. Holy Spirit in the Coronation window at the back of the Lady Chapel.
3. Sanctuary lamp in the Lady Chapel.
4. A carved cross on the wall of the Lady Chapel, serving as a Station of the Cross.
5. Close-up of one of the candlestick bases beside the altar.
6. Melchizedek window in the narthex.
7. Inlay art on the front of the ambo.
8. Crucifix by Philip Aziz on the altar of the Blessed Sacrament.
9. Painting between an arch in the nave.
- 10/11. Faces of Bishop Walsh and Bishop Cody, carved on either side of the main doors.
12. Window designed by Christopher Wallis, once in the sacristy, and now in a light box outside the parish office in the school. This is the tricky one to find if you don't visit the office much!

You Can Reach Us At...

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

Bishop of London

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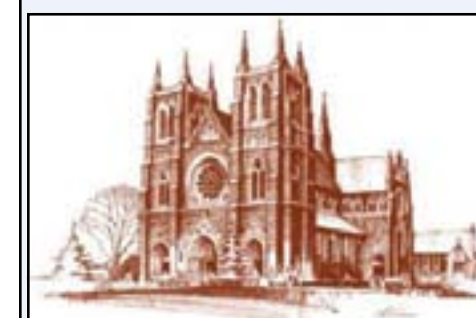
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OUR CATHEDRAL WEBSITE: A FRESH LOOK



Fr. Gary Ducharme For many years, diocesan offices helped parishes maintain a “web presence” in the digital world by constructing a website template for them. It was up to each parish to use the template as required. Some maintained very creative and informative sites. Over time, though, the digital world provided easier, yet more complex platforms for websites, and many parishes decided that the current template-based web pages were no longer adequate. The time had arrived to look for other website providers or builders.

As a former member of the Diocesan Technology Advisory Committee, I was asked by Fr. Jim Mockler to work with CJ Nyssen, our former receptionist and secretary, to build a new website for the parish. CJ did some excellent research and found a sophisticated online website builder that provides ample tools for creativity and expandability.

For those with a knack for “things digital” this website builder is rather easy to learn, but the building process and the inputting of relevant information have taken time and patience. Another challenge was developing the right “feel” for our site. What colours, fonts, images, links, etc. would give it the feel of a parish website? What information and resources would our viewers want?

Shortly after Easter our new website went live. Below are some of its features that I want to draw to your attention. The homepage will take you in all directions. On your first viewing, we hope you will find the essential items that interest you most. Website builders call the homepage “prime real estate” and I hope we have made good use of this precious commodity.

The Header and Menu Bar



Like most websites, ours has a header and menu bar that appears on every page. No matter where you may be in the site you are always one mouse click away from returning to the homepage or to any another page you may want to access.

The About tab on the menu bar connects to many different links – links about how to contact us, about our staff, about how to join the parish. There are links to the parish bulletin, our Cathedral Connections newspaper and archived resources. There is a helpful link to a form for requesting a sacramental certificate, and other pages of interest.

Another tab with many hidden links behind it is Ministries and Groups. Beneath the first three drop-down links you will find all active ministries and groups in the parish.

When you visit the various webpages of these organizations you will find information, news items and schedules linked to that particular group. Most of the other tabs along the menu bar are fairly simple and self-explanatory.



Rotating Images

Below the header and menu bar are rotating images. It is said, “a picture is worth a thousand words,” and these give you pictorial insight into parish happenings. Mixed in with snapshots of parish life are notices of upcoming events and links to newsworthy articles and publications or works of religious art to inspire the soul. Many of the photos you watch rotate across the homepage have a link attached to them. Hold and click your mouse over the picture and you will be taken to another page, document or website that will contain further information related to the pictorial topic.

The “About” Boxes



At the suggestion of a parishioner, we have created three boxes on the front page, just below the rotating pictures. These boxes offer the visitor quick access to information about how to plan for a baptism, wedding or funeral. A second box offers direct access to the times of Mass and Confessions. The third box directs searchers to a history page about the Cathedral parish.

These boxes may be useful to anyone planning a visit to London who wants information about the Cathedral or times for Mass and Confession.

Others who may find these “quick click boxes” helpful are parishioners who are not regularly connected with us and need information about how to prepare for various sacraments. We hope this little feature will serve as a quick reference for callers to the website.

Latest News and Events — and — From the Rector



When viewing the website on a computer monitor or tablet you will find two news columns side by side: Latest News and Events and From the Rector. When viewing the website on your smartphone these columns follow one another. Items under the Latest News and Events column offer a title, brief summary and a link to the News webpage. There, each item is linked to

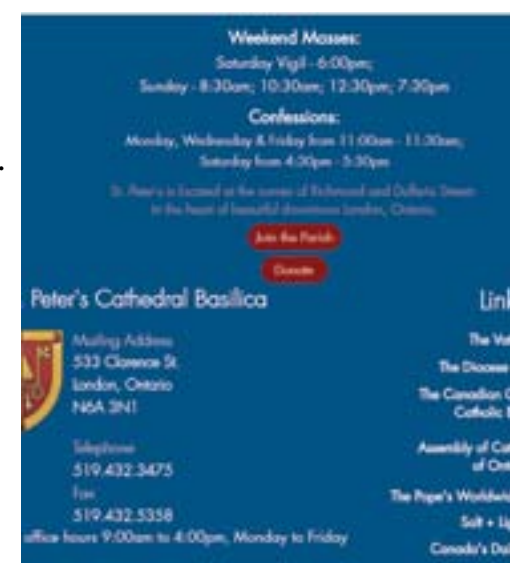
OUR CATHEDRAL WEBSITE: A FRESH LOOK

a source article so viewers can learn more about the browsed item. This means less searching through the News webpage.

The second column on the front page is Fr. Mockler’s weekly column in the parish bulletin. These contributions are always content rich and provide both information and reflection questions for us to contemplate as disciples of Jesus in the world today.

The Footer

Just as the Header appears on the top of each page, the Footer is at the very bottom. Here we offer the inquirer a number of elements: firstly, the most sought-after information – the times of Mass and Confession; then information on how to contact us; the location of the office and Cathedral; and finally, a short list of links to other helpful websites.



We also include two buttons that link the viewer to how to join the parish or to make a donation.

We have been pleasantly surprised by how many individuals have used these buttons in the short time that we have posted them.

