



# Cathedral Connections

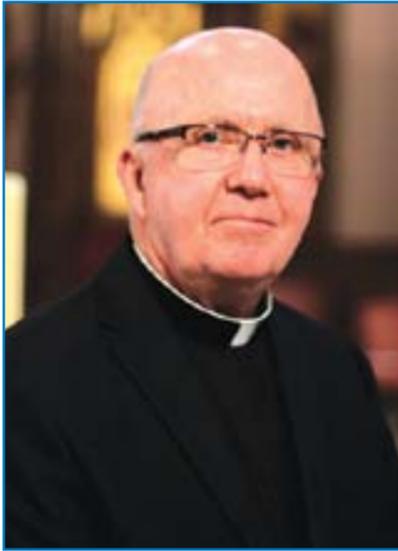


SUMMER 2016

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



On June 28 we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of St. Peter's Cathedral – June 28, 1885 – our parish feast day. We celebrate our building, which possesses a ministry all its own as a place for liturgical worship, and a space in the core of London for almost continuous quiet prayer for countless Londoners.

I came across this historical account. It reads: *"The new Cathedral of London is now daily advancing towards*

*completion. Already its loft and majestic form attracts the eye of every stranger visiting this city – already this stately pile may be justly termed the pride of this metropolis of Ontario's fair western peninsula and the glory of the Diocese of London.*

*In point of architectural merit, in beauty of symmetry of proportion, chasteness and refinement of ornamentation, solidity and strength of construction, this splendid edifice, already, it may be fairly stated, stands without a peer in this Province, and will, when completed, be, in most regards, without a rival in this country...*

*Bishop Walsh has long set his heart upon raising in God's honour and that of Holy Religion a temple in some manner worthy of the solemn and sublime rites of the Church of Christ... There were difficulties in the way... enormous debt to remove, various works of religion and charity of the most pressing necessity called for immediate attention and energetic action.*

*At the turning of the first sod for our cathedral Bishop Walsh prayed: "May God, for whose greater glory this work is undertaken, bring it to a successful issue, and may God bless and protect all who are engaged in it."*

They wrote well in those days and as they say, "The rest is history."

Our beautiful windows speak of the preaching of the gospel, evangelization, and the spread of the faith. The story of our ancestors is there because along with the building we celebrate the people and the ministry that has flowed from here over all these years.

Of course, what no history can adequately tell (but of which we know) is the faith of our ancestors – their trust in God, their love for one another – in good times and bad, in sickness and health, in poverty and wealth. Nuns, lay people, deacons, bishops, and priests have laboured for years to make God's presence active and alive here. Without the people who worshiped here before us, our lives would be quite different – perhaps even less Catholic, less Christian.

Of course, we are not what we once were. London has changed. The church has changed. But, as so often in the Church's history, God delights in making all things new and has blessed us with fresh hope for a new community. We are blessed with people from a variety of cultures who call St. Peter's home and join together to create our parish family. And we are all called to share the gift of love we have with one another. Our pastoral plan challenges us to respond to God and to one another in faith, in hope, love and justice – all coming from the thoughts parishioners have shared.

As in the past, St. Peter's Cathedral today is called to be appreciated as a wonderful building and through and from this building to have its parishioners continue reaching out. Reaching out where?

- to the needs of our neighbourhood and city. Let our parish life touch the suffering world we enter each day – the world outside these beautiful windows – to touch the wounded and the wandering, to bring love to the loveless, to bring laughter and joy to the discouraged .

*continued on page 3*



**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.

**Anthony Lucius Capitano**  
26 April 1921 – 12 March 2016

**Joseph Michael Barry**  
05 January 1932 – 16 March 2016

**Afonso Armas de Freitas**  
02 September 1933 – 20 March 2016

**Daphne Marie Elie**  
31 May 1929 – 17 April 2016

**Neil Francis McNeil**  
09 February 1922 – 19 April 2016

**Margretha Agatha Gratton**  
05 November 1927 – 01 May 2016

**Hugh Hanbury Munroe**  
09 July 1923 – 28 April 2016

**Elizabeth Frances Shumka**  
11 February 1935 – 02 May 2016

**Brett Patrick Cameron**  
08 July 1995 – 07 May 2016

**Dino Paron**  
05 June 1929 – 08 May 2016

**Olga Marie Smith**  
26 March 1927 – 12 May 2016

**Grace Ann Twohey**  
15 June 1929 – 02 June 2016



*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

## 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

**D**  
**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**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR continued

- to the culture of our community – to make our cathedral not a proud museum piece that preserves the past but a place where the arts can shine for the entire city.
- to be a centre of hospitality to the whole diocese. Whether ordinations, marriage anniversary celebrations, Chrism Mass, Rite of Election, to name only a few
- we are to welcome all with outstretched arms so that everyone who comes here feels genuinely at home in this space.

It was once said of a cathedral: "This cathedral is to be built strong, founded on rock hewn out of stone, a fitting symbol of the eternal truth of the religion of Christ to point all to a higher life.....where a voice teaches us there are yearnings towards nobler things. Only as we live for others do we rise proportionately in the scale of civilized beings whose nature is to elevate and ennoble the best interests of all about us. There is no happiness except...we work for others."

To live and work for others... that challenge is as urgent today as it was when this place was built.

We rejoice in our impressive past. We can be complimented on our present so rich in promise.

And we must pray for the future God has in store for us, that the gift of generous faith we are willing to share will be visible proof that this Cathedral is not lifeless stone but alive with love – God's love, your love and mine.

Fr. Jim Mockler

**St. Peter's On The Web..**

*We look forward to your visit & invite you to send us your comments via email.*

The website can be found on the Internet at:  
<http://www.cathedral.dol.ca>

## Cathedral Connections needs your...

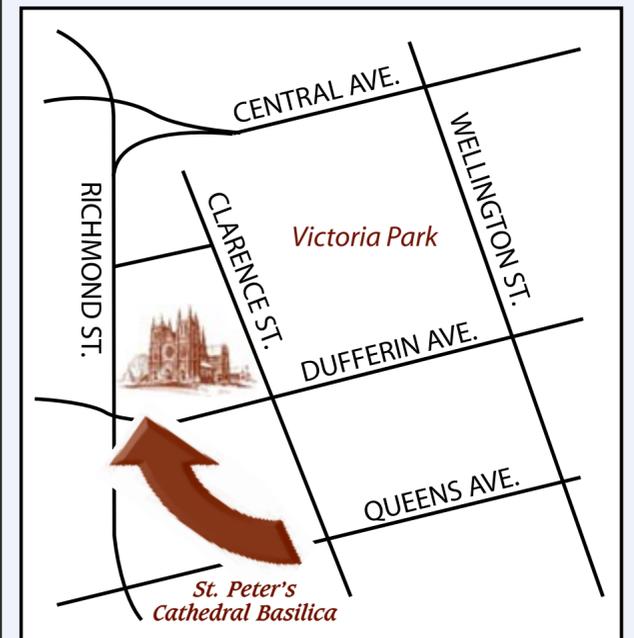


Reach us through the Church Office.

Email us at [basilica@dol.ca](mailto:basilica@dol.ca)

and put Cathedral Connections in the subject line.

