



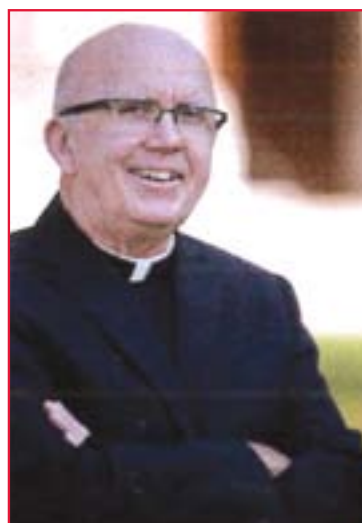
Cathedral Connections

WINTER 2016-2017

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

FREE COPY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



As we prepare once again to celebrate the birth of Jesus we remind ourselves of the precious gift of his presence we have received. As we journey through the year listening

to the message of the Gospel and trying our best to apply it to our daily lives we gradually become more and more people of hope.

No matter what is happening in our world or our individual lives, we continue to pray for guidance and light that can only come from God who cares for all of us. We, in turn, assist in bringing that light to others through our living faith - how we speak to, care for and relate with all the people we engage on a regular basis. We can do our part - only each person knows what that will be for her or him - to move from words to action. We can all begin to look in a new light at various situations in our society - for example to shine a light on the violence that is part of our lives and then join in the discussion, prayer and action to make sure we are all seeking that conversion of mind and heart that will leave us all uneasy until our streets, homes, schools, mosques, synagogues and churches are truly safe and nurturing places for every person.

The season of Advent has been encouraging us to reflect on the hope we profess. We need hope because we live in an imperfect world. The enemy of hope is cynicism

because it comes so easily. It requires nothing of us - no trust, no effort, and no love.

Hope isn't about being optimistic- expecting things will get better, whatever the situation. Hope is founded on the belief that God will fulfil the promises he has made to us in his way and according to his schedule.

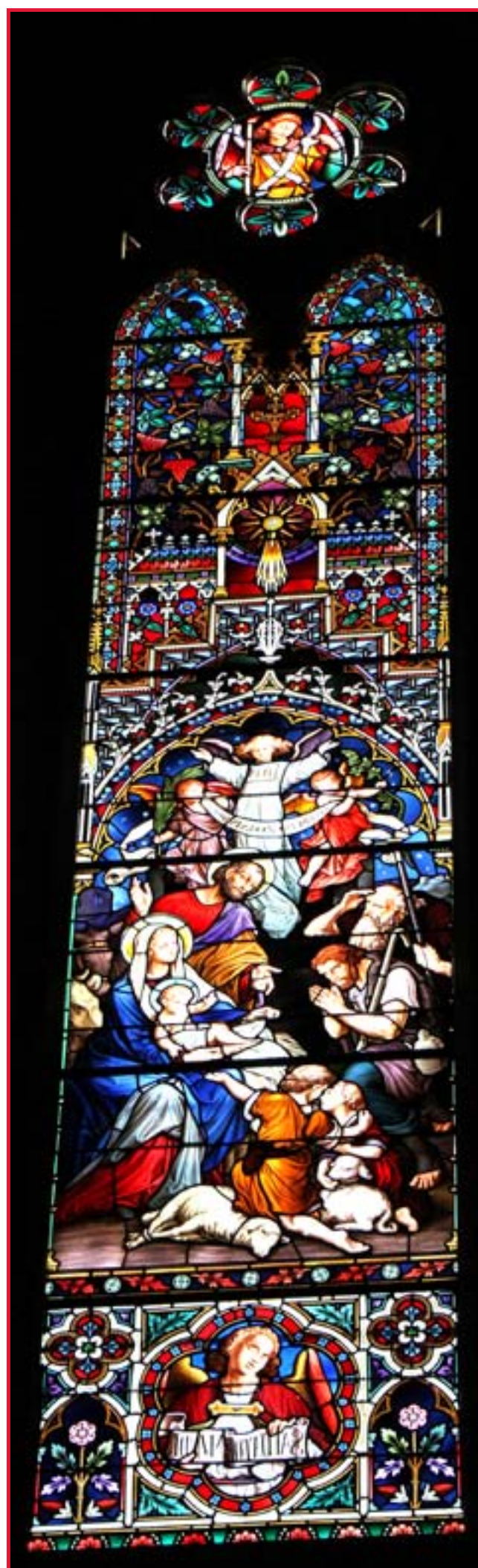
However, hope causes us to not sit idly by and just passively wait. We move into action because we already possess hope. We work hard at all those meaningful things in our lives that bring peace because we believe our efforts are worthwhile and they do make a difference. We keep hope alive in the world by our actions as we set example for others. The story of Christmas tells us who we are. We are followers of Jesus who are willing to be marked by courage and comfort. We believe in God who is neither detached nor distant. He is among us and offers us his guiding hand so we can be led by his presence.

As always, many people - parishioners and visitors alike - will pass through the doors of our Cathedral at Christmas. I warmly welcome all of you. We come to this space as we are - in joy or sorrow, filled with confidence or continuing our search. We come here so God can find us and bring us the peace and direction for which we long.

I know our celebration of the Christmas season will lead us through all of next year as people of prayer and service.

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

Fr. Jim Mockler



ST. PETER'S
CATHEDRAL BASILICA

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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.

Leonard Michael MacMullin
Oct. 3, 1948 – Oct. 29, 2016

Irene Mary Welsh
March 11, 1925 – Oct. 5, 2016

Ramona Joyce Davie
Jan. 12, 1929 – Oct. 9, 2016

Josephine Marie Louise Murphy
April 6, 1931 – Nov. 28, 2016

Marie-Anna Farghaly
Aug. 14, 1930 – Dec. 2, 2016



*Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.*
John 14:1-3

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 and Lindsay Allen*
MEMBERS OF ST. PETER'S

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

OUR LETTER TO ST. NICHOLAS

Dear St. Nicholas:

We do have an unusual request for you this year. Two of our parishioners went to meet St. Peter and left us generous donations. I am sure you know whom we mean. The donations were not enough for really big projects, but they were meaningful, and we are very happy about them. We are hoping that you could put in a special word with St. Peter on behalf of these donors. Winter is coming and we think they deserve cozy chairs by a fireplace somewhere up in Heaven. Of course, we are not sure that Heaven has fireplaces, but we suspect God keeps a few fires burning to remind those cherubs to stay out of mischief! Maybe if you just reminded St. Peter that we thought enough to name our Cathedral in London "St. Peter's," he may find a way to show some extra consideration to parishioners from his namesake church. Yes, we know that you will do the best that you can; you always do!