Future Use of the Website

We hope all parish groups, committees and ministries will take advantage of the webpages specifically set up for them. Our website can then provide you, the reader/user, with the most up-to-date information about group and committee meetings, events, schedules or articles for reflection. This is an area of communication that we will review and develop with the aid of the parish leadership.

If you have not used our parish website in a very long time, we hope this introduction will pique your interest to investigate further.

After taking a look, please let us know if you feel something essential is missing or if you have a suggestion. You will find a link for that very purpose on the Contact Us page.

We are still on the learning curve about what is useful, practical and necessary for the website. Take a look for yourself, and send us your comments, compliments and suggestions.

Father Gary Ducharme

CONFIRMATION AT ST. PETER'S

On Sunday, May 20th, seventeen young parishioners were confirmed by Bishop Fabbro at the 12:30 Mass.

These photos show the confirmandi, Bishop Fabbro and members of the pastoral team, family, friends and other parishioners in front of the Cathedral. On such a beautiful day there was ample opportunity for congratulations and refreshments, for introductions and greetings. **Congratulations to our confirmandi!**



PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica and the Parish Centre are unique properties that require on-going maintenance and stewardship. Parishioners, staff and volunteers take pride and ownership in our wonderful buildings and grounds. This spring, a number of projects are underway and in various stages of completion. Here is a summary of them.

The sound system experienced a number of problems before Christmas and required a significant upgrade. Because wiring issues beneath the Cathedral were causing background noise and interfering with the Ambo microphone, we upgraded to a wireless arrangement. The system was then balanced so that sound from each of the microphones (portable and fixed) was even, and could be heard throughout the Cathedral.

Last fall, we encountered serious leaks in our workshop/storage area, as well as water seepage in the Sacristy. Andrzej Ciesielka suggested a rubber roof over the workshop/storage area, a very cost-effective solution that should last 10 years. It should be completed by the time you read this newspaper. The Sacristy leaks were solved by applying heavy duty caulking to flashing and seams, promising a drier future.

We are currently upgrading our side-aisle chandelier fixture wiring to meet electrical codes. LED lights will save substantial funds in electrical costs and will soften the overall lighting in the Cathedral without compromising our ability to read. Chandelier lights in the central aisle will also be adapted, and lighting in the Lady Chapel is now brighter and softer. Our lighting project has had to overcome logistical problems, such as coordinating scaffolding and



The snow we complained of in winter has watered our trees and green lawn.

CLARENCE, THE CATHEDRAL MOUSE

Did you know a bishop's chair is called a cathedra and that's how a cathedral gets its name? And did you know that the bishop's hat is called a mitre, and if you take a nap in his mitre, the bishop is none too pleased? I couldn't help myself! There it was, on the cathedra, looking very snug inside, and I was so tired as I had been up rather late the night before.

You see, when I was a young mouse, on clear nights my family would look up at the stars together before heading to bed. And I still do that whenever I can. But as the evenings lengthen with the coming of summer, I must stay up quite late to see my favourite constellations, the ones my parents spoke of in bedtime stories.

Like humans, mice have stories about the constellations, but we have no great bear or lion or any other hunter in our night skies. Where you see Orion's sword belt, we see three shiny apples seeds. Come to think of it, pretty much all of our constellations



The dogwood blooming in memory of Winifred Wojtak.

have to do with shiny seeds. Nonetheless, these stories are part of our tradition. I suspect many families are often too busy now to trace the shimmering patterns that once guided their ancestors to distant lands. But I like to remember that, whether he saw seeds or hunters or his Father's signature etched across the sky, the Carpenter from Galilee once looked up at these same stars.

There are some pretty sights closer to our cath-

electricians, but should be completed soon.

The system controlling our Cathedral bells will be upgraded soon. Its installation had to wait for favourable weather and a convenient time for our electrician to complete the task. Many thanks to an anonymous parishioner who donated the funds for this project.

Our Cathedral grounds are a source of pride for parishioners, and admired by Londoners and visitors alike. Although trees succumb to storms, age and disease, we are fortunate that parishioners continue to donate trees and shrubs to beautify the property for the future.

This spring, the family of Winifred Wojtak donated a dogwood tree to join the redbuds they planted last fall. It bloomed in beautiful profusion in late May and early June. Recently, Robert and Mary Ann Marchand donated a tulip tree, which was planted to the east of the Cathedral. Currently, eight young trees on our grounds are being faithfully watered by Colin Gould.

Garden plots and pots have been designed by Larry Lewis, with most of the digging, planting, weeding and watering done by Shaun Udovic. The plants are well watered and fertilized to promote flowering with magnificent blooms.

Operating a Cathedral as wonderful as St. Peter's requires substantial funds to replace, upgrade or repair items. If your heart is moved to support capital projects, Cathedral restoration or operating costs, we will be grateful for your donation. As well as our thanks, you would receive a charitable receipt to help offset taxes, along with the knowledge that you are a contributor to worthy and necessary projects.

Brian Galea



Robert and Mary Ann Marchand with Larry Lewis at the planting of a tulip tree.

dral home as well. The dogwood tree planted in early May bloomed exuberantly just a few weeks later. The redbuds planted last autumn did not flower this spring, but some things just need some quiet encouragement and will bloom in their own time, and we have high hopes for them next spring.

The flowerbeds around the cathedral are also lovely and vibrant. There would have been a few more flowers, if not for the unfortunate affair of the seed packet. Larry, the Sacristan who kindly helps with the gardening, must have dropped a seed packet because I found one by a planter. Now, I don't wish to cast aspersions on fellow rodents, but squirrels can be a bit untrustworthy when it comes to seed packets, and as there were a few squirrels about, I dutifully tucked the packet into my cassock.

By the time I found Larry, however, the packet was empty. The circumstances are not entirely clear. I suppose I was a bit peckish and mice snack on seeds the way humans snack on corn chips. Well, if the given the chance, I will also snack on corn chips, but my point is that we all make mistakes, and I shall have to remind Larry to be more careful with seed packets in the future.

Of course, all of this has reminded me that our parish picnic is coming up. I am so terribly excited about attending my first church picnic. No one has contacted me to help with the food, but my enthusiasm is not diminished! I am happy to help with the baseball and bingo. You may even see me on the pitcher's mound!

Have a great and safe summer, everyone!

