

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



As we arrive at the celebration of Christmas and prepare to launch into another year of God’s blessings we are grateful. We look back over the year past and discover what kind of year it’s been and what stood out. What has Jesus wanted us to notice about the past twelve months that perhaps calls us to “wake up” to? Over the next twelve months there will be much calling us to be attentive as we live our lives as disciples of Jesus. What do I need to do more of? What do I need to do less of? No matter how young or old we are, we possess the wisdom to know what is going on around and inside us.

We experience our personal lifelong process of conversion in countless ways. Perhaps I’m growing in my understanding of my image of God, moving away from seeing him as distant and moving to experiencing God’s presence in a relationship that is close and personal. This gets keenly developed the more we engage in regular, quiet, prayer and contemplation. Maybe my attitude is changing and I find myself going beyond religious practices and becoming a conscious disciple, seeing life as a journey in which I allow myself to be more possessed and loved by God - aware of how God’s Spirit moved in my life leading me to be more aware of those in need and seeing the world through God’s understanding and compassionate eyes. I might recognize I look at the choices I make in a different way and invite guidance

in my day-to-day activities.

As well we are called to experience a communal conversion as a parish family. This was at the root of our call to engage in a strategic plan that produced our parish pastoral plan for the next five years.

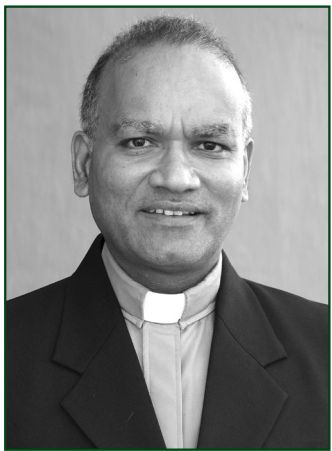
We are encouraged to not go through the motions with little actual reflection about what our priorities should be. The process began in prayer and will be carried with the same support. Have we read the plan? Have we read the documentation that supported it – all the comments made by those who responded? The information is available on our parish website www.cathedral.dol.ca or by calling the parish office at 519.432.3475.

Our intent is not in the end to be well-organized, well-behaved and nicely dressed. We need to be on the way to being a visible witness to the gospel of compassion, mercy and justice – more than just a social club or support group. We will grow in bringing the gospel to support our own parish members but we will also be actively engaged in the cultural, economic, social and political realities of our city.

The Church is a sign and instrument of God’s kingdom in the world and it is our task to make it that. At this wonderful time of year marking the birthday of Jesus, I am happy to join with Bishop Fabbro and our Cathedral staff in wishing all of you a Blessed Christmas. May the peace we have received be shared each day with those God gives us to love and serve.

Fr. Jim Mockler


WELCOME FATHER ALFREDO SOCORRO PEREIRA: OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Father Alfredo Pereira arrived at St. Peter’s Cathedral just before the liturgical year began. It is a new beginning both for us and for him. He has been in Canada for twenty-one years and for most of that time has served as a priest in the Diocese of Calgary. In recent years, however, he felt drawn back to life in a religious community, and just before coming to London he made his first profession in the Discalced Carmelite Order (OCD). As with Father Steny Mascarenhas, also a Carmelite, you will often see him wearing the brown scapular of his order. In this cold month of December, we welcome him most warmly to St. Peter’s.

Father Pereira was born in Vasco-da-Gama, Goa, India, a part of the world that knew Christianity for centuries before the Church arrived in southwestern Ontario. His home parish of St. Andrew’s was administered by the Pilar Fathers (Society of Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier) and as a young boy Alfredo Pereira was drawn to the religious life. Serious illnesses threatened first an older brother and then his mother, causing him

to intensify his prayers to God for their recovery. The example of his father’s loving care of him, his two brothers, and three sisters, and their conviction that his mother would heal and return to the family reflected their deep faith. Alfredo promised God that he would dedicate his life to Him if his mother recovered, and he entered the Minor Seminary of the Pilar Fathers in June 1970, three days after she returned home, when he was not quite 12 years old.



Father Alfredo, his three sisters, two brothers and their families, at the celebration of his Silver Jubilee of Ordination in Goa, 25 January 2013.

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WE REMEMBER...

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

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

***For that which is, already has been;
that which is to be, already is; and
God seeks out that which has gone by.***

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 15

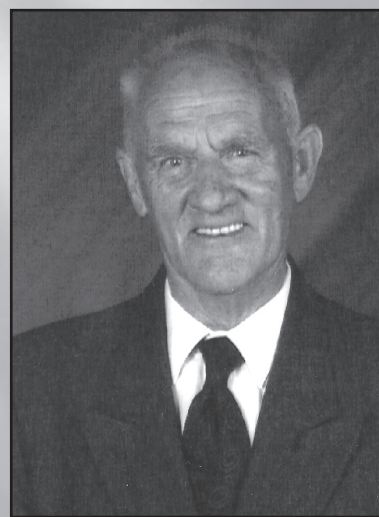
**ROSA SWIDERSKI
MAY 25, 1919 - OCT. 18, 2014**

**MARY CATHERINE (KAY) SMALL
MAY 15, 1922 - OCT. 25, 2014**

**MARIANNE DALGLISH
APR. 23, 1926 - NOV. 29, 2014**

**CARMELA ROSARIA BIVIANO
DEC. 19, 1921 - DEC. 2, 2014**

**HELEN JEANETTE TIMMERS
NOV. 12, 1940 - DEC. 3, 2014**



**JOHANNES (JOE) VAN DONGEN
JULY 9, 1930 - OCT. 6, 2014**



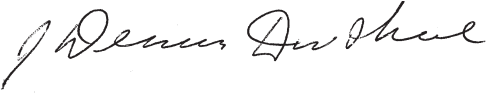
**WENIFREDA CANAYA CELLO
NOV. 3, 1928 - OCT. 2, 2014**



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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.
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 2014

Dear St. Nicholas

Every year we write to tell you about the needs of our Cathedral, and to ask for your help. We apologize for ignoring the age of internet technology and social media. Maybe you should send us your e-mail address or tweet handle. They don't seem to be listed anywhere.

We tried stnicholas@heaven.com - but it didn't work. Next we tried Sint-niklas@ofthenetherlands.euro. That one didn't work either. Everyone in heaven must be e-mailing and tweeting by now. After all, you have all those clouds up there that store digital data for us.

This year we need some assistance with the interior walls of the Cathedral - not just financial, but design help as well. Some parishioners suggest the walls should not be painted at all, that in their present rough state they provide a medieval touch, reflecting our long history. Others suggest the walls look unfinished, implying that the renovation was never completed. Perhaps you could get a professional opinion for us from someone in your heavenly crowd. Michelangelo must float by from time to time. Perhaps he could advise us.


While looking for him, if you notice Pope St. John Paul II, please thank him for sending us two of his admirers and fellow countrymen, Ricky and Ed. They are two Polish workmen who completed the badly needed new sidewalk that crosses the north parking lot. It replaced the treacherous old walkway that was badly broken, and an invitation to a lawsuit. Ricky and Ed worked for a welcome hourly rate that fit our tight budget.

Speaking of your heavenly colleagues, please ask St. Joseph if he could give us a hand with the pews in our church. They are still sturdy, but the finish has faded and they need to be re-stained. As a carpenter, he could assist us by finding someone with the skills to direct this project. Perhaps the two of you could make it a team effort. He knows about the stripping and staining of furniture and you know about gift giving. A gift from somewhere or someone would be very, very welcome.

Our last request for this year is one that you are not expecting, but just as important as the others. The finance committee is dwindling. Our former chairperson retired last year, and this year another member has finished his term and is moving on to a different ministry. We could use one, two, or even three new members. They don't have to be accountants, bookkeepers or financial planners, (although knowing how to count is an obvious requirement). A business background is always useful, but someone who has successfully managed a household budget would be considered. The ability to exercise prudent judgment is the most obvious criterion for membership.