While you are chatting with some of your friends up there, could you please talk to St. Joseph for us? He was a carpenter, and a pretty good one at that, we are told. The problem we have is that our Cathedral is now over 130 years old. When we have to repair one of those lovely old doors or fixtures, for example, the tools sold today don't fit the nuts, bolts and screws that were used in the past. Then, what would normally be a simple fix becomes an expensive, major problem. Our staff will need some guidance from St. Joseph for these repairs. At the same time, maybe you could guide some of our parishioners to check their attics or cellars for old tools that belonged to their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents. Our custodian and his helpers would gladly take them off their hands. We would even pick them up if asked.

Everyone knows that you were particularly noted for Christmas giving. The gift we could really use at this time of the year is some help with our hydro bills. Now, we are sure there is no hydroelectric power in Heaven because nothing up there is dammed, but here on Earth, the electricity bills for our old Cathedral just keep going up and up and up. If you have any of those gold and silver coins left – or even whole money bags – that you tossed through the windows of the needy, we can leave some of our windows open to make it easier for you to help. And maybe, while you are dropping off presents to the local children, you could whisper in a few adult ears that it's the generosity of parishioners that helps to keep our lights on.

Thanks, St. Nicholas, for once more considering our needs.

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

Cathedral
Connections
needs your...



TALENT!

Reach us through the Church Office.
Email us at basilica@dol.ca
and put Cathedral Connections
in the subject line.
We want to hear from you!

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday, December 24
5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m. 12:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 25
8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Monday, December 26
10:00 a.m.

FEAST OF ST. JOHN

Tuesday, December 27
10:00 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Wednesday, December 28
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 29
7:30 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Friday, December 30
12:05 p.m.

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 1
8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

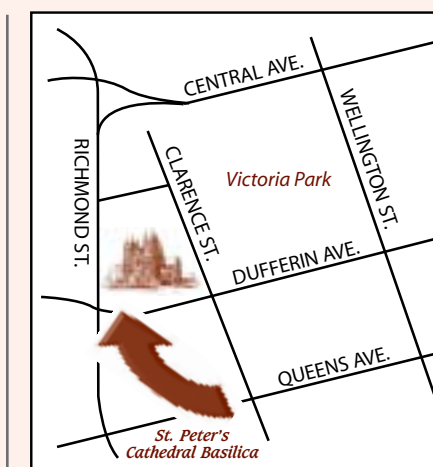
Monday, January 2
10:00 a.m. (Memorial of
St. Basil & St. Gregory)
Tuesday, January 3
7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 4
12:05 p.m.
Thursday, January 5
7:30 a.m.
Friday, January 6
12:05 p.m.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 7
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 8
8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday, January 9
12:05 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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WE NEED TOOLS!

As part of the maintenance committee, I have been asked to introduce myself. My name is Andrzej, and throughout the last few years you may have seen me doing restoration work in the Cathedral. Last year I started polishing the brass around the altars, and this year I refinished the Stations of the Cross and rebuilt the old Sacristy door. While many little projects came off our list, many others popped on. As a volunteer, I give time whenever I can, yet because I have a regular job some larger projects must be delayed.

When I served at CCH masses as a young boy, I would be looking up and around at all the wonderful woodwork and colors that our little lady has. As I enter the Basilica now with greater knowledge and more experience, I marvel at the details that many might overlook. Then it hits me as to how little my generation really knows about the old ways. Our world has become an “I” this and a “Google” that, with less and less hands-on and more and more relying on someone else to do something for us. Fortunately, I realized many years ago that people like myself would have to bear that joyous burden of learning the old ways to preserve our historic pieces. And really I don't mind smelling freshly sawn oak and Carnauba wax!

Modern building techniques do not accommodate ornate woodwork, which has been replaced with CNC MDF painted to look like wood, or stone carvings done by robots and finished by an artist. I realized I would have a lot to learn about woodwork and the old world ways of building. As an example, while rebuilding the Sacristy door, we learned it was made in 1924 of 1" oak planks glued together, then mortised and joined with extreme skill. The pattern of the trim alone took five days for us to reproduce with modern saws, planes, and the ever-so-nice scorching sun. During this project we realized we would need better woodworking tools and a much larger workbench to carry out the other projects on our list.

Many years ago I learned that the Cathedral had once had a carpentry shop located where the boilers are now. When St. Peter's was being constructed, many artisans were engaged to build the various beams and trims that went into it. But as time went on, woodworking projects were outsourced, and the carpentry space was appropriated for other uses. Today, as things break or need repair, we must drag them across the church and into our little makeshift shop to repair, re-stain, or rebuild. But the tools of yesteryear are few and far between. Realizing many projects will require better chisels, planes, saws, clamps and boring bits, I am asking if the people of St. Peter's have old tools they are not using and or are willing to donate, as we would love to give them a new home and work to do for our Cathedral. Please call the church office if you have tools to donate.

Future projects we have in mind will be repairing some of the pews and the entrance doors in the Narthex, refinishing the Pietà, and polishing other areas of the altar including the steps. In the next few weeks, if our orders come in on time for Christmas, we should have the new exterior school lights and parking lights up and running. Then we will focus on replacing the remaining lights in the Cathedral to match the new LED lights we installed last year.

I thank everyone who has helped and prayed for us as we truck along our little list of things that our little lady needs done. If you see us working please don't mind the mess we sometimes make, but stop and say “hi”. Or say a prayer to help guide us along. On behalf of me and my fellow elves who work at the Cathedral Basilica, I wish you a wonderful Christmas at St Peter's, and from me, “Wesolych Swiat” -- :) Merry Christmas in Polish!

Andrzej Ciesielka



A RECOGNITION FOR OUR RECTOR

On Tuesday, August 30, the Board of Trustees (past and present) along with Bishops Fabbro and Dabrowski, Cathedral staff, Senior Administration (past and present), Principals and Vice-Principals, friends and family of Fr. Jim Mockler pulled off a surprise gathering at King's University College to honour Fr. Jim's 25 years of service to the London District Catholic School Board as Board Chaplain. The planning for this event began in June and while there were moments when

we weren't sure we could pull off the surprise element, we did and we were mighty pleased to have done so. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to gather and to thank Fr. Jim for his many years of dedicated and generous service to the Board, to our schools and to so many of us on an individual basis. Should you wish to drop Fr. Jim a note of congratulations, his email is jmockler@dol.ca. If Fr. Jim asks where you got his email address, the Cathedral bulletin of course!

Many of our parishioners are aware of the numerous tasks that fall to a Rector of our Cathedral. He performs priestly and liturgical functions such as celebrating mass, hearing confessions, and officiating at weddings and funerals. His administrative duties are many, such as attending meetings of our Parish Council, the Finance Committee, the Knights of Columbus, and chairing Pastoral Team meetings, to list just a few.