*Clarence
(with editorial assistance from STH)*



ENROLMENT INTO THE GUILD OF ST. STEPHEN

We were blessed to enroll twelve new members into the Guild of St. Stephen. During an enrolment service on April 12, these dedicated altar servers received the right and privilege to wear the medallion of the guild when they serve Mass.

Our current guild members also renewed their commitment of service at the Table of the Lord. Members of the guild promise to offer the guild prayer daily; to do their best to serve regularly, especially when needed; to serve with care and reverence; and to contemplate what they are doing when they serve at the sacraments.

Many former guild members joined us for the ceremony of enrolment. Following Mass we enjoyed a reception at the parish centre.

The Guild of St. Stephen encourages men and women, boys and girls to join our ministry of service. If you would like to be an altar server, please speak to Fr. Gary Ducharme or one of our present members. We could use additional servers at all Sunday celebrations.



CWL REPORT

The Annual Diocesan Conference is always a highpoint of the year, a time to share stories and information with women from Windsor to Woodstock and from Wingham to Wheatley.

The theme of the 98th Convention was **homelessness**; prayers, program speakers and collections were all devoted to this issue. Donations from Councils at the Crowning of Mary were shared by St Joseph's Hospitality Centre and Men's Mission and Rehabilitation Centre, London, and by Inn Out of the Cold, St. Thomas.

Before our summer recess, we breakfasted together at the Ivey Leadership Centre. Father Jim blessed service pins awarded for faithful membership. Ten-year pins were given to Veronica Abrook, Ruth Beitia, Teresita Concepcion, Valerie Cox, Teresa Eldridge, Deanna Holmes, and Janet Tornabuono; and twenty-five year pins to Mary Cahalan, Clare Feeney, Josephine Sansone and Sophia Tacak. Cora Vazansky earned a forty-year pin, and Catherine Capitano, a seventy-five year pin. **Congratulations, good and faithful members!**

Each spring the CWL allocates money raised from the Christmas Bazaar and from sales of apple pies, jam and Christmas Treat Trays. Annually we donate to the following:

Save a Family Plan, St. Joseph's Hospice of London, our parish picnic, National Catholic Broadcasting Council (daily TV Mass), Sisters of the Precious Blood, Mission Services of London, St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, Regional Mental Health Care London, and ANOVA (formerly Women's Community House and Sexual Assault Centre, London.)

This year we are also giving to Catholic Near East Welfare Association Canada, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, St. Vincent de Paul Society (for bus tickets), Birthright London, Daily Bread Food Bank, London Abused Women's Centre, London Food Bank, Boy's and Girl's Club (food program), Catholic Missions in Canada, London Area Right to Life Association, My Sister's Place, and to our Cathedral (for operating expenses).

The CWL offers a \$1,000 bursary to qualifying high school graduates. Applications are available at the parish office and at the welcome desk in the narthex. Deadline is August 15th.

Dora Dannecker



Cathedral Bells

Cathedrals are complex structures and some have taken centuries to complete. When St. Peter's was dedicated on June 28, 1885, there were insufficient funds to finish the towers. Not until the late 1950s was Bishop John Cody able to remedy this. When the church's foundations were deemed not strong enough to support Joseph Connolly's original design for spires, Cody engaged architect Peter F. Tillmann to complete the towers to house a chime of bells.

An apocryphal story, based on the deep friendship of Cathedral rector (later Monsignor) Joseph Feeney and businessman Joe McManus, relates how McManus arranged for stone from the recently demolished St. Thomas post office to be carted to London and dropped on the Cathedral lawn for this project. By good fortune, the same Medina Sandstone had also been used for both post office and Cathedral. The parish paid only the cost of transporting 488 tons of stone from St. Thomas at \$1.50 per ton.



This photo shows the two slightly different colours of Medina sandstone in the Cathedral towers.



Father Feeney then applied his efforts to tendering for the towers and selecting a suitable chime of bells for the Cathedral. Bishop Cody awarded the construction contract to Ellis Don Ltd. for \$113,650, and purchased a set of 12 bell chimes from the I.T. Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, for \$29,240. The bells were manufactured by Petit & Fritsen Bell Foundry in Aarle-Rixtel, Holland, and consisted of 80% copper and 20% tin. They ranged from 225 to 3,850 pounds in weight, and from D natural up to F sharp in tone.

Verdin advised the rector that the bells should all be mounted in one tower rather than two; if separated, their musical expression would be "not at all satisfactory." The bells would be stationary, and their clappers controlled electronically from a panel installed in the sacristy. The Cathedral was offered a credit of \$1,000 for the existing bell.

Father Feeney next invited parishioners and parish groups to endow the bells. Each bell was to be named for an Apostle, embossed with an image of the saint, and inscribed with a crucifix, a verse from the New Testament, and the name of its donor.

By the time of their consecration, all bells were spoken for. The family of Joe McManus donated two bells –



Twelve bells are securely suspended in the east tower from steel beams.



The bells of St. Andrew, St. James the Greater and St. John.

St. Peter (D natural, low) and St. John (F sharp, low). The Diocese of London endowed bells in honour of Bishop Cody – St. James (E natural, low); Bishop Walsh – St. Andrew (G natural); and Bishop Fallon – St. Bartholomew (C sharp). Parish groups were generous as well: the Holy Name Society endowed St. Matthew (G sharp); the CWL endowed St. Thomas (A natural); and the children of St. Peter's School endowed St. Matthias (D natural, high). Father Feeney contributed the St. Philip bell (C natural). The rest were endowed by parishioners: St. Jude (B natural), in memory of the parents of Dr. Cyril and Dr. Margaret Sullivan and family; St. Simon (F sharp, high) in memory of the parents of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donaldson; and St. James (E natural, high) in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Furanna.

A 250 lb. Paccard bell made of 10% silver was also purchased to hang in the flèche. It bore the image of St. Paul, and was dedicated to the Carty Family. Intended to be rung during the consecration, this bell for many years announced to those outside what was occurring in the Cathedral so they could pray with those inside.

On March 12, 1958, Father Feeney was advised by the foundry in Holland that the bells had been shipped to New York on the *SS Haven*.

