

Cathedral Connections

WINTER 2018/2019

*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

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

A quick viewing of any media format will tell us the readings of the last week of the Church's liturgical year and the First Sunday of Advent are pretty accurate.

They start off with a dark and gloomy tone. Jesus speaks of great disturbances in the world that will terrify people everywhere. Even in our current day the world, at times and in certain areas, seems to not want to choose a peaceful path to anything. There are continuing wars, growing divides and dislike among peoples within countries and neighbourhoods along with hostility and intolerance.

Yet, just when all seems to be at its darkest, Jesus informs the world that the Son of Man will appear in all his power and glory bringing redemption and liberation to all who welcome his coming.

The loss and difficulty people experience in times of trial is not as much from God's punishment as from the understandable consequence of their choice to eliminate God from their lives.

Since the day we were baptized we have been given the responsibility of changing our corner of the world for the betterment of all in preparation for the final coming of Jesus. Doing this we need to be vigilant, making sure we don't fall into a state of apathy or irresponsibility, or get swept up in the anxieties of daily life.

There definitely are times in our lives when everything seems to be falling apart. Things happen over which we have little or no control. We become afraid and we are shaken. These are the moments in life when I realize I am vulnerable and fragile. This is a gift because it allows us to recognize Jesus is closest to us, giving us strength in our weakness. His presence has power to eliminate our fears and enables us to stand strong. The temptation is always there to let the darkness take over. We need to resist it, because the light

of the Lord's presence shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

With that as a foundation and looking to what needs to be done during this coming year, we realize we are called to conversion – in all the many ways it is possible.

Here are some aspects of change we might consider during this season. What if we broadened our image of God – moving from worshipping a creator very distant from us to initiating a personal relationship with a loving God who accompanies us every day through his son Jesus? This comes through regular prayer and taking time to reflect, meditate and discern after reading the Gospel message.

What if I changed my attitude to life and as a person of faith was willing to go beyond religious practices and become a conscious disciple of Jesus – seeing life as a gift and a journey during which we allow ourselves to be more and more possessed and loved by Jesus? This can be a journey where we become aware of the movement of God's spirit in our lives, beginning to see those in need because we will be looking at life through the compassionate eyes of Jesus.

And what if I changed the way I make choices? Upon what are my day-to-day choices based?

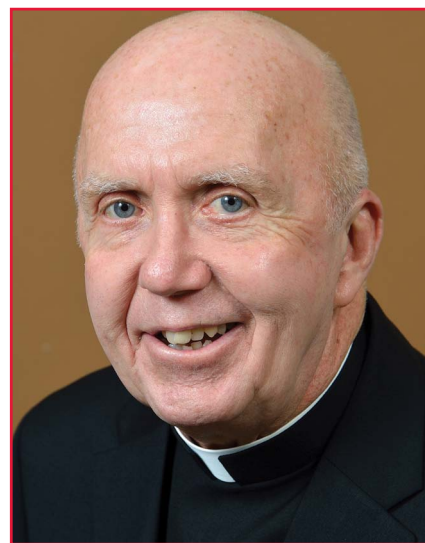
Christmas is a gift, a precious gift of time to straighten out what is not yet right; to overcome struggles and areas of darkness — to heal what we've broken, to forgive, to be more generous, to bring Jesus back into our lives. No matter how shattered or wonderful our lives may be, Jesus is with us. He comes to us in the broken places where we know we can't make it on our own. It is Jesus who comes to us in those moments when we look beyond our own needs, to see the needs of others.

There are those who think that a vision of a world at peace will never be achieved. Christmas offers us hope, inspiring us to be better peace-makers in the future. If we recognize Jesus more in our lives we will not lose heart, and our prayer and liturgical celebrations will not only look to the past but also to a vibrant present and a living and a promising future.

Let Christmas bring us a sense of wonder, joy and hope. Let's be more attentive to the most important aspects of our life – our family and our community of faith, those in need and our friends. Let's keep attentive to the truths Jesus sets before us. He just wants us to give him the time of day. Let him reside within us so that our love for one another will increase because loving hearts will always diminish darkness. Because we are disciples of Jesus are we not called to act in love? The world needs more of it, and it is within your power and mine to give this love away – if we only take the time to do it.

Along with Bishop Fabbro and our Cathedral staff, I wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Fr. Jim Mockler



ST. PETER'S
CATHEDRAL BASILICA

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Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop, Joseph Dabrowski joined several priests and deacons on December 8 to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The mass was well attended by parishioners of St. Peter's and other parishes in the London Deanery.

We Remember...

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

Johann Karl Eminger
March 3, 1927 – November 2, 2018

Walter Peter Holmes Harding
July 15, 1937 – December 4, 2018

Angel-Lynn McCallum
July 20, 2018 – September 23, 2018

Mrs. Rita Miner
August 14, 1922 – September 28, 2018

Carol Anne Murray-Spivak
July 24, 1939 – November 21, 2018

Valerie Pumputis
May 4, 1934 – November 6, 2018

Renee Maria Van Herpe
June 24, 1929 – November 21, 2018

Michael Patrick Crilly
October 10, 1944 – December 4, 2018

Rose Mary Casaceli
January 29, 1938 – December 11, 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.

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

**DONOHUE
FUNERAL HOME**
est. 1930

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**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANGEL TREE

Two enduring traditions—Christmas Angels and Christmas Trees—are combined each year in the Angel Tree, a seasonal presence in the Cathedral narthex.

Organized by members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), the Angel Tree was adorned with donor cards encouraging parishioners to assist the needy of the parish through the purchase and return of ten-dollar gift cards from area stores such as Timmy's, Shopper's Drug Mart, Giant Tiger and Dollarama. The returned gift cards are being distributed to individuals and families along with a food voucher as part of the SSVP 2018 Christmas Delivery Gift Package.

Thanks to your support and generosity, the SSVP at St. Peter's is able to assist families or individuals with a food voucher, an SSVP store for clothing and furniture, a bus ticket if needed for grocery shopping and where necessary, an air mattress within a yearly time period.

The SSVP, with the help of the Knights of Columbus and members of the Catholic Women's League, hosts a yearly Winter Welcome Lunch early in the New Year. This lunch is a wonderful way to socialize and celebrate the warmth of friendship in the cold of winter.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay organization of men and women seeking to assist the needy through home visits by pairs of Vincentians. Here at the Cathedral our visitation schedule is based upon a three-month time period. The generosity of parishioners allows team members the opportunity to meet with fellow parishioners requesting financial help and support during times of need. The deep gratitude of people receiving your help is a joyful exchange of friendship.

The existence of two SSVP stores in the city of London allows those in need to receive clothing for free and furniture at a reduced cost. The SSVP stores can also assist needy individuals to purchase beds at a very reasonable rate. The SSVP Thrift Stores are located at 585 York Street, near Adelaide (519-438-7071) and 1005 Elias Street (519-433-9210).

In addition, parishioners have been very generous in contributing gently-used articles of clothing, household goods and furniture on a specially designated "Bundle Sunday."

We, the members of SSVP at St. Peter's Cathedral, are truly thankful for all your support and assistance in reaching out to those in need. Through the intercession of our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and your generosity, we are all making a difference in the lives of those requesting our assistance.

*With thanks, Mike Zadorsky and the members
of SSVP at St. Peter's Conference.*



St. Vincent de Paul Society coordinator Mike Zadorsky decorates the Angel Tree in the Narthex.

The Celebration of the Christmas Season at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE/ CHRISTMAS DAY):

Monday, December 24

5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.,
9:00 p.m., 12:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 25

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Friday, December 28

7:30 p.m.
(Feast of the Holy
Innocents)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Saturday, December 29

6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:

Monday, December 31

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 2

12:05 p.m.

(Memorial of St. Basil
& St. Gregory)

Thursday, January 3

7:30 a.m.

Friday, January 4

12:05 p.m.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:

Saturday, January 5

6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 6

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Week of January 7-11:

Mon/Wed/Fri: 12:05 p.m.;
Tues/Thurs: 7:30 a.m.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD:

Saturday, January 12

6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

**You Can Reach Us At...
519-432-3475**

FAX: 519-432-5358

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

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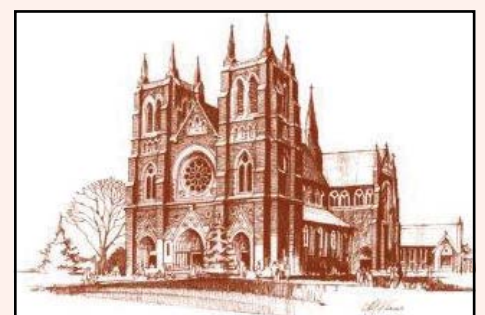
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CLARENCE the CATHEDRAL MOUSE'S LETTER TO ST. NICHOLAS

Dear St. Nicholas,

I hope you've had a pleasant year. Ours was certainly a busy one at the Cathedral, with masses and concerts, events solemn and joyous, and tour groups from all over. Behind the scenes (and sometimes from up in the attic), our staff have been making sure that everything runs smoothly and in good order.