**We want to hear from you!**



## MASS TIMES

**SUNDAY EUCHARIST**  
Saturday 6pm  
Sunday 8.30, 10.30am  
12.30pm & 7.30pm

**WEEKDAY EUCHARIST**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
12.05pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 7.30am

**BAPTISMS**  
One Sunday a Month  
2pm

**MARRIAGES**  
Arrangements to be made  
one year in advance.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
11 - 11.30am  
Saturday  
4.30 - 5.30pm

**CATECHUMENATE (R.C.I.A.)**  
Sundays  
September to Pentecost

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
1st Friday of the month in  
The Lady Chapel

## Cathedral Connections Committee

**Hilary Bates Neary**  
- Editor  
**Cathryn Hall**  
**Mitch Lenko**

**Ina Pakkert**  
**Susan Brown**  
**Paul Carson**  
**Dawn Munday**

Photo Credits: A special thanks to Dominic Tang and Terry Fieldhouse

**WELCOME TO CANADA: THE FOUAD GHAZEL AND BATOUL KHAWJIE FAMILY!!**

After some months of waiting, the Ghazel Family with their five daughters: Itaf (age 14), Hayat (11), Amira (8), Chahed (5) and Rimas (3), arrived at the Pearson Airport on June 7. The family had fled from the Syrian conflict to Lebanon and applied to come to Canada.

In the five hours of processing at the airport, they received their official landing documents and welcome to Canada.

Our Primary Support Team of Joan Clayton, Gerry McKeon and interpreter Kathie Malik were there to greet them. After all the immigration procedures were completed, the tired but happy family were driven to London in a "mini-convoy" consisting of a private car and a large passenger van, courtesy of L'Arche London and Toinette & Tony Parisio, and driver Marietta Drost.

They arrived at the apartment around mid-day, where after preparing refreshments, team member Elizabeth Williamson welcomed them to their new home.

Prior to their arrival, Joan, Elizabeth and Kathie shopped for food, purchased treats for the children and prepared the apartment, then Kathie made a delicious Lebanese soup.

It is difficult to capture all of the excitement and activity surrounding their arrival but here are some initial observations and comments from the team:

*"The whole family feels bright, energetic, open and happy to be in Canada.*

*They are the most wonderful family .....and they are resilient. They took everything in stride and really didn't appear to be exhausted although I am sure they must have been! It was a wonderful beginning for them. . . they're ready to go . . . sensed they want to get started*

*It was an amazing day!"*

The next steps in the process have already begun, as we discussed with them their needs and requirements, acquainted them with the safety aspects of the apartment and ensured they had an emergency number to call.

We will help them fill out the necessary government forms, establish their financial supports, set up the required medical appointments, and arrange for various orientation sessions and language training as part of their integration into life in Canada. And in the process, have some fun!

At the end of the summer we will register the children and parents in school.

Our task, in partnership with the federal government, is to support the family physically, spiritually and financially for one year. We look forward to getting acquainted with them, as we settle them and help them find employment in Canada.

Our sincere gratitude to the parish community for your generous donations, offers to volunteer, prayers and support.



*The Ghazel Family arrives in Canada*



*Enjoying their new surroundings*

God has blessed us with this wonderful family and we are grateful.

We will continue to keep you updated on their progress and at some time in the near future, we will formally introduce them to the parish.

*Mary Howard and Team:*

*Dr. Joan Clayton, Sheila Hughes, Deacon Len Hughes, Michael Loebach, Kathie Malik, Gerry McKeon, Tony Parisio, Pat Simone, Elizabeth Williamson and Sr. Maria Van Leeuwen (advisor)*

**PARISIONER IN THE NEWS: HERMAN GOODDEN**

You may know St. Peter's parishioner, Herman Goodden, as a forceful lector. He is also a writer, editor of London's *The Yodeller*, sometime playwright and broadcaster.

A very well-read man, in our Year of Mercy, Herman took the advice of Pope Francis seriously and read Dante's *Divine Comedy* for the first time. He then wrote a review of it for *The Catholic Register*, which its publisher subsequently submitted for an annual awards competition organized by the Canadian Church Press. Herman's thoughts on Dante's *Divine Comedy* won second place in the category of "personal reflection". We heartily congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition of his ability to write on a wide range of topics with timeliness and insight.

Herman shared his award-winning review with *Cathedral Connections*, but considerations of space did not permit us to reprint it here. Do go to *The Catholic Register* website

[www.catholicregister.org](http://www.catholicregister.org)

and search for "Dante" for Herman's review.

Alternatively, Google "Herman Goodden and Dante" and you will find a link to it.



**SAINTLY WOMEN OF ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL**

*As part of our series on female saints depicted throughout our Cathedral, this article focuses on those women whose feast days occur during the summer.*



**St. Mary Magdalene:** patron saint of contemplative life, converts, glove makers, hairdressers, and penitent sinners.

Feast day – July 22.

Mary's early background is uncertain, but what is important is her conversion and decision to follow Jesus. Mary Magdalene travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and witnessed his crucifixion and resurrection. Within the four Gospels she is named at least 12 times. Mary was, according to the Gospels (especially Mark 16:9–11 and John 20:11–18), the first person to encounter the risen Jesus. After the ascension of Christ, one legend has it that she remained among the early Christians for a time, and was then allegedly cast adrift by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France (although other traditions suggest Malta), where she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave.

Mary Magdalene has been commonly identified with other "Marys" in the church, notably Mary of Bethany (sister of Lazarus) and the woman whose sins the Lord forgave: this resulted in what is described as a "composite Mary". In the 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar, the Vatican modified her liturgical celebration on July 22, stating: "No change has been made in the title of today's memorial, but it concerns only Saint Mary Magdalene, to whom Christ appeared after his resurrection. It is not about the sister of Saint Martha, nor about the sinful woman whose sins the Lord forgave (Luke 7:36–50)." Elsewhere it said of the Roman liturgy of 22 July that "it will make mention neither of Mary of Bethany nor of the sinful woman of Luke 7:36–50, but only of Mary Magdalene, the first person to whom Christ appeared after his resurrection."



**St. Anne:** mother of Mary, patron saint of Quebec, and patroness of unmarried women, housewives, women in labor, grandmothers, horseback riders, cabinet-makers, and the Mi'kmaq people of Canada. Feast day – July 26.

By tradition, Anne and her husband, Joaquim are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary the Mother of God, and the grandparents of Jesus. The story of Anne and the birth of her child, Mary, is very similar to that of the Old Testament story of Samuel and his mother, Hannah. The legend told in an early document, (the Gospel of James) says that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God. That child would be Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Anne is depicted in our Cathedral window, as she is frequently shown, teaching her young daughter.

The shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré near Québec City is dedi-

cated to her. The number of visitors to the Basilica there is greatest on her feast day, July 26, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, September 8. In 1892, Pope Leo XIII sent a relic of St. Anne to that church.

In Maltese, the Milky Way Galaxy is called It-Triq ta' Sant'Anna, literally "The Way of St. Anne".



**St. Clare of Assisi:** St. Clare was designated as the patron saint of television in 1958 by Pope Pius XII, because when she was very ill, St. Clare could not attend Mass and was reportedly able to see and hear it on the wall in her room. She is also the patroness of eye disease, goldsmiths and laundry. Feast day – August 11.

