



A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



The Feast of Pentecost was recently celebrated and it is not difficult to find examples of the Holy Spirit working in our midst. I'm thinking of two. First, the quick response of President Peres of Israel and President Abbas of Palestine deciding to join Pope Francis at the Vatican to pray for peace. CNN senior Vatican analyst John L. Allen Jr. commented "The metric that Pope Francis would

be using to measure the success of this event is much longer term. I don't think anyone is expecting an immediate result..... Now that said, you could also argue that the success of tonight could be measured by the simple fact that it happened." My second thought turns to the crafting of our parish strategic plan. The fact that we are doing this alongside our ongoing response to the diocesan pastoral plan and shortly after Pope Francis' exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" was released to all Catholics worldwide gives me great hope for the years ahead.

Jesus revealed to us who we are, what we are worth, what our ultimate goal is. He showed us by his life and word how to relate to God the Father, to one another and the rest of creation.

Understanding what he has shown us is not an easy task. Putting into action what we understand is even more difficult.

But we are not left alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to assist our weak minds, our troubled hearts and our worn-down spirits. The Holy Spirit is a Person we have to welcome and to listen to. Hearing his voice as individuals and as a parish community, we will be able to discern the truth of the way God wants us to go in the midst of the noise of voices that compete for our attention.

If we allow ourselves to be guided by him, we shall become what we already are because of him: the Body of

Christ.

Through the Spirit of God we are reconciled to one another, the world is renewed, the community is revitalized and by being constantly reflective and prayerful we come to know the mysterious presence of the peace of Christ.

However, one could understandably ask – If this has really happened, why does our world look the same? Why is there so much religious and ethnic rivalry? Why do we continue to make distinctions between people - distinctions that favour one at the expense of the other? Why is there so little peace, or comfort? Why do we refuse to forgive or to be reconciled?

Is Pentecost merely a feast we celebrate in red vestments? Has the face of the earth really been renewed?

The answer is yes! Definitely yes! The reason we can say so is that we are not waiting for God to act. He has already.

The Spirit of God works wonders and will work wonders wherever human hearts are open to being prompted and encouraged to act in a different way.

The earth is renewed

- each time rivalries and arguments are resolved;
- when distinctions are recognized as merely expressions of diversity;
- when peace is restored;
- comfort is offered;
- forgiveness is granted.

Everywhere we look – with open eyes – we are immersed in the strength and guidance of God's Spirit.

All we have to do is open ourselves to it and the presence of God will be born and experienced in our midst.

Fr. Jim Mockler

WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISAN

by Cathryn Hall, Pastoral Minister



In 2011 Bishop Fabro invited all parishioners in all parishes across the diocese to engage and dedicate themselves to a three year period of spiritual renewal. This renewal was meant to draw us closer to Jesus, open us to the gift that God gives us in Baptism, call us to recognize that only with

God's guidance can we carry out the mission given to us, invite us to see that only with open hearts to hearing God's Word can we announce his message to others, and remind us that only if we allow his joy to transform our lives, can we bring his joy to others.

In the Fall of 2011, St. Peter's Cathedral along with 40 other parishes across the diocese engaged in a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal called ARISE Together in Christ created by RENEW International. RENEW International, which began in 1978 in the Archdiocese of

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WE REMEMBER...

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

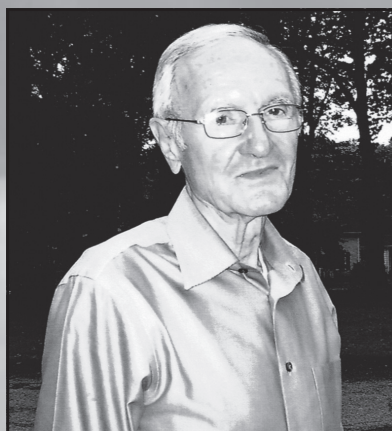
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather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

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

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 15



Hsi Ping (Judy) Lin-Cheung
Mar. 16, 1949 - May 30, 2014



Rev. Stephen Bodnar
Dec. 27, 1937 - May 16, 2014

James Louis Maher
Aug. 26, 1947 - Apr. 16, 2014

Loren (Lori) Demelo
July 2, 1963 - May 12, 2014



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Editorial Note

Cathedral Connections is made possible through the efforts of all who contribute to its pages (both parishioners at large and ministry chairs), and especially those who sit on its editorial committee.

Meeting a few times a year, the editorial committee establishes direction for each issue, by highlighting parish events that warrant coverage and by seeking to communicate important news about the parish with members of both the cathedral community and the broader community - both those around us locally and all who happen to pass through our doors. As articles are submitted, the committee goes over the submissions to edit them for grammar, length, and suitability.

One of the regular features of the paper are the photographs that grace its pages. Many of these are submitted by chairs of the various ministries and groups at the cathedral. Often we solicit special photographs of various parts of the cathedral building, and here we have been blessed by the talents of Dominic Tang and Albin Kmet, who have both supplied many photographs over the years, and who often photograph special events for this paper.

Currently, the editorial committee is in need of volunteers. This is a relatively "light" commitment, as the committee meets only a few times a year. As well, this is the type of commitment where one is able to help according "to one's abilities", by putting as much time into the paper as one is able.

If you are interested in assisting with Cathedral Connections by sitting on its editorial committee, please contact the parish office and we will get back in touch with you. New volunteers are greatly appreciated and contribute to the ongoing vitality of this publication.

Mark C. Ambrogio,
editor



June 29 is the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, one of the principal feasts in the liturgical year. This is the "patronal feast" of our cathedral parish (and of our neighbours, St. Paul's Cathedral).

St. Peter's

On The Web..

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

The web site can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.cathedral.dol.ca>

The Celebration of Holy Week at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica

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

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One Sunday a Month
2pm

MARRIAGES

Arrangements to be made one year in advance.