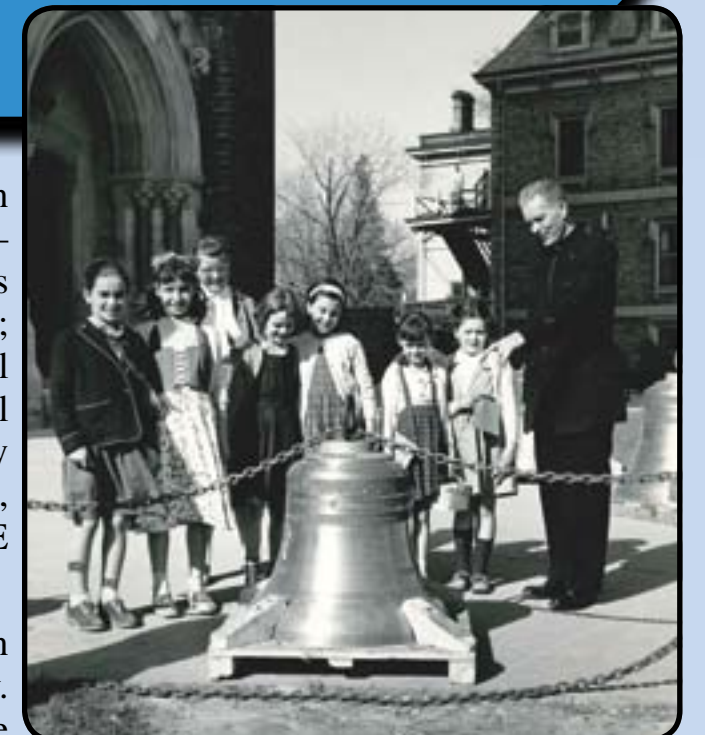
The consecration of the bells took place on May 15, 1958, Ascension Thursday. For this occasion, the bells were suspended over the Cathedral lawn from a low scaffold. Assisted by Father Feeney and many other priests, Bishop Cody washed the bells with holy water, anointed them inside and out with both Oil of the Sick and Sacred Chrism, and burnt incense beneath each one. The following week the bells were hoisted by crane into the east tower and flèche, where they have rung for the last sixty years.

St. Peter's bells are still controlled electronically by a panel in the sacristy. This is preset to ring the Angelus at noon and 6:00pm, and the Westminster chime on the quarter hour (the latter selection was purchased in 1962). A bell is tolled just before and just after a funeral, entreating those who hear to pray for the deceased. When news was received of the death of Pope John Paul II, tolling was continuous through the day.

There is also a setting for a one, two, three, four, five, or six-bell peal. The six produces a wonderful cacophony of sound and is rung after weddings and after Mass on the great solemnities of the liturgical year – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinations. The bells rang out when Benedict XVI and Francis I were elected, and – in a notable civic gesture – on the evening of May 29, 2016, when the London Knights won the Memorial Cup.

In his letter of thanks to those who had endowed a Cathedral bell, Father Feeney wrote: "Every Londoner is proud of them. Every parishioner is proud of you for making them possible." His words still inspire. At St. Peter's, we treasure our bells and respond prayerfully to their many voices, both sad and joyful.

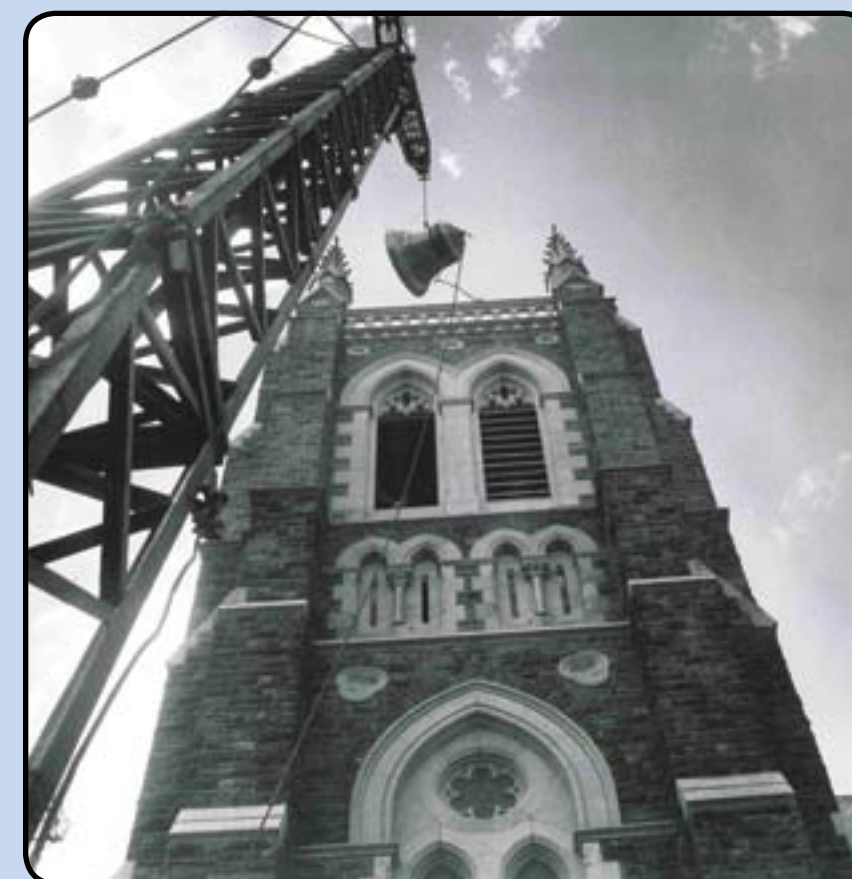
Hilary Neary



Father Feeney and children admire the bell endowed by St. Peter's School.



At the consecration priests wash the St. Philip bell donated by Father Feeney.



A crane lifts a bell to the east tower.

A PROFILE OF PATTY ALDRICH

If you've visited the parish office recently, you've met our Secretary/Receptionist, Patty Aldrich, who arrived in late March. We sat down with Patty recently to learn more about her and the sources for her positive and upbeat attitude. If you have yet to meet her, why not drop by and say "hello"...

What's your Personal and Family Background

I was born in London and my early childhood was spent on my parents' farm in Lambeth, where we raised pigs, cows, rabbits, and a lot of chickens. My parents emigrated to Canada from Portugal in the late 1950s. I have an older brother and sister, both married with grown children, and a big extended family that just keeps on growing.

I am married to a wonderful guy from Vermont, named Pete (sadly, a Boston Bruins fan). After we married, we lived for five years in Vermont and New Hampshire. But I missed my Canadian family so we moved home and settled in London to be close to them.

We have two amazing boys, Matthew (13) and Mitchell (9). Four-year-old miniature pinschers, Penny and Diesel, complete our family.