St. Clare was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194, the beautiful eldest daughter of wealthy, noble parents. She was inspired by a meeting with St. Francis to live a life according to the Gospel and joined a convent of Benedictine nuns under his authority, the Order of Poor Ladies, where she lived a life of seclusion from the world, and poverty. Ultimately, her order was officially changed to the Order of Saint Clare in 1263 by Pope Urban I.

Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her order. In 1224, an army of rough soldiers from Frederick II came to attack Assisi. Although very sick, Clare went out to meet them carrying the Blessed Sacrament. She had it placed at the wall where the enemies could see it. Then on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters. "O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," she prayed. A voice seemed to answer: "I will keep them always in My care." In that moment, a sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled as fast as they could without harming anyone in Assisi. Clare is often pictured carrying a monstrance or pyx, to commemorate this event.

**St. Rose of Lima:** patron saint of the Americas, florists, Latin America, Peru, Philippines, and South America.

Feast day – August 23.

St. Rose of Lima, the first canonized saint of the New World (on April 12, 1671, by Pope Clement X), is known for her life of severe asceticism and her care of the needy of that city.

According to legend, a servant had a vision where her face turned into a rose and at her confirmation she took the name of Rose. She undertook secret penances, some of which were painful and severe. She performed daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and took daily communion. St. Rose kept herself cloistered in her room, spending long periods in prayer. It was said she slept only two hours per night so as to have more time for prayer.

She quit eating meat altogether, an extreme dietary restriction for that time.

When she turned 20, she was permitted to join the Third Order of St. Dominic. She continued a commitment to extreme prayer, fasting and penance, and dedicated her short life (she died at age 31) to helping the sick and hungry.

*Dawn Munday*

## ST. PETER, PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH

Framed by the arches leading to the east and west transepts of the Cathedral are four paintings depicting important events in the narrative of St. Peter's life and death: two beside the west arch, and two beside the east. Ideally, a critique of their imagery would be based upon close scrutiny of these paintings, but because of their height I have studied photographs of them instead.

According to our Diocesan archives, their artistry was the work of Ilario Panzironi as part of his decoration of the Cathedral in 1926. An Italian American, Panzironi was known to have completed many church paintings in Italy and on this continent. St Peter is the patron saint of our Cathedral Parish, and there are several other representations of him throughout the building, including the statue above the Bishop's Chair. St. Peter shares his feast day with St. Paul, traditionally on the 29th of June.

The four paintings share some common artistic elements such as their background colouration. Each presents a focused central depiction of a specific event in the life of St. Peter, and these central images appear ungrounded and floating, perhaps to further the spiritual and ethereal nature of each story. The order from west to east of these events suggests a mural, and they are founded on biblical accounts of the life of St. Peter and of his

relationship with Jesus. In some of the paintings, happenings prior to the events are suggested, enhancing the significance of each scene.

The pictorial narrative of the four events in Peter's life begins to the left of the west arch with Jesus raising Peter from the waters of the Sea of Galilee. According to the Gospel of Matthew, following the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes the disciples went out in a boat to fish. Jesus stayed behind and went up the mountain to pray. A storm arose, terrifying the fishermen as they battled the winds for hours. Jesus, sensing the need to calm them, came from His place of prayer and walked towards them on the water. They were afraid, supposing Him to be a ghost. He spoke, saying, "It is I."

Peter asked for confirmation, requesting that the Lord bid him come to Him. Peter then stepped out of the boat and walked toward Jesus amazed, until his fear overcame him and he began to sink. Jesus chastised Peter for his lack of faith, raised him up from the sea, and they got into the vessel. The winds ceased. "And those in the boat worshipped Him saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'" (Matthew 14:33). This was the first of three declarations of Jesus' divine son-ship in the gospel of Matthew. (See also 16:16 and 27:54.)

The painting of Jesus walking on the water shows His feet on the surface of the sea. He is fully human and fully divine, His divinity represented by a halo. Peter is partly submerged in the water, his faith having temporally failed him when his fear of the wind distracted him from concentrating on Jesus' power, leaving him subject to his own frailty. Christ's right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing and/or admonishment, intending to encourage Peter in faithfulness rather than to condemn. The painting perhaps speaks to the importance of Peter as the leader of the disciples, the one who has courage to step out of the boat and come to Him.

Other symbolizations drawn from the iconography are the baptismal referencing of water and the presence of the fishing boat. Christ previously promised He would make the disciples fishers of men. It may be hypothesized that the intent of the painting is a lesson for us all to maintain faith in Jesus' infinite mercy. In mercy He will forever rescue His followers from adversity.



The second painting, to the right of the west arch, shows Peter healing a beggar, lame since birth and known to all. A group of men surrounding the beggar represent different ages and cultures, reflecting the nature of the vast crowd in the temple square following Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, empowering them with courage to go out and preach to the crowd, gifted in language so that each individual in the multi-national gathering understood in his native tongue. In the painting, Christ appears behind Peter, the source of Peter's power to heal. Peter's halo denotes his spiritual elevation as healer in Christ's Grace.

Once again Peter appears as principle subject of the disciples' activity, here representing symbolically the Church's authority, in the name of Jesus, to heal and continuously restore the redemptive power of Christ. As his crutches fall to the ground, the healed beggar rises. Praising the Lord, he goes skipping and dancing, into the temple with Peter and John. An analogy of spiritual as well as physical healing may be drawn from this event.



## ST. PETER, PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH

Beside the east arch are two more paintings from the life of St. Peter. The one on the left tells the story of his imprisonment, a narrative referred to as 'St. Peter in Chains.' During the time of King Herod, Christians were being imprisoned and martyred. James, the brother of John, was the first of the twelve to be martyred. Finding that this pleased the populace, Herod imprisoned the well-known apostle, Peter, and had him bound in chains and heavily guarded. Church members were praying fervently for his release.

During the night before his expected trial, an angel entered the cell, bathed in light. The guards fell soundly asleep. Peter's chains fell from his wrists, and the cell door and gates were opened as the angel led him to freedom. The account of Peter's imprisonment is in the context of Rome's persecution of the Church, which God sent angels to protect and guard.

In the painting of Peter's imprisonment, night is indicated by the moon seen through the prison window. Immediately behind Peter, chains on the wall confirm that he was bound, unable to escape. Two guards are asleep, one struck suddenly in a standing position guarding what appears to be the cell door. An angel encircled in light is seen rescuing Peter in spite of chains, bars on the window, and the sleeping guards. The actual number of guards placed by Herod to secure Peter was "four squads of four soldiers each" (Acts 12:4). Peter is shown with a halo indicating God's particular favour upon him. Some biblical scholars see in this scenario the deliverance of God's people from the power of sin, Satan, and death.

The fourth painting illustrates Peter's death. While in Rome, summoned there by Paul, Peter became fearful of the threatening unrest around him. Paul was arrested, sent to trial, and beheaded. Once again, Peter decided to turn away, to go home and return to a life of fishing. But Christ met him on the way. Peter asked Him, "Quo vadis, Domine?" And Christ responded that He was going to Rome to be crucified again. Realizing what Christ meant, Peter returned to Rome, knowing he was going to his own death. At his trial and sentencing to death, Peter asked to be crucified head-down as he felt unworthy to be die in the same manner as his Saviour.