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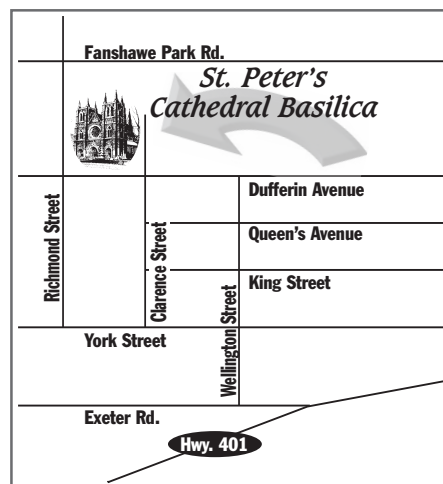
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 - 11.30am
Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm

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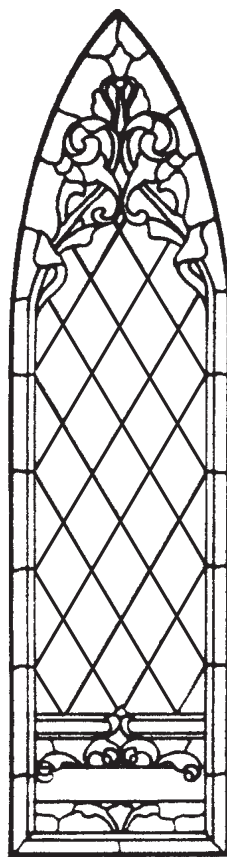
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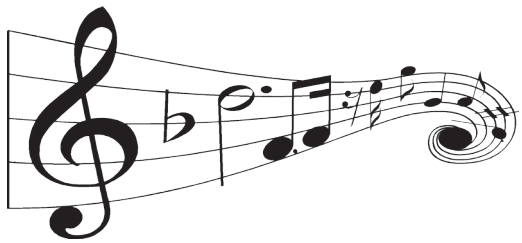
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Musically speaking....

Mass of Christ the Saviour

First of all, let me compliment all the parishioners of St. Peter's for your whole-hearted participation in the sung worship for our Liturgies. Your eagerness to pray in song helps to build a strong and united Christian community. As you are aware, it is a supportive gesture to have the person next to you joining in song or at least giving it an effort by opening the hymnal and praying the words. For the cantors, it is also wonderful to see that our efforts of song leadership are being responded to by cheerful and faithful participation. Isn't it great to feel like part of the action rather than a lone soloist in a pew?

Since the introduction of the new translation of the Mass, we have been using the Angeles setting in combination with the Alonso Gloria. These Mass settings were recommended for use by the Diocesan Music Committee. Recently, this same Committee reviewed several other Mass settings in order to recommend one that parishes would also be comfortable using. The result was the Schutte Mass of Christ the Saviour.

Dan Schutte, a former member of the St. Louis Jesuits, is a seasoned composer with a great output of Liturgical song, e.g. Here I am Lord, City of God, Blest be the Lord, Only this I want, etc. In August, 2014, Mr. Schutte gave a concert at Kings College, followed by a workshop the next day, where he previewed his Mass setting. At that time Father Michael Bechard, Director of Liturgy, announced that the Diocesan Music committee had chosen the Schutte Mass to be used in the diocese as an alternative Mass setting.

In the last few months we have been gradually introducing the Schutte Mass. The musical setting is fairly easy to learn and the motivic continuity provides for unification, yet with some variety.

The composer explained his inspiration for this new Mass:

"For me it moves my soul to imagine that every time we celebrate Mass, it is Christ the Savior who stands there to pray with us, sing with us, proclaim the scripture with us, give thanks with us, and finally, share the meal of his own body and blood with us. The title Mass of Christ the Savior seemed most appropriate. The same image affected the way I approached the actual writing of the music. I wanted the music to be accessible to the Body of Christ gathered for worship. I wanted the beauty of the music to lift their hearts. I wanted the melodies to quickly and easily become like an old friend. I wanted the wedding of text and music to help people through the process of getting used to this new translation."

Thank you St. Peter's Parishioners for being willing to move with change, for being flexible and open to new music, whether it be Mass settings or hymns and for sharing your musical gifts with each other. If singing is praying twice, as St. Paul says, then you are truly a fervent committed worshipper.

Gloria Gassi, Director of Liturgical Music

YOUNG ADULTS FOR CHRIST (YA4C)

Summer Update by John Jardine

The summer has finally arrived after a long winter. Since Easter, there have been a lot of changes amongst young adults. The spring term has ended, exams have been written, and some are looking at what to do now that they have graduated. Many young adults have moved back with their families, have been travelling and enjoying their time off, or have decided to go elsewhere to further pursue their studies or work. We want to thank all who came out to our events and especially those who helped us throughout the year. We would not have been able to do everything without your help.

Whatever the reason for these end of term changes, the Young Adults 4 Christ are still active and wanting to help young adults to get to know each other, grow in their Faith, and to learn more about God and His Church. As such, we have some activities planned throughout the summer that we hope those who are in London or those who are visiting the Cathedral will come and attend.

We will continue with our regular events, which include weekly Adoration at 7:00 pm every Wednesday in the Marian side chapel of the Cathedral, as well as our Sunday Gatherings which will be happening the second Sunday of June, July and August in Room 105 within St. Peter's School (next to the Cathedral) at 1:45 pm. For the June and July Sunday Gatherings, we will be finishing the "Catholicism" series by Fr. Robert Barron. In August, we will be looking at another video by Fr. Barron called "Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues." We invite those who have not come out to Adoration or the Sunday Gatherings before to join us so that you can get to know other young adults, but more importantly to grow

deeper in our Catholic Faith.

As well, the Young Adults 4 Christ will be participating in a Soccer Tournament on August 9th against Catholic young adults from other parishes in the Diocese of London. Last year, we were up against some intense competition and we were a bit naive going into the tournament. This year we want to prepare by getting the team together beforehand so we can become acquainted, practise and train for the big day. If you are between the ages of 18 and 30 and are interested in coming to join us, feel free to let us know by email at ya4cstpeters@gmail.com. We hope that it will be a chance for you to get to know each other and have fun playing some soccer against other young adults in London.

If you want to learn more about the Young Adults 4 Christ at St. Peter's, please feel free to speak to Fr. Steny or email us at ya4cstpeters@gmail.com.