But a large number of positions that Fr. Jim fills are not directly related to the Cathedral. He serves as chaplain to the London Police Department and to the local branch of the RCMP, to Catholic Central High School, and to the London District Catholic School Board. As if that were not enough, he is also an instructor at the Ontario Police College, and Episcopal Vicar for the London Deanery of the Diocese.

In spite of the obvious time constraints, he performs each of those functions extremely well, as was attested to at a recent function of the London District Catholic School Board.

This was a surprise party for Fr. Jim, hosted by the school board, and held at the Elizabeth A. “Bessie” Labatt Hall, King's University College. Although Fr. Jim attends all the meetings of the Board, they were able to keep the party a secret from him. Following a recent meeting he was asked to come to a reception honouring several teachers. As he entered the hall, everyone applauded. Thinking the acclamation was for the teachers, he clapped his hands as well, only to be told several minutes later that the reception was really in his honour and the applause was for him.

Present at the gathering were Bishop Fabbro and Bishop Dabrowski, past and present trustees, directors, senior administrators, principals and vice principals, and members of his family and his parish staff. The speeches honouring Father Jim were warm and complimentary. Here are some of the remarks made by Bill Hall, Chair of the Board of Trustees: “In August of 1991, Bishop Sherlock appointed Father Jim Mockler to be the Chaplain to the then London & Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and when amalgamation happened some 20 years ago now, he remained as Chaplain to the London District School Board. . . . In speaking with the Ontario Trustees Association, I was informed that although records are not kept for the length of service by a Chaplain to a Catholic School Board, they believe that Father's service to this Board is perhaps the longest serving Chaplain of any Catholic School Board in the Province.

“And we have been blessed with that gift of having Father Jim at our Board table. In our schools, in our parishes, celebrating masses countless of times, through the good times and the not so good times over these past 25 years. While the homilies might be a bit long, they are always on the mark and have a clear message, relating with that particular time and place with an emphasis on Catholic education, the students we serve, the Trustees of the Board

and staff within our Board. You have done so much for us over these years and this celebration this afternoon is just a small way of saying “Thank You” for the gift that you are to the Board of Trustees and to the whole Board in general. While we don't expect that you will be serving another 25 years as our Chaplain, we can only hope, we do hope, that Bishop Fabbro will continue to support your appointment as our Chaplain for a number of years to come.”

Congratulations to Fr. Jim from Cathedral Connections and from all our readers!

Mitch Lenko



Knights of Columbus
Council 13404
St Peter's Basilica
presents

NIGHT WITH KNIGHTS

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

LONDON KNIGHTS VS ATTACK

Come to the pre-game party...go to the Knights game!

ONLY
\$33

Includes Game Ticket,
Meal and Free Parking

100 TICKETS AVAILABLE GET YOURS TODAY!

Arrive at St. Peter's School - 533 Clarence Street (behind St. Peter's Basilica) at 6pm for a Pulled Pork Sandwich with Fresh Salads and enjoy your Favourite Beverage (cash bar), leave your car at St. Peter's School and walk to the game for a 7:30 Puck Drop.

For Ticket Information Call

Des Sawa 226-448-7568
Doug Purssglove 519-709-2673

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Fall Preparations

Following the Rosary Rally in Victoria Park on October 15, CWL ladies met for a strawberry jamboree, producing dozens of jars to sell at the Christmas Bazaar. A week later another bee produced excellent apple pies, which were presold frozen and offered for sale in advance of the bazaar. Additional pies were baked the day before the bazaar and sold at the bake table, where, needless to say, they all sold out!

Gingerbread Bazaar

Ahead of the Christmas rush, the CWL held its Gingerbread Bazaar on Saturday November 5th. The weather cooperated and at 9:00am sunshine ushered eager shoppers into the gym decorated with lights and holiday cheer.

CWL President, Julie Sans, greeted shoppers at the door with raffle tickets for a door prize. Then they had so much to choose from: a Silent Auction Table, Penny and Toonie tables, a chance on a Christmas Hamper, a plant table, books, CDs, toys, religious items, the General Store stocked with clothing and household goods – all at very reasonable prices. And then there was the tea-room!

Thanks to members of the Young Adults 4 Christ and the Knights of Columbus for their help in setting up the gym and clearing it up afterwards. All members, donors and helpers contributed to making this an exceptionally successful bazaar. Thank you! Proceeds will enable the CWL to support parish initiatives and many charitable organizations throughout the year.

Yet More Goodies

At the CWL meeting on December 3rd,

members were served luncheon and entertained with Christmas carols. The following week, ladies met to assemble treat-trays of homemade cookies and squares. This is another delicious Christmas fund-raiser of the CWL.

Annually the CWL awards a Bursary to a deserving post-secondary student. This year's recipient is parishioner Helen Lang. Congratulations, Helen!

Dora Dannecker



Julie Sans and CWL Bursary winner, Helen Lang



Ruth Beitia and Joan Dalton preparing apples



Joan Dalton, Marion Strom and Tina Cyr at the Toonie table



Ann Leatherdale at the plant table



Gena Allevato, jam maker



Julianna Bodner and Marlene DeRuiter

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN ACTION

The phones start ringing in the Parish office a week in advance of our Tuesday visits. They are from the needy in our area making appeals for assistance. C.J. and RoseMary take the contact information and screen for our parish boundaries. They fill a sheet of ten calls for one week, 20 the next, alternating this way throughout the year. All too often the lists are filled so quickly that clients must wait for the following week. Then, Tuesday morning, a volunteer arrives to tabulate the previous week's activity and schedule the visits for that day.

Pairs of volunteers will pick up their assignments and begin their visits late afternoon. They carry with them a voucher booklet for groceries, bus tickets, vouchers for the Saint Vincent de Paul Store and boxed air mattresses on request. They also carry information on other resources within the community. Some of the clients may have just recently left a shelter or lost their home and have no bed, chairs, table or winter clothing. Most importantly, our Vincentians carry with them the generosity of their Cathedral family and the desire to serve.

Because our teams make in-home visits they have personal contact with those who have called and can better appreciate the challenges of their situations. The time investment is as fluid as need be, but usually does not exceed 2 to 2 1/2 hours for the 10 visits. One client may want to share her frustrations and worries for the future, another his regrets; some simply enjoy recounting a small victory or a recent moment of good fortune. It is not unusual for clients to head immediately to the supermarket as we leave them. Often, we are asked about other local resources, Mass times or special parish events such as the Winter Welcome luncheon. There are as many stories as individuals and our volunteers make time for each one. Almost always, their gratitude is palpable.