The imagery in the painting of Peter's crucifixion has an oblique sense of direction demonstrating strenuous activity echoed in brutality. The crucifiers are labouring in full strength with a variety of tools. The muscles in their legs and arms are flexed and powerful. Peter's body appears in a deathly pallor, his head ruddy with the downward flow of blood. He was approximately sixty-five years of age at the time of his crucifixion.

The sole reference to Peter's crucifixion and death is written at the end of John's gospel, contained in the 'do you love me' dialogue between Jesus and Peter. Three times asked by Christ and thrice confirmed by Peter, this dialogue figuratively negated Peter's denial of Christ at the time of His crucifixion. Jesus then instructed Peter to tend and feed His sheep, thus appointing him as Head of the Church. When Jesus instructed Peter to "Follow me", He inferred that Peter's death would be like His, telling him: "You will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go."

Our Cathedral is enriched with many images of apostles, saints, angels, and Doctors of the Church. I encourage you to look into them with the eyes of faith.

*Evelyn Keep*



# Celebrating the Sacraments at St. Peter's Cathedral

The Sacraments of the Church continue God's work of salvation in our present day. The sacraments are visible signs of the invisible reality of God and his great love for us all. These signs of grace were instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

Each sacramental event offers us an encounter with Christ leading us to the Father in the Spirit, in the context of the community of believers. In that experience of faith and grace, we share a deeper, loving union with the Lord and the community.

## BAPTISM

The sacrament of Baptism is our entry into the life of the Church. As the first sacrament of initiation, Baptism lays the foundations of the Christian life. In Baptism we are freed from sin and incorporated into the life of Christ. We become a new creation, are clothed in Christ, and are anointed priest, prophet and king to carry on Christ's mission.

Each year we celebrate over 100 baptisms with infants and young children of our parish. We also celebrate baptisms of young people and adults. Families of infants to be baptized and their godparents gather monthly to learn about baptism, understand the gift they are giving their child, recognize the role of the godparent in the life of the child, and to prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. John and Susan Koval of our parish have led the preparation of families for baptism for over 20 years.



*Deacon Rudy baptizing Theodore Gallagher with parents Violetta and Ron Gallagher and godmother Anna-Maria Kwiecien*

Young people and adults of our community also prepare for Baptism through the R.C.I.A.- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The R.C.I.A. models the practice of the early Church in which unbaptized individuals, after a lengthy period of spiritual preparation, were received into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. After hearing God's word, adults come forward to accept and understand the mission of Christ and the truths of the Catholic Church. Gathering weekly over several months with our R.C.I.A. Team of Cathryn Hall and Albin Kmet along with their sponsors, the candidates gather for prayer, catechesis (teaching), reflection, and sharing as they come to discover where God is calling each individual.



*Dcn Rudy Pflanzner baptizes Avena Borges, while parents Evan and Amanda Borges and godparents Mike Borges and Virginia Azevedom look on.*

## FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate God's continual love and hope for us who are created in his image and likeness. The sacrament changes, transforms, converts, restores, and heals us, uniting us to God's love and to the entire community. It is a sign of God's healing love and reassurance of his love for us always and helps us to be at one with God, ourselves, and others.



*Hayden Flynn with Fr. Alfredo Pereira following the celebration of his First Communion.*

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Each time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, it is an expression of our intimate union with the Lord. In Communion we share in the life and work of Christ. This meal unites us with every other believer around the table. As we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are empowered to bring some share of his life to all we meet.

Each year we have the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion with the children of our parish community, usually at the age of seven and older. Preparation for these sacraments is done at home, in the context of the family. In giving the gift of baptism to a child, the parents agree to continue to explore the mystery of God and God's family throughout their child's life. As parents, they are first teachers of the faith. As they grow and mature, their example of faith and Christian living continues to influence them greatly as they come into a deeper relationship with God and the Church. The at-home preparation allows the parents and child to continue this relationship in the faith and can also be a time of renewal and re-commitment for the parents in the practice and understanding of their own faith life and sacramental life.



*Selorm and Elikem Amegashie and Olivia Rino and their families after their First Communion*

## CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation further strengthens the gifts received in baptism through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, awe of God – are poured out on our candidates through the laying on of hands and anointing with the Oil of Chrism. Sealed and strengthened with the Spirit to become a more complete image of the Lord through Confirmation, the candidates are now empowered to live their life as faithful followers of Christ.



*Confirmation Class 2016*

Each year, the parish welcomes young people, adults through the R.C.I.A., and other adults seeking full communion with the Catholic Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Led by our Confirmation Team of Michael Wojtak, Saykho Baptista and Mary Rouse, our young people gather for six weeks of preparation weekly prior to the celebration to learn about the sacrament, explore their faith, and claim the baptismal promises made by their parents as their own. Traditionally our celebration of Confirmation for young people takes place on Pentecost Sunday.



*Newly confirmed Alicia Domingues with Bishop Fabbro and Sponsor Roberta Sartor*

## THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is a sacred relationship. For individuals, it is a moment of profound richness and dignity. For the community, it is an institution that serves as one of the basic bonds which holds our society together. For the Church it is a sacramental event that gives a visible sign of God's presence and graceful intervention in our lives.

The Church believes that the sacred union of husband and wife is itself a sacrament and acknowledges God's unconditional love and presence in their relationship. The couple is assured of God's graces as they face the joys and struggles of a lifelong journey of faith together. The Sacrament of Marriage is God's encounter with the couple and the celebration of God's presence in the midst of the assembly. The sacrament of marriage is not just the union of two people, it is also a reverencing of the Christian life and exemplifies what it means to follow Christ.

Each year at St. Peter's Cathedral we celebrate over 60 weddings with our parishioners and others from outside our parish and city. The parish provides a Marriage Preparation Program twice a year, consisting of talks and discussion on all



*Albin & Vianca Kmet, married March 12, 2016*

aspects of married life presented by our Marriage Preparation Team: Dawn Munday & Paul Carson (Coordinators), Stephanie & Mark Circelli, Lisa & Mike Lindsay, Tracey McDonald & Gerry Rucchin, Niki & Kevin De Leebeeck, Helen Moniz & Joe Coelho, Mark Trovato, Sheila & Dcn Len Hughes, and Fr. Jim Mockler.