Thank you
once again,
St. Nicholas,
for considering
our needs.

**St. Peter's
Cathedral Finance
Committee**



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

Solemnity of the
Nativity of the Lord
Wednesday, December 24
5:00pm 7:00pm
9:00pm 12:00am
Thursday, December 25
8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm

Friday, December 26
Feast of Stephen 10:00am

Feast of the Holy Family
Sat., December 27 6:00pm
Sun., December 28
8:30am 10:30am
12:30pm 7:30pm

Monday, December 29
12:05pm
Mass for the Unborn 7:30pm
Tuesday, December 30
7:30am
Wednesday, December 31
12:05pm

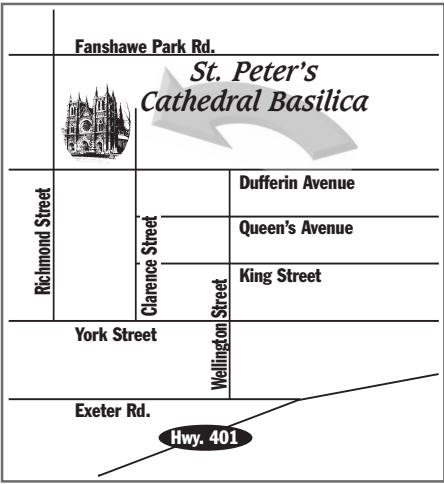
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
Wed., December 31 6:00pm
Thursday, January 1
10:30am 12:30pm

Friday, January 2
12:05pm

Solemnity of the
Epiphany of the Lord
Sat., January 3 6:00pm
Sun., January 4
8:30am 10:30am
12:30pm 7:30pm

Monday, January 5 12:05pm
Tuesday, January 6 7:30pm
Wednesday, January 7
Memorial of St. Andre Bessette
12:05pm
Thursday, January 8 7:30am
Friday, January 9 12:05pm

Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord
Sat., January 10 6:00pm
Sunday, January 11
8:30am 10:30am
12:30pm 7:30pm



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FAX: 519-432-5358

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

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GIVING GIFTS

Christmas is a time when presents abound, but other times of the year are also for giving gifts—Valentine’s Day, birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, retirements. The point of all of this gifting is not always clear.

One reason for this lack of clarity is that gifts can proceed from a variety of motives. Some gifts aim primarily to put the giver’s generosity or good taste on display. Some are almost like bribes, meant to influence the behaviour of the recipient. Others are given out of custom or obligation rather than genuine feeling. Some are more or less demanded by would-be recipients who arm-twist in subtle ways to get what would not otherwise be offered. But some gifts are authentic symbols of a relationship of respect and affection between giver and recipient. They show that the giver has tried hard to choose a gift that fits the person and the situation. The gift is, in such a situation, a symbol of the giver’s own self-gift and desire to be present with and to celebrate the other. And that’s what a gift should be.

When a gift does not really symbolize the giver’s self-gift, when a gift is given but the recipient is ignored, for example, when one does not even look at the panhandler to whom one gives a bit of money, or when a gift is left for someone with whom one really desires no contact, the lack of congruence between the gift and the behaviour of the giver is confusing and hurtful. Such presents convey absence. And when a heartfelt gift is rejected, it is the giver who feels pushed away. There are, of course, times when it might be appropriate to reject a gift that insinuates a degree of intimacy or seeks a degree of affection that is not reciprocated. But some ways of expressing a receiver’s reticence are more tactful than others. And while it is always right to reject a request to give of oneself in a way that undermines who one is and what one believes, even such refusals, if carried out with charity and humour and without demeaning the other, can be opportunities to help someone to seek a better path.

Pope St. John Paul II was fond of reminding us that it is through a sincere gift of self that one becomes a human person in the full sense, because the mutual giving and receiving between and among friends is the foretaste of that communion with God and others into which we are all called. So gift-giving is not trivial; it symbolizes what we all are, and are called to become.

The custom of exchanging gifts at various times of the year can often be linked to specific biblical and patristic examples. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, myrrh—conveyed the Magi’s convictions about who the Christ child was. Through his account of their gifts, Matthew the evangelist conveys his conviction that the Gentiles, whom the Magi represent, would come to believe in Jesus. The dowry coins of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, honoured the personhood of, and opened up a horizon of possibilities for three poor women. Whatever the season, gift-giving can always be seen as a gesture that mirrors the generosity of God. The whole history of salvation, culminating in the Incarnation and the death and resurrection of Jesus, expresses the depths to which God’s



*St. Nicholas leaving gold as a dowry for three impoverished maidens.
From the St. Nicholas Center, www.stnicholascenter.org*

affection for sinful humanity, loved “beyond all telling,” was prepared to go. Through such divine self-giving we are invited back into communion with the divine so that we can become who we were created to be.

Some people are understandably uneasy about the extravagance of our gift-giving on various occasions. Some try to mitigate the materialism that such an abundance seems to convey by limiting the numbers or the cost of gifts. Sometimes it is suggested that gifts be given to support a favoured cause in the loved one’s honour rather than directly to the loved one(s). Or gifts can take the form of promissory notes for small acts of kindness—a lawn mowed, a batch of cookies baked, etc. These sorts of gestures underscore the self-giving that ought to lie behind any particular gift.

And if, at Christmas and at other times throughout the year, we give in imitation of God’s reaching out to all humanity, the scope of our giving ought habitually to go beyond the narrow horizons of our comfortable circle of friends and family so that we foster a culture where generosity to the less fortunate along with public service for the common good is encouraged.

Susan Brown

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WELCOME FATHER ALFREDO SOCORRO PEREIRA: OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR

continued from page 1

Alfredo did his matriculation with the Pilar Fathers, completed a novitiate year with them, and then studied Philosophy and Arts simultaneously at St. Charles Seminary and St. Francis de Sales College in Nagpur, central India. He was ordained to the priesthood on 26 April 1987 at the Mission Seminary Chapel in Pilar, Goa. His first appointment as a priest was in the Minor Seminary where he had studied as a boy, and then, wanting very much to be a missionary, Father Alfredo persuaded his order to send him to its mission in the state of Haryana in the Punjab, where he served as an assistant parish priest and coordinator of Catholic Relief Services for northern India.

The Punjab is a religiously heterogeneous region, but has few Christians. The Pilar Fathers ran churches and schools in Bhatinda, Dabwali and Sirsa, and provided mobile medical care to the surrounding areas. Their contribution to the spiritual, educational, and medical needs of their brothers and sisters of differing faiths in the Punjab and Haryana was deeply appreciated. Father Pereira found the time he spent there to be very rewarding. But two years after his arrival he was summoned back to Goa.

Father Alfredo’s mother had died, and his father prevailed upon the Pilar Fathers to bring his son back from the Punjab and Haryana, so that he could help with family matters. Father Alfredo worked as a parish priest in Goa for several years, but then decided to go to Canada. With an invitation from the Bishop of Calgary, he left India in October 1993, spending the next 19 years in various parts of the Diocese of Calgary. He served as a hospital chaplain and as parish priest or assistant at several churches in Calgary itself, working also in Medicine Hat and in various parishes and missions in northeastern Alberta.



Father Alfredo newly professed as a Carmelite at Guardian Angels Church, Vancouver. Note that Father Steny is second from left in front row.



Father Alfredo and parents at the reception following his ordination, with the Very Rev. Jesuino Almeida, SFX.