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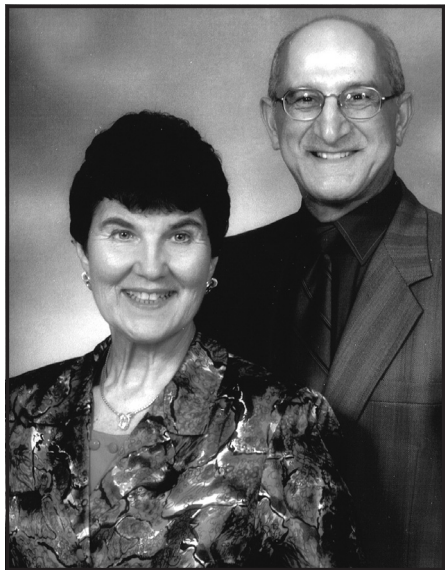
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THE AGE OF WISDOM: A Page Devoted to our Beloved Seniors

It is impressive to meet couples who face adversity, calmly overcome their misfortune, and continue with their lives in a meaningful and enviable fashion. John and Elsbeth Chidiac are one such couple. Only a few years after reaching retirement age, in 1996, John underwent quadruple by-pass surgery, but continues to live an active life. Each morning, he and his wife walk together for at least forty-five minutes through their pleasant subdivision in northwest London. In bad weather, they escape to their basement and share time on their treadmill and stationary bicycle.



John and Elsbeth Chidiac

Elsbeth had a long wait for surgery, and when it finally happened a magnet was implanted in her head that holds a miniature microphone, sound processor and transmitter system. A second implant closer to the inner ear consists of a receiver which receives signals from the first implant and sends electrical currents to the inner ear.

Hearing through a cochlear implant is different from normal hearing and requires time to learn and relearn. Elsbeth described how she continues to monitor her hearing effectiveness by playing an audio book, while at the same time reading a printed edition of that same book. She continues her role as a mother, grandmother and spouse in a sincere and welcoming manner.

Since moving to London in 2008, John has kept active with the Knights of Columbus and has just completed his three-year term as a trustee for the Council at the Cathedral. He calls on the needy as a volunteer with our St. Vincent de Paul Society, and continues fundraising on behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

John and Elsbeth met in Nuremburg, Germany in 1954, near the end of the Korean War. John was stationed there with the transportation division of the United States Army. Elsbeth was working with the European Exchange Division in the Palace of Justice. They met in a swimming pool usually off limits to American personnel, but John had a friend who somehow arranged for him to have access.

Elsbeth was born and raised in Germany but speaks English with what John insists is a Scottish accent, because her tutor was a Scot. John has traces of his New Jersey accent to this day, and jokes about the inability of New Jersey folks to pronounce "bottle" properly.

Although she was only about 12 and 13 in the final stages of the Second World War, Elsbeth has some recollections of that hostility. She lived in a small village and had to bicycle eight kilometres to school. The road



Teenage Elsbeth in centre with friends in Germany.

It wasn't many years after John's surgery that Elsbeth had her own health crisis, and it came suddenly. In a one-day period, her otherwise normal hearing rapidly deteriorated and she became totally deaf. (I couldn't begin to imagine the personal panic that would cause.) She had no hearing at all for two whole years. Her audiology assessment revealed that this was due to the condition of her cochlea (the medical term for the auditory portion of the inner ear.) Surgery for a cochlear implant was required for her to hear again.

alongside a railway track, and one morning a British fighter plane caught sight of a German supply train on the track and began shooting at it. Elsbeth literally threw herself

into a ditch to avoid being hit. On another day she and a couple of other students climbed to the top of a church steeple close to their school. From it they were able to see some of the German army near the town in one direction, and the American army around five miles away in the opposite direction. About 30 minutes after they climbed down from the steeple it was hit by artillery fire and demolished.

Because of the threat of aerial bombing, Elsbeth and her family slept in the basement of their home, and used sandbags to protect the cellar windows. She had the additional protection of sleeping in an old bathtub. One night there was a loud explosion close to their house and the sand bags were blasted into their cellar. When morning came, the family found a piece of metal had landed near Elsbeth's pillow.

Years later, the chance meeting at the swimming pool for Elsbeth and John proved providential. The two began dating and after about a year were engaged. John was then reassigned to New Jersey, where he returned to College and completed his Bachelor's degree, while Elsbeth immigrated to the U.S.A. and lived with John's parents. Because of her fluency in both German and English, Elsbeth quickly found employment with Lufthansa Airlines in New York City, where she worked as secretary to the chief accountant of that company for North America.

She and John were married in Patterson, New Jersey in 1957. They honeymooned in Germany where they had a second wedding ceremony and reception for the benefit of Elsbeth's parents. Her employment with the airline proved to be a real asset, since company policy allowed them to travel at 10% of the normal cost, as long as they travelled on standby.

"It was great", recalled Elsbeth. "We got \$600.00 first class seats for \$60.00."

John's transportation experience with the military and his College degree led him to senior positions with a number of international companies. His first was with International Minerals & Chemicals in Skokie, Illinois, so he and Elsbeth bought a home in Libertyville, north of Chicago.

Several years later he accepted a position with Fairbanks Morse Engines, a division of Colt Industries, in Beloit, Wisconsin. He then joined the Massey Ferguson group of companies, which prompted a move to the head office in Toronto. Working from there, he was assigned to projects in a number of countries including England, France, Switzerland, and the United States. John's role was to set up or improve distribution networks for subsidiaries of those companies with a view to improving both cost efficiency and service. He admits that it wasn't always an easy task, since the two are not often complimentary. While most of the projects would take a number of months, John was in the habit of returning home every two weeks to be with his family.

Prior to retirement, his final position was with Canada Wire and Cable, which shipped materials worldwide. Here he was faced with the logistics of numerous shipments to Cairo, Egypt for the construction of its subway system.

John and Elsbeth treasure their family. They have three children. Son Peter does research in pharmacology at Western University. Their daughter, Barbara, has two veterinary clinics in the Lake Simcoe area, while Gerald teaches school in Prince George, British Columbia. They are equally proud of their eleven grandchildren.