Where did you work previously?

While in the United States, I worked at a large investment company and in human resources in the medical field. The healthcare system is a true eye-opener, compared to Canada. I got a taste of the differences and all I have to say is THANK GOD for our Canadian healthcare system!

Before coming to St. Peter's, I worked in human resources and medical affairs at London Health Sciences Centre for about 11 years. I am grateful for the different skills I learned there.

What attracted you to the position at St. Peter's?

As a devout Catholic and someone who had been asking God to help me find my purpose in life for a while, this posting was "calling my name." I wanted more fulfillment in my career. Being the Receptionist/Secretary at St. Peter's has provided me with more of a sense of purpose in my life.

I love helping those in need as much as I can, working with different ministries and meeting volunteers and staff in the office.

My favourite quote is: Be the change you wish to see in the world (Mahatma Gandhi). With this job I feel as though I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE, no matter how small it may be!!

What special skills do you bring to the parish?

My parents spoke Portuguese to us at home, and I'm thankful that I've never lost the language.

Utilizing my computer skills, I am currently working with Fr. Gary to learn how to update the new parish website, which is totally awesome!!!! If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, DO SO SOON at www.cathedral.dol.ca

My motto in life is: "Treat others the way you want to be treated!" That is how I handle every interaction on a daily basis in the office and outside as well—an attitude instilled by my parents.

What are your main responsibilities in the office?

My responsibilities are many and varied, including answering the phones and greeting visitors. I prepare the weekly bulletin and certificates for different sacraments. I provide support to the office staff and Pastoral Team, book Mass intentions and facility reservations, enter information in the parish registers (i.e., baptisms, weddings, funerals, first communions, etc.), and assist parish groups such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Marriage Preparation Program.

What are your initial impressions of the parish?

It's amazing how much work is involved behind the scenes! I started in this role just before Easter, a busy time in the parish and a perfect time to get feet wet in a new job! EVERYONE is supportive and always willing to lend a helping hand or just give a



smile or a hug. I love hugs, by the way!!

What do you enjoy most about your work?

Every day is different and brings new challenges. I love the team I work with. Volunteers and parishioners alike, everyone has been so welcoming, making me feel right at home. I also enjoy helping people daily, and it really doesn't feel like a "job," but rather a vocation.

Do you have hobbies or special interests?

I love spending time with my family. I enjoy the outdoors, nature and taking my doggies for a walk. I have recently started a new hobby of sewing surgical caps for kids who are going into surgery, which I make from material with superheroes, cartoon or video gaming characters.

I also love to read, especially positivity/personal development books. I'm always looking for ways to improve myself; you can never have enough personal development. Also, I am currently writing a book titled, *Patty's Advice on Life*. Wish me luck!

Interview by Paul Carson and Dawn Munday



Taken after the Mass of Chrism on March 24th. The Lady Chapel was completely lit, enabling everyone to see the Crowning of Mary window from outside.

PARISHIONER IN THE NEWS -- LINDA STAUDT

Linda Staudt, Director of Education for the London District Catholic School Board, hails from Windsor where her mother still resides. A fast enough marathon runner to be in contention for a spot on Canada's Olympic track team until a hamstring injury shattered those dreams, Linda's degrees in Exercise Physiology led her to become a teacher of Chemistry and Biology.

Her first 25 years as an educator were spent with the Catholic board in Windsor where she eventually assumed various administrative positions. Having worked to support an increasing number of students in attaining a secondary school diploma, she accepted a similarly-focused managerial position with the Ministry of Education in Toronto.

She helped to implement measures to support literacy and numeracy, "credit recovery" for failed courses (students need not repeat the entire curriculum but only those elements they failed to grasp the first time through it), and a program through which high school students develop specialized majors with a co-op component based on their particular interests and aspirations. High school graduation rates in Ontario rose from 68% to 86% thanks to such strategies.

Five years ago, Linda was prompted to seek her current position because she missed both the interaction with students and working in a Catholic context. She has just agreed to stay on for another five years.

She contributes to the broader Catholic community as a member of the Board of King's University College and as one of our parish's weekday lectors.

Assisting teachers to meet the demands of students for academic achievement is part of Linda's job. Today this is not so much a question of making information accessible as facilitating students' mastery of a variety of methodologies: comprehension and communication skills used in every realm of life, interpretative skills needed to handle primary sources and to communicate directly with people from other parts of the world, the ability—required in every type of research—to formulate and test hypotheses, familiarity with social media and its positive uses, and the interpersonal and collaborative skills required for group projects.

In her own teaching Linda, is most proud of those moments when, through a variety of imaginative strategies, she finally succeeded in assisting a student to grasp a concept that had hitherto posed an obstacle to further progress in the subject.

She is happy that the London District Catholic School Board currently offers students many opportunities for effective experiential learning involving "hands on" work with the latest information and communications technologies, interactions with students from other parts of the world (via Skype), and collaboration with professionals in the field or university student mentors.

These opportunities allow students to apply abstract principles to concrete and relevant problems leading to creative and innovative solutions. Some high school students are currently working with non-profit organizations; others work in the areas of health and wellness or in other fields.

Beyond the classroom, students with a particular interest in leadership are part of a "Student Cabinet"—a resource for the School Board. This group recently organized a student-run day-long conference at Brescia University College supporting student leadership for Grade 9 and 10 students—a truly important learning experience for all involved!

Education today must also meet student demands for personal well-being. Teachers must often help students cope with negative or unforeseen events, or situations in which the achievement levels to which they or their parents aspired are not realized.

Here, Linda believes, the faith perspective of the Catholic school system—a resource Ontario is fortunate to have—offers something irreplaceable, but something that must constantly be nourished and safeguarded.

Linda notes the difference a caring adult—especially one whose behaviour exemplifies gospel teaching—can make in a young person's life. Encouraging teachers to relate to students in this quasi-sacramental way and to nurture students' faith by inviting their active planning and participation of the school's religious events are among her top priorities. The "Catholic Studies for Teachers" program offered by King's University College, she finds, prepares prospective teachers well to assume such responsibilities.



Linda believes that each element of the traditional "School, Home, Parish" triad contributes something essential to the education of students. Mother Teresa's words "You can do things I cannot; I can do things you cannot; together we can do great things" describe the cooperation she envisages.