## BUS TRIP IN SEARCH OF JOSEPH CONNOLLY'S CHURCHES

On Monday May 9, 24 pilgrims from the Cathedral parish, Strathroy and Aylmer visited two churches designed by our architect, Joseph Connolly. [photo 1]

Our first stop was at St. Patrick's, Kinkora, in Perth County, northeast of Mitchell and northwest of Stratford. Father Clare Coleman (once rector here) greeted us and guided us around his beautiful church and grounds. [photo 2]

St. Patrick's was built 1882-3, and one can see architectural elements which Joseph Connolly used to great effect first at that church and later in our Cathedral. [photo 3]

An elaborately carved reredos behind the altar holds statues of three saints. Flanked by Saints Peter and Paul, Saint Patrick is in the centre, holding a shamrock in his right hand to acknowledge the Irish settlers who built the parish. After the Second World War, when many Dutch immigrants arrived, a red tulip was added to the crozier in St. Patrick's left hand. [photo 4]

St. Patrick's church, rectory, and gardens are beautifully cared for, and the parish hall across the road is well used by parish and community alike. Father Clare showed us with great pride Connolly's fine architecture and enhancements made to the church over the years, and described the renovations carried out by his predecessors in the parish. During the last restoration work, a 157-foot spire on the tower, which could be seen for miles in each direction, was lowered for repairs, at which point it disintegrated completely. Many hope it may be rebuilt and erected again. Father Clare encouraged us to visit St. Patrick's Church for 10:30 Mass on Sunday, when we might sing praise with one of the parish's three choirs! [photo 5]

Returning to our Voyageur van, we headed east to Guelph to visit the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, arriving in time for a delicious lunch prepared by the CWL. As early as 1827, John Galt, the founder of Guelph, gave land "on a beautiful central hill" to Bishop Macdonell for church purposes. The pres-

ent church was constructed on Joseph Connolly's designs between 1876, when the first sod was turned, and 1888, when the Church of Our Lady was dedicated. In those years, Connolly's church in Kinkora and cathedral in London were also built. [photo 6]

The Basilica of Our Lady (the title of Minor Basilica was granted in 2014) is larger yet lighter in appearance than St. Peter's. Constructed of local limestone, and on a hill in the centre of Guelph, it commands a view and draws the eye in all directions. Connolly had quite different land and space to work with in his design for this impressive church: the subsoil allowed for the construction of a full basement, and the surrounding property has ample space for school, convents and rectory. [photo 7]

Views taken of the nave both from the rear and the sanctuary steps, and of the apse, show how similar yet how different was Joseph Connolly's design of this fine church. Recently, a \$12,000,000 restoration was completed both inside and out, so we saw the Basilica looking its very, very best! [photos 8, 9, and 10]

The church's stained glass windows were made in France, and those in the nave tell the story of Mary. Here are photographs of two of them: the first showing Mary at her birth and in her youth, and the second of the Holy Family at work. [photos 11 and 12]

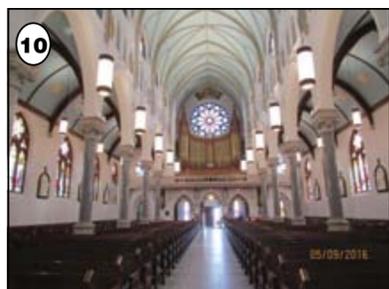
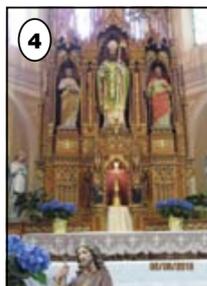
There is much that this photo essay has not shown you of our bus trip to Kinkora and Guelph. We urge you to visit these churches, and to enjoy their beauty and peacefulness. Say a prayer there for all of us who value such holy spaces, and also for those who welcome pilgrims on their journey of faith, especially in this Holy Year of Mercy.

Photographs were taken by Rijo Joseph and Teresita Olivieros – our thanks to them!

Hilary Neary



The travellers and their sites



## SHARING MERCY

"How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!" (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus~Looking for Mercy*, 5).

As we continue to celebrate the Year of Mercy, each of us are called to share and live the Pope's vision of a year when people will become more merciful in their own lives and bring God's mercy to others. The Pope stresses that living a merciful life does not mean we ignore justice in our society. Indeed, he reminds us, "Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe" (MV, 21)

In the December issue of *Cathedral Connections*, we outlined ways in which we can participate in living mercy in our lives during this year and beyond. Pope Francis invites the church and all people of good will to "reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty" (MV, 25)

<b>Corporal Works of Mercy:</b>	<b>Spiritual Works of Mercy:</b>
Feed the hungry	Counsel the doubtful
Give drink to the thirsty	Instruct the ignorant
Clothe the naked	Admonish sinners
Harbour the stranger	Comfort the afflicted
Visit the sick	Forgive offences
Ministering to prisoners	Bear patiently those who do us ill
Bury the dead	Pray for the living and the dead

In our parish we have many committees and ministries that live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy within the parish and extended community.

The Community Outreach Committee explores the immediate needs of the downtown community through various outreach opportunities. They participate in the work of the Daily Bread Foodbank and the Fellowship Centre at St. Paul's Cathedral through food drives and monetary collections and

provide volunteers at the Foodbank and Fellowship Centre. Some of the volunteers have also been involved in the London Coffee House and other downtown initiatives.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides outreach in our parish neighborhood through weekly visits to clients in need and by providing food vouchers, bus tickets, and coupons to purchase items at the St. Vincent de Paul store. They also organize the annual Giving Tree at Christmas to provide gifts for families and arrange special visits to these families. Each year the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Outreach Committee along with the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus work together in providing the Winter Welcome Meal for those in need in our downtown area. This initiative brings well over 100 people together to share a warm meal and fellowship.

The Parish Visitation Ministry regularly visits and takes communion to parishioners in their homes or in hospital or nursing homes. This outreach helps to keep these parishioners connected to our community and parish life.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers to pray, listen to inspiring music, and to knit or crochet prayer shawls and afghans for those in need of comfort and prayer. The prayer shawls are then distributed to members of our community in homes, schools, and nursing homes.

The Legion of Mary sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.

The Missions Committee's purpose is to increase parishioners' awareness of World Missions and develop empathy for those in poverty. Through parish support financially and spiritually, they undertake projects nationally and globally that help alleviate poverty through sustainable development.

continued on page 12

## THE MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVER

The liturgy is at the heart of our Catholic faith. When we gather together at Eucharist each Sunday, we become a visible sign of Christ's presence in the world. Each one of us has been called and gifted by God to be that presence. The liturgy provides many opportunities to use your gifts to build up the Body of Christ. One liturgical ministry is the Ministry of Altar Server.

Altar Servers assist in all aspect of the liturgical celebration. The actions of these individuals highlight the ritual that is so much a part of the liturgy that we celebrate. They bear witness to the importance and reverence of the celebration through their assistance and help to ensure that the liturgy unfolds with grace and dignity.

At St. Peter's Cathedral, the Altar Server Ministry comes under the name St. Stephen's Guild. The Guild of St. Stephen is an International Organization of Altar Servers founded in 1904 by Father Hamilton McDonald when he formed a Society of Altar Servers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in London, England.

In 1905, Pope Pius X gave his approbation to the Canonical establishment of the Guild at Westminster Cathedral and in 1906, the Sacred Congregation of Rites made the Guild an Archconfraternity *prima primaria*, enabling all the parish branches to be linked with it. The Guild spread, and in 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all Guilds of Altar Servers throughout the British Commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster.

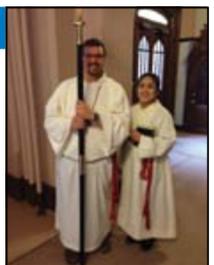
The Guild's purpose is to encourage, positively and practically, the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy and so contribute to the whole community's participation in a more fruitful worship of God. Active participation in the Guild provides altar servers with a great-

er understanding of what they are doing so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness and thereby be led to a deepening response to their vocation in life.