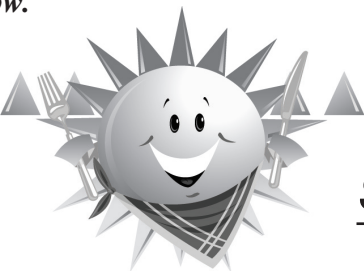
Beginning in 2003, Father Alfredo led five pilgrimages to Medjugorje. His experiences there focused his desire to return to life within a religious congregation, and he prayed to our Blessed Mother to help him find his way there. He considered returning to the Pilar Fathers but, having adapted to the Canadian climate, he found the prospect of returning to the subtropics daunting. Eventually, he received the blessing of Bishop Henry of Calgary to join the Carmelite order. He then moved to Vancouver, where the Canadian Carmelite community of the Karnataka-Goa Province, India, is centered. He served as assistant parish priest of St. Edmund’s Church in North Vancouver during his training, whereupon he moved to San Jose, California for his Postulancy and Novitiate Year.

Father Alfredo found his formation in San Jose to be very rigorous, but also deeply rewarding. After almost twenty months there, he returned to Vancouver this fall, and was newly professed as a Carmelite at Guardian Angels Church, Vancouver, on October 29th. He had expected to return to Calgary, where the parish of St. Thomas More is under the pastoral care of the Carmelite order and where he has many friends. But the Diocese of London called, and Father Alfredo soon found himself journeying to a part of Ontario which he had never visited before. He now lives at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, where he is supported by his Carmelite brother, Father Ranjan D’Sa.

We welcome you very warmly to St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica, Father Alfredo, and we look forward to getting to know you.

Hilary Neary

Smiles From Seniors



Smiles From Seniors

Quotes of wisdom from seniors collected in the files of Cathedral Connections

- “You know you’re getting old when all the names in your black book have M.D. after them.” Harrison Ford
- “If I’d known I was going to live this long, I’d have taken better care of myself.” Eubie Blake
- “Life begins at 40 - but so do fallen arches, rheumatism, faulty eyesight and the tendency to tell a story to the same person three or four times.” Helen Rowland
- “With 60 staring me in the face, I have developed inflammation of the sentence structure and a definite hardening of the paragraphs.” James Thurber
- “When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” Mark Twain
- “A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman’s birthday but never remembers her age.” Robert Frost
- “Age is something that doesn’t matter, unless you are a cheese.” Billie Burke
- “Old Age is fifteen years older than I am.” Oliver Wendell Holmes
- “Old age isn’t so bad when you consider the alternative.” Maurice Chevalier

CWL UPDATE

Anticipating the arrival of Christmas, the Catholic Women's League held its annual Bazaar on November 8th. Our Gingerbread Village glowed with lights and Christmas decorations. The weather cooperated and shoppers arrived in a steady stream from 9:00am until closing. They were welcomed and given a raffle ticket for a door prize. There were many displays of goods to choose from; then shoppers could rest and have a bite to eat and conversation in the Tea Room. A choice of lunch, dessert, coffee and tea was available, all prepared and efficiently served by the Tea Room staff.

On Saturday, October 25th, the kitchen in St. Peter's Parish Centre was a beehive of activity. Ladies were rolling out pie shells and a production line of workers peeled, cored and sliced apples, and added sugar and spices. There were two sizes of pies to choose from this year – 9 inch and 4 inch. The pies were frozen until the Thursday before the Bazaar, and then baked in the oven of the stove donated by the CWL last year. Needless to say, the bake tables were adorned by many donations of cookies, cakes, loaves and pies, which sold out in record time. Thanks to everyone who donated baked goods this year, and to the ladies who made the pies.

The Bazaar boasted a Silent Auction Table, a Penny Table and a Toonie Table, a Christmas Hamper (which was filled with enough groceries to host a Christmas dinner), a Christmas Table, a Plant Table, and a table of jewellery and religious items, just to mention a few of the stalls! Books and tapes were offered for sale in the Hall. Room 105 was turned into a General Store where miscellaneous clothing, linens, and household goods generated a lot of sales. These goods were contributed by parish and CWL members. Unsold items were donated to various charities in London.

A special thanks to the Young Adults 4 Christ group and Father Steny for their help in set up and tear down, 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. Your ongoing generosity is appreciated and allows the CWL to support many charitable organizations in the coming year.

CWL members held a Pot Luck on Saturday, December 6th following a brief meeting. The Executive provided both the buffet luncheon and entertainment. We look forward to serving the parish community of St. Peter's Cathedral in the coming year, and we sincerely wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Gina Allevato and Joe Murphy price the baked goods.



Christmas tree with Myra Schubert and Juliana Bodnar hanging the final decorations.



Joyce Hilton arranges beads at the jewelry table.



Margaret Ann McCarthy and Marlene deRuiter at the Christmas table.



A sea of red gift bags under the eye of two red elves - Joan Dalton and Linda Darowski.

WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

This fall we began Year I of **Why Catholic? Journey Through the Catechism**. **Why Catholic?** offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives. It explores the Catholic teaching with direct quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, scriptural references, and reflection questions covering the four themes of the Catechism: Prayer, Belief, Sacraments, and Christian Morality. The process takes place over four years: six sessions in the fall and six sessions during Lent of each year on each theme.

Year I's theme is We Pray: Christian Prayer. Over 100 people participated in small faith-sharing groups of 6-10 people during the fall session. Sign-up Sunday for the second six-week session will be the weekend of January 24/25, 2015.



Small groups will begin to meet the week of February 16th, 2015. Please consider getting involved in **Why Catholic?** Previous participation in the fall session is not necessary. Please pray for all participants as they explore and deepen their faith through this process.

Cathryn Hall, Pastoral Minister

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

With the exterior of the Cathedral building now substantially renovated, and with new boilers in place, the Property and Maintenance committee has recently focused on improvements to our Parish Centre. The former St. Peter's School was constructed in 1950, with additions in 1955 and 1970. Wear and tear on a building of that age must be monitored carefully.

The new boilers installed in the Cathedral in 2013 feed into and support the hot water heating system in our Parish Centre. Three rooms there required new overhead heating equipment, and adjustments were necessary to several thermostats. After these improvements, all the rooms in the building, including those on the third floor, are now quite comfortable.

The next task was to bring the fire alarm system into the 21st century. This project, known as Life Safety Upgrades, has been tendered, and the contract was awarded to Middlesex Electrical Services Ltd., the lowest bidder.

Their work will be underway by the time this edition is in print, but will take 4 to 5 weeks to complete. Much of the existing fire alarm system and equipment will be replaced along with exit signs and emergency lighting equipment. The new multizone fire alarm system will have battery backup, strobe lights, and audible warning devices. Magnetic hold-open devices will be added to eight doors in the building, and an annunciator panel will be installed inside the main entrance. This panel will identify in which room in the Parish Centre the fire alarm system has been activated. All of these changes were designed to comply with the Ontario Building Code and local fire regulations.

Another vexing problem has been the general appearance of the hallways in our Parish Centre. The concrete block construction has a drab, institutional effect not in keeping with current and proposed use of our Centre as both meeting place for parishioners and rented office spaces on the higher floors. One parishioner described the corridors as looking like a "bus terminal for Canada Coach Lines."

As a solution consistent with budgetary restraints, we decided to invite local artists to display their work on the first and second floor hallways. There is no cost involved

A Disciples' Prayer

Loving God and Father, help us to be people of prayer, committed to the person and message of Jesus your Son.

Help us to grasp the integrity and beauty of the truths of our faith and the transforming power of your grace.

Nourish and strengthen us as people of faith, disciples of Jesus, committed to the mission of the Church and eager to share the Gospel without restraint.

Let our hearts burn within us as we catch glimpses of your heart in Jesus, for through him, we know your loving plan for us.

*We ask this through Jesus the Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit in one loving Trinity.
Amen.*

(Based on *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*
by the U.S. Catholic Bishops
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Used with permission.)

either for them or for the parish. Artists are permitted to include price tags for potential buyers, and the parish will receive a portion of sales as a commission. All work must be pre-approved before being hung on the corridor walls.