John's father was clearly his role model. He was a staunch



By Mitch Lenko



The Chidiac children. Barbara, Gerald and Peter - 1964.

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Journeying Together: Building Our Future

Update on the Strategic Planning Process

Wilma de Rond, Chair
St. Peter’s Strategic Planning Committee

On October 3, 2013, four parishioners met with Father Jim Mockler, a member of the parish team and a consultant to begin planning the future of St. Peter’s Cathedral. In eight short, but very productive months, we have actively involved thousands of parishioners in the plan including 800 who responded to a survey, some 75 who participated in workshops and focus groups and a core group of strategic thinkers who reviewed, discussed, debated and prayed about what we read and heard from fellow parishioners about the future direction of our parish. From this work, has come a draft Strategic Plan that was presented to parishioners at workshops on June 5 and 14 and was posted on the cathedral’s website. Here is a summation of that draft plan.

The surveys, workshops and focus groups identified that we value the following:

Our Liturgies	The witness and quality of the liturgies, music and homilies where we can worship in the presence of God, rejoice in the Gospels and regularly nourish our faith.
Our Sacred Place	Our worship space, its reverence, sacredness, location, artifacts and prayerful environment.
Our Diversity	The parish is strengthened by the diversity of cultures, ages, experiences and supports that contribute to the vibrancy and fullness of parish life.
The Engagement of our People	The significant contributions made by the lay people in ministries, and as volunteers and the leadership team who together contribute to the vibrancy, programs and life in our parish community.
Our Stewardship	We are stewards responsible for the exceptional history of the parish, the cathedral and the long term financial sustainability of our parish through our volunteering and financial gifts that sustain St. Peter’s for current and future parishioners and visitors.

Our vision for the future is to build a parish that celebrates our faith as we journey together experiencing the joy of the gospel. Our mission is to be a Eucharist community, inspired by the Gospel, committed to engaging each person in the joy of living in the service of Christ.

From the feedback from parishioners we also know we stand on the following principles:

Sacred Scripture	The power of the word of the Gospels in nurturing our joyful and faith-filled relationship with Christ and each other.
Forgiveness and Love	In the power of forgiveness and love in developing faith-filled lives and relationships.
Lived-Experience	Our faith being a lived daily experience to be shared and celebrated.
Invitational	Building a welcoming, diverse and dynamic Catholic community, open to and engaging of all people and supporting one another.
Respect and Compassion	Treating each person as an individual and with dignity, worthy of our compassion, trust and respect as the basis to build positive, faith-filled relationships.
Outreach	Reaching out to those in need and the disheartened, and to evangelize each day.
Witness	Challenging each person and our institutions to be increasingly relevant, supportive, nurturing, transparent and faith-filled.
Relevance	Creating a valued and faith-based community presence, that is open to change, fosters innovation and is increasingly relevant to our people and the communities in which we live.
Communicating	Effectively communicating to ensure that our community members are both informed and engaged in the life of the Parish.
Accountable	Being accountable to our members, our Diocese and our faith; acting responsibly as stewards; and ensuring integrity in all that we do.

Journeying Together: Building Our Future

Update on the Strategic Planning Process

Wilma de Rond, Chair
St. Peter's Strategic Planning Committee

From our values, vision, mission and principles, we have determined the following strategic Directions and priorities:

- Enriching our Lived-Faith Experience and Journey
- Continue to strengthen the quality and daily life connections of the liturgies, music, homilies and sacramental experiences.
- Ensure the cathedral remains a reverent, prayerful, safe and supportive home and gathering place.
- Provide diverse opportunities for members to learn about, grown and engage in their personal faith development.

- Fostering a Greater Sense of Community and Member Engagement.
- Develop enhanced communication plans and strategies that more effectively connect, through written, digital and other means, with members as a basis to inform them on and to invite them to increasingly participate in community life.
- Create social experiences that address the diversity of interests and perspectives of members, allowing them to meet one another, to contribute and to be more engaged.
- Develop specific initiatives that welcome and facilitate increased engagement with youth, young families, new Canadians and the growing downtown population.

- Reaching Out and Welcoming All
- 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 parishes 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.

- Being Responsible Stewards
- Through engagement and education, create awareness amongst our members of the importance of their contributions of time, talent and treasure in sustaining and growing a relevant faith community.
- Be wise stewards of our resources in building a growing and vibrant faith community for current and future generations of members.
- Continually recruit, develop and train our volunteers and staff to serve the evolving needs of our members, and the broader communities in which we live.
- Actively foster a community culture of innovation and collegiality that is always welcoming and supportive of change.
- Utilize our land and buildings to maximize opportunities to meaningfully serve and meet our changing and shared community needs.

The Strategic Planning Committee will now review the draft and the input received from two community meetings held on June 5 and 14, 2014. A revised plan will then be prepared a final and presented to the Parish Council for its review and then presented to the Parish Team. The final stage of this almost year long process will be identifying specific actions necessary to fulfill the strategic directions and implementation of the plan in September 2014.

St. Peter's Cathedral, Catholic Central High School and St. Mary Choir School...

Catholic lives are nurtured in the family of church, school and home. Over many decades, the close relationship between St. Peter's and two downtown schools, CCH and St. Mary Choir School, has enriched our celebrations and forged ties between the Cathedral and countless local families. One explanation for this closeness is geography – it is only four short city blocks between CCH and St. Peter's – but another is liturgy, and the particular role which music plays in Catholic worship.

CCH was the city of London's only Roman Catholic high school until Ontario's full-funding formula facilitated the building of John Paul II Secondary School and its successors (Regina Mundi College was, until the extension of full-funding, a private Catholic school). CCH remains the only high school within easy walking distance of a parish church large enough to hold its entire student body and staff for Mass, graduations, and public concerts. This happy proximity enables students to attend Mass at St. Peter's almost every month of the school year, including on Ash Wednesday, for the special Marian Mass in May, for a farewell Mass in June, and of course, for Graduation. It also enables priests from St. Peter's to visit CCH

easily. As it happens, that school is closer to Father Jim's home than is the Cathedral!