For over 153 years Vincentians have been

making home visits in London. We are one of the only two such charities in our city that are presently doing so. The benefits of this practice both for the visitor and those visited is highly significant. For the Vincentian, it means an opportunity to extend some kindness and caring on behalf of our parish community and to compare the suffering of the poor with the suffering of Christ. For the poor and the marginalized, it means some hope and the realization that others do care. It also provides members of the Society an opportunity to meet others within our parish family.

On the morning of December 10, members of the Society, supported by extra volunteers, visited 150 households to distribute food vouchers and gift cards. This was only possible because of our parishioners' generous response to **The Christmas Angel Tree** and many hours of preparation behind the scenes. It meant so much to those we visited. It meant that they had the freedom to make independent choices for their Christmas celebrations. Being a downtown parish, the needs are great. Each year we make over 600 visits to our brothers and sisters who have fallen on hard times.

Frederic Ozanam, our founder, has expressed our purpose like this:

"Help honours when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit which consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shaking of the hand that lifts up sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering that which perhaps we would not be able to bear ourselves..."

SERVIENS IN SPE - SERVE IN HOPE



Vincentians leave for their Christmas visits.

AN IMAGE OF MARY

Pope Francis, in *Evangelii gaudium* (2013), writes the following: "Christ led us to Mary because he did not want us to journey without a Mother."

The anchorite known as Julian of Norwich, in *Revelations of Divine Love*, describes mystical encounters in which she is led by Jesus to a similar understanding of Mary. The following is based on Julian's own words.

In 1373, the Lord brought to the town of Norwich a birthday present for his dear friend Julian.

Benedicite! she exclaimed in wonder and joy as she unwrapped the gift that lay in her mind. She saw the image of a girl, hardly more than a child. It was Mary, who felt so small before the greatness of her God.

And Julian prayed: God, of your goodness give me

yourself. I cannot ask anything less; in you alone do I have all. Benedicite Domine!

Then the Lord was pleased to show Julian an image of the Lady St. Mary as she is now, exalted and lovely.

Jesus said: Rejoice with me in my love for Mary, and in her love for me. Can you see in her how greatly you are loved? For love of you I made her so exalted. This pleases me, and I want to please you.

Julian answered: Yes, Lord, thank you very much.

So it is that the Lady St. Mary is our Mother, too; for in Christ we are all born of her and are lovely in the sight of God. Benedicite Domine!

Elizabeth Lawson

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES THE HOLY FAMILY

The family is central to the Church. *The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* dedicates one of its first chapters to the institution of the family, described as "the vital cell of society." The opening portion of the section on the family begins with how Sacred Scripture repeatedly underlines the importance and centrality of the family. The book of Genesis tells the story of the creation of the first man and woman, and the family is portrayed as having a central role in creation.

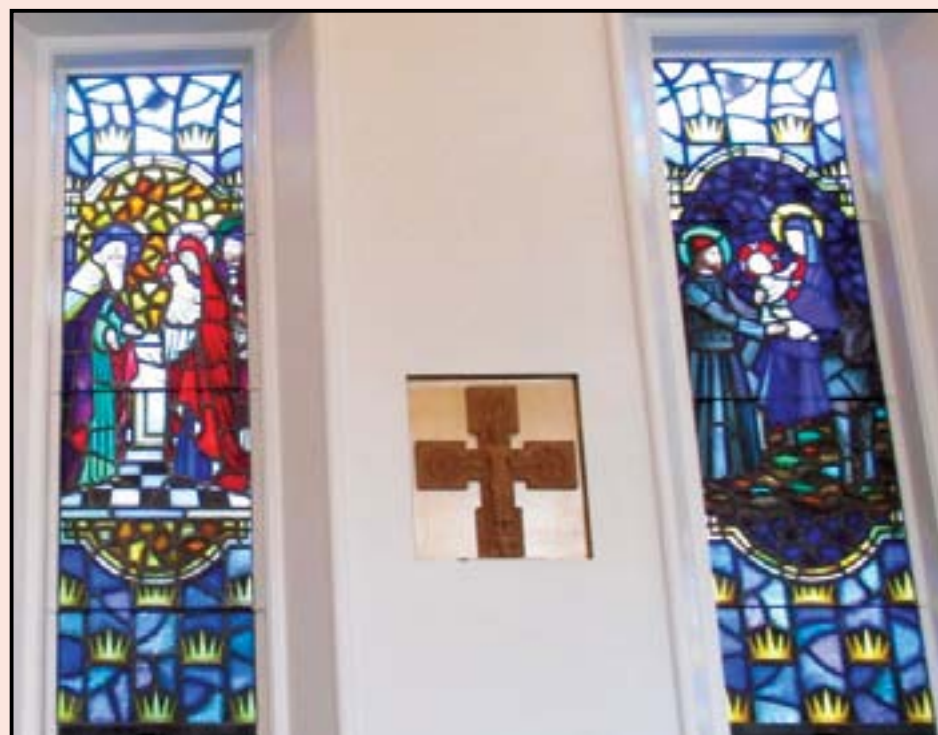
Following the 2015 and 2016 Synods on Family, Pope Francis wrote in his apostolic exhortation on marriage and family life, *Amoris Laetitia / The Joy of Love* (<https://cruznov.com/church/2016/04/08/read-the-popes-letter-amoris-laetitia-or-on-love-in-the-family/>), "*The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve's family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4) to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Jesus' description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolizes any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members' freedom, for, as the poet says, 'every home is a lampstand.'*"

The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the holiness and joy of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph of Nazareth. The Holy Family's example of faith and love is a model for families and the Feast of the Holy Family celebrates their lives and reminds us that our own family is also to be holy.

Each year, this celebration occurs on the Sunday following Christmas Day, unless like this year, Christmas falls on a Sunday, then it is celebrated the following Friday (December 30 in 2016). The Church wants us to see the important link between the birth of Jesus and the family.

Pope Francis said in his Holy Family address in 2013, "*On this first Sunday after Christmas, the Liturgy invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Indeed, every nativity scene shows us Jesus together with Our Lady and St. Joseph in the grotto of Bethlehem. God wanted to be born into a human family, he wanted to have a mother and father like us.*"

The family is the centre of our lives. It is our beginning, youth and adulthood, a place in which vocations are nourished, and it is what we leave behind when we die.



Mary and Joseph present Baby Jesus in the Temple

The Holy Family escaping to Egypt

God, knowing the importance and power of the family, sent his only begotten Son into this world to be born and raised in a family.

In the Collect for the Feast of the Holy Family, we pray, "O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family..."

Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 described our families to the youth of Palermo saying, "*The family is the 'little Church' because it transmits God; it transmits the love of Christ, by the power of the sacrament of matrimony.*"

He added, "*The family, to be a 'little Church,' must be well integrated into the 'big Church,' that is, into the family of God that Christ came to form.*"

The Holy Family was in many ways like any other family; it faced troubles and tribulations. Mary and Joseph embraced the tribulations of their life: the sudden flight to Egypt, settling in a strange country, hard work, a life of poverty, and later the anguish of losing their Son on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph lived with perfect faith and obedience to God's will.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is holy because of how they responded to God's will in the challenges they faced. Pope Benedict XVI said, "*The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love...*"

The importance of the Holy Family as an example to all of us is beautifully evident at St. Peter's Cathedral in many stained-glass windows and paintings. We show a number of them here. Perhaps the most traditional are the large window in the west side of the sanctuary, (see page 1) the depictions of the Holy Family in the windows in Our Lady Chapel, and the carving on the front of the St. Joseph altar showing Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus in the manger. Each Christmas our parish displays the manger scene of the Holy Family and Christ child, most recently with figures donated to the Cathedral by Catholic Central High School.

Dawn Munday



St. Joseph and his young son, Jesus



St. Anne and her child, Mary

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES THE HOLY FAMILY



Carving of the Nativity Scene of the Holy Family on the St. Joseph altar

Prayer of Pope Francis - for Families

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.



The Pieta

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at the church of Sant'Alfonso di Liguori in Rome was the model for the painting in St. Peter's Cathedral, mounted on the north wall of the east transept.

It was produced by the craftsman, Mario Licceoli, Italian representative of the Rambusch Decorating Company. The designer claimed that although some churches in Italy and South America possessed shrines of similar quality, it was believed to have been the first of its kind in Canada. The picture is set in a frame surrounded by seven hand-carved angels, and the entire shrine is gilded with burnished gold and polished with agate. It rests on a base of wood covered by red leather, and is set against a background of blue velvet. The total cost for this sacred work of art in the late 1940s was \$5,000.

After it was finished in Rome, the shrine made three trips across the Atlantic Ocean before it reached London in November 1949. The previous August - 1948 - it arrived in Montreal, but due to a labour dispute among

dockworkers, was not unloaded, the handlers claiming it was too heavy. Consequently, it remained on board ship and returned to Rome, where it was unpacked and put into storage. Eventually, the Cathedral rector, Monsignor Feeney traced it and arranged to have it shipped from Italy a second time.

The shrine was dedicated in St. Peter's Cathedral December 8, 1949 by Bishop John Kidd.

Larry Barrett



JOY OF LOVE - MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

A recent restatement of the Church's traditional teaching on the central role of the family characterizes the family as "a community of persons where moral values are taught and the spiritual and cultural heritage of society are passed on."

The family is founded on the free choice of spouses to unite themselves, and the institution of marriage, while regulated by human institutions and laws, is a partnership established by God and a sacrament of the Church. The sacramentality makes the family a sort of "domestic Church" in which the family is called to be a sign to the world and the love of the married couple is raised to a new level by the sacramental grace.

Earlier this year, Pope Francis (in his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of Love*), wrote of the importance of marriage preparation as the engaged couple gets ready to face the challenges of family life: "Preparation for marriage engages the entire community, tying this sacrament together with the sacraments of initiation ... as a couple commit themselves to grow together in love, this witness strengthens the entire faith community. Their love is a powerful force for change and growth."

St. Peter's Cathedral has organized marriage preparation programs for more than 40 years, based on the guiding principle, "A Wedding is a Day, a Marriage is a Lifetime." Weekend courses, offered in mid-November and early March, customarily attract the capacity registration of 24-25 couples.

Married couples and members of the parish clergy discuss various aspects of marriage and the family, including: what to expect from your marriage, managing money, marriage in the Church, communication and dealing with conflict, giving and receiving love, and living out your vows.

Ever the realist, Pope Francis wrote, "A couple soon discovers that reality is different from what one imagined, but being open to the other can bring about the flowering of the good qualities present in each person." However, ever the optimist, he adds, "Mature love negotiates, allowing for constant give and take, always for the good of the family, so that there are no winners and losers, but only two winners."

Paul Carson



Some of the Marriage Preparation team (from left): Mike and Lisa Lindsay; Gerry Rucchin and Tracey McDonald; Niki, baby Edward and Kevin De Leebeeck.



Marriage Preparation course co-ordinators Paul Carson and Dawn Munday, with team members Mark Trovato, Helen Moniz and Joe Malheiro, Fr. Jim Mockler.

YOUNG ADULTS 4 CHRIST

The fall started a new season for St Peter's Young Adults for Christ (YA4C) group. At the Ministry Fair, we had a chance to meet and recruit several new members who are new to the parish. We have extended the age range of our membership to 39.

We have been watching a series of talks by Christopher West on the Theology of the Body followed by small group discussion. One of the lessons we learned is the importance to have healthy self-image in our relationships. We must remember that our bodies are a gift, made in the image of God and should be respected as such. We will be continuing the series into the new year and welcome all young adults in the parish to join us. We meet in the Parish Centre (next to the Cathedral), Room 105 after the 12:30pm Mass (approximately 1:30pm). Our upcoming sessions are January 15, February 5 & 19.

We are always looking for volunteer opportunities within the parish and community. We participated in Life Chain to show our solidarity with the anti-abortion movement. In November, we were pleased to help at the CWL Christmas Bazaar by manning tables, helping to provide information and direction for people, and cleaning up afterwards.

We continue to host Eucharistic Adoration weekly in



YA4C SoccerTeam 2016

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ELIMINATION DRAW

Grand Knight Pat Hogan described this year's Elimination Draw as one of the Cathedral Council's "largest fund raisers, and what an event it was!" Those in attendance would heartily agree. Extra tables had to be set up to accommodate the large crowd. Excellent food was served, and there was lots of it. The few desserts and cookies left over were quickly snatched up and hidden in pockets and purses by the first to leave.

The Tom Linden Band attracted participants of all ages to the dance floor with their broad repertoire of old and new classics. At one point even those seated were singing loudly



Jane and Mary showing how it is done on the dance floor



Note in the background – Bishop Fabbro is keeping an eye on Des



Watch out. She has a mean left hook



My baby sitting fees are the best



Geez, I hope that's Joe hugging me



I'm hugging my mom – she paid for the tickets



Three happy patrons enjoying Elimination Draw evening



Liquor Control Board agents



You are right Pat, I can see that the food is all gone



Boy that food looks good!

and tapping their tables to a medley of *Delilah*, a Tom Jones favourite.

A festive atmosphere favoured the 50-50 draw as well, with Ruth Barrett winning a 50% share amounting to \$373.

The elimination draw winners were:

\$1,000: Dave Cambridge; \$500 winner: Catherine Sexton; \$100 winner: Doug Purssglove; \$50 winners: Paul Carson, Joe Malheiro, John Kozachuk, Shari Houghton, James Vollmer, Anne Marie Bombassaro, Dave Aristone and Angelo Circelli.