As you know, old and stately cathedrals such as ours often require touch-ups and sometimes larger renovations. My own "reno" to-do list has become rather long, so I was very pleased to see that other staff and volunteers have already taken on some of these projects. In particular, I was happy to see new LED lights installed in many of our chandeliers. I was prepared to run up and down the walls and over light fixtures, changing one lightbulb at a time, but our team was able to lower the chandeliers, which worked out much better. We hope to put in more of these LEDs soon, as they give a bright but softer light in the Cathedral and save on electricity.

The wrought iron fences by the Cathedral lawns also needed touching up, and the times being what they are, we've had to install security cameras. (I've been passing by frequently to test them and have been told I'm very photogenic.) At the front of the Cathedral, the steps to the west entrance and the top step to the main door were decaying, but I am very excited to report that they will be replaced in time for Christmas – so if you can visit, please enter by one of these doors to see the new steps! Just recently, too, we discovered that the silver bell tower is badly in need of repairs. This discovery involved a drone, flight goggles, and me hanging on for dear life, but it was worth it!

As you see, we are dealing with several renovations, so I am hoping that you can help us out with the expenses. In fact, I had a dream that you stopped by. I've written my dream down in the style of one of my favourite poems, so it may sound a little familiar to you!



Repaired steps at the west main door of the cathedral.

*'Twas early on Christmas
And all through God's house,
Not a creature was stirring
But Clarence the Mouse!
The Babe was nestled away in His manger
With donkeys nearby and camels
(far stranger).
Midnight Mass over with faithful aplenty,
The organ now silent, the choir loft empty.
One candle kept the altar aglow,
As lights were dimmed to save on hydro.*



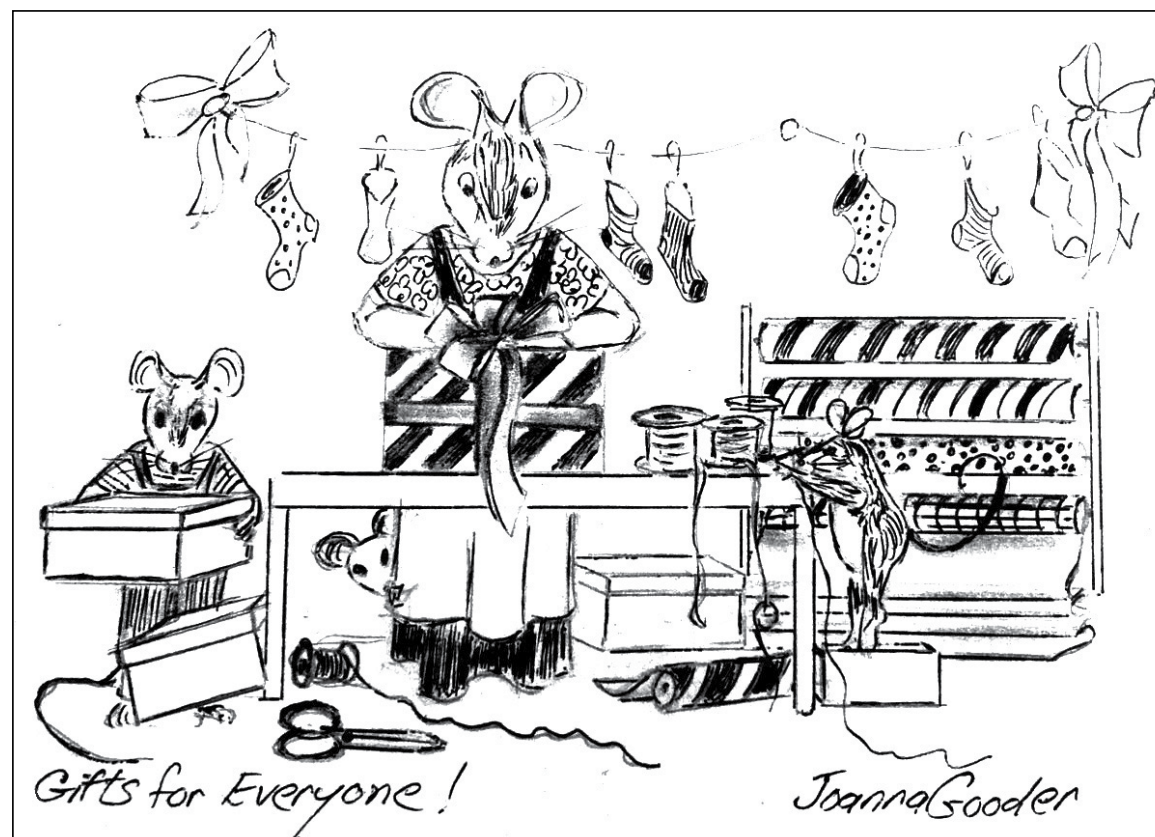
*Out on the lawn, the snowflakes shifted,
And onto the steps, more of them drifted,
Specked with a trace of chimney soot,
Left in the print of a big winter boot.
By doors locked, sturdy, and oak,
The cameras caught a swish of red cloak.
A saint had entered on this winter morn,
With long, white beard, and top of head shorn.
With sack in hand and bishop's stave,
St. Nicholas strode through the quiet nave.
He paused by the mouse at the back of a pew,
Gave him a coin and a candy cane, too!
With a wink of his eye and a smile serene,
Then headed up to the manger scene.*

*With a bow to the Holy Family,
And next to the camels and the wise men three,
St. Nick knelt down and opened his treasure,
A sack full of coins, with gold for good measure!
Funds for steps, the tower, and lighting,
Some for cameras and some for fencing,
A few coins too for the unexpected,
Donations all welcomed, none rejected!*

And so, dear saint, I do hope that my dream comes true and that you can drop by. But if you can't make it this year, please urge the good folk of our parish to help us out. All donations will be used wisely – as always, our staff strive to be the model of cost-efficiency!

Thank you again for helping us to keep our Cathedral beautiful, and a Merry Christmas to All!

Clarence, the Cathedral Mouse, with assistance from STH



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

MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. PETER'S

The mission of our Cathedral choirs is to lead the assembly in worship through prayerful song by providing music which is integrated with the Liturgy. By our vocation as music ministers we offer our gift of song to the worshiping community, to sing God's praises and to be open to the anointing of the Spirit. To worship in spirit and truth is to open ourselves to conversion, healing and the love of God which unite us all in Christ Jesus.

Has God blessed you with a love of music and the gift of song? Singers and musicians are invited to join one of our choirs – open to children, high school students and adults. A regular commitment to rehearsals and singing at Sunday Eucharist is required.

Children's Choir

The Cathedral Children's Choir is an opportunity for young people in Grades 2 to 8 to develop their love of music and appreciation of the liturgy, to be a part of a learning community and to train for further involvement in liturgical music. The children's choir is a viable preparatory experience for the Cathedral Singers and other music ministry opportunities. Parental involvement is always welcomed.

Time: Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:00-6:45 p.m., September to June.



Cathedral Singers

The Cathedral Singers support the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and Diocesan celebrations throughout the liturgical year. This ministry strives to provide the best of sacred choral music to enhance the celebration of Mass and to encourage parish participation. Musical skills, good singing ability and sight reading are a definite asset.

Time: Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., September to June.



Contemporary Choir

The Contemporary Choir supports the 7:30 p.m. Sunday Mass and Diocesan celebrations. The choir sings a mix of traditional and contemporary music and leads the congregation in song. A positive attitude and willingness to learn musical skills in a choral setting are vital components of this music ministry.

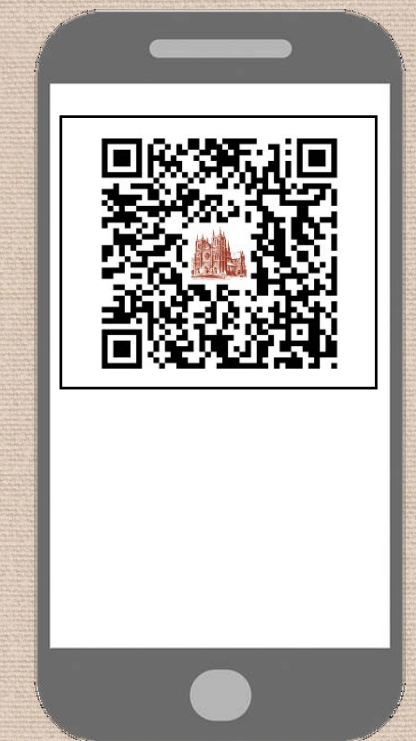
Time: Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., September to June.

Resurrection Choir

This choir serves the parish community by providing musical support for funerals. Because of the flexible nature of this ministry, volunteer members are contacted a day or two in advance of a funeral. The choir sits among the assembly and encourages and supports the singing. There are no scheduled rehearsals.

St. Peter's Cathedral

Mobile Giving Now Available



1. Place your device in camera mode or open the QR Code Reader
2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.
4. Follow the prompts to donate.