CCH is well known for its spiritual character, observes its principal, Mark Priamo: he accounts for this by describing the historic closeness between school and Cathedral. He draws parallels between the growth of his school and the changes which have taken place in Catholic London: as the local church has globalized, so too has the population of CCH. St. Peter's draws its membership from across many parish and municipal boundaries, while CCH offers Board-wide specialty programs in music, ESL, and the International Baccalaureate: these two Catholic communities are a reflection of each other, Mark maintains. Father Mockler agrees with him. He notes that while the Cathedral no longer has an elementary school within its parish boundaries through which families are drawn to sacramental preparation, St. Peter's nevertheless continues to reach many families through teen involvement at CCH.

Whatever their home parishes, CCH students belong in a special way to the Cathedral parish during their secondary school years, a relationship which can endure for a lifetime. The CCH football team attends Mass each morning before a game, sometimes in the school chapel, but often at St. Peter's. This longstanding practice is now becoming an important ritual in London's other Catholic secondary schools. Joe Denomme, the Cathedral's retired custodian, always maintained a productive relationship with his former school. Once, when the floor in the sanctuary needed refinishing, he recruited the CCH football team to assist him, giving each player a large square of marble and a toothbrush. Years later, one young man returned to have his marriage solemnized at St. Peter's, remembering the exact location of his marble square.

"The Crusaders" was once the name of the CCH football team, but now it is used to describe all school collectives. As the Diocese is engaging in spiritual renewal and small "e" evangelization, Mark Priamo encourages his CCH graduating class to be



... a liturgical community

crusaders in the world, to bring the spiritual truths they have absorbed beyond the family of school and church. It is a most worthy evangelical mission.

Making music has long been a strong educational mission of CCH. Many students from St. Mary Choir School proceed there after grade eight to continue instrumental and choral studies. Participation in school choirs, bands, and ensembles provides social and intellectual growth, travel opportunities, and prepares students for public performances and music festivals. CCH choirs offer liturgical leadership at St. Peter's for several Sunday Masses each year, allowing students to share their gifts with their families and our parish. Concerts held at the Cathedral provide an additional opportunity for some parents to remember their own experiences of making music here, and for others to see the historic bond between "mother school and mother church."

The close bond between the Basilica and St. Mary Choir School dates from the founding of the choir program at St. Peter's School in 1967. Monsignor Joseph A. Feeney, Cathedral rector from 1948 to 1967, and a great promoter of Catholic education and the arts, was then Secretary-Treasurer of the London Separate School Board. With the blessing and financial support of Bishop G. Emmett Carter, the choir program opened with grades 5 and 6 in its first year, and then expanded to include grades 7 and 8. When the city and county Catholic school boards were amalgamated in 1969, the new board worked hard to ensure that the choir school welcomed students from across its larger catchment area. School choirs participated at some of the Cathedral's Sunday liturgies, and students were also trained as cantors. Eventually, instruction in string instruments and the performing arts was added to the curriculum. St. Peter's Cathedral and the Choir School were nurturing a new generation of liturgical musicians.

The dramatic growth in those attending CCH in the 1970s forced the new London & Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board



to repurpose St. Peter's School as an overflow for CCH, and to move the choir program to St. Mary School in 1979. This changed its relationship with the Cathedral, as its home parish was now St. Mary's Church next door on Lyle Street. School choirs continue to assist at liturgies at St. Peter's several times a year, but do so at other Catholic parishes in the city as well.

The recent strategic planning process at St. Peter's enabled our parishioners to again articulate how much they value the "the witness and quality of the liturgies, music and homilies" at the Cathedral. Church musicians know that the gifts they bring to community worship are always a work in progress, that they are always learning more about their musical craft and about the spiritual truths imbedded in the liturgies they interpret. That our three Cathedral choirs share these gifts with choirs from CCH and St. Mary is witness both to our historic relationships and also to the centrality of music in Catholic worship.

Hilary Bates Neary





Since the last issue of Cathedral Connections, the Knights of Columbus held two large successful events, namely the “Evening In Italy” spaghetti night on April 5, and the John McDermott concert in the Basilica on May 6, 2014.

Our Evening In Italy was filled with fun, and lots of delicious food prepared by our members. The Strollers provided great music to an appreciative crowd. We had two sittings at 5:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. Not one left feeling hungry.

John McDermott was able to please his audience with background stories to his songs, and of course, his wonderful singing. People attended from London and many out-of-town places, and thoroughly enjoy the very entertaining evening.

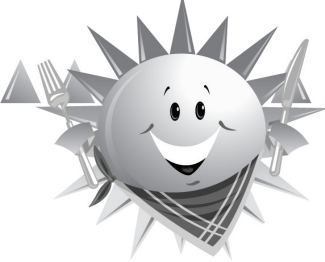
On June 7, we hosted a breakfast for St. Peter’s Confirmation class. During the summer months, the Knights will be holding the annual Golf and BBQ social on July 5th. We will also be helping Mount Hope nursing home by volunteering with their fund-raising BBQs during June, July and August.

A new executive has been elected for the fraternal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. These men know the importance of reaching out to the community, to those in need, and to the Church. Their dedication is very much appreciated. When you give willingly, you receive back far more than you give – this is one good reason men 18 years of age or over should join our Knights of Columbus council.

For further details on joining the Knights, please contact Grand Knight Larry Barrett at larrybarrett@sympatico.ca or 519-657-0819 before 1 July: thereafter please contact the new Grand Knight, Sam Circelli at 519-657-0220, or samcircelli@hotmail.ca



Smiles From Seniors



Smiles From Seniors

"I offer my opponents a bargain: if they stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them!"

~ Adlai Stevenson, 1952

"If God wanted us to vote, he would've given us candidates."

~ Jay Leno

THE AGE OF WISDOM: A Page Devoted to our Beloved Seniors - continued

continued from page 5

Christian who emigrated from the City of Aleppo in Syria. That country was once a stronghold of Christianity in the Middle East, and is the place where St. Paul found his faith. When he came to the USA, John’s father was unable to find work and started his own textile business. It was wiped out in the depression of 1929. He then took a job as a weaver, and raised eight children in spite of the difficult times.