The first group of paintings was presented on December 2nd and one was sold that first day. Artwork is first displayed on the ground floor for a period of three months – or until sold – whichever comes first. Then, at the option of the parish, and with the consent of the artist, the work may be displayed on the second floor for a further three months. Artists interested in displaying their work should contact Mitch Lenko at the Parish Centre for further details by telephoning 519-432-3475, ext. 226.

On a final note, a new Property and Maintenance Committee is being formed. A number of excellent candidates have come forward and their regular inspections of the Cathedral, the Parish Centre, and the grounds will begin soon. Their task will be to identify all work that needs to be done, determine time lines and priorities, and comment on projected costs, contractors, and sources of supply. Their recommendations will go to the Finance Committee and the Rector for final decisions. Watch for their report in the next edition of Cathedral Connections.

Mitch Lenko, Business Administrator



Artist and Deacon, Len Hughes, and custodian, Trent Fieldhouse, hang paintings in the Parish Centre.

Knights of Columbus Report

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica Knights of Columbus Council #13404 is a very active group hosting a variety of events to help those in need in our community and to provide support to our parish and funding to seminarians.

During the summer months members worked at Mount Hope's BBQs. We also volunteered our services to the Food Bank by passing out donation bags at the Metro store on Adelaide and Cheapside streets. People entering the store were asked to place food items in the bags which we then delivered to the Food Bank. In one week, 457 bags of food were collected. We also donated funding for 100 Christmas meals to Mission Services for the needy. Various other agencies have received help from council members.

In October the Knights held a breakfast for parishioners and community neighbours. We assisted the Catholic Women's League by sorting donated clothing and setting up tables for the Christmas bazaar on November 8th. The Elimination Draw on December 6th drew a big crowd who enjoyed great food, dancing to a live band, of course, some guests actually won money! A number of other events are planned in the upcoming months. In January, we will be part of a team preparing a hot, sit-down luncheon of ham, mashed potatoes, salads etc. for those in need.

Being a member of the Knights of Columbus and giving your time to help others gives you a feeling of humble satisfaction. All men in our Parish over 18 years old are invited to join our council by contacting Grand Knight, Sam Circelli at 519-657-0220 or samcircelli@hotmail.ca.



Anne Grayhurst and Phil Noble
enjoying an event



Ronnie Purrglove and Sheree
Hogan at the Elimination Draw

Elimination Draw Results

The following eight
persons won \$50 each:

Heather James
C. McPherson
Karen Barrett
Mitch Lenko
George McCabe
Kevin Kusch
Joe Schimo
Helen Drenth

\$100 Winner – Joe Tornabuono
\$500 Winner – Martin Healy
\$1,000 Winner – Mack McKenzie



Des Sawa, Bib Hughes and Colin Gould
setting up the Entry Board



Mitch Lenko Displays his \$50.00 winning ticket
to Pat Hogan and Joe Tornabuono



Pat Hogan, Joe Tournabuono and James Vollmer
checking the entries.



Mark Mackenzie with a
big smile after winning the
grand prize.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!!

WHY THE KNIGHTS?

Many successful ventures began with a challenge. The founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney, was no stranger to challenges. He was born in 1852 in Waterbury, Connecticut of Irish parents who had arrived in the great 19th century wave of Irish immigration to the United States. His mother gave birth to 13 children, six of whom died at birth or in infancy. Michael was the oldest, and learned early the harsh grip of poverty and sorrow.

His father worked as a molder in a brass mill, and was exposed daily to heat and noxious fumes. Michael attended the local district school but left at age 13 to work as a spoon maker in a brass factory to assist the family with its financial burdens.

A Canadian Connection

At age 16, with the assistance of his Waterbury pastor, and with the priesthood in mind, he travelled to Quebec and became a student at the College of St. Hyacinthe. He applied himself to subjects he required to enter the seminary and qualified for admission to Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Niagara Falls, New York. After two years there, he attended seminary classes at the Jesuit-run St. Mary's College in Montreal.

His stay in Montreal was limited to one year because of his father's death in June of 1873. Michael left the seminary and returned home to help raise his younger brothers and sisters. Later, at the request of his Bishop, he completed his studies at a seminary in Baltimore, Maryland and was ordained in December 1877. Three days after his ordination, he began his role as curate at St. Mary's parish in New Haven.

Priestly Challenges

Here new challenges awaited Father McGivney. Anti-Catholicism was rampant and affected his parish which was prevented from building a new church on the New Haven town green, where most of the Protestant churches were located. When the church was finally constructed on Hillhouse Avenue, it was openly criticized by the *New York Times* as a blemish in an otherwise upscale neighbourhood.

New Haven was an industrial city and factories were often dangerous places to work. Fr. McGivney worked closely with many of the Irish immigrants who toiled in unforgiving jobs. He was well aware of the discrimination and hardships endured by men working in such conditions. There were too many accidents that left families fatherless and suffering greatly from the loss of a breadwinner. He saw the need for an organization that might provide financial security for widows and orphans and, at the same time, strengthen the faith of his parishioners.

Many benevolent societies were being organized at that time and were well subscribed. In addition to fellowship, they provided a basic form of insurance that provided monetary assistance when the head of a household became incapacitated or died. Many of these were secret societies; however, some were openly antagonistic to the Church and boycotted Catholics from membership. Father McGivney began to explore the idea of a Catholic fraternal society, and discussed the concept with a number of laymen, as well as his Bishop in Hartford. Following the Bishop's approval, he met with the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, consulted with the Catholic Benevolent Legion in Brooklyn, met with other priests in his diocese and sought information wherever he could.

On March 29, 1882, Fr. McGivney and a group of men met in the basement of St. Mary’s Church and founded the Knights of Columbus. As a symbol of allegiance to their country they took Columbus as their patron; he was recognized both as a Catholic and the discoverer of America. The organization combined the principles of fraternity, charity, unity, and patriotism, and included forms of insurance protection in their program. That very first Council was called “San Salvador” after the first new world island named by the explorer. The Knights soon spread to other towns and, within three years, the organization had 31 councils in Connecticut.

In November of 1884, the young Father McGivney was named pastor of St. Thomas Church, in Thomastown. It was another factory town and the working class parish was heavily in debt. Father McGivney was never robust in health and in 1890 he suffered a serious case of pneumonia and died at age 38. He had been a priest for only 13 years. Today, the Knights have grown to more than 14,000 councils and 1.8 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Spain and the list goes on. It is a remarkable legacy of a young, humble priest who displayed energy, compassion and remarkable insight into the plight of his suffering parishioners.

Growth and Highlights

By the beginning of the 20th century, the Knights had grown dramatically. Councils were organized in Canada and by 1909 they had expanded internationally to Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba and Panama. In 1904, more than 10,000 Knights and their families gathered at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., donating a cheque for \$55,600 to establish a Knights of Columbus Chair of American History.



During the First World War, the Knights provided rest, recreational facilities, supplies, and social services for all Allied servicemen regardless of religious affiliation, throughout the United States and Europe. Their centres became known as the “K of C Huts”. By the summer of 1917, these Huts were located in training camps and even behind the battle lines.

In the 1920s, the Knights became active in anti-defamation projects. The Klu Klux Klan and other groups had emerged to oppose immigration and launch campaigns to lower the legal status of specific ethnic or cultural groups based on national, cultural or religious identity. Anti-Catholic groups tried to force Catholic students to attend public schools. A Knights of Columbus Historical Commission was established to overcome racial prejudice in America and the organization published books on the contributions of African, Jewish and German Americans. In 1937, when the threat of atheistic communism was growing in Europe, the Knights organized anti-communist rallies.