Join your fellow Parishioners for a quick snack, some refreshments and great conversation in the Narthex after all Masses.

January 5 & 6 (Epiphany)
February 2 & 3 **March 2 & 3**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACTIVE IN OUR PARISH

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHALLENGE THE WEATHER

Our Knights at the Cathedral continue to aid the needy in our community by fighting the cold weather. In keeping with the spirit of Charity (one of the core principles of the Knights), the Council has decided to expand its "Coats for Kids" winter program. During the winter of 2017 and 2018, the Knights set aside a budget of \$500.00 to purchase winter coats for needy children. These funds were used to be part of a group purchase of children's coats with other Councils in the area.

To expand and strengthen the program, the Council has now increased its budget to \$1,000 for the program. But rather than purchase a quantity of coats in various sizes, the Knights will now purchase only for the size requested and from local sources. The program will expand to include winter clothing of all types, such as scarves, gloves, hats, boots, etc. In addition to children, needy adults will also be considered, should the need arise and the budget allow. A congratulatory tip of the hat (preferably a warm furry toque) to the Knights for that initiative!

THE AMBASSADOR FOOD PROGRAM

In keeping with the spirit of Charity, our Knights again this year worked with the local food bank to solicit donations of food. During each of the first five days of October, they set up and manned tables in five separate stores: three Metro Stores, one Loblaws store and the Superstore. They worked both afternoon and evening shifts. Their approach was to hand out empty bags to those entering the store who wished to purchase and donate food to the Food Bank.

As these shoppers left the store, they would return the bags to the Knights with food they purchased for the program. Over the five-day program, the Knights from the Cathedral collected 2,152 bags of groceries for the food bank.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR 15th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Knights of Columbus have been hard at work at our parish and in our community since the get-go. To celebrate an important milestone in our parish history, the Knights will be hosting a 15th anniversary dinner on Saturday, January 19 in the Parish centre. It will begin with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner. Many current Knights were among the founding members of this council back in 2003.

All parishioners and friends are welcome to attend and to celebrate with the Knights. The current Grand Knight, Roger Khouri said, "We love working for our parish and the community, through our social and charitable activities. We can't wait for the next 15 years and beyond!"



LOSS OF PETER HARDING, OUR DECEASED BROTHER KNIGHT

Peter Harding, a long-time member of the Knights, a former Deputy Grand Knight and then Grand Knight of our Council, passed away on December 4, at the age of 81. During his tenure at the Cathedral Knights, he was a huge contributor to the success of the council's projects and charitable initiatives. While serving as Grand Knight, for example, he introduced our council to the food program, described earlier in association with the London Food Bank.

Peter's commitment to the Knights of Columbus didn't stop with the Cathedral Council, as he also joined the 4th degree Jerome P. McNamara Assembly #2575. With that assembly, he attained the status of Faithful Navigator, and then Master. Ultimately he became a District Master within the Province of Ontario until shortly before his demise. In many ways Peter's activities exemplified all four principles of the Knights of Columbus,

namely Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. He retired as Deputy Chief of the London Fire Department in 1998, but continued his association with the London Food Bank as a chartered member of its Board of Directors since its inception. He volunteered with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade for 37 years, ultimately achieving the rank of Provincial Superintendent. He was involved for many years on the Board of Directors of the Irish Benevolent Society. Parishioners will remember him welcoming people to the Cathedral at the 8:30 Mass on Sunday mornings and serving as usher.

At Peter's funeral, Glen Pearson, a Londoner known to many and a colleague of Peter Harding, commented in his eulogy on Peter's total commitment to a life of public service. In his view, that commitment was Peter's legacy to all of us, and one that we should strive to replicate.

Mitch Lenko



Peter Harding

ELIMINATION DRAW AND EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

This stellar annual event also drew some unexpected pleasantries. As a gift to the parish, the Knights of Columbus purchased 240 three-piece sets of cutlery along with new washable white tablecloths. They were used for the first time at this year's Elimination Draw event on November 10 and are now available for all other parish dining events in the Parish Centre. The new cutlery blended in nicely with the dinner, which featured splendid roast beef that was very tender and freshly cut in ideal thicknesses.

Everyone's "sweet tooth" was easily satisfied with a wide assortment of petite pastries. All music tastes were catered to as well, with the instrumental group playing favourites from the 50's and 60's and forward. Their choice of music kept the dance floor well occupied by all ages, literally.

The draw receipts and the proceeds from the bar sales proved the evening to be a financial success, and allowed the Knights to divide the net proceeds between the Cathedral and the "Veterans Tree of Caring" at Parkwood Institute. The Veterans Tree of Caring campaign supports the purchase of new medical equipment, environmental upgrades and care and comfort items that enhance the quality of life for our war veterans, helping to ensure they will always feel safe, comfortable and well-cared-for.



PARISH BREAKFAST AND THE UNEXPECTED PLEASURE

The parishioners and others who attended the parish breakfast following the 10:30 a.m. mass on October 21 were the recipients of an unexpected pleasure. It wasn't just the generous supply of scrambled eggs, beautifully browned sausage, pancakes, bowls of mixed fruit, tea and coffee. The unexpected and pleasant change was the presence of Bishop Fabbro, who had been the celebrant at the 10:30 mass.

He quietly entered the dining area in the Parish Centre. Without any fanfare, he stopped and visited for a time at most tables, chatting with those enjoying their breakfast. The conversation was light-hearted and at one table the Bishop was asked how he managed to stay so trim and slim all his life. "It was easy," responded the Bishop. "I weigh myself every day."

"I do the same thing," interjected one of the parishioners, "but I use two scales in case one of them lies!" The remark brought smiles and chuckles around the table, and the Bishop, also smiling, moved on to chat with other tables.

Join us for these
Parish Events!



Saturday, January 19

K of C 15th Anniversary Dinner
7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Tickets \$25 - Available from the Parish Office

All are Welcome!

Friday, February 8

Night with the Knights

London Knights vs Owen Sound Attack

\$35 Includes Game Ticket,
Meal before the game and Parking.

100 Tickets Available
GET YOURS TODAY!

Arrive at St. Peter's Parking Lot at
6:00pm for a Pulled Pork Sandwich, fresh salads,
and enjoy your favourite beverage
(cash bar) in the Gym.

Leave your car at St. Peter's and walk to the game.

For tickets or information
call or text:

Martin Healy 226-927-3749

Sunday, February 17

Parish Breakfast

After 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Admission by Free Will Offering

Tuesday, March 5

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

Admission by Free Will Offering

Choral Celebration 2

United We Sing

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

Friday, March 29, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.



Chorale

- Jen Moir, *conductor*

Les Choristes

- Jen Moir, *conductor*

St. Cecilia Singers

- Gloria Gassi, *conductor*

Western Singers

- Patrick Murray, *conductor*

Ron Fox, *organ*

**Selections will include the following
and much more:**

I was glad - Parry

Mass 6 - Orban

Cantique de Jean Racine - Faure

The Promise of Living - Copland

Ubi Caritas - Gjeilo

Magnificat - Donkin

Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

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

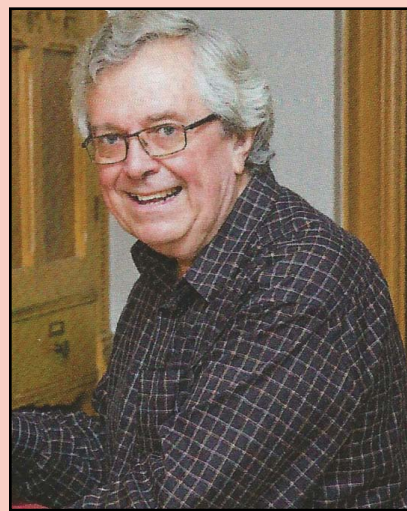
From the home page, click on "About"
and then select "Cathedral Connections"

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

Our Cathedral Sacristan - Larry Lewis

If you are a fan of the long-running Masterpiece television series, *Downton Abbey*, you will remember the butler, Mr. Carson, and his pivotal role in ensuring that the Crawley household always ran smoothly. If your past or present life has included work in dramatic productions, you would definitely value the stage manager's job in coordinating props, the entrances and exits of actors, scene changes and everything else that happens both on and back stage.

At St. Peter's Cathedral, the role of sacristan can be compared to both butler and stage manager -- and its present incumbent is Larry Lewis.



St. Peter's Sacristan,
Larry Lewis

Wikipedia defines the sacristan as "an officer charged with the care of the sacristy, the church, and their contents." According to Larry, "My tasks are divided between the routine and the exceptional." Routinely, he opens the Cathedral every day, and sets the electronic controls for which bells will be rung and when. He ensures that all vestments are ready for the presiding priest and any additional clerics and deacons assisting at that day's Masses.

The requisite passages in all books used during the Mass must be marked with ribbons. Several books are required: the Roman Missal, a recent compilation entitled *Excerpts from the Roman Missal* that contains Collects and Prayers used after Communion, the Lectionary, the Book of the Gospels, and a binder containing the intercessions for the weekend Masses.