“He was an exceptional weaver”, said John. “He could run eight looms at a time. Even if he fell asleep, he would wake up instantly if a string on one of the looms broke loose. Besides that, he was smart and could speak seven languages. When I walked down the street with him, he would speak to many people in their own language.”

A question frequently asked in this column is why parishioners chose the Cathedral as their home parish. This time, the answer was unexpected.

“We came because of the sound system,” both agreed. “We checked out many other churches in London including those in con-



John and Elsbeht with children and grand children - 1995.

vents. We could hear best at the Cathedral and always try to find a seat in front of one of the speakers.”

I am pleased that our church spent the necessary funds a few years ago to upgrade our sound system. It brought John and Elsbeth Chidiac to St. Peter’s Cathedral, and they are a most welcome addition to our faith community.

True Stories Submitted by our Parishioners who Remain Anonymous

My cousin is a missionary nun working in one of the poorest villages in southern India. Almost every second year, my husband and I would visit her there and she would tell us about her work, describing the poverty common in the slums of that country.

When we visited in 2002, she invited us to join her to see some of the suburbs of Bangalore, where she was working with the poor. There was one family in particular that she wanted us to meet. Previously they had lived in one of the ramshackle dwellings all too common in that part of the city. These were small rooms, sometimes built of cardboard or sheets of tin, or of whatever materials could be rummaged from the local dumps. Most had dirt floors and no windows. It was squalor unlike anything that we had ever seen before.

This family of six had lived in such a home. But about a month before our visit, it had burned to the ground from a fire started when one of the children was cooking a meal on a makeshift cook-stove. The family had lost all their possessions and were now homeless, living out in the open. If it rained at night they would sleep huddled together under a tree in an attempt to stay warm and dry.

Their supply of water came from a municipal pipe used by the whole community. No one in this impoverished area had the luxury of indoor plumbing. The water came directly from a nearby river without any purification system. Without the privacy of shelter, the family - often while partially clothed - would bathe at night in the river, and then fall asleep in wet garments.

The eldest child was a married daughter in her mid teens. She was pregnant, and had returned home to stay with her mother pending the birth of her first child. It was common practice for first-time mothers to return to their parents' home in the final stages of the pregnancy. The three younger children ranged in age from five to twelve. The family could not afford books for schooling, so the children roamed the streets and begged when strangers happened through their neighbourhood.

The mother worked each day as a cleaning lady; her meagre income at least provided rice and lentils for the family. The father had a drinking problem that prevented him from securing meaningful permanent employment. When in a drunken state, he would often beat his wife, not an unusual occurrence for some families in India, according to my cousin. In spite of all these challenges, the family stayed together and somehow managed to eke out a living, but just barely.

"They desperately need a house," my cousin sighed. "But we are a missionary order bound by a vow of poverty. We have no money to give them for rent, let alone for building a home."

I asked: "How much would you need to build one?"

"About 250,000 rupees," my cousin replied.

"That's a lot of rupees," interjected my husband, "about five thousand dollars Canadian."

"We don't have that kind of money." This time I sighed.

"I know," said my cousin, "but if you are aware of any people, or group of people, who could help, please try." I quietly agreed.

The picture of that homeless family sleeping under a tree in the rain gnawed at me for the balance of our visit.

I wanted to help but just didn't have enough disposable income. My service business was doing reasonably well, but it was only with the addition of my husband's pension income that we were able to maintain a reasonably adequate life style.

Nonetheless, before leaving India I did have a plan and I told my cousin what it was. I had recently quoted on a contract for \$25,000, and if my bid was accepted there would be sufficient income after all expenses for me to send my cousin the \$5,000 required to build a house for the homeless family. I made that promise to my cousin and made the same pledge to myself. My cousin said she would pray that I would be successful in my bid, and I agreed to do the same.

I have never underestimated the power of prayer, and within a month of my return to Canada I received notification of my successful bid for the contract. Immediately I sent word to my cousin, and two months later I was able to send her religious order a cheque for \$5,000 to build the house. Within two more months the house was completed. The homeless family would no longer be required to sleep outdoors under a tree when it rained. They had a home again.

A year later we were once more able to visit my cousin in India. She took us to see the house was built from the funds that we had provided. As we approached, the family all hurried towards us with their palms and fingers together in the traditional Hindu fashion of greeting friends known as "namaste." We were welcomed into their new home.

It was only a two-room building with walls of cement and a floor made from a local red concrete mix. A curtain separated one corner of one room. There were windows, and a door that could be locked to give them privacy and security. The roof didn't leak, and the meagre items of furniture included one chair. A small portable stove, using scrap wood for fuel, heated their water and food. Water still had to be carried from the community pipe. But for them, it was a dream home!

There was one unexpected feature. On one wall, we were surprised to see a photo of my husband and me. It had been given to them by my cousin. We were told that each morning, every member of their family would look toward the photo, place their palms and fingers together, thank us for the gift of their home, and say a pray to their Hindu deity for us. My eyes welled up with tears of happiness when we heard that, as they do every time I recount this story.

Editorial comment:

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

***"If we see someone who needs help, do we stop?
There is so much suffering and poverty and a
great need for good Samaritans."***

Pope Francis via Twitter, December 9, 2013.

continued from page 1

Newark, was the first Catholic organization to develop a diocesan-wide, parish spiritual renewal and evangelization process. The process, named RENEW, was aimed at revitalizing parish life in light of the mandates of Vatican II. It soon spread and other diocese in the United States, Canada, and around the world began to implement it. To date the RENEW process has touched the live of over 25 million individuals in church communities in 150 United States diocese, 130 world wide, and across six continents.

At the very core of the RENEW process is the formation of small communities and the sharing of the Word of God in a way that encourages and facilitates connecting faith and life. In the midst of our increasingly individualistic and secular society and culture, these small communities continue to enable their many participants to come together to be better hearers and doers of God's word. The mission statement of RENEW summarizes the core principles that guide their efforts: "RENEW international fosters spiritual renewal in the Catholic tradition by empowering individuals and communities to encounter God in everyday life, deepen and share faith, and connect faith with action.