Within days of the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the Canadian Knights organized a welfare program for servicemen modelled to a certain extent on the K of C Huts of the First War. Within a year, the Canadian Knights raised approximately \$250,000 to support the troops. At their Supreme Convention in 1944, the Knights of Columbus established a \$1 million trust fund for the education of children of members who died or became disabled in World War II.

In 1951, the Knights of Columbus in the U.S. began a campaign to lobby the government for the public adoption of the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. Their efforts were successful and in 1953 President Eisenhower signed a law to that effect.

The Knights marked the achievement of \$2 billion of insurance in force in 1971. Today, that figure is \$86 billion. Knights' projects



Father McGivney with poor Irish parishioners

include scholarships for seminarians, wheelchairs for land mine victims and persons with disabilities, church restoration programs, the rebuilding of churches and schools after hurricanes, the purchase of 250 ultrasound machines for pro-life pregnancy centres and aid to Haiti after the earthquake of 2010.

Pope St. John Paul II aptly spoke of the Knights of Columbus as “a strong right arm of the Church.”

The Cathedral Council of the Knights of Columbus

Council number 13404 of the Knights of Columbus is based at St. Peter’s Cathedral. It is a very active Council with proficiency in organizing fund-raising events that benefit the Cathedral as well as many local charities and other noble causes. Its highly successful John McDermott concerts, for example, have raised \$32,000 that was used to replace the kneelers in our pews. Another year, new tables and chairs were purchased for functions in the gym/parish centre/hall at a cost of \$8,500. Donations to the Celebration Campaign for the Cathedral restoration were in excess of \$10,000. Improvements to the kitchen adjoining the gym were also partially funded by our Council.

Many Knights events provide social engagement for parishioners of the Cathedral. The recent Elimination Draw Dinner and Dance was such an occasion. It drew a large crowd of women and men who enthusiastically applauded each familiar tune performed by the band. Sunday morning breakfasts are another occasion for parishioners to socialize and meet people they often recognize from attending Mass but have yet to spend time with.

Council 13404 donates funds to numerous charitable causes in London. Over the years these have included Mission Services, homes for unwed mothers, right to life groups, support of seminarians, the Keep Christ in Christmas campaign, wheelchair purchases, support for youth attending national religious rallies, World Youth Day and the list goes on.

Knights can be seen in the Life Chain event, at the annual cemetery mass, barbequing at a senior citizens home, assisting with the Winter Welcome Luncheon and generally responding to all manner of requests for assistance. Nor is fellowship ignored. The Knights socialize after each monthly meeting in their council chambers on the second floor of the Parish Centre. Then each summer brings a golf tournament, followed by a barbeque at the home of former Grand Knight Pat Hogan.

Thinking of Joining the Knights?

Are you interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing your faith and having exclusive access to top rated insurance protection for your family? Then consider joining the Knights of Columbus at St. Peter’s. This is a unique “band of brothers” with shared values and the support to live out our Catholic faith more fully. It is a network of people accomplishing things together that could not be accomplished alone. The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name but rather a brotherhood of men who each play a part in improving the world around them.

Mitch Lenko, with files from Cathedral Connections

IN THE SPIRIT OF POPE FRANCIS: SHARING MORE THAN A MEAL

Sometimes the importance of hosting special occasions, bringing together neighbours and friends to share a meal, is not fully understood until an appreciative individual puts words to his personal experience, as one gentleman did.

The special occasion was the Winter Welcome Luncheon that has been held at the St. Peter's Parish Centre for the past seven years. It is hosted jointly by various ministries – the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Outreach Committee, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – all under the leadership of Deacon Len Hughes.

Prior to the luncheon, representatives of the participating ministries meet to discuss menu, food service, dress, entertainment, decorations, gifts and other important details. After hosting the event for seven years, we have noticed that some interesting developments have taken place in the character of our event. The organizational guidelines have relaxed and the black and white dress code for helpers has been discontinued. Goody bags and small gifts have "appeared" as the tables are being set. These special touches make all of us feel so much more like a family enjoying a special meal together and not like "giving" hosts and "receiving" guests. The difference in tone and atmosphere is palpable.

This past winter, a story recounted by two members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society gave this event new meaning. During our 150 Christmas home visits every year, your Angel Tree gift card donations were distributed along with a printed invitation to the Winter Welcome Luncheon. As one of the Vincentians was describing the event in detail, the gentleman interrupted her by jumping in with the words, "You mean that winter lunch we've had for a few years? I can hardly wait!" he said. "Last year you made me feel so good. You really made me feel great. I felt so special that day. I felt like a human being, the way I was treated. You made me feel like a king! Of course I'm coming ... and I almost forgot, the food was great too!"

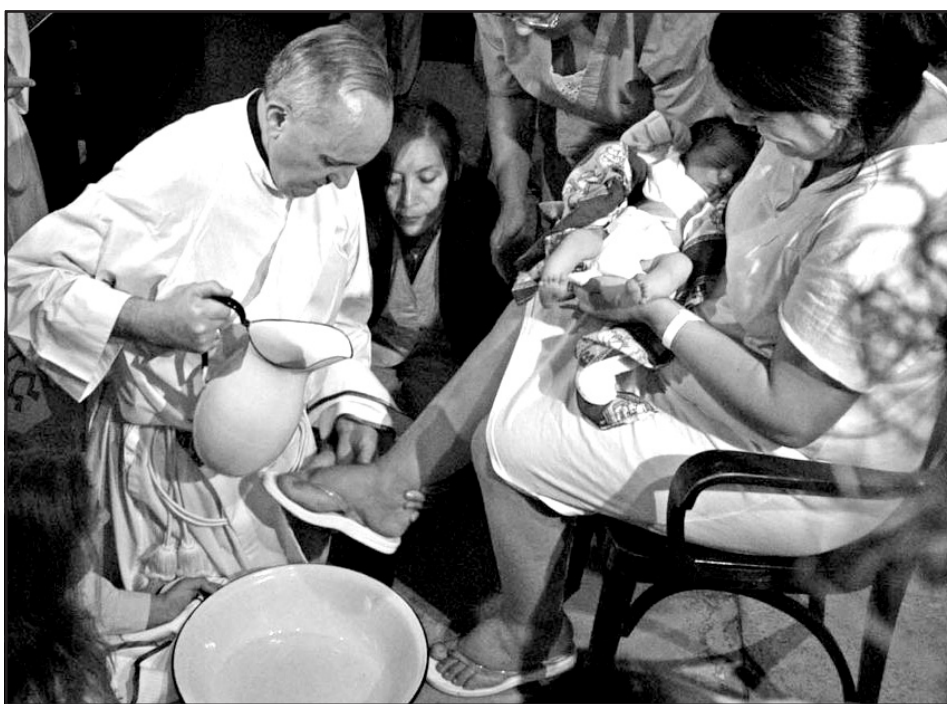
Then he asked for the Vincentian's name and used it in every sentence thereafter, assuring her that he and his friends would be present and would sit at the very front so he could find her more easily in the crowd on the day of the Luncheon at the Parish Centre.

And on that special day, there he was, beaming! He was sitting at a table, front and centre, dressed in his Sunday best, his hair nicely styled for the occasion, with his hands outstretched offering a welcoming handshake. And he remembered the Vincentian's name! Then he introduced all of the friends that he had brought from the city public housing unit where he lives.

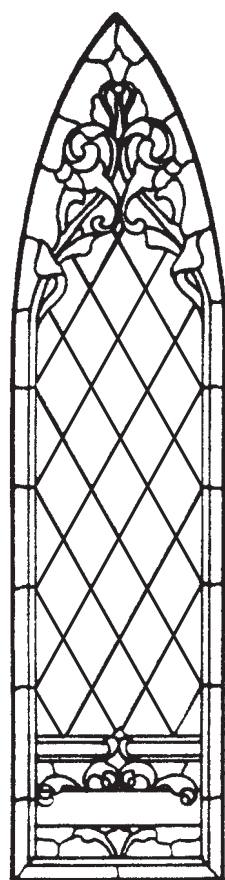
We all had such fun at the luncheon - just a family should – with relaxed conversation and laughter. It was a truly memorable occasion for us all, and gave us much to reflect upon! Here is a quote from St. Vincent de Paul himself:

"It is one thing to give charity. It is another thing entirely to give the sense of humanity and dignity and personhood that must go with the serving of the soup. If the person you care for leaves your care feeling more of a person than before you came along, you have succeeded. Only then."