The chalice case holds patens, chalices and other sacred mementos that once belonged to Cathedral priests and Diocesan bishops.



A cupboard of Sunday chasubles.

Knowing the likely attendance at each Mass, Larry ensures that sufficient hosts and wine are available, as well as chalices, patens, and all linens required -- purificators, corporals and towels. For funeral Masses, holy water for sprinkling and incense must be made ready, and for baptisms, the font, holy oils, holy water and candles.

These routine behind-the-scenes arrangements can operate smoothly because of regular coordination and communication between the sacristan and both parish staff and volunteers. Liturgical matters are discussed with Cathedral priests and pastoral minister Cathryn Hall. When furniture or cleaning is the issue, custodian Trent Fieldhouse is consulted. Vestments, altar cloths and other linens are cared for by Jane Jeffery. Altars and furniture in the sanctuary are cared for by members of the Altar Guild under the direction of Jane Steacy, who also polishes the chalices and patens.

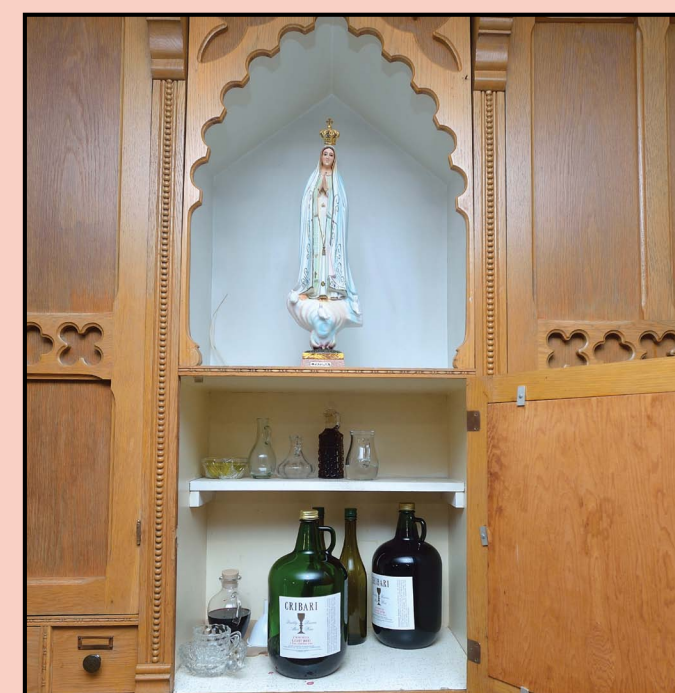
Larry works closely with all of these parish staff and volunteers, and values their expertise. Because of his involvement with every aspect of liturgical celebrations, Larry is proficient with the roles of the St. Stephen's Guild members (our servers), and interacts with them regarding changes to established practices.

Then there are the exceptional events in the life of the Cathedral that demand extraordinary attention by the sacristan, his helpers, and everyone else mentioned above. "Diocesan celebrations such as ordinations and the Mass of Chrism involve large numbers of clergy and lay participants," Larry explains. Such Masses closely follow a protocol prepared by Cathryn Hall in consultation with the pastoral team and diocesan officials, and are preceded by rehearsals involving all major participants.

For the Mass of Chrism, held on the day after Palm Sunday, for example, vestments for those priests concelebrating with the Bishop -- matching chasubles and stoles -- as well as dalmatics for the deacons in attendance, are provided by the Cathedral. Several rows of chairs are arranged in the sanctuary behind the altar for those clerics, and tables are put in place to hold the urns of the three oils to be blessed and distributed to parish representatives. With the Cathedral full of people from all corners of the diocese, sufficient

hosts and wine, as well as the requisite number of vessels and purificators, must be made ready.

Similarly, following on from the Mass of Chrism, the celebrations of the Triduum during Holy Week require exceptional energy and attention to detail on behalf of the sacristan. Larry notes, "The colour of vestments worn by those celebrating changes frequently between Thursday and Sunday, with white being the liturgical colour on



Wine is stored beneath a statue of Mary.
This placement recalls the wondrous marriage feast at Cana.



This chalice and paten belonged to Msgr. Jean Marie Bruyère, the first Rector of St. Peter's. Because of its special beauty, Larry often selects this chalice for wedding Masses.



This cupboard holds cups, plates and cruets in abundance.

Holy Thursday, red on Good Friday, and white again for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday."

Basins and towels are needed for the washing of feet on Holy Thursday. The Easter Vigil on Saturday evening begins with the striking of the new fire in front of the Cathedral and the lighting of the Paschal candle. Equipment for that very moving rite must be prepared, as well as candles for all attending, which are lit from the Paschal candle as it is processed to the sanctuary. Water is supplied in a font to be blessed by the Bishop for the baptism of the elect, and for sprinkling the whole congregation after their renewal of baptismal vows. "As always, the number of those attending must be calculated so that sufficient supplies of hosts and wine are ready, as well as the necessary vessels and linen," he says.

The exceptional celebrations of Easter Week conclude on Easter Sunday with the ringing of a six-bell peal of the Cathedral bells at the end of each Mass. With everything tidied away in the sacristy, the sacristan can then go home, knowing that his duties as butler to the priest and stage manager to the sanctuary are fulfilled-- at least until Easter Monday.

Now that you know the duties of the sacristan, you may wonder what are the qualifications and courses of study required for an incumbent of this role. Larry Lewis did not attend a "sacristan school" -- for none exists; in fact he is a professional librarian with a long career at The University of Western Ontario behind him, some of it spent as Music Librarian. He was raised an Anglican, joined the Catholic Church in 1977, and claims that "half my life was spent in either church."

Larry was interested in liturgy and its various rites and expressions long before his tenure as sacristan, and this has only increased during his time in the sacristy and sanctuary of St. Peter's Cathedral. He admits that 90% of his reading is in large and small "c" Catholicism, and his love of catholic worship has increased over the years. To his calling, Larry brings not only knowledge, dedication and great good humour, but also an infectious delight in his fellow human beings.

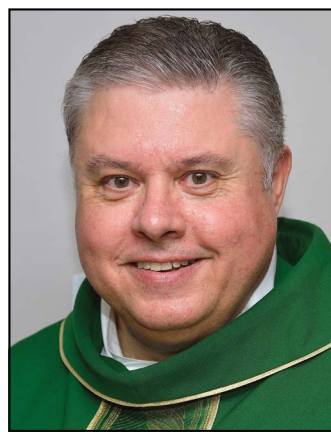
Our parish is indeed fortunate to have a sacristan of such qualities -- a butler to priests and stage manager to holy places.

Hilary Bates Neary



Liturgical books prepared for daily mass on the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle.

Missionary disciples are responsible for making new disciples for the Lord. St. Paul says to the Romans, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how are they to call on the one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?”



Bible Study: The Gospel of St Luke

In order for us to lead others to faith they must first hear the Good News: the Good News we hold within. As St. Paul reminds us, “we hold a treasure” in these earthen vessels and the treasure is the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is only in our becoming more attuned and aware of the Good News within that we are able to share it with those who long to believe.

During this new liturgical year we will listen to the Gospel of St. Luke on most Sundays. Would you like to learn more about the Gospel of Luke? Would you like to gain a little more confidence in your role as evangelizer of the Good News? If so, I invite you to join our scripture study group beginning in February.

Seven Thursday Evenings: 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm
Weekly from February 28th until April 11th

Proposed Format for Each Session

- *Lectio Divina* on a passage of Luke’s Gospel
- Introduction to the topic for the evening session
- Audio-Visual presentation by Sr. Barbara Reid, OP
- Reflections, Questions and Discussion

Thank You for the 2017 Christmas Gift

A year ago December, our Missions Committee made a donation to Chalice in your name, using your charitable offerings for missionary works. Chalice is a Canadian Catholic sponsorship program that works in impoverished communities to help struggling families overcome the cycle of poverty. Education is the first and most important step in breaking the cycle.

Last year’s donation was directed in three ways. 1) to provide education resources for students and training for teachers; 2) to provide medicines for children; 3) to help build a water system for a particular community in need.

We have received a letter of thanks from that community and I would like to relay their words of gratitude to you:

KAMUWONGO MERCY CARE - KENYA

Dear Parishioners of St. Peter’s Cathedral,

We are thankful to God for receiving our funds from the 2017 gift catalogue and we are glad to share with you on the outcomes witnessed through its expenditure.

The water tanks we purchased with the gift catalogue funds will help the Ngakone and St. Francis Primary schools in harvesting rain water which will be used in school feeding programs and aid in supplying water for trees and vegetables planted in the school gardens. Children in Kasyongo primary have started a small kitchen garden to support their diets with nutritious vegetables.

St. Francis Boarding Primary School, which houses the Mercy Care Office, received borehole and piping equipment. This will reduce over reliance on expensive piped water, while also supporting school feeding activities.

Our prayers are always with you. May our good Lord bless you in special ways in all your endeavors to reach many more hearts in need.