From 2011-2014, over 300 of our parishioners participated in the ARISE Together in Christ process of spiritual renewal. The process guided the participants through five distinct periods of time (called seasons) each of which lasted six weeks. Each season engaged the entire parish in a developmental progression of Gospel themes: Encountering Christ Today, Change Our Hearts, In the Footsteps of Christ, New Heart, New Spirit and We are the Good News. These seasons took place in the Fall and Lent beginning in Fall of 2011.

Last November, brought the conclusion to the process with the completion of Season Five. The process was enriching to many people's faith, brought groups of parishioners together who may not have ever had the opportunity to meet, and inspired and challenged each participant to live out the Gospel values in a real and concrete way. Through the small communities, the sharing of faith that occurred helped to make connections between faith and daily lives. Listening to one another share faith gave each participant a glimpse of someone else's relationship with God. Ultimately, it helped everyone to see how God is working in our lives, and in the world in our personal and collective call to holiness.

As the diocese begins a new cycle of pastoral planning this Fall, as detailed in Bishop Fabbro's pastoral letter on Pentecost Sunday, our focus will be on the New Evangelization. We have once again turned to RENEW International to assist us in carrying out our goal. Beginning in the Fall of this year, St. Peter's Cathedral along with over 50 parishes across the diocese will engage in a new process called "Why Catholic? Journey Through the Catechism". Catholics often face opportunities to share their faith with others, but lack the basic knowledge and confidence to do so. Why Catholic? has a rich scriptural and catechetical approach that gives a solid foundation for every Catholic to express their faith and be able to reach out to others in faith. Why Catholic? offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives. It explores the Catholic teaching with direct quotes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, scriptural references, and reflection questions covering the four themes of the

Catechism: Prayer, Belief, Sacraments, and Christian Morality. The process takes place over four years: six sessions in the Fall and six sessions during Lent of each year on each theme. Much like ARISE Together in Christ, the process occurs in a prayerful small faith sharing community setting that is a supportive environment for evangelization and adult faith formation.



*By Cathryn Hall
Pastoral Minister*

Why Catholic? Journey Through the Catechism will be launched in September. The first set of six week sessions on Prayer will begin after Thanksgiving. Currently a Why Catholic parish team is being formed and will be working over the summer to be ready for our September launch. If you are interested in getting involved in Why Catholic? please contact Cathryn Hall.

Ministry of Visitation Update

Our visits have begun! Some volunteers were able to begin sooner than others but every volunteer is now paired with one or more parishioners and has spent some time with that person. Some volunteers just bring Holy Communion; others just visit. Many do both.

The volunteers were invited to gather on Monday, June 9, to share their experiences. About twenty people assembled, including volunteers and Steering Committee members. Volunteers were first invited to speak of the positive aspects of their visits and to reflect upon what strategies contribute to a good encounter. It was generally agreed that, in addition to calling ahead to ensure that a visit is welcome, being an attentive and patient listener is crucial. Volunteers were also invited to raise any concern that they had, but so few problems had come to light that the meeting came to a close early. Nobody objected!

The Steering Committee is trying to ensure that visits will not be interrupted by the vacation plans of volunteers. We are asking them to let us know when they will be away and whether they are willing to substitute occasionally for another volunteer. We are fortunate to have some generous volunteers willing to do this.

The Steering Committee is restructuring itself slightly to ensure that no member carries a disproportionate share of the supervisory load. We are pleased that Caroline Carbone has agreed to join the Steering Committee to assist in our work.

Requests to add people to our list of those to be visited continue to come in. So we could really use more volunteers. Training is provided and the visits are no more than two hours (usually shorter) per week. Please consider assisting with this important ministry. Contact Susan Brown (519-438-7490 or sbrown@uwo.ca)

Many thanks

CWL UPDATE - 94TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

"We Have Seen the Lord – He Is In Us"

The CWL annual convention was held at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts overlooking the Detroit River in Windsor, Ontario on April 28th, 29th and 30th. The site provided a spectacular view of the Detroit skyline and traffic on the river itself. All meetings were held at the Centre, and meals were prepared and served by the culinary class studying there. The convention was well attended with representation from Councils across the Diocese.

The convention officially opened with Mass at Corpus Christi Church in Windsor on Monday afternoon. Mass was preceded by a procession of the Diocesan Executive, Life Members, and flags-bearers - Betty Anne Brown Davidson, National President, (Canadian flag); Betty Colaneri, Provincial President (Provincial flag); and Mary Jean Horne, London Diocesan President (CWL flag). Father Matt Kucharski (Diocesan Spiritual Advisor) was the celebrant, and several Episcopal Vicars concelebrated with him: Father James Roche, Windsor, Father Patrick Fuerth, Essex, and Father Eugene Roy, French Episcopal Vicar. Following the celebration of the Eucharist, greetings were extended by several dignitaries of the City of Windsor, the CWL President of Corpus Christi Church, a representative of the Knights of Columbus, as well as the National and Provincial Presidents. The convention was officially declared open.

Mass on Tuesday morning at the convention hall was celebrated by Father Kucharski. The keynote speaker for the morning was Betty Anne Brown Davidson, who described the work of the National Council and CWL councils across the country. Following lunch, the traditional and memorable "Crowning of Mary" procession formed, and gifts donated by councils were collected for Our Lady Of Guadalupe Home. Sister Linda Dube spoke about the recent opening of this home for unwed mothers and babies, and described its various facilities. She thanked CWL members for their generosity.

Wednesday, April 30th began with morning prayer: "Prayer of Gratitude for Gifts of God's Creation". Betty Colaneri, Provincial President, was the keynote speaker for the morning. The Diocesan election for a new executive was held, with council delegates and alternates voting. A program was offered for those members not involved in the election. Following lunch, Betty Colaneri and Lee Levergood shared their moving experiences on how "they have seen the Lord." The day ended with London Central Committee representatives extending a warm welcome to all delegates to attend the 2015 convention to be held in London.

The closing Mass was celebrated at St. Anne's Church, Tecumseh, by Bishop Fabbro. He was joined by many CWL Diocesan spiritual advisors. The new Diocesan executive was installed at this Mass.