"I've always been in awe of the liturgy and drawn to all the symbolism that's embedded in our celebrations," explains altar server Albin Kmet. "As a server I can be an active force in the celebration to ensure that the celebration has its practical needs met and help facilitate all the symbolism (and be part of some of that symbolism, for example, when we wash the celebrant's hands before the Eucharistic Prayer). In a more spiritual sense it allows me to be more deeply connected and participatory in the celebration, active in a new way, and knowing that my simple actions can help others in their participation and experience of the sacred liturgy.

Before serving we pray the St. Stephen's prayers in the sacristy, but there is a prayer I pray privately, and that is, "Lord, help me to serve Your altar, help me to perform my duties to the best of my abilities, so that I may glorify You through my actions, and that my actions may help those attending this Mass grow closer to You."

The St. Stephen's Guild/Altar Server Ministry serves our parish at daily and Sunday Mass, funerals and many of our Diocesan celebrations. The ministry is open to male and female; children, teenagers, and adults. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Fr. Alfredo Pereira.



Servers Albin and Vianca Kmet

Cathryn Hall

continued from page 11

Our Cathedral's Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus as part of their mandate support both parish and their own charitable initiatives and support many local and national organizations.

Our newly formed Refugee Committee has worked tirelessly to collect funds, household items, and provide a home to sponsor a Refugee Family who just arrived in our community in early June. Their work will continue as they support this family in settling in to life in our city and in Canada.

What are ways in which each and everyone of us can share in this task of "bringing the goodness and tenderness of God to all?" Some of our parish initiatives have been named. What might you consider getting involved with during this Year of Mercy in our parish or greater community?

When asking one of our volunteers in the Parish Visitation Ministry, how she came to be involved she stated: "...having spent quite a lot of time over the previous decade visiting elderly relatives, I was aware of how many elderly folks were very lonely. It struck me that as elderly parishioners entered the final stage of their lives, they might be pleased to have visitors from the parish spend a little time with them. I thought that knowing that the parish community had not forgotten them would give them a tangible sign of God's love and encourage them to approach the end of their lives with confidence in God's mercy."

The Year of Mercy invites us to change our hearts and our lives so we can become conduits of God's mercy in everything we say and do.

Cathryn Hall

THE ORGAN AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL IS 90 YEARS OLD



Our magnificent Casavant organ is turning 90 on September 26, 2016. The process for building this organ began in 1923, when the Right Reverend J. F. Stanley was supervising the decoration of the interior of the cathedral. St. Peter's organist, Dr. Louis Balogh, proposed a large three-manual instrument from the Casavant organ company in Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, to replace the two-manual instrument built in 1886. The contract was signed in September 1925, at a cost of \$22,320 (\$300,783 in 2016 dollars).

The new Casavant organ was played at its first Mass to open Catholic Centennial Week on September 26, 1926. A Jubilee Souvenir program printed for this event contained the music for "Missa S. Michaelis Archangeli" composed by Dr. Balogh, photographs of the cathedral choirs, of the organ console, and a list of its specifications. It was the finest organ in Western Ontario at that time. Today, its replacement value would be close to \$1,000,000.

In 2016, the organ sounds much as it did in 1926, even though its mechanical parts have been modernized. Major repairs were done in 1971-73 including a new \$10,833 console within the original wood case. Again, in 1981-83, major cleaning of pipes and some repairs were carried out for \$17,509. A new solid state switching system was installed in 1995 for \$24,000. In 2005, \$25,000 was spent for a solid state combination system.

During the 1970's, the Knoch Organ Company advised the parish that the instrument needed new pipework to improve the sound for 17th century baroque music. Thankfully, this was not done, as such a change would have completely altered the sound of the instrument. Our Cathedral organ is a unique work of art, and has been allowed to remain a statement of its time period. Particularly, the Vox humana stop and the Cor anglais stop are unique to this organ. The former is a reed stop with a half-length pipe, and imitates the human voice. The latter has the haunting voice of an oboe, except lower in register and colour. Our organ has a full rich sound because of the many 8 foot pipes that reinforce the melody line of our liturgical music. There are over 3000 pipes behind the

façade pipes. It still remains one of the finest organs in Western Ontario, ably suited to both liturgical celebrations and concert performances.

We are always tuning and making small repairs to the organ. Currently we are replacing leather used in the valves that allow air into the pipes. Over time, leather dries and cracks causing dead notes. Donations for maintaining the organ are always welcome, and put to good use.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we can be proud of how our cathedral rectors, organists, choir directors and parishioners have lovingly cared for our Casavant organ. It has contributed to so many Masses, diocesan celebrations like ordinations, and public concerts. I am blessed to have played it for the last 16 years. With your support this organ will last as long as St. Peter's is standing.

Dr. Ronald Fox



The CWL 96th Annual Diocesan Convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Point Edward on April 18, 19 and 20. A large representation of women from councils across the Diocese attended. Registration began on Monday, and some members took a tour to a local Winery, which included lunch and a fashion show.

A Mass, which officially opened the convention, was held at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sarnia, with intentions offered for both living and deceased members of the Catholic Women's League. Greetings were brought by dignitaries from the City of Sarnia, Father Stephen Savel, Episcopal Vicar of the Sarnia Deanery, Marie-Theresa Lamphier, CWL Diocesan President, Margaret Ann Jacob, President-elect of the CWL National Council, and Pauline Krapa, President of the Ontario Provincial Council. Mass was celebrated by Father Matt Kucharski, CWL Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, assisted by Fr. Savel and Deacon Chuck Stevens.

The convention convened on April 19, with Mass again celebrated by Fr. Kucharski. Marie-Theresa Lamphier opened the business session, and introduced ladies from the United and Anglican Churches representing the Interfaith Church Women. Lunch was followed with the Crowning of Mary and celebration of Corporal Works of Mercy performed by all councils in honour of Blessed Oscar Romero. Gifts were collected for distribution to the Woman's Interval Home and Migrant Workers Ministry. Keynote speaker for the day was Father Paul Baillargeon who spoke on "Parish Family Grouping and its future impact on the CWL." That evening the Sarnia council hosted a "Fun Night", featuring a country style dinner and Western hoedown square dance.

The business session convened on Wednesday morning with prayer, followed by keynote speaker, Michelle O'Rourke, who spoke on "Palliative Care and Dying with Dignity". Elections for the new executive of the London Diocese CWL were held, with an alternate program available for those members not participating. Following lunch, the afternoon speaker was Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, who spoke on the theme "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission."

Closing Mass and installation of the executive were held at Sacred Heart Church, Sarnia. Bishop Ronald P. Fabbro was the chief celebrant, joined by spiritual advisors of the councils in the Diocese. A banquet followed at the Holiday Inn, attended by approximately 500 CWL members, clergy, and guests. Father Matt Kucharski retired as Spiritual Advisor of the Diocesan Council for the last five years, and received thanks for his outstanding guidance. He will be followed in that role by Father Greg Bonin.

All attending agreed this convention was successful, enjoyable, and informative. Music, prayers and joy resonated throughout the entire three days. The 2017 convention will be held in Stratford.

MERCY IN MOTION

CWL members spend every day living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy – serving, helping, and reaching out to those who are in need. These ladies are dedicated and work hard to promote Christian values in our increasingly challenging world. Their commitment to the League

is demonstrated daily by evangelizing through action.