*Sr. Francelit
Franciscan Clarist Sisters of India*

Our Missions Committee will once again commit a portion of your missions’ donations to Chalice this Christmas in the hope of offering another opportunity to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters who truly cherish our concerns for them and our willingness to show them we care. We promise to keep you apprised on how your donations help change lives for the better.



The school community celebrates around their new water system.



A dependable water supply provides an abundant harvest for the community.

Guild of St. Stephen: Cathedral Altar Servers

I would like to express our gratitude to the Altar Servers who commit themselves Sunday after Sunday to serve at Mass. If you regularly attend one Mass in particular every weekend, you will undoubtedly see the same faces serving Mass every Sunday. We are in grave need of more servers for each Mass being offered at the Cathedral.



Servers (from left): Terrence Holcombe, Nathan Marchand, Gloria Igwe and Terence Yiu

Every year one or two international students from Western or Fanshawe come to us offering to assist by serving Mass. We receive them with joy and delight. Unfortunately, those students graduate and leave for their home country again. Gloria Igwe, from Nigeria, was one of those generous volunteers whom we now miss very much. She came to Canada to study for a PhD degree, was successful in her graduate work and has now returned home to a teaching profession. Gloria was so happy to have given of herself as an Altar Server at the Cathedral and to have served her final Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King. The picture shown here expresses the joy of her heart in the ministry she truly loves. I see the same joy and zeal in all our servers who give of themselves ever so generously parish.

Again, we are in grave need of more servers. Are you willing to offer your time and talent to us? Even if you are not able to commit to every Sunday, we are still eager to receive your help whenever you are able to offer it. If you would be willing to serve at Mass, please introduce yourself to me, to Fr. Mockler or to one of our Altar Servers and we will guide you along the way.

Father Gary Ducharme

In this Liturgical Year C, the Church meditates on the Gospel of Luke and uses it most Sundays. Luke is the longest of the four gospels and the longest book in the New Testament. It tells of the origins, birth, ministry, atonement, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Who is Luke?

A native of Antioch in Syria, he was an educated gentile, a man of means, probably urban, and someone who respected manual work, though not a worker himself. Early church fathers ascribe to him the authorship of both the Gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts of the Apostles, which originally were a single work.

In the New Testament, Luke is mentioned briefly, and referred to as a doctor in the Pauline epistle to the Colossians. Thus he is thought to have been both a physician and a disciple/companion of Paul. Considered by early Christians as a Saint, he is believed to have died a martyr, although accounts of the events do vary.



Image of St. Luke above the east transept.

Why did Luke write his account?

In the introduction to the gospel Luke speaks in the first person, unlike the other three gospels which all speak in the third person. In addressing his friend, Theophilus, (“beloved of God”), he says, “I am writing to you the most incredible story humankind has known.” (Luke 1:1-4)

Luke’s Gospel continues the biblical history of God’s dealings with humanity found in the Old Testament, showing how God’s promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus and how the salvation promised to Israel and accomplished by Jesus has been extended to the gentiles.

The Bible Study website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) explains, “The stated purpose of the two volumes (the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles) is to provide Theophilus and others like him with certainty—assurance—about earlier instruction they have received. To accomplish his purpose, Luke shows that the preaching and teaching of the representatives of the early church are grounded in the preaching and teaching of Jesus, who during his historical ministry prepared his specially chosen followers and commissioned them to be witnesses to his resurrection and to all else that he did.”

As the USCCB notes, this continuity between the historical ministry of Jesus and the ministry of the apostles is Luke’s way of guaranteeing the fidelity of the Church’s teaching to the teaching of Jesus. Luke’s account contains over half of the verses in Mark’s account (some 350 verses out of a total 660 verses in Mark). Some 325 verses of Luke are also common to Matthew’s gospel.

Composed around 85-90 A.D., Luke’s Gospel is written in elegant Greek intended primarily for a gentile Christian audience.

Structure of Luke’s Gospel

Luke’s account follows Mark’s basic Gospel but contains several unique passages. Fr. Scott Lewis comments, “We owe some of the best-loved stories in the Christian tradition to Luke’s presentation, such as the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Magnificat and appearance of the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Luke’s Gospel follows this structure:

- The Prologue, chapter 1:1-4
- Infancy narrative, chapters 1:5-2:52
- Time of preparation, chapters 3:15-4:13
- Jesus’ public ministry, chapters 4:14-9:50
- Journey to Jerusalem, chapters 9:51-19:27
- Jerusalem ministry, chapters 19:28-21:38

Jesus’ passion, chapters 22:1-23:56
Resurrection appearances, chapter 24:1-53

(from Rev. Scott Lewis and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Jesus in Luke’s Gospel

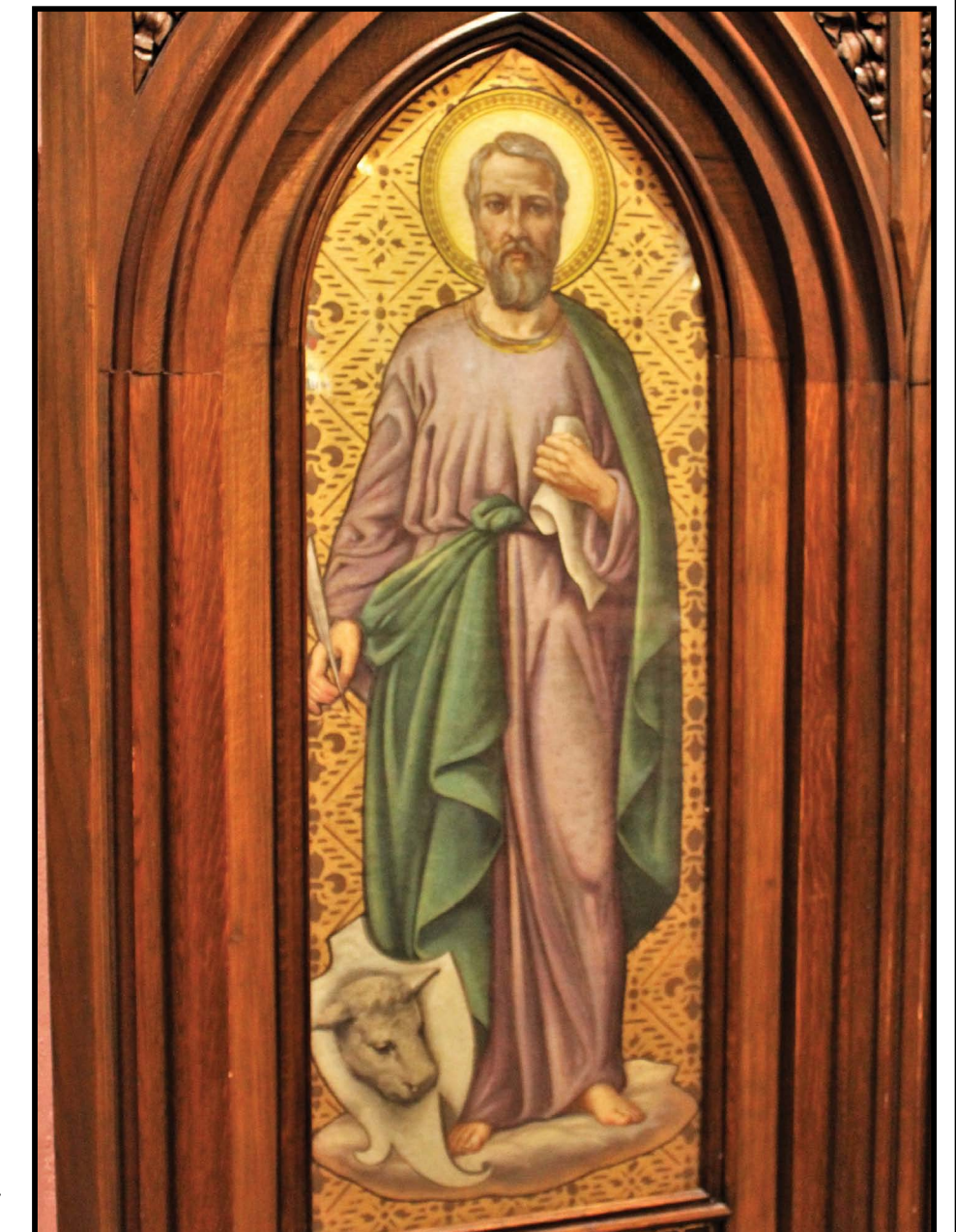
Jesus is presented as the compassionate Savior of the world, with love and compassion for all people, whether rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. He reaches out especially to the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, the women and the outcast of society.

Luke emphasizes divine mercy, depicting God as the Father who forgives his prodigal children with unbounded love. Meeting Jesus as the compassionate Savior draws us to imitate the Lord by approaching the Father in confident prayer. (*ocarm.org* – Carmelite liturgical resources)

The Gospel of Women

Luke gives a special place to women in his gospel account and more women appear in Luke than the other gospels. The events leading to Jesus’ birth are told from Mary’s point of view. We read of Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, of Anna the prophetess, of the widow at Nain, and of the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee.