Mitch Lenko



Now that's one big muscle



Pssst. He thinks he won

Peter Harding

Friends of Peter Harding know that he currently serves as the Master of the 5th Ontario District of the Knights of Columbus, Diocese of London. However his appearance earlier this year in the Senate of Canada and receiving a Knighthood from the Governor General was not related to his position with the Knights of Columbus. Rather it was his investiture into the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. He is now classified as a Knight of Justice.

The original Order of St. John of Jerusalem is a royal order of chivalry established in the 12th century after the First Crusades to maintain a hospital in Jerusalem to care for the sick and wounded crusaders. A Grand Priory of the order was established in England in 1831, and was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1888. The order's activities in Canada began in 1883 with a First Aid course in Quebec City and the establishment of the first branch of the St. John Ambulance Association in Canada in 1895. Its world-wide mission is "to prevent and relieve sickness and injury, and to enhance the well-being of people anywhere in the world." The Order is now a Canadian Order and is part of the Canadian Honours system. To receive the order in a very special setting, such as the Senate, surrounded by Canadian history certainly heightened the honour accorded to our parishioner.

**Herman Goodden's New Book**

Herman Goodden's *Three Artists: Kurelek, Chambers & Curnoe* (London: Elmwood Publications, 2016; 257 pages) presents overviews of the careers of three important Canadian visual artists of the last century. Two of these, Jack Chambers and Greg Curnoe, were Londoners, while William Kurelek, born and raised in the West, made the move to Ontario as a young man. Two, Kurelek and Chambers, eventually made the Roman Catholic Church their spiritual home, while Curnoe, a spirited anti-authoritarian despite his United Church roots, repudiated any sort of religious affiliation. He nevertheless maintained what Goodden sees as a quasi-religious devotion to the London area, which became for him a sort of all-inspiring New Jerusalem. Drawing upon the available secondary literature as well as interviews and, especially for Curnoe, his own memories, Goodden offers insight into the influences which contributed to the distinctive styles of each artist. His aim was two-fold: to offer an inside view of what each of these artists went through to accomplish what he accomplished and also to acknowledge in a rightful manner the frequently overlooked, but crucially important, role often played by religious or spiritual influences in artistic work. Four colour plates of works illustrative of significant points in the development of each artist are included.

Readers such as myself who are not very well versed in art history will come away from this book with a better sense of what drove these artists and why they worked where and as they did. I was interested, for example, to learn about how early each of these artists exhibited a fascination with art, about the degree of parental opposition they surmounted in order to pursue art as a career rather than something more financially secure, and about how each developed his

There are five main levels to the Order, and one is admitted at the lowest grade and is later promoted through the grades after a period of time and meritorious service. The grades are Bailiff, Knight of Justice, Commander, Officer and Serving member. This recognition confirms that Peter has attained the second highest honour, that of Knight of Justice. The badge which he now wears consists of a true Maltese cross, an eight-pointed cross in white enamel set in silver-colored metal.

Peter Harding spent 40 years with St. John Ambulance, the last 18 as superintendent for London and Middlesex County. He is also a charter/founding member of the London and Area Food Bank, and was first vice-president of the Irish Benevolent Society's London Chapter in 2013-14. He retired from the London Fire Department in 1998, after 38 years of service, with the title of deputy chief.

He is no stranger to awards, having previously received the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal, and the Fire Service Exemplary Service medal. He was further granted and assigned Armorial Bearings, Canada, that is to say, a Coat of Arms. These grants are honours from the Canadian Crown.

Well done, Peter, and congratulations!

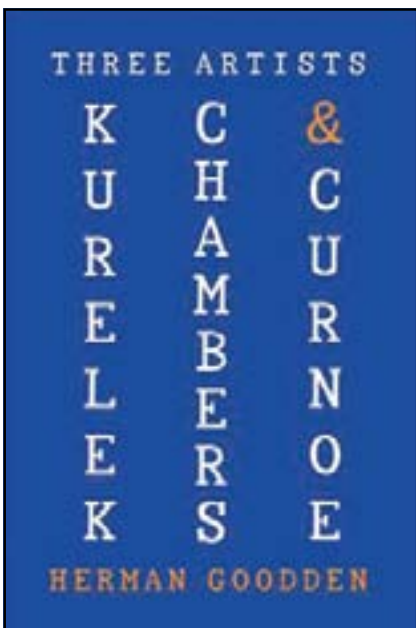
professional skills (not always faring especially well in the accredited places from which one might have expected such persons to have benefitted). Goodden himself noted that even in the fondly-remembered days of the 1960's and 1970's, these artists all struggled mightily to make a financial success of their artistic callings, to learn their craft and, eventually, to support their families. And the reader will also learn much about how the art scene in London developed in the latter part of the last century and about the important influence of the Beal program and of local art critics, dealers and patrons whose names will still be familiar to many. How important it is for those who can afford to do so to fund what artists produce!

Readers should be grateful to the Catholic Art Guild (a low-profile local London group) for commissioning this book in 2012, to Goodden for his thoughtful research (especially during the last three years when work with the London Yodeller competed with this writing project), to Goodden's talented wife, Kirtley Jarvis, for the simple yet elegant layout of the book and its cover, and to all the independent local bookstores who, along with Museum London, the AGO and others, are making it available for purchase. The cost is \$29.95. For more information about the book, its author and where to buy it, please see: www.hermangoodden.ca

Susan Brown



Knight of Justice Peter Harding and J. Gregory Peters, MVO, Usher of the Black Rod

**Sabastine Ezugwu**

If you happened to see an Oct. 14 article in the *London Free Press* about a groundbreaking discovery in a physics lab at Western concerning a conductive polymer, you may also have noticed that one of the two graduate students pictured in the article looked familiar. Sabastine Ezugwu, the doctoral candidate who first noticed something peculiar about the material under investigation, is an altar server, the president of the Legion of Mary and a volunteer with the Visitation Ministry in our parish. Sabastine's wife, Angela, is completing a Masters degree at Western in condensed matter physics where she is researching inorganic semi-conductors. Sabastine and Angela have two children, John Paul, who will be three in April, and Madeleine, who is eight months old.

Sabastine was born in Wukari, Nigeria, but grew up in Nsukka where he went to primary school. He attended the Marist Comprehensive Academy about 200km from home for his secondary education and then completed his undergraduate studies in Industrial Physics at the Federal University of Technology in Imo state. A year after graduating, Sabastine started a Masters program in Solar Energy Physics at the University of Nsukka. It was there that he met Angela. And, at a conference in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, he met Prof. Giovanni Fanchini from Western, who suggested that he join his research team. And so Sabastine made the move to London in January 2011. He completed a Masters here in December 2012 and, under Prof. Fanchini's direction, is about to complete his doctoral work. His thesis is entitled "Nanoscale Thermal and Electronic Properties of Thin Films of Graphene and Organic Polyradicals."