For the "Jubilee Year of Mercy", members decided to focus on group activities. Along with the Young Adults 4 Christ, we visited seniors and CWL members in nursing homes. We donated money and a variety of useful items for those in need to several charitable agencies. Collectively we send cards to CWL members and friends letting them know we are thinking of them, wishing them speedy recovery from surgeries, and sending heartfelt sorrow for the loss of a loved one. We participate in the "12 Hour Prayer for Palliative Care" by praying every 30 minutes from 7:00am to 7:00pm. We joined the Knights of Columbus to serve food at the Winter Welcome. Our outreach doesn't end with these activities, and we look for more opportunities to experience and share God's mercy.

FINAL MEETING OF THE SEASON

Members met for the last time before the summer on June 4. Service pins were awarded to those achieving significant years of membership. Frances Dietrich received a pin recognizing her 60 years of service. Jo-Ann MacEachern received a 50-year pin. Twenty-five-year pins were given to Anne Jones, Christina Kasza, Connie Mellen, and Evelyn O'Brien. Ten-year pins were awarded to Juliana Bodnar, Therese Ferraro, Doris McCormick, Arlene Murphy, Myra Schubert and Joanne Sorrenti.

Julie Sans and Dora Dannecker



CWL Banquet



Frances Dietrich (centre) received a pin for 60 years of service.



Julie Sans presented 10-year pins to Myra, Juliana, Doris and Arlene.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Among the many duties and requirements of the Finance Committee at the Cathedral is the obligation to keep the parish informed. One of the ways this is accomplished is by preparing an annual financial statement for presentation to the parish.

In all its activities, the Committee stresses accountability and transparency. As a result you will find a number of foot

notes following the Financial Statement that will hopefully allow for a fuller understanding of its contents.

A series of questions and answers are included below. They typify questions that have been directed to Committee members, clergy or other staff from time to time.

### SUMMARY OF REVENUE and EXPENSES *Operating Account - 2015*

Church Revenues		Operating Surplus	
#1 All Offertory Collections	\$741,559	LESS: Deferred Income - Refugee project	\$70,275
Votive Candles, Books, religious articles	\$43,375	#8 Transfer to Reserve account	\$39,864
Donations (non-offertory)	\$66,693		\$30,411
Parking & rental revenue	\$294,250	<b>NOTES:</b>	
Stipends	\$22,980	#1 This includes regular Sunday collections, plus the Christmas and Easter Offering and the Thanksgiving Appeal	
Misc.	\$14,244	#2 Staff includes 2 clergy, a pastoral minister, business administrator, 3 office staff, custodian and a housekeeper. Two deacons work 12 unpaid hours weekly, but are reimbursed for annual professional costs and retreat costs. The organist and two part time evening custodians for the Parish Centre are all paid.	
Special Collections received	\$1,183,101	#3 The sum of \$140,000 is paid annually to the Diocese for use of the school/ Parish Centre and offices, plus the north parking lot.	
	\$44,710	#4 Liturgy costs include all candles, altar wine, hosts, and office expense related to liturgy, brochures, stationery and mailings.	
<b>Total Operating receipts</b>	<b>\$1,227,811</b>	#5 Ministry costs cover the many programs at the Cathedral, for example Arise and Renew, sacramental preparation courses for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage, Ministry of Care, etc	
<b>Church Expenses</b>		#6 Stipends are offerings for masses to be said, usually in the sum of ten dollars that is paid to the presiding priest. At year end, stipends remaining for masses unsaid, are sent to the Diocese and allocated to other parishes or missions.	
#2 Salaries and Payroll	\$492,761	#7 The Diocesan assessment is based on 15% of the total Offertory, Christmas and Easter collections of 2013. That amounted to \$105,307 which was 9.7% of total expenditures for 2015.	
#3 Facilities		#8 Reserve funds are held for outstanding issues and future capital costs.	
(Parish, Church, Office, Accomodations)	\$244,826		
Land maintenance	\$32,220		
Utilities	\$79,378		
Insurance	\$40,007		
#4 Liturgy & Miscellaneous	\$31,640		
#5 Ministry & Education	\$39,312		
#6 Stipends paid	\$9,195		
Collections & Assessments			
Special collections & donations paid	\$80,049		
#7 Diocesan Assessment	\$105,307		
Fundraising expense	\$2,841		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$1,157,536</b>		

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### 1. Q. How is the Cathedral able to pay its bills?

A. Offertory collections look after about 65% of the expenses, the income from parking and room rentals accounts for 25%, and the balance comes from miscellaneous sources such as votive candles, stipends, bequests and sales of religious articles. On the expense side, salaries represent 43% of all expenses; facilities such as maintenance of the church, Parish Centre and living accommodations make up 21%.

### 2. Q. Does the Cathedral have any long term debt or mortgage?

A. Yes. When the old boilers broke down in late spring of 2013, it was determined that they were beyond economical repair. New high tech compact boilers were installed at a cost of \$770,000. That sum was borrowed from the Diocesan Loan Fund along with an anticipated shortfall on the last phase of the restoration. The result was a loan for \$950,000 to be repaid over 16 years with the interest from the Pentecost 2000 Fund. As a result, the annual payments are not included in our Operating Budget. The balance on that loan from the Diocesan Loan Fund as of April 30, 2016 was \$716,796.

### 3. Q. Does the Cathedral have any savings currently?

A. The Cathedral has savings on deposit with the Diocesan Loan Fund of \$288,474 as of April 30, 2016. The cost of the Fire Alarm and Life Safety Upgrades in the Parish Centre, which are now nearing completion, totaling \$52,000, will be paid from those funds on deposit with the Loan Fund.

### 4. Q. Does the Cathedral receive any government financial assistance?

A. Churches are exempt from property tax. They also receive a refund of 82% of the HST that is paid on expenses. That was particularly helpful over the past ten years when the Cathedral paid approximately six million dollars in restoration costs.

### 5. Q. Are there user pay programs at the Cathedral?

A. There are suggested donation amounts for weddings and funerals set by the Diocese. For weddings, the amount suggested is \$150.00 for the Cathedral. The organist, cantor and sacristan arrange a separate remittance for their services directly with the bride and groom.

For funerals, the donations are paid through the funeral home, and the suggested donation is \$260.00, broken down as follows: \$100.00 for the church, \$100.00 for the organist and \$60.00 for the sacristan.

The Marriage Preparation program, which is open to couples throughout the Diocese, charges a fee per couple. This is used to defray the costs of operating the program. For programs that use reading materials, such as the Arise program, participants are asked to reimburse the cost of the books.

### 6. Q. Does the Diocese assist the Cathedral financially?

A. During the Celebration Campaign, which was a fundraiser to raise money for the renovations, the Diocese committed 2.6 million dollars towards the restoration costs. That represented 50% of the total cost estimated in 2002 for the renovations. With the inflationary rise in the cost of the work, there were no funds available to cover the cost of the new boilers. That sum was borrowed from the Diocesan Loan Fund.

### 7. Q. Are there major projects yet to be completed?

A. The interior restoration of the Cathedral has yet to be completed. The walls including those in the transept and the two side altar areas require painting, the pews need to be refinished and the flooring needs to be reevaluated. Quotes are currently being solicited for the various projects to determine which, if any, are within our current budgetary limits.