Luke tells us of the special friendship Jesus had with Martha and Mary and how Jesus transformed the life of Mary Magdalene. He also mentions many women who traveled with Jesus and the apostles and who “ministered to their needs” (Luke 8:1-3).



The Gospel of Prayer and Praise

Luke gives special emphasis to prayer and to the power of intercession. “Luke refers to prayer more than the other gospels,” notes Fr. Scott Lewis. “Jesus is often depicted at prayer, especially alone and in secluded places. He prays at every critical moment in his life... When his disciples ask him to teach them to pray, Jesus responds with the Our Father” (11:1-4). Jesus concludes the Lord’s Prayer with an exhortation to pray confidently knowing that “for every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (11:10).

The Gospel of the Holy Spirit

Luke’s gospel emphasizes the role and work of the Holy Spirit active in the initiation of the Incarnation, in the early witness to Jesus and in the activity of Jesus himself. Luke’s gospel is infused with the joy of the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all who seek: “How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (11:13)

Dawn Munday and Paul Carson

FALL EVENTS

AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL



"Our Cathedral Basilica is a showpiece in southern Ontario," says Larry Barrett, chairperson of the Cathedral Tour Ministry. "Many schools and various groups from within and outside our city, including groups from the United States, request guided tours. In October alone, we conducted three tours, including 175 persons from the Knights of Columbus, Markham Chinese Martyr's Council."

"In addition, we recently hosted a joint tour of 60 students from two Catholic schools: St. Philip's from Petrolia and Holy Rosary from Wyoming. Another tour was the Alma College Alumnae -- London Branch.

"The Cathedral usually hosts at least 25 organized tours each year. Tours can be arranged by contacting the parish office."



St. Cecilia Singers and Chorale from Western University performed to an appreciative audience on November 30.



Stephen Candow, organist, and Alan Kraus, trumpet performed at St Peter's on October 24. They reported it was among the most successful events on their current tour.



On November 11, the Amabile Boys and Men's Choirs honoured our veterans in their annual In Remembrance concert at St. Peter's Cathedral. Through song and narration, the audience travelled back to World War I. Following the concert, the Choirs participated in the Canadian Legion's Bells of Peace initiative inviting churches across the country to toll their bell 100 times at sunset.

On November 11, 1918 at sunset, church bells rang out across the country to mark the end of World War I. At sunset, on November 11, 2018 we tolled our bell 100 times in commemoration of this event, along with our neighbouring downtown churches of St. Paul's Cathedral and Metropolitan United Church and churches across our city and country.

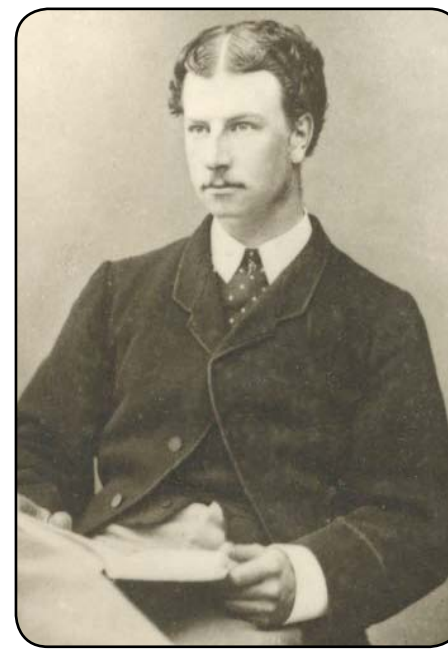


HENRY DORMER PROFILED ON VATICAN WEBSITE

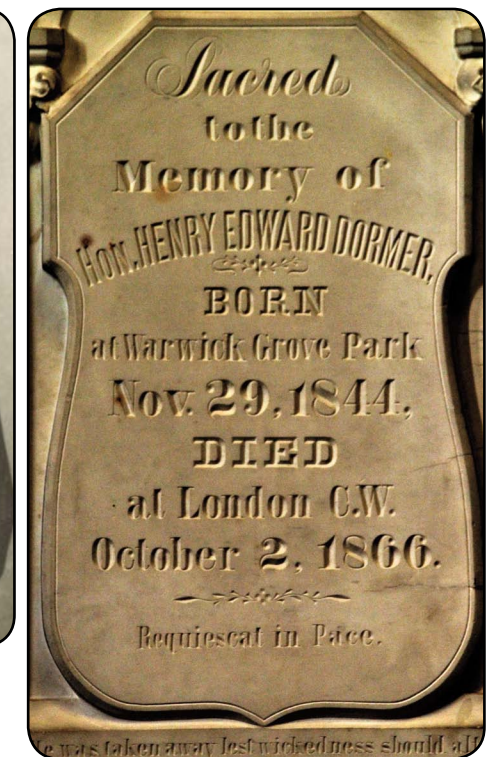
Henry Edward Dormer, whose brief but inspirational life made a lasting impression in 19th-century London, is profiled on the official Vatican website in connection with the Synod of Bishops in October. Dormer, along with St. Kateri Tekakwitha, is among 32 "Young Witnesses" whose lives are outlined on the website devoted to the Synod of Bishops on "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment," held in the Vatican from October 3-28. His profile is reprinted below:

Servant of God, Henry Edward Dormer who was born in Warwickshire, England, and after studies in Europe and in Ireland, made a retreat at age 19 under Father Rudolph Suffield, a Dominican friar, an event which apparently changed his outlook on life. Stationed with the King's Own Royal Rifles in London, Upper Canada, (now London, Ontario) in 1866 during the era of the Fenian Raids, Dormer is reputed to have led a life of selfless devotion to God, attending to the needs of the poor, sick and elderly of the colonial garrison town. Dormer bestowed money, clothing, food and other necessities to those in need, and gave religious instruction to children and soldiers, if they requested it, all the while wrestling with the question of his own possible vocation to the priesthood. Dormer contracted typhoid fever and died on October 2nd, 1866, the feast of the Guardian Angels, just as he had decided to enter the Dominican novitiate. As word of Dormer's death spread contemporary newspaper accounts reported that "the saint is dead."

A plaque in Henry Edward's honour is located at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica, London, Ontario, Canada. He is held as a local



Henry Edward Dormer, Servant of God



example of how growing in holiness assists us in the discernment of our vocation. (For more information on the Synod and the 32 profiles, visit synod2018.va)

ART IN THE HALLWAY

Did you know there is an art display in the main floor hallway of St. Peter's Parish Centre?

One day, about four years ago, Deacon Len Hughes and Mitch Lenko, the former business manager of our parish, were chatting about making the rather drab walls more attractive. Thus began the idea of the art display, using works by Len and some fellow painters. They added the idea of selling paintings and donating 30% of revenues to the parish. The project has now realized about \$1,000.

Len studied art during his school years in England, but left art aside to raise a family with wife Sheila and to pursue a career in policing in both his home country and Canada. After retiring, he picked up his brushes again and began to paint, primarily in watercolour and oils.

"I particularly love the transparency, fluidity, speed and convenience of watercolours," Len says in his website. "In all mediums I tend to use colours boldly with rich applications exploiting and exploring the vibrancy and capabilities of each medium." (<https://lenhughesart.ca/bio>)

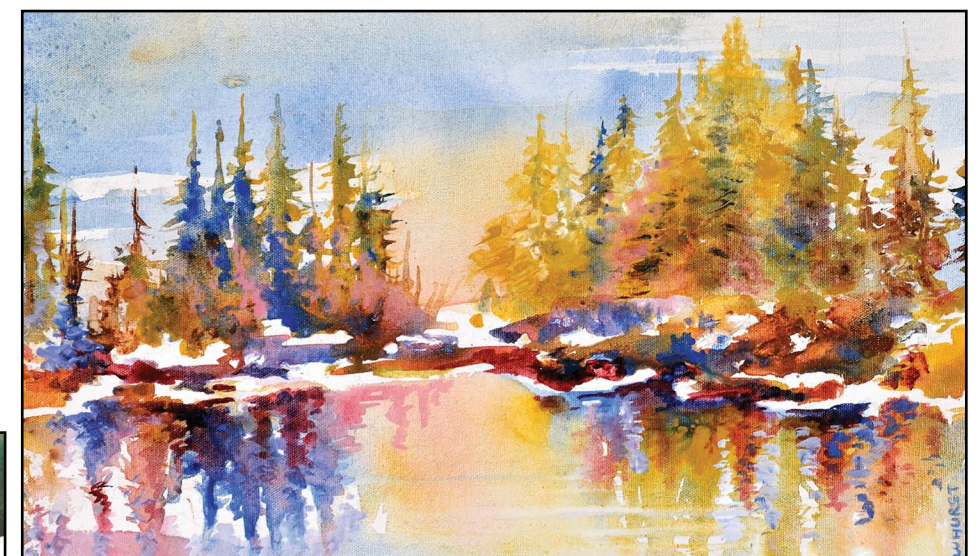
A principal motivation, he says, is to take in a scene with all one's senses and to translate the impression to others through the medium of painting.