Being so far from home presents challenges for international students such as Sabastine. Family and friends are far away. Sabastine waited many months until it was finally possible for Angela and John Paul to join him in Canada in August of 2015. And, of course, the food here is different. Sabastine says he misses some Nigerian favourites such as Okpa, Egwusi soup and "pepper" soup. But coming here also offers opportunities to get more "hands-on" experience in applied sciences than are currently available in Nigeria.

Sabastine says the fortuitous discovery made in the lab in August opens up possibilities for using polymer technology rather than silicon technology in electronic devices and for data storage. One advantage of this new approach would be that it would be environmentally friendly because these polymers are composed mainly of carbon.

We wish Sabastine and Angela and their family all the best! It is wonderful to count such bright and generous people as part of our community.

Susan Brown

**Dr. Isioma Eleuze**

It's Sunday morning at St. Peter's Cathedral. The Penitential Rite and the Gloria are finished, the presider has said a few words of prayer and now the congregation sits for the readings. A young woman mounts the steps to the ambo and begins the first Scripture reading. A hush falls as people listen intently to the clear but slightly exotic accent of Isioma Eleuza. Everyone loves to hear this stylish young woman, occasionally attired in Nigerian dress, proclaim the Scriptures! You might also meet her at one of the parish social gatherings, because she is also a member of the Cathedral Engagement Committee. Who is she?

Isioma grew up in the city of Ibadan in the south-western part of Nigeria where she completed undergraduate work in Computer Science and a Master's Degree in Information Science at the University of Ibadan, established as a college of the University of London in 1948. She came to Canada in August of 2012 to pursue doctoral work in Information and Media Studies at Western after having met a visiting professor from Western who invited her to consider that option.

Last month Isy successfully defended her thesis, entitled "Towards Evidence-informed Agriculture Policy Making: Investigating the Knowledge Translation Practices of Researchers in the National Agriculture Research Institutes in Nigeria." I was among several parishioners privileged to attend the public lecture preceding her defence on Nov. 16 at which she presented her work in a very articulate manner. Her work aims to benefit Nigeria's important agricultural industry by showing how best to ensure that research relevant to agricultural sustainability gets done and gets used by those who make important policy decisions for the country.

Isy's public lecture showed what a fine teacher she is. This semester Western asked her to teach the Research

Methods and Statistics course to students in the Masters of Library and Information Science program. She says she loves this work because it keeps her learning new things, especially when her students share their own research ideas.

Canada is different from Nigeria in many ways, Isy says. Here we have a more centralised transportation system, more chains of grocery stores and fewer independent stores or markets where one might bargain for a good deal. And then there is the weather! Wearing winter boots and dealing with single-digit temperatures was a new experience for Isy! And she also misses Nigerian food made with "proper" ingredients rather than the improvised ones she must use here.

After graduation this coming summer, Dr. Eleuze will be seeking employment in an educational, research or governmental institution. She will make an important contribution wherever she goes. Isy says she found St. Peter's by riding the bus loop that begins near where she lives and hoping to find a Catholic Church on the route. Wherever her future takes here, we hope she will always feel at home in this parish to which she has contributed so much.

Susan Brown



Santa Don Reid

Fellow parishioners who know former Cathedral lector and server, Don Reid, might have been curious to see him on the front page of the fall 2016 edition of *inside LHSC*, an insert to the *London Free Press* containing news about services at some London hospitals. Not only was Don on the cover and on page six, he was also wearing a Santa Claus outfit as he pushed his walker into the Emergency Department.

Don has been on Santa Claus' team for almost twenty years, listening to the petitions of children at Cherryhill and Northland malls, and most recently at Masonville. He has taken his role as friend, confidante and gate-keeper to Santa's largesse very seriously, never promising more than the jolly man could deliver, whether it be X-boxes, ponies or happy families, but always leaving the children who poured their hopes and dreams into his ear the assurance of sympathy and trust.

Two visitors to Santa's chair will live forever in Don Reid's memory. One was a young girl who initially kept her distance from him. Santa Don said "hello", and she wouldn't approach. "I can't hear you. Come closer," Santa begged. Eventually she climbed onto his knee, but would not make eye contact. As she left, Santa Don thanked her for visiting

him. Then her mother explained that her daughter was autistic, and had never before been so responsive to an adult.

The second visitor was a very elderly lady in a wheel chair, obviously suffering from dementia, and staring ahead blankly. Santa Don took her hand and talked to her kindly. She gradually turned to him, gave a beatific smile and began an enthusiastic speech that only she could understand. It was one of the most joyful experiences he had ever had as Santa Claus' helper.

May Don Reid continue to bend a listening ear to many small children who believe in giving and receiving this Christmas and always!

Hilary Neary



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Bob and Donna Holmes



Myra Schubert and Mary Quigley



Irene Kennedy and Helen McCaffrey



Kevin Crowse won tickets to the Grand Theatre



Tea servers



Ruth Barrett and Janice Vollmer



The Spirit of God filled the world

The Parish Pastoral Council are members of St Peter's parish community who are called to assist our pastor, Fr Jim, in maintaining and promoting the spiritual welfare of our parish family. As a consultative body we assist in the planning and coordination of the goals and mission of our parish. We are responsible for the development and monitoring of those goals and policies that have an impact on almost every aspect of parish life. While we are concerned with the achievement of goals we do not become involved in the day-to-day activities of the parish. We entrust the implementation of ideas and strategies that we have developed and discerned to the staff, ministries and committees of the parish.

Earlier this year we began to review the many activities of various ministries and committees involved in the area of outreach. Our parish plan that arose from the parish survey identified three specific areas of outreach and welcoming that parishioners wanted addressed:

- Actively reach out to the marginalized, disheartened, the fallen away and other people to support them in their journey, to evangelize, and to inspire hope.
- Engage in partnerships with other Catholic and community organizations and downtown faith communities in serving the needs of the broader community.
- Inspire within our members, a sense of community service, caring for one another and to make a positive difference in our community and the world.

The continued work of our own Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Outreach Committee, Missions Committee, Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus assist us in achieving some of these objectives. There are also many agencies in our neighborhood and the greater London community that are doing great work in many areas of outreach. After reviewing the work that is currently being done here, we concluded that we would explore other areas of outreach through existing agencies and organizations in order to facilitate opportunities for our parishioners to get involved and "try out" various outreach opportunities. The hope would be that involvement would continue with these agencies and organizations.