Should parishioners have further questions or request more details about the finances at the Cathedral, they are invited to send an e-mail inquiry to our Business Administrator at: [mlenko@dol.ca](mailto:mlenko@dol.ca)

## NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KNIGHTS

The Knights of Columbus at St. Peter's Cathedral excel in parish programs, in fundraising for charities, and in attracting new members. These past three months have been no exception.

Rose Sunday was held on the weekend of May 7/8 in support of Pro Life initiatives. Many of the Knights volunteered after each Mass to make it a success. The money received was donated to support Fresh Start, a local shelter for unwed mothers.

An Evening in Italy on April 23 featuring Pat Hogan's exceptional spaghetti sauce, was a huge success. At the end of the evening the sauce pot was completely empty!

The Confirmation Breakfast on May 14 is deservedly becoming an annual event. The Knights prepared delicious pancakes and ham and eggs for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Over this entire time period all Knights were busy selling books of draw tickets for the annual Knights of Columbus Ontario Charity Foundation draw. We raised \$2,500 for this foundation, which supports the Ontario Special Olympics and the Arthritis Society.

Membership continues to increase with the addition of two new members. Obinna (Austin) Osuizugbf, a Fanshawe College student, and Andres Aguilar, an industrial engineer from Columbia, who both received their first degree on May 30.

Our next fraternal year spans July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. A new Executive Committee has now been elected to continue the programs initiated by the Knights and to seek out new opportunities to promote our core principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Larry Barrett

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2016-2017

Grand Knight - Pat Hogan  
Deputy Grand Knight - David Houghton  
Chancellor - Larry Barrett  
Chaplain - Fr. Jim Mockler  
Financial Secretary - Joe Murphy (Appointed)  
Treasurer - James Vollmer  
Warden - Robert Holmes  
Recorder - Martin Healey  
Advocate - Doug Purssglove  
Trustee 1st Yr - Matt Aristone  
Trustee 2nd Yr - Nathan Marchand  
Trustee 3rd Yr - Terrence Holcombe  
Inside Guard - Michael Beaudoin  
Outside Guard - Michael Butler  
Lecturer - TBA (Appointed)



Yvonne Circelli's mother Maria Deryk and her grandson Matteo Forgetta



Six happy people feast on that exceptional spaghetti sauce.



The Confirmation Breakfast addressed some healthy appetites.



Wayne Hissong and family enjoyed a Knights' breakfast.



Obinna Osuizugbf and Andres Aguilar received their first degree on May 30.



Jismon Thomas, Joseph Rijo, Rohit and Nishaan Thomas enjoy An Evening in Italy. All are Fanshawe students who have adopted St. Peter's.

## YOUNG ADULTS 4 CHRIST

YA4C at St. Peter's kicked off the year in January with our skating social and game night. Several members are new to our winter climate and hadn't skated before. We are pleased to report that much fun was had by all, with no injuries reported.

In our busy lives we often forget to find time to reflect on God's presence. At our annual Lenten retreat we were privileged to have Fr. Pio D'Oria from St. John the Divine talk to us about "Listening to the Voice of the Lord." Fr. Pio reminded us of the importance of being attentive to the Lord's call, and offered several techniques for doing so. Fr. Alfredo then led us through an examination of conscience and confession, concluding with Benediction of the Sacred Eucharist. It was a great day devoted to the Spirit and reflection.

Several of our members answered God's call for corporal works of mercy through volunteering. We helped the Knights of Columbus by handing out bags for the Food Bank, and accompanied members of the Catholic Women's League visiting residents at long-term care facilities. We were also pleased to have a large number of volunteers come out to the Solidarity with the Poor Lunch on Good Friday; this helped ease the food preparation, serving and cleanup.

On the first and third Sunday of each month we gather in the Parish Centre to learn about and discuss a topic of our faith. Over the past few months we have studied the Liturgies of Holy Week, the Divine Offices, and our Blessed Mother Mary. Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Alfredo, has been generous with his time, attending when he can to answer our questions and provide additional insight.

To encourage further involvement with the parish, we invited representatives from the Catholic Women's League, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, and the Visitation Ministry to educate our members on the good works they do.

The YA4C Executive extends an invitation to all young adults, ages 18 to 35, to join us for our summer activities. We will be meeting once a week for a friendly soccer practice and scrimmage – no prior soccer experience is necessary. Our last gathering of the season will be on July 17 before we take a break until September. We are also planning a pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine near Merlin on Saturday, July 2. Please keep an eye on the bulletin, and join our email list or Facebook for additional information.

The YA4C continues to coordinate Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Marian Chapel. Everyone from the parish is welcome to join us for an hour of reflection and adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Please note that we will not be meeting in August.

If you would like further information or to stay updated on future events and volunteer opportunities, join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ya4cstpeters/> or e-mail [ya4cstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:ya4cstpeters@gmail.com) to be added to our list. We look forward to meeting you!

*Nathan Marchand*



## MEET OUR NEW NEIGHBOUR - THE LONDON SALSA ACADEMY

There is a new pleasant sound in our Parish Centre on Monday evenings. It is the sound of **Salsa music**. Salsa means "sauce" in Spanish and is reminiscent of the popular dance music of Caribbean and South American countries. This music comes from a room occupied that night by the London Salsa Academy.



*Ross and Milena Todorovic with Scott Moir & Tessa Virtue*

The academy is one of two dance companies operated by Ross and Milena Todorovic. They cater to two dance cultures, namely **Salsa** and **Argentine Tango**. Their associate company, El Studio Tango, is the number-one organization for Argentine Tango training in London.

Ross and Milena began dancing and working together in 2009. Milena had a background in Serbian folklore dancing and is also a yoga instructor. Ross's dance career began in 1997. Since then, he has performed on cruise

ships, taught in Seville, Spain, and was cast as one of the dancers in the movie, "Take the Lead", starring Antonio Banderas. He also worked alongside many Cirque de Soleil performers while teaching in Las Vegas.

Together, Ross and Milena have over 25 years combined experience in dance. They promote **Tango** and **Salsa** events, and teach all forms of couples' dances: **Tango** and **Salsa**, as well as **Waltz**, **Foxtrot**, **Quickstep**, **Rhumba**, **Cha Cha**, **Samba**, **Swing/Jive** and **Hustle**. They host Milongas, (Tango dance nights), teach workshops, and offer private lessons for both couples and singles. Ross and Milena will also teach and perform a Tango for a special event.

They plan to expand their class schedule to offer **Bachata** and **Kizomba**. Bachata is a style of dance from the Dominican Republic, now danced all over the world. Kizomba is one of the most popular genres of dance originating in Angola. It is characterized by a slower and usually romantic rhythm.

If you would like to know more about Ross and Milena, you may visit either of their websites.

[www.londonsalsaacademy.ca](http://www.londonsalsaacademy.ca) or [www.elstudiotango.com](http://www.elstudiotango.com)

If you have any questions, e-mail them: [info@londonsalsaacademy.ca](mailto:info@londonsalsaacademy.ca) or call them at 226-700-7439. They always respond!

*Mitch Lenko*