Other works in the display are by Jean Rosati and Dawn Crowhurst. Like Len, they are members of painters' clubs and associations in London, including the Brush and Palette Club that has its annual spring show and sale at St. Paul's Cathedral.

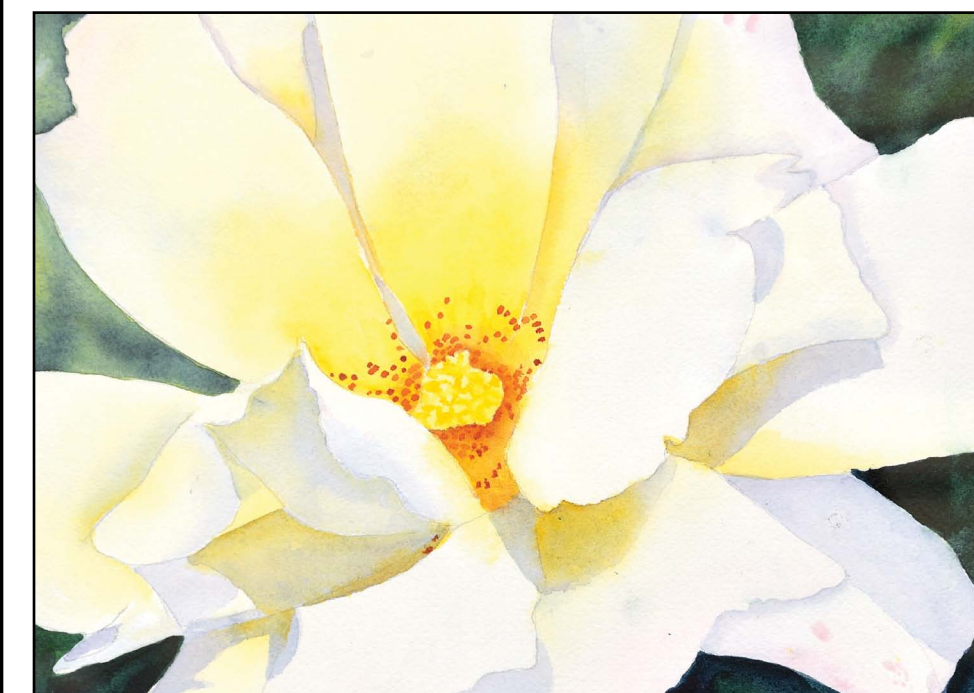
"Painting is a wonderful enjoyable hobby," Jean says quite simply, "and it is good to be able to display one's work, and even to sell some pieces." Like Len, Jean admires the work of the impressionist painters and Canada's Group of Seven. She also likes



Deacon Len Hughes and his watercolour, "Three's a Crowd"



Dawn Crowhurst's acrylic, "Wintertime in North Country"



Jean Rosati's watercolour, "Rose"

the paintings of Ann Blockley, of England.

Dawn Crowhurst says an important influence on her is Deacon Len himself. She admires his skill and his teaching ability. She started in watercolours and is developing her skills in oils. Dawn would like to see other kinds of art in the display at St. Peter's. "It would be good to see other media, such as fabric art and embroidery and pottery."

Security considerations are such that parishioners can view the display whenever there is an event at the school gym, such as breakfasts. It's worth your taking the time, and perhaps you may end up purchasing a painting, or two. Purchase arrangements are made in the parish office.

Ron Pickersgill

A BUSY TIME FOR THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

BAZAAR

The Gingerbread Village glowed with lights and decorations and welcomed shoppers to the annual CWL Bazaar held November 3. There was a steady flow of shoppers and one could hear the exclamations of "Ohhhh" and "Ahhh" as they entered the doors. Julie Sans, CWL President, greeted the shoppers at the entrance and handed them a raffle ticket for a door prize. There was an atmosphere of happiness and comments could be heard on how beautiful the hall looked. Attendees were able to do their Christmas shopping at affordable prices.

So very much to choose from: a Silent Auction Table, a Penny Table and a Toonie Table, all of which provided a fun-filled atmosphere and hopes to win a bottle of wine and other prizes displayed in Christmas bags. There was a Christmas Hamper filled with groceries to host a Christmas dinner, and a plant area. Tickets could be purchased for the draw on a large microwave. Books, CDs, tapes, religious items and toys were also available, plus the ever-popular Tea Room with lunch, desserts and beverages.

There was also a White Elephant display where shoppers could purchase miscellaneous household goods at reasonable prices. Room 105 became a General Store where a variety of clothes, shoes,

handbags, jewelry and linens generated many sales. And as usual, the Bake Goods Table offering an array of cookies, cakes, pies, various loafs and candy sold out quickly.

Many thanks to the Young Adults 4 Christ group for their help in set up and tear down before and after and for their presence the day of the Bazaar.

Because of donations received and the work of the CWL members and helpers, the Bazaar was very successful. Many thanks to our donors for prizes and gift cards. Because of your ongoing generosity, the CWL is able to support many charitable organizations throughout the year.

"Pies-a-Plenty"
(from left):
Myra Schubert,
Tessie Spiteri,
Joan Dalton,
Cis McInnes



Mary Ducharme and
Jackie Millman



Jean Martial in the
Clothing Store



2018 CWL BURSARY RECIPIENT – Mary Ann Rouse

Mary Ann Rouse is an active member in St. Peter's parish community. She has provided service as a cantor starting early in the children's choir, and is currently a member of the Cathedral Singers, Encounter Worship Band and a Mass cantor at St. Peter's. Her involvement with school committees, plus the Brownies/Girl Guides, youth groups and Outreach programs including serving food for those in need are just some examples of activities demonstrating how Mary Ann shares her gifts with others.

It is no surprise that she is pursuing a degree in Nursing. On behalf of the CWL, we congratulate you and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



President Julie Sans presents the 2018 St. Peter's CWL Bursary Award
to Mary Ann Rouse.



The General Store



Quilter Extraordinaire Judy Sommers

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

An invitation is extended to all ladies to attend a meeting and become a member. You are welcome to join League sisters in a journey deepening your spiritual understanding, studying Catholic teaching and exploring and enriching your Catholic faith. We work hard and have a lot of fun as well!

Just contact our Membership Secretary (Jo) at 519-672-7479 or drop by any of our winter term meetings: Saturdays January 5, February 9, March 9 and April 6, at 10:00 a. m. in the Parish Centre (weather permitting, of course).

LOOKING FORWARD

The Mass for the Unborn and Their Mothers will take place in the Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 28; Bishop Joseph Dabrowski will preside. The Knights and the CWL will form an Honour Guard. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet will be held at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and join us in prayer.

The CWL will join the Knights for the annual Winter Welcome Lunch, preparing and serving a meal for the clients of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Lenten Lunches, commencing on Ash Wednesday, March 6, will be served following the Noon Mass throughout Lent, except during Holy Week.

Dora Dannecker

OUR SINCERE BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CWL 75-YEAR PIN RECIPIENT -- KAY CAPITANO

Catherine (Kay) Capitano was born in Strathroy and came to London in the early 1940s. Her cousin, Catherine Toal, encouraged her to join the CWL and she did so at the age of 17. She has been an active member of the organization since 1943 and recently received her 75 Year Pin.

Kay married Victor Capitano in 1947 at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica and raised 10 children as a stay-at-home mom. She was President of the Holy Rosary CWL for a period and always took pride in looking after the Bake Table at the Church Bazaar. That tradition continued with the St. Peter's CWL, where she is still a member in good standing.

Kay's faith has always been an important part of her life and the Catholic Women's League is a very integral part of who she is today.



Kay Capitano, with her daughter, Catherine Quick (left),
President Julie Sans and Treasurer Jo Guth.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

I am a devoted re-reader of books that attract me. Recently I have read for the second time two books by Margaret Horsfield, and her father, Peter Horsfield. The first is appropriate to the season in which I write (and in which you may be reading this), that is, Advent en route to Christmas. *Beyond Bethlehem* explores the birth narratives of Jesus in the gospels, and reflects on stories in the Old Testament that are related to them.

The birth of Jesus is told mainly by Matthew and Luke, but their accounts contain important elements that Horsfield father and daughter trace back to Hebrew Scriptures. These elements are: women and men, parents, annunciations, stars and dreams, songs, magi, shepherds and elders. They explain the context in which these elements appear in earlier times, and describe the characters involved – whether ancestors or prophets, kings or peasants. They also interpret the times in which both evangelists were writing, and explore the reasons why some parts of the Christmas narrative were given more emphasis by one rather than by the other. The audience for whom each gospel was written partially determined how the story was presented, which elements were prominent, and which absent.