Her ideal is a Catholic school community that welcomes, reaches out and "crosses the road," as did the neighbourly good Samaritan, to families and, like Jesus with the disciples on the way to Emmaus, "patiently accompanies" them on their life journey.

We wish you success in your important work, Linda!

Susan Brown



Fr. Robert Weaver and Fr. Paul Kim were ordained for the Diocese of London, April 28, 2018.

The death of a loved one at any time is difficult. Through the Church's funeral rites, we proclaim that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.

We celebrate these rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life that has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope for all. Through the funeral rites, the Church commends the dead to God's merciful love. This celebration brings hope and consolation to the living.

The funeral rites of the Church have one direction in movement: forward in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. The beloved deceased is moved forward step by step, from the place of life to the place of death, to the place of visitation, to the place of worship, and then to the sacred place of repose. This assists the mourners in accepting the death, by a series of gradual "goodbyes."



The rite begins by acknowledging the pain of loss. It weaves together memory and hope, drawing the life just ended into the mystery of Christ's resurrection. The transition is crystallized in the preface of the Mass: "Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended."

The three principal movements in the funeral rites – the Vigil and related Prayers, the Funeral Liturgy, and the Rite of Committal (interment)–honour the deceased, provide comfort for the mourners, and connect all to the larger community, the Church.

When your family is suddenly faced with planning a funeral for a loved one, it can be quite an overwhelming time. Confronted with the grief and loss that naturally comes with death, your family is tasked with many decisions and "items of business." The Church is here to support and guide you through this, along with the funeral home, crematorium and cemetery. Often, the initial contact after death is with the funeral home.

We have established a very good working partnership with many area funeral homes. During the initial contact with the family, the funeral home connects with the church, and the preparation begins simultaneously.

In the planning and carrying out of the funeral rites, we keep in mind the life of the deceased, and also the spiritual and emotional circumstances of the family and friends of the deceased to express their grief and sense of loss, to accept the reality of death with Christian hope, and to comfort one another. In discussion with the family, we invite them to participate in all preparations of the funeral rites – explaining the symbols and meaning of the rites, selecting the scripture passages and music that will be used, and designating those who will participate in the rites.

When a member of the community dies, the Church and all its members are called to exercise a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of someone they love. Christian consolation is rooted in that hope that comes from faith in the saving death and resurrection of Jesus.

Christian hope faces the reality of death and anguish of



grief, but trusts that the power of sin and death has been overcome by the risen Lord. The entire parish community, therefore, has a role to play, through prayer, presence, words, and by surrounding the family and friends with love and support.



Frequently asked Questions about Funerals at St. Peter's Cathedral

Does the deceased have to be a registered parishioner to celebrate a funeral at the Cathedral?

As with all sacraments, the parish you regularly attend or where you are registered is the normative place to celebrate. So, too, for a funeral liturgy. That being said, we honour and accommodate to the best of our abilities any request that comes to us regardless of parish registration or prior attendance.

Where can the funeral liturgy take place?

The funeral liturgy can take on one of two forms – the traditional form of Catholic worship, the Mass, or a Liturgy of the Word. Both liturgies follow a rite based on the structure of Sunday Eucharist. A Liturgy of the Word is most often celebrated at the funeral home, but can also be celebrated in the church. A funeral Mass can only be celebrated in the church. Funeral liturgies at St. Peter's can be celebrated in the Cathedral or in the Lady Chapel.

Does the church allow cremation?

Cremation is an acceptable practice with the Church. Ideally, cremation takes place after the funeral liturgy is celebrated. Sometimes, circumstances can dictate that cremation takes place prior to the funeral liturgy. Cremated remains may be present for this rite.

Do cremated remains have to be buried?

The great respect the Church has for the bodies of its deceased should also be evident in the way the remains are treated after cremation. This means that they should be put into a worthy container, and all who handle them should treat them with care and reverence in the way they are transported and where they are placed. The Church asks that, in keeping with a spirit of reverence, that cremated remains be buried in a grave or entombed in a



mausoleum or a columbarium (a place for the entombment of cremated remains), that is, in a place especially designated for this purpose and reserved as such.

Are eulogies allowed at a funeral?

A eulogy is defined as a "formal speech or a piece of writing of high praise of a person." The rite for the celebration of a funeral liturgy does not permit a eulogy. It recognizes our need to reflect on the life of a loved one who has just died. It provides an opportunity for a family member or friend to speak at the vigil, offering words of remembrance that focus on the Christian life of the deceased. If circumstances dictate, words of remembrance can be given just prior to the beginning of funeral liturgy. Reflections on the life of the deceased may be better placed as part of the reception following the funeral.

The fact that a eulogy is not permitted does not mean that there is to be no reference to the deceased during the liturgy. Those who preach are directed to dwell on God's compassionate love and the paschal mystery as proclaimed in the Scripture readings. As well, they are directed to be attentive to the grief of

those present and to help them understand the mystery of God's love and the paschal mystery in the life of the deceased person and in their own lives. References to the person's life of faith and love are obviously appropriate.



Can you pre-plan a Funeral Liturgy at the Cathedral?

Traditionally, funeral planning is done by the executor and family of the deceased following the death of a loved one. To lessen the burden of this planning, many now make pre-arrangements, often years in advance, both through a funeral home and the church. By contacting one of our Pastoral Team members, the funeral ritual can be discussed, and the planning of the liturgy can be completed. All of this will be documented and filed in the parish office, and copies can be distributed to the executor and funeral home.

Pre-planning can help to initiate a discussion with family on specific wishes for the funeral, and also provide an opportunity to talk about the reality of death, your life of faith, and the importance of celebrating the funeral rites of the Church.

Cathryn Hall

Sources for this article are drawn from: CCCB, *Order of Christian Funerals*; CCCB, *National Liturgy Office, Catholic Funerals and Eulogies*, and *Catholics and Cremation*; *Diocese of London, Policy on Eulogies and Words of Remembrance*, and *Directives on the Celebration of a Funeral Mass in the Presence of Cremated Remains*.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL VISIT

For eighty years, St. Michael's Choir School, Toronto, has educated students to live the motto: *He who sings, prays twice*. The school advocates the study and service of sacred music at St. Michael's Cathedral, while uniting academic goals with the development of character to serve the common good.

During their 2018 spring tour, St. Michael's Choir gave a stunning performance at our Cathedral on April 25th, featuring works such as Allegri's *Miserere Mei*, and Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*. On invitation they joined forces with the men's choir from Catholic Central High School and the Amabile Tenor Bass choir.