Every one to two months we will present an outreach opportunity to involve parishioners. The activity will be structured so that there is a scheduled time frame and definite goals, while being as inclusive as possible to all skills and abilities. Any specialized tools and training



The Spirit of God filled the world



Nathan Marchand and CJ Nyssen set up an evergreen at Mount Hope.

will be provided by the host agency. We will explore a range of opportunities with as many different agencies as possible. We will try and ensure each event will be family friendly and seasonally appropriate.

Two activities took place this fall. The first was our participation in the 4th Annual Interfaith Tree Planting initiative through ReForest London and the Million Tree Challenge in September. ReForest London is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance environmental and human health in the Forest City, through the benefits of trees. The Million Tree Challenge seeks to inspire Londoners to plant one million trees over a ten-year period. Over 300,000 trees have been planted since 2011. Six members of our parish joined over one hundred people from various faith traditions in the city. Three hundred tree saplings were planted in a three-hour period in Westmount Lions Park. The event began with speakers representing the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions offering insight on each faith community's understanding of the environment and why it was important to be a part of the project. A time of fellowship took place following the tree planting where we could mingle with our interfaith neighbors.

The second activity in late November was assisting the staff and residents of Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care to set-up Christmas trees and decorations. Nine parishioners joined staff and residents over three hours setting up trees in the main foyer and on various floors. Some of the trees were set-up for other groups who would be coming in to decorate in their own cultural traditions. Rory from St. Josephs Health Centre (Volunteer Coordinator for Mount Hope) was there to tell us about Mount Hope, and the challenges faced by some of the residents there. We divided into small teams with an existing volunteer and a resident to help and guide us to set up trees and decorate. We were able to spend time with and get to know the residents and share some laughs. One resident was a Catholic who loves coming to the Cathedral when she is able, but attends Mass in the chapel at Mount Hope regularly. At the end of our time together we all en-

continued on page 16

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
- OUTREACH MINISTRY INITIATIVES continued**

continued from page 15

joyed a pizza snack and were given a quick presentation of the volunteer needs and opportunities at Mount Hope and elsewhere before returning to St. Peter's.

Plans are already underway for more outreach opportunities in the new year. Albin Kmet, one of your council members, is coordinating this new outreach initiative. If you have ideas or suggestions on activities, organizations, or agencies to get involved with you can contact Albin at albinckmet@gmail.com.

In order for your Parish Pastoral Council to continue to fulfill its mandate, its membership needs to represent the full dynamic diversity of our parish family. If you have a desire to provide a leadership role helping to guide our policies and goals for the opportunities that lie ahead for St Peter's Cathedral Parish, please contact Michael Wojtak, Chair, at mjwojtak@gmail.com.

Cathryn Hall

CONCLUDING THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

On December 8, 2015 we inaugurated the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, as declared by Pope Francis in March 2015. Over 500 people gathered that evening at St. Peter's Cathedral, London, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and our Diocesan Patronal Feast Day, to celebrate the first Mass of the Year of Mercy and the opening of the Holy Door. The introductory remarks and prayer was an invitation for us all to enter into the Holy Year in a spirit of hope and love, to open our hearts and minds to the bountiful mercy of God:

"In communion with the universal Church, this celebration marks the solemn beginning of the Holy Year in our diocesan Church; a prelude to the profound experience of grace and reconciliation that awaits us this year. We shall joyfully listen to the Gospel of mercy that Christ the Lord, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, continually proclaims throughout the world, inviting us to rejoice in his love: a love announced again and again to every creature on earth."

Also on that evening Bishop Fabbro blessed and opened the Holy Door of Mercy. Over the past year, twenty-five pilgrim groups and hundreds of people individually have passed through the Holy Door, a "Door of Mercy through which anyone who entered would experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope." (Pope Francis).

In August 2016, 110 parishioners of the Cathedral and neighbouring parishes travelled by bus to the Martyrs Shrine in Midland as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Holy Year. Joining over four hundred pilgrims from across our Diocese we celebrated Mass with Bishops Fabbro and Dabrowski, passed through the Holy Door at the Shrine, and toured the grounds of the Martyrs Shrine and St. Marie Among the Hurons.

The Feast of Christ the King, Sunday November 20, concluded the Year of Mercy. At evening mass, Bishop Fabbro and parishioners from across the city, along with priests and deacons, gathered with us to officially mark the conclusion of the year. Mass began with Bishop Fabbro and clergy gathered around the Holy Door saying:

"We have been called and graced to become more effective signs of God's mercy in the world. Mass is offered

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Members have an aptitude for music reading, aural skills, commitment and an openness to learning.

CATHEDRAL SINGERS – Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Rehearsals Thursday 7 p.m. & Sunday 9:45 a.m. Ages 14 and up. Contact: Gloria Gassi, 519-641-1384 or email: stpetersmusicdirector@gmail.com

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR – Sunday Mass 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals Wednesday 7 p.m. & Sunday 6:45 p.m. Ages 18 and up. Contact Ronald Fox, 519-913-3167

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Mass Sundays once a month. Rehearsals Thursday 6 p.m. Ages 6-13 Contact: Ana Matijevic, 519-432-3476

RESURRECTION CHOIR – volunteers sit in the main body of the church to assist with singing at a Funeral Mass. No rehearsals are necessary. Contact: Gloria Gassi

DIOCESAN CHOIR – Joins the Cathedral Singers for Diocesan Liturgies: rehearses 4 weeks in advance. Contact: Gloria Gassi

this evening in thanksgiving, for all this year has been for those within and beyond the universal church, and we pray that the face of mercy continues to characterize the life of the Church, our Diocese, and our parish communities." Bishop Fabbro then prayed the Prayer for the Year of Mercy before officially closing the Holy Door.

The introductory remarks of the Mass, summarized what this great year has given to us:

"We have reached the end of the Jubilee Year. It has been an extraordinary time of grace and mercy. In this Eucharistic celebration, we raise our voices to the Father in a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for all the gifts he has bestowed upon us. Once more, before approaching these sacred mysteries, let us invoke the soothing balm of his mercy acknowledging that we are sinners and forgiving one another from the bottom of our hearts."

Though the Holy Year has officially concluded, may the time that has been given to us during this Year of grace bestow upon us every heavenly blessing in Christ. He has given us this precious time of mercy and conversion. May we continue to live as transformed people, bringing mercy, compassion, and love to those we encounter.

"Even if the Holy Door closes, the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Jesus Christ always remains open for us. God has no memory of sin, but only of us, of each of us, we who are his beloved children." (Pope Francis, Closing of the Holy Door, St. Peter's Basilica, Nov. 20, 2016)

Cathryn Hall

Bishop Fabbro prays the Year of Mercy prayer just before officially closing the Holy Door