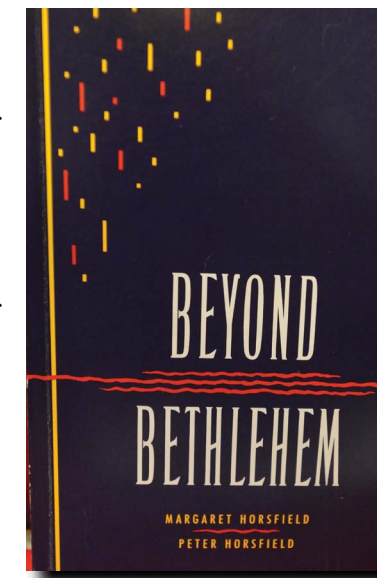
Beyond Bethlehem concludes with the observation that the birth stories of Jesus "come out of a tradition . . . called the 'looking-glass world' of Hebrew Scriptures; a tradition in which one text is reflected in another text." The Horsfields' exploration of this tradition enriched my understanding of the layering of stories in the Bible, and of the rich mixture of history, psychology, spirituality and sheer inspiration upon which those narratives are based.

The authors have included maps of the Holy Land, a very useful chronology of biblical events, tables which lead the reader to all books cited from both Old and New Testaments, and also a table enabling readers to compare elements in the songs of Mary and Hannah, Zechariah and David, and Simeon and the exiles from Israel. The bibliography and index are most useful.

Beyond Bethlehem first appeared as an *Ideas* series on CBC radio, and was published in 1989. I could not find that program or its sequel in the CBC digital archives, but both books, new and used, are available from Amazon.

In 1993, Peter and Margaret Horsfield published *Beyond Golgotha*, based on lectures which Peter (an Anglican priest) had given to a group of Benedictine Sisters, and on "*Crucified, Dead and Buried*" – another *Ideas* program presented on CBC Radio by Margaret (a broadcaster).

If father and daughter had discovered a "looking-glass world" with the birth narratives of Jesus, in the stories about his death and resurrection they found themselves in a "hall of mirrors." Again, ancient stories and themes from the Hebrew Scriptures resurfaced in the New Testament accounts of Jesus' death, giving those accounts depth and extraordinary meaning.



As in the narratives of Jesus' birth, the accounts of his passion, death and resurrection were also framed differently by the disciples who recorded them, depending upon the religious and political climate of their own times, and the audience for whom they were writing.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Paul were the writers in question, and all were writing many decades after Jesus' death on the cross. They were not concerned with writing a history of those events in the way in which we understand history to be written today; rather their intentions were to explain the life, death and resurrection of Christ to the developing Christian communities, whether they were Jewish or Gentile in origin. At times their perspectives were affected by continuing spiritual debates within Judaism, and at other times by the worsening relationship between Rome and the subject Jewish nation.

Above all, the Horsfields emphasize that the gospel writers told four rather than one story about "the death of Jesus and its aftermath," and each in a very characteristic style. "Mark is abrupt, Matthew can be extremely didactic, Luke is usually kind and gentle, John speaks as a visionary and a prophet."

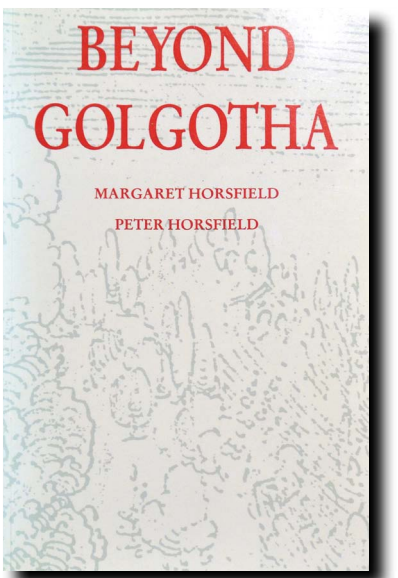
Beyond Golgotha has chapters on the various elements in the accounts of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection as told by those four writers. With references to the Hebrew Scriptures always in the background, the Horsfields explore the Entry into Jerusalem, Lazarus, the Temple, Anointings, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the Betrayal, the Trials, the Mockeries, Crucified, Dead, Buried, Disbelief, Recognition and Fear.

In their epilogue, the Horsfields conclude that the four very different gospel narratives were both honoured in the Christian tradition, and were also questioned, and that "such honouring and such questioning are not, and have never been, mutually exclusive." As students and teachers of theology in both the Jewish and Christian traditions have always known, "the process of raising questions can sometimes be more important than answering them."

Beyond Golgotha has useful appendices, an index of Biblical references, a bibliography and an index.

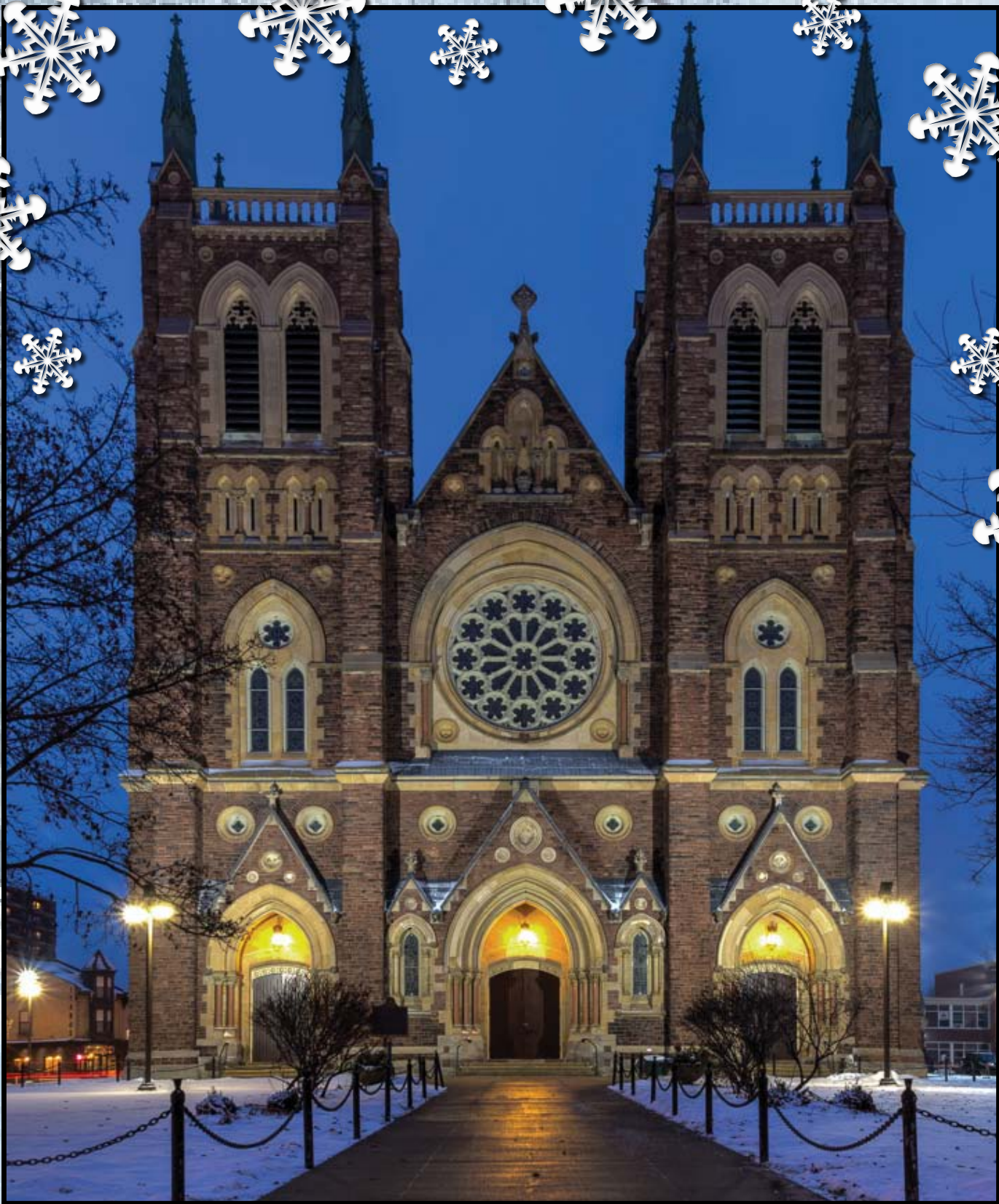
An unexpected bonus to me in reading and re-reading these two very inter-related books has been the development of great affection for the gospel writers and for the characters described in Old Testament narratives. Perhaps it is the recurring themes and parallel elements in so many of the stories the Horsfields relate that bring flesh and blood to prophets and biblical folk who before were only shadowy characters to me. Apart from a deeper appreciation of the birth and death narratives of Christ, that affection is an argument for me to read these two books for a third time.

Hilary Bates Neary



Silent Night ~ Holy Night

All is Calm ~ All is Bright



St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica • Consecrated June 1885

"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration."

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

Looking for a way to get involved?

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
Parish Pastoral Council
Finance Committee
Property & Maintenance
Offertory Collection Counters
Parish Office Assistant

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 ~ Contact our parish office to get involved.