Many choral gems were sung by each choir, while the combined pieces included Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad*, scored for

double choir and organ, and Caccini's *Ave Maria*. The choirs were also involved in combined workshops at St. Mary's Choir School and CCH.

Of local interest, Matthew Bermudez, *tenor*, and Chris Pitre McBride, *baritone*, are CCH alumni, members of Amabile, Voice majors at Western, and currently sing with our Cathedral Singers. Their participation demonstrates the collaborative nature of music and the power of music education.

At this concert, school and church combined to give glory to God. Let us hope that many future concerts will grace the beautiful acoustic space of our Cathedral.

Gloria Gassi



WHAT ARE YOU READING, VIEWING OR CONSULTING?

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.



Madeleine McInnis and Gerry McKeon have read *On Heaven and Earth* by Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) and Abraham Skorka. (Translated from Spanish, New York, 2013)

Pope Francis has proven to be one of the most innovative and interesting leaders of our times. As we are unlikely to know him personally, this book provides insights into his views and character.

When Bergoglio was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and Rabbi Abraham Skorka was Rector of the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano there, they met as friends to discuss a wide range of issues. Eventually, they decided that publishing their conversations might contribute to both interfaith dialogue and a better understanding of their respective positions. They believed that "dialogue is born from a respectful attitude towards the other person, from the conviction that the other person has something good to say." The result is quite fascinating.

They examined "Big Questions" such as the existence of God and of evil, as well as every day issues that challenge how personal beliefs are reflected in behaviour. These include divorce, abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, education, science, politics, the role of prayer, and confronting death. They explored historical events such as the Holocaust, the Argentinian dictatorship of 1976-1983, and the Israeli-Arab conflict. In their concluding discussion, they speculated on the role religion will play in the future.

The most impressive feature of these conversations is the deep respect both men have for all people as individuals no matter what their background. This arises from their basic belief that we are all part of God's creation. Their intimate

knowledge of scripture, philosophy and history means that their views are informed by "the wisdom of the ages;" they support their contentions by apt references to everything from the parable of the Good Samaritan to the memoirs of Rudolf Hess, Commandant of Auschwitz. Although their points of view on subjects often differ in detail, one is struck by the similarities of their outlook.

After reading this book one is left feeling that the leadership of the Catholic Church and the Jewish community are in the hands of exceptional men, well equipped to deal with our world with wisdom, understanding and compassion.



Mary Cahalan recommends Pope Francis' 2018 Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate, (Rejoice and Be Glad)*.

This is a practical document, an easy-to-read prophetic beckoning to us from our beloved Pope Francis. Although the universal call to holiness has come to us many times in the past, especially from the Second Vatican Council, Francis calls us again in a conversational tone and "re-proposes the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities" (Par. 2). He understands our world, and the day-to-day problems we face in fulfilling Christ's mission.

This Exhortation has five chapters. Francis writes with passion, making you feel that he is sitting in your living room, drawing you in to hear his message of importance.

Chapter 1, "The Call to Holiness", describes the many ways to be holy. Francis calls us all to be saints and witnesses, and to a state of sanctity not just for saints and martyrs, but to holiness present in the daily perseverance of "men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile" (7). "Holiness", Francis says, "is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of life" (20).

The second chapter concerns two particular enemies of holiness, Gnosticism and Pelagianism. The Gnostic approach "is strict and allegedly pure and can appear to possess a certain harmony or order that encompasses everything" (38). Pelagians "trust only in their own powers and feel superior to others." They stress the will of the individual and show a lack of humility. This prevents grace from working effectively within us.

Chapter 3 dwells on Jesus as model teacher who explains the eight Beatitudes as "a Christian's identity card" (63). In each Beatitude, he gives us an example of holiness in action today. For example, in "Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy", Francis follows his explanation with a summary: "Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness." This is a beautiful, reflective and must-read section.

Next, Francis highlights the "Signs of Holiness" in today's world (Ch.4). To understand the work of the Spirit in us, he emphasizes "spiritual discernment" which is a grace to help us through the "laborious process" of true discernment. Our great resource is a God who loves us deeply, and passionately desires to be part of our life. Prayer, patience, humility, and inner strength will give us a heart of love, peace and joy.

In the final chapter, Francis reminds us that the "Christian life is a constant battle" (158). It is wise, therefore, to seek the help of the Holy Spirit to keep us alert, because, "without the wisdom of discernment, we can easily become prey to every passing trend" (167).

Pope Francis has written to each of us. I invite you to read *Gaudete et Exsultate*, and join him in rejoicing "each time the Lord triumphs in our lives" (158).

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html



THREE ARCHANGELS

Angels are non-corporeal spirits created by God in the service of Salvation. Possessing no miraculous powers of their own, they bring miracles to humanity. At the end of time their mission will be completed, and for all eternity they will praise and worship God.

The stained-glass windows and paintings in our Cathedral show many beautiful depictions of angels. I will focus here on three archangels who bring messages, mercy and consolation to the world: St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael.

Church teaching places *St. Michael* above the nine choirs of angels, and gives him titles like 'Prince of the Heavenly Host', 'Defender of Christians' and 'Protector of Souls.' His window in the west nave is rich in iconography that symbolizes his attributes and powerful, God-given assignments.



He is wearing a red robe suggestive of power and energy, love and passion. Underneath he wears a suit of armour signifying his battle to protect the Church and our souls from evil. His robe is fastened at his neck by a medallion imprinted with the six-pointed Star of David, indicating Jewish status and meaning 'Shield of David'.

In his right hand, Michael holds a double-edged sword, the hilt in cruciform shape. The blade is represented in multicoloured heads of wheat that progress from the hilt upward in red to the tip of gold, possibly telling of Christ's sorrowful passion to His glorious resurrection. Wheat symbolizes sacramental bread of life. The hilt crosspiece ends on each side with a fleur-de-lis signifying purity and the Trinity. This same symbol appears on either side of the robe's throat medallion. In the Middle Ages, 'sword' meant 'word of God.'

There are references in Isaiah and Revelations referring to the sword as truth coming from the mouth. Michael's left hand holds the Shield of Truth, also found in the Bible. Christ himself is spoken of as a shield. A scale of balance is depicted on the shield, centred on a cross radiating shafts of light to the shield's edges. Michael the Archangel is charged with weighing the balance of good and evil of a soul at death. His warrior helmet is adorned with a crown noting his celestial domain.