Editorial Comment: *If you have a true story that typifies the spirit of Pope Francis, we would like to publish it with the sender remaining anonymous. Contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 519-432-3475, and you will be put in touch with one of our writers.*



Cardinal Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) washes the feet of a woman on Holy Thursday at the Buenos Aires' Sarda maternity hospital in 2005.



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OUTREACH MINISTRY LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

As we quickly come to the end of another year, it is time to review some Outreach activities during the last twelve months. 2014 started on an upbeat note with the knowledge that the excellent preparatory work done by Susan Brown, an Outreach member, regarding a parish Visitation Ministry had been accepted by the Pastoral Team and that it had begun to be put into place. Thanks to Susan's initial work, Fr. Steny's oversight, and the work of the committed volunteers who stepped forward, this has now become a viable and much needed ministry in the parish. Thank you Susan, Fr. Steny, and all the Visitation Ministry folks!

January always gets Community Outreach off to a good start with the annual "Winter Welcome Meal." What first started out in 2009 as perhaps a one-time an experimental venture involving the CWL, the Knights of Columbus, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Outreach Ministry, has become a successful annual event. The collaborative work of all four groups allows the parish to provide a wholesome three course sit-down meal to the needy living within our boundaries. It has provided an opportunity to work together for the needy in the downtown. Last year we had the privilege of serving 110 guests. I was moved when we were cleaning up after the meal. One of the guests had written in large letters on a paper placemat "Thank You." For me, that was enough to know that we had made someone's day just a little bit better. We're confident that our next meal on January 24, 2015 should prove to be equally successful.

I'm pleased that our seasonal food drives (in Lent, early summer, and Thanksgiving) continue to provide valuable support to the Food Bank and the Fellowship Centre at St. Paul's. I am struck by the generosity of many parishioners who donate food and essential items, gift cards or money to support the program. St. Peter's has been an active partner for many years not only with donations of food and cash but also with volunteers. Aside from a sizeable annual donation from Lutheran Social Services, St. Peter's was the second largest contributor from among the 40 or so faith communities that support the program.

I am particularly encouraged that our food drives in 2014 brought in approximately 270 bags of food and other necessities, a little less than \$1200.00 in gift cards, and \$5,697.76 in cash. Together with the \$2,635 received on Holy Thursday for the Sisters of St. Joseph Hospitality Centre, and \$704 donated for Save a Family Plan at the Good Friday Lunch, a total of \$9,037.81 was raised to aid our less fortunate brothers and sisters locally and in India.

The plight of those living in poverty continues to be of concern to me as well as to certain Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith leaders in London, so much so, that in 2011 the Multi-Faith Social Action Coalition was formed to draw attention to this issue and try to influence political decision making in addressing it. But Social Action, or Social Justice as it is also called, takes time, and results are incremental and not always readily noticeable. Even so, we were successful, together with other like-minded groups, in bringing sufficient pressure on City Council during its last budget process to reverse its decision to remove 1 million dollars from the Affordable Housing Reserve. Now that a new Council is in place, we are making plans to engage its members and draw their attention to issues of poverty, homelessness, transportation and food security in our city.

When I see what is happening in our community, I find the statistics deeply troubling. For example, in 2011, 11.6% of London and area's population was living below the poverty line, up 6.4% from 2000 and 31.8% higher than the national average! (Statistics Canada, *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics*). Among wage earners, the situation continues to be bleak with 35.4% of all wage earners in London and surrounding area not earning a living wage, i.e. having an annual income of less than \$20,000 (2010 figures from Statistics Canada).

I sat and talked to a man who came to the Fellowship Centre for lunch last week. He is in his late 50s/early

60s. He told me that he receives \$626 monthly from Ontario Works. Out of that he pays \$500 for a small apartment leaving him with just over \$100 to buy food and other necessities for the month! He was a skilled worker but was made redundant some time ago. He would love to work again but no-one is interested in hiring him even on a casual basis. He is not unlike many I speak to who have all but given up hope of gaining meaningful employment ever again.



Members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society laying out clothes and other needed items for our guests to take home from a Winter Welcome Meal.

Soon we will be celebrating Christmas and sharing in the many gifts that God has given us. Over Christmas let's not forget the needs of many in our city who will struggle, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. They struggle to obtain adequate and affordable housing, sufficient nutritious food, and to achieve even a basic standard of living. In a first world country such as ours, no one should go hungry or be without a decent place to live. Sadly that is not the case and will not likely change unless, individually and collectively, we recognize the need and try to do something about it.

If you are interested in trying to improve the situation or would just like to chat, just give me a call at ext. 223 or connect by email: lhughes@dol.ca. I am out of the office much of the time, so just leave me a message and I will get back to you. Peace and blessings to all.

Deacon Len Hughes



Members of the Multi-Faith Social Action Coalition gather outside St. Peter's in October 2012 as part of the provincial campaign "Prayers for Prosperity for All"



Parishioners attending one of our Good Friday meals in the Fellowship Centre, showing solidarity with the poor.

IN REMEMBRANCE: HONOURING OUR MILITARY THROUGH WORD AND SONG BY CATHRYN HALL

The events of the week of October 20th, 2014 won't be soon forgotten by most Canadians: two soldiers killed in two separate attacks days apart. First, the murder of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, 53, in a targeted hit and run in Quebec. Then, just two days later, an attack on the National War Memorial and Parliament Hill that left 24-year-old Cpl. Nathan Cirillo dead and shocked the country. These events brought all Canadians face to face with the reality of war and terrorism and the role all military personnel at home and abroad, past and present, play in defending our freedom.

Inaugurated in 2004, the annual "In Remembrance" concert presented by St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica and the Amabile Boys & Men's Choir provide parishioners and members of the community an opportunity to reflect upon the freedoms we enjoy in Canada and remember the brave souls who sacrifice so much to protect those freedoms. Held on the Sunday nearest to Remembrance Day each year it draws many veterans, proudly wearing their medals and poppies, who attend as guests of the parish.

In a recent conversation, Dr. Carol Beynon, founding co-Artistic Director & co-Conductor of the Amabile Boys & Men's Choirs, reflected on "In Remembrance" concerts over the years:

"What began as a kind invitation from St Peter's Music Committee as a fundraising project for the new Cathedral roof about 10 years ago has grown into an annual concert event that is a significant highlight of the Amabile Boys & Men's Choirs annual season. Each year the 150 singers in the choirs research and pull together a different script and music to honour those who gave their lives so that we might live in peace in our country. While we are pleased to perform for a packed crowd, the most special guests are the veterans – the young and old – and their families who attend. To watch their eyes and to see the pride of remembrance on their faces is a special privilege to everyone. To stand at attention with them during the last post and moment of silence; and then have them join us in the enthusiastic singing of the old war songs is a part of the concert repeated each year that is etched in everyone's heart. This concert is an emotional choral journey of love and respect. And each year, we remind ourselves:

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.
(R.L. Binyon)"*

The partnership of St. Peter's and Amabile in this venture has proven to be a worth while and rewarding experience individually and collectively for choirs and Cathedral. Each year, Amabile has presented a very powerful and prayerful concert reflecting the creative genius of the directors and the talent of the young men in the choirs. The audience draw has gone far beyond our parishioners to the greater

community and in particular to veterans and their families. This has been a wonderful outreach, reminding us through song, story, and narrative of the tremendous sacrifices of those who have gone before us, are with us now, and will protect and keep us safe in the future.