The overall mood of the Annunciation window behind the St. Joseph altar is solemn, with both Mary and *St. Gabriel* the archangel, God's chief messenger, deep in prayer. Gabriel is adorned with gilded wings. Gold symbolizes precious value; wings signify divine mission. Gabriel has been assigned to deliver the most significant message in Salvation history.

With a nimbus of white,

rimmed with gold encircling his head, further addresses the lofty nature of this commission. His gown also is white, and the presence of lilies, often associated with the archangel, point to the sanctity and purity of the scene. Gabriel wears a cope of pale blue clasped by a golden morse. Blue denotes the colour of the sky, representing heavenly love. He holds a sceptre in his left hand, a symbol of authority. It is topped by a fleur-de-lis with three petals.

In religious art, *three* symbolizes completeness, speaks of the Trinity, and points to Christ's three days in the tomb. The focal point of this window is Gabriel pointing to the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, descending on a shaft of golden light as He empowers Mary to become the mother of the Messiah.

Archangel *Raphael*, whose name means 'Medicine of God', is chief of all guardian angels and guardian of humanity. He brings miracles of healing, having cured the elder Tobias of blindness with fish gall. St. Raphael is also known as 'Protector of Travelers.' He journeyed with the younger Tobias on a mission to recover family wealth.



Our Cathedral has no image of St. Raphael, but here is a painting from Mexico of him. Raphael is painted richly dressed in wayfarer's decorated cape and elaborate sandals, and adorned with expansive wings noting divine mission. Brown signifies warm kindness, humility and renunciation of the world. Notice the gently downcast eyes. His head is surrounded by a nimbus, a zone of spiked light.

Raphael carries a dangling fish in his right hand, his healing remedy. The fish, throughout biblical history, embodies many symbols, and signifies most importantly Christ, who is the healer. Raphael's traveler's staff is topped with a simple cross. A gourd of water hangs from the crossbar. Necessary to life, water also signifies Baptism.

The simplified background in this painting implies the heavenly dwelling of the archangel, yet his presence on earth brings healing and protection to travelers.

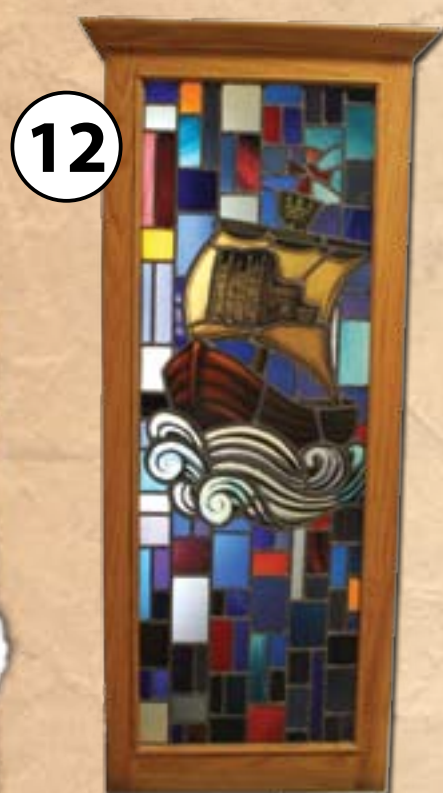
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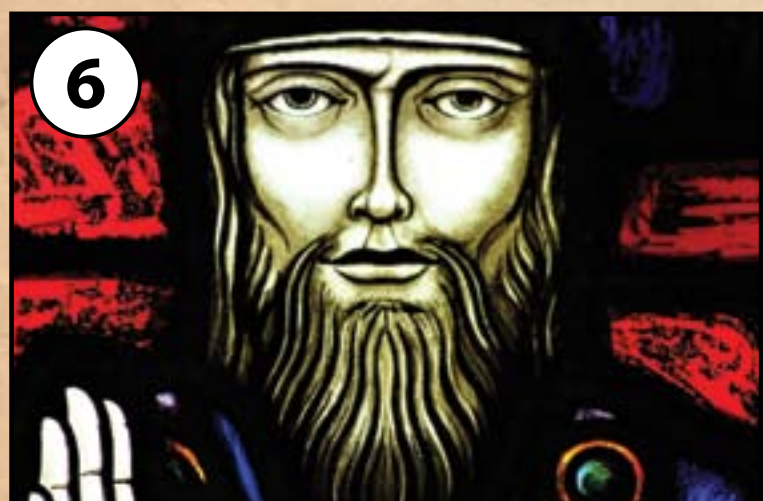
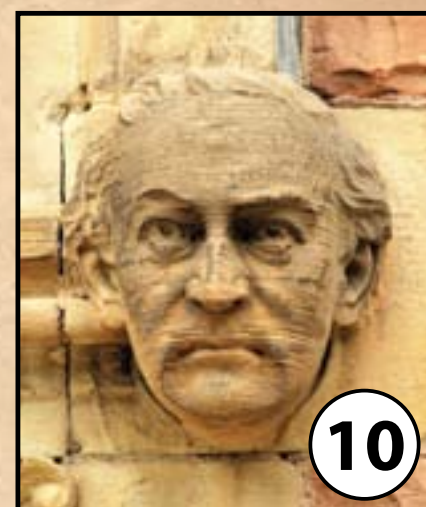
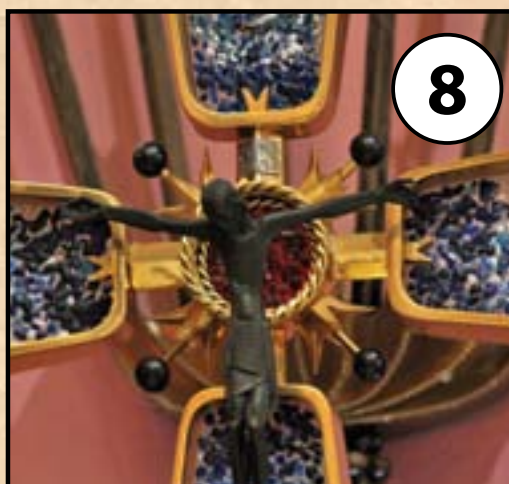
St. Michael above the Pentecost window in the Sanctuary.

CATHEDRAL TREASURE HUNT

Can you find where these treasures are hidden in St. Peter's?



The answers are found
on page 3



Photos by Carl
Vanderwouden