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica thanks the boys and men of the Amabile Treble Training Choir, Amabile Treble Concert Choir, Amabile Young Men's Ensemble, Primus-Amabile Men's Choir, and their conductors and accompanists. Music is such a powerful vehicle to express emotions – hopes and dreams, love and laughter – and through their concerts, the Amabile choirs continue to bring these emotions to life each year with us. We are blessed to be part of this exploration of the arts and the gift that the Amabile Singers bring to the Cathedral each year.

Loving God, Creator of life

*We have set aside time to come together filled not only with memories of war
but also with a profound hope for peace.
We express our gratitude for the selfless dedication of all who have served or do serve, in any way, in the Armed Forces of Canada.
With thanksgiving and pride we ask your protective blessing on those who continue to toil.
Shield them from danger, keep them strong and steadfast.
Give them courage that they may faithfully perform their duties.
We pause in remembrance of those who gave their lives in the service of our nation.
Those of us who live in freedom will always be in debt to those who helped preserve it.
May their memory never be forgotten to us and may their example continue to encourage us to renew our commitment to a genuine search for true peace which will extinguish all arguments; for charity which will overcome hatred; for pardon and reconciliation which will disarm revenge.
Strengthen us to live out daily the standards of loyalty and courage of our fallen comrades.
May they rest in peace.
Amen*

Father Jim Mockler's prayer at "In Remembrance", 2014



ST PETER’S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The primary responsibility of the Parish Pastoral Council is pastoral planning. This process is an ongoing, cyclical one which involves discernment, consensus, implementation and evaluation. The Council works with the pastor to discern parish needs and ensure that they are met. Through constant attention to the life of the parish and the greater community, the Council also identifies areas of concern and enables the parish to reach out to those in need. In order to develop a spirit of unity and purpose, the Council finds opportunities for prayer and reflection. It articulates local goals and objectives in relation to the mission flowing from the diocesan pastoral plan.

Through numerous announcements in the weekly bulletin and articles in this newsletter you have been kept up-to-date on the many steps that have been undertaken as a result of the over 1000 parish surveys you completed last fall. The work of the strategic plan steering committee was presented to the Parish Council during the summer for review. Since that time we, in collaboration with the parish team, have set about developing an implementation plan that will meet what you, the parishioners, have identified as needs for the months and years to come. From this plan we have identified three immediate priorities:

Communications: In response to your request for a more open flow of information regarding parish life, we have established a working group to examine all forms of communications in the parish. Its immediate work is to assess our website, looking at every aspect of the site including the information it contains, its relevance, timeliness and overall appearance. We want to make sure that it truly meets the needs

of the parish and is accessible by all. Please look for some exciting changes in the new year.

Community Engagement: One aspect of parish life that was commented on frequently in the survey results was the need for more opportunities where parishioners could engage with each other at social events. In September, a Community Engagement Committee was formed and immediately tasked to come up with a series of events that will enhance parish life in the months to come. You will have already seen the work of this committee in the form of our “Let’s Go to the movies” showing of *It’s a Wonderful Life* on Sunday December 14th.

Faith Development: As parishioners you’ve asked us to provide more opportunities for personal faith formation. In recent years the Parish Council has reviewed and recommended such faith development initiatives as **ARISE Together in Christ** and, more recently **Why Catholic? Journey Through the Catechism**. We have struck a working group that will use the results of the parish survey as a basis for exploring the many avenues available for nurturing faith formation for both individuals and the parish as a community.

In the coming months we will be outlining new initiatives that flow from the implementation plan and will be sharing these with you in the bulletin, website and future newspaper articles.

Members of the St Peter’s Parish Pastoral Council: Fr. Jim Mockler, Cathryn Hall, Michael Wojtak (chair), Jane Jeffery, Paul Carson, Albin Kmet, Donna Sousa, Brian Dunne, Catherine Sexton, Alenka Manners and Liz Wasko

Michael Wojtak

PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS

For the past six years, RICHARD CORNEIL has been the Director of the Institute for Catholic Formation at St. Peter’s Seminary. The Institute has overseen and developed programs in pre-service formation for the Diocese of London – the Permanent Diaconate and Certificate in Pastoral Formation, in on-going formation for priests and pastoral workers, and in adult faith formation. A member of the Cathedral parish with Bridget and their five children, Richard has been a dedicated and involved parishioner. The Corneil family will be missed at both St. Peter’s – Cathedral and Seminary - when Richard takes up his new position in Windsor as President of Assumption University in March 2015.

ROBERT VENTRESCA teaches history at King’s University College at the University of Western

Ontario. In 2013 he published, with Harvard University Press, a biography of Eugenio Pacelli, *Soldier of Christ: The Life of Pius XII*. Recently this book has been given the inaugural Msgr. Harry C. Koenig Award for Catholic Biography, by the American Catholic Historical Association. This is a prestigious recognition of Rob’s interpretation of the life of a controversial pontiff. A review of *Soldier of Christ* can be seen at: <https://contemporarychurchhistory.org/2013/12/review-of-robert-a-ventresca-soldier-of-christ-the-life-of-pope-pius-xii/>

Rob and his wife, Yola, were blessed with the birth of their daughter Simona in August. The Ventresca family are parishioners at the Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL WINDOWS MEMORIALIZES A SOLDIER

Have you ever noticed the last two windows on the west side of the nave, in the southwest corner? They depict the story told in the 7th chapter of Luke in which a centurion of Capernaum sent elders to Jesus asking him to heal his slave. He had faith that Christ could do this without even visiting his house, did not presume that he was worthy of such a visit, and explained that he was familiar with the demands of power: “For I also am a man subject to authority having under me soldiers.”

In the words of dedication, these windows were “erected by the patriotic citizens of London in faithful remembrance of Pte John Donegan a member of this parish and one of the first Canadian soldiers killed in the South African War.”

John A. Donegan was the son of Patrick and Margaret Donegan. He was born in Perth, Ontario, on 16 December 1878 and educated there and at St. Peter’s School and the Collegiate Institute in London. The family had moved to London when

Patrick Donegan, a locomotive engineer, was transferred to the Canadian Pacific roundhouse here. On leaving school, John worked at Pocock Bros. boot and shoe store, and then in the C.P.R. freight office in Chatham. When the Second Boer War broke out in 1899, he joined up in London, and with the 26th Battalion, “B” Company, fought at the Battle of Paardeberg, where he was killed on 18 February 1900. He left behind a wife and two young sons, his parents and many brothers and sisters. John Donegan was twenty-one years old.

The window inscription promises: “I will give thee rest from all thy enemies.”

Cathedral Connections has tried to produce a good photograph of this window, but the light has not yet cooperated. We will try again with the next issue.

Hilary Neary

At 7:30 p.m. on November 28, 2014, we had a marvelous concert at St. Peter's with special guests the Elmer Iseler Singers conducted by Lydia Adams. The program was shared with Western Singers, conducted by Victoria Meredith, and my own University choir, the St. Cecilia Singers, conducted by Gloria Gassi.

Here's how it all got started. About a year ago Bob Missen (former EIS tenor and now music agent) approached me at an EIS concert in Toronto and asked about the choir coming to London as part of their 35th Anniversary tour. Being a former EIS Singer myself, I was delighted at the request, and several months of planning resulted in a wonderful musical evening.

Finding a Theme. After some initial emails, Viki, Lydia and I decided to connect at Choral Canada's Podium, which took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia May 15-18, 2014. Lydia was giving a concert with the Amadeus choir at the conference called "Music of the Spheres" which included slides that both Roberta Bondar and Chris Hadfield had taken from outer space. Chris spoke by video of the final frontier of space exploration, saying that in the future there would be people who leave this earth permanently to live in space – a sobering yet awesome thought. He spoke of it as being the "last separation" in the evolution of humankind. With this inspiration, we decided to keep a similar theme for our concert, bringing in aspects of the universe, stars, earth, heavens, light and life.

Repertoire: Our next step was to choose repertoire that would reflect the Sounds of the Spheres. We decided to open the concert with Dance-Song to the Creator by David Hamilton, scored for three choirs – one treble (St. Cecilia) and two SATB choirs (EIS and WS) – along with piano duet and percussion. The text is mainly from the Te Deum, with other words interspersed; for example, as the SATB choirs are singing the words "*Te Deum laudamus*" the treble choir floats above with the words "Dance my heart with joy." The hymn of praise was a great way to consolidate all the themes of the universe by first giving honour to God. The *Te Deum* was written by St. Ambrose and St. Augustine and is still in use in the Office of Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours. The hymn is also used on special occasions, for example, the canonization of a saint and the election of a pope. You can listen online at: <http://sounz.org.nz/manifestations/show/14774>



St. Cecilia Singers, Gloria Gassi, two pianists, and a string quintet.

Our other combined pieces were *Stars of the Voyager* by Eleanor Daley and *Laudate Dominum* by Arnold Honegger, which was sung as the concert closer. For the *Laudate*, the women's choir sang from the balcony with the SATB choirs in the sanctuary. Each individual choir sang its own repertoire as well, which complimented the theme. The excellent acoustics of our Cathedral enhanced the choir formations and the chosen repertoire.

St. Cecilia Singers: I decided to use a piece of music recently written by Ola Gjello, a Norwegian composer, titled *Song of the Universal*, with piano and string quintet. The text is a poem by Walt Whitman and includes such words as: "Give me, O God, to sing that thought! Give me - give him or her I love, this quenchless faith...Belief in plan of Thee enclosed in Time and Space; Health, peace, salvation universal. Love, like the light, silently wrapping all! Nature's amelioration blessing all! The blossoms, fruits of ages—orchards divine and certain; Forms, objects, growths, humanities, to spiritual Images ripening."

The Western Singers: sang *The Moon is Distant from the Sea*, by David Childs; *The Sounding Sea* by Eric Barnum; *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli, and *Ezekiel Saw de Wheel* by William Dawson. The Elmer Iseler Singers sang: *Reflections on Light* by H. Janmohamed; *Alleluia* by Eric Whitacre; *Hymn for St. Cecilia* by Herbert Howells, and *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen (sung from the balcony with organ).

The collaborative one-day event began at the University with Lydia Adams as guest speaker to the Choral Conducting class where students gained experience conducting the EIS. The choir then boarded the bus for St. Peter's where all choirs met at 4 p.m. for a combined rehearsal. There wasn't much time for supper, as all the choirs needed a sound check; the recording engineer assembled equipment, and the instrumentalists arrived. Trent Fieldhouse, St. Peter's custodian, was a great help with set up, and Larry Lewis was not only a committed listener and welcoming face, but also provided great support right to the end of the concert.

Elmer Iseler founded his Singers in 1954, and was a pivotal leader in developing choral music in Canada.



Three choirs fill the sanctuary under the baton of Lydia Adams.

SOUNDS OF THE SPHERES *continued*



Elmer Isler Singers and Lydia Adams.



Western University Singers and Victoria Meredith, conductor.

Under his direction, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Festival Singers and Elmer Isler Singers were known across the country and internationally for the unique beauty of their sound and technique, still without parallel. He always encouraged young singers, as reflected in his work with the National and Ontario Youth Choirs.

Lydia Adams and Jessie Iseler, manager, continue to maintain Elmer's vision and philosophy. Now under the musical direction of Lydia Adams, the choir continues to commission and promote Canadian composers and to work closely with young people to keep choral music alive in Canada. EIS singers perform with artistic brilliance and technical facility and it is always a pleasure to hear them. There are four Alumnae from Western in the present choir, and in past years it has had many other Western graduates.

Thanks to Father Jim Mockler and the St. Peter's Cathedral parish team for their support and co-operation for this event, and to parish volunteers who helped at the concert, Hilary Neary, Ana Matijevic and Michael Butler.

St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica is always a treasure to behold for its awesome structure, inviting acoustics and welcoming presence.

SOME FAVORITE ADVENT MUSIC

You may be reading this as Advent is transforming into Christmas, or as Lent is becoming Easter. So perhaps the liturgical season is out of sync with the publishing schedule of our parish newspaper, but the message of the music is never out of date.

This year on the first Sunday of Advent at evening Mass, the Contemporary Choir sang an anthem by the American composer, John L. Bell. It is a piece that in one year or another all three Cathedral choirs have sung, and each December I remember the timely words that Bell wrote:

*He will come when we're least expecting him,
when the world is unprepared
As if orphaned from its destiny, as if no creator cared.
Though for us, it's out of season,
God decides the place and time.*

While the malls of commerce assail our ears with tinsel bells, little drums, and saccharine choruses, the true melody of Advent comes almost in secret, without wrapping paper, media fanfare, or strategic plans.

*He will come when we're least expecting him,
when agendas have been set,
And the deadlines have been finalized through which
needs are seldom met.
Though for us, it's out of season,
God decides the place and time.*

Bell's lyrics insistently remind us that the frenetic pace we try to achieve in our planning for Christmas is not God's tempo, for the overture to Bethlehem is soft, low, and full of prayerful anticipation.

*He will come when we're least expecting him,
not to parliament or queen,
Nor to capitol or capital,
blessing what has always been.
Though for us, it's out of season,
God decides the place and time.*

And it isn't just the timing of the Messiah's appearance that is unexpected, it is also the humble birthplace, and the not entirely welcoming society.

*He will come when we're least expecting him,
as a baby at the breast,
With agnostics in the dining room,
in the answer no one guessed.
Though for us, it's out of season,
God decides the place and time.*

The rhythm of the liturgical year is deeply imprinted in Catholics, so that in the anticipation of Advent and the joy of Christmas, we also carry in the back of our minds, like a distant chord, the promise of Easter. And so Bell concludes:

*Yes, he'll come and he'll be expecting us to accept his
call to dine,
Where the guests are God's assortment and the food is
bread and wine.
Christ shall come in the proper season,
take his place and claim his time.*

Hilary Neary



Cathedral Christmas WORD PUZZLE

G	B	Y	Z	Y	K	J	X	N	Y	R	E	T	I	I	E
L	X	B	E	L	N	Q	A	L	W	V	B	N	G	M	Y
O	W	A	I	Q	O	A	D	D	M	T	C	A	A	C	E
R	S	T	S	D	A	H	H	A	L	A	M	R	C	J	K
Y	A	T	J	I	T	G	N	P	R	P	Y	C	U	Y	R
T	N	X	N	I	N	G	I	N	I	M	E	N	D	T	U
O	G	N	O	I	E	G	A	F	O	P	G	E	Q	I	T
G	E	T	F	R	C	T	I	T	T	E	E	F	L	V	R
O	L	R	T	W	I	H	H	N	S	S	Y	A	Y	I	A
D	S	H	C	O	V	E	O	M	G	J	F	L	Z	T	E
H	Q	F	N	B	R	X	K	L	R	Z	I	M	J	A	Y
U	P	Y	F	O	A	V	R	G	A	M	L	R	D	N	W
I	A	D	F	J	X	A	I	L	A	S	I	A	F	Y	E
M	V	G	U	X	C	Z	S	F	L	D	Y	K	S	D	N
A	O	H	Z	U	F	A	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C
D	G	F	B	G	Y	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	N	E

- December

Angels

St Nicholas

Gifts

Incarnation

Singing

Manger

Nativity

Christmas
- Family

Glory to God

New Year

Turkey

Magi

Epiphany

Mary, Mother of God