Delegates then returned to the St. Clair Centre for the Arts for the closing banquet. Diners were greeted by the new executive, and enjoyed a delicious dinner. Another successful CWL convention came to an end.

Mother's Day

In celebration of the occasion, St. Peter's CWL held its 5th Annual Bake and Book Sale. There was much homemade baking to choose from, as well as a good selection of books for summer reading. Tickets were sold on a Mother's Day hamper filled with treasures that any woman would enjoy having. The winning ticket was held by Mitch Lenko, who told us that his wife, Kathryn, was delighted with the contents.

Proceeds derived from this sale as well as other fundraisers this year, such as the Christmas Bazaar, have been disbursed to the following charities: Daily Bread Food Bank, London

Abused Women's Centre, Boys and Girls Club Food Program, London Food Bank, Catholic Missions in Canada, London Area Right to Life, My Sister's Place, and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. These donations are in addition to our annual contributions to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, Women's Community House, Save-A-Family Plan, Mission Services and London Regional Mental Health.

Bursary

Applications are being accepted for two \$500 bursaries offered to qualified high school graduates. In addition to academic achievement, students must have participated in both school and parish services. Application forms are available at the welcome desk and the church office. Deadline for submissions is July 31st. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Bursary winners will then be notified, and their names published in the bulletin.

CLOSING POT LUCK LUNCHEON

In anticipation of the July and August recess, CWL members enjoyed a potluck luncheon on June 14th. Pins recognizing ten years of service were presented to Mickey Fursman, Nora Malicdem, Nuccia McGrath, Helen Montz, Dawn Munday, and Catherine Sexton. Sixty-year pins were given to Betty Janisse and Helen McLeod. Congratulations, and thanks for your years of service!

Special awards of gold Maple Leaf Service pins were also presented by Dora Dannecker to Julie Sans, President, and Jo Guth, Treasurer. A Maple Leaf pin is awarded to a member who has met the qualifications of service and has served the League in an exceptional and meritorious manner. A special thanks and congratulations to Julie and Jo for this achievement!

We wish everyone a safe and restful summer. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!

Banquet:

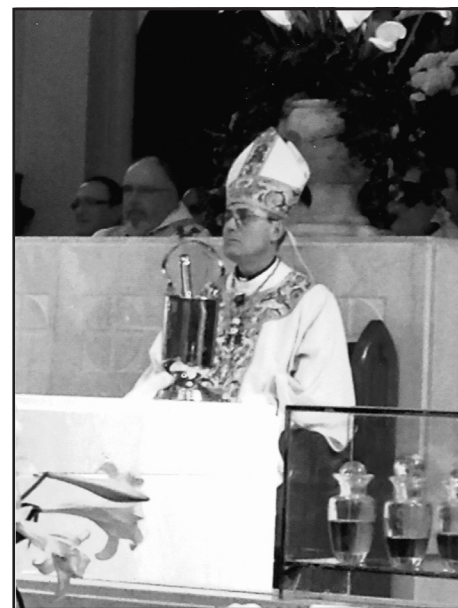


Father Jim, Jo Guth

*Cathryn Hall,
Dora Dannecker &
Father Jim*



*Julia Sans - President
Mary Quigley - Secretary*



*Bishop Fabbro at Installation
Mass, St. Anne's*

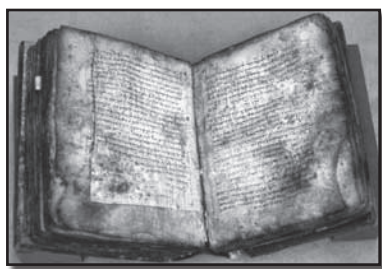
**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
is a lay Catholic organization
whose mission is "to live the gospel message by serving
Christ in the poor, with love, respect, justice and joy."**



In November of 2013, we learned that our Conference of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Peter's Cathedral is 150 years old! Imagine! This information came our way coincidentally in a request for information that no one here could answer...the date of our aggregation or founding. With no official document in our possession, we began the search. The definitive word finally came from the National Office of the Society. Our research indicates that the first Conference of the Society of

St. Vincent de Paul in London was functioning in 1863, prior to the official dedication of our Cathedral! Our present cathedral, built by Bishop Walsh, was dedicated on June 28, 1885. At a time in history when emancipation was an issue in the United States, when the Houses of Parliament in Canada had recently been destroyed by fire, when the Fathers of Confederation gathered at the Charlottetown Conference and Edison had just invented the light bulb, the Society looked to Paris to have their group of volunteers officially dedicated to the poor and designated as a Conference, Our Lady of London Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Peter's Cathedral.

As far as we know, our Conference never received an official Certificate of Aggregation, which established formal status. We began the process of acquiring this certificate in January of this year, and have been assured that one will come from Paris in a few months. Meanwhile, our Conference is preparing for a special anniversary event to be held this September and October. Recent visits to the archives of the SSVP Society, the Seminary Library and the London Public Library in search of historical information provided only a few traces of our existence and very little information about our Conference. Fortunately, we discovered parish records in the Diocesan Archives, which provided information in old announcement books and bulletins. From 1872 to 1910, announcements to be read before Mass were handwritten by the pastor in simple notebooks. Later, they were typewritten in bulletin format similar to the present style.



From these simple notes came some interesting insights into the functioning and practices of the parish and our SSVP Conference. Considered over time, and related to the purpose of the Society, its charism, its functioning, its relationship with

the Church, and the impact of its service to the poor, they are an intriguing source of information and the foundation of an interesting story we wish to celebrate with you during our celebration in the fall.



The charism of the Society as described by its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam states, "...our guiding rule should neither to force ourselves on the public gaze nor to conceal ourselves from those who wish to find us. Good works speak for themselves." The reason for the founding of the SSVP was Ozanam's concern for the state of the poor in Paris some 181 years ago. While sharing his concern for their wellbeing

with his fellow students, Ozanam was challenged to prove his belief in Christ by his actions and not just his words. He based his work on the premise that "Christianity is not about ideas, but about deeds inspired by love." Adopting as their patron, Saint Vincent de Paul, a 16th century priest known for his work with the poor, the Society developed from very humble beginnings into an international organization which is now found in 130 countries with approximately one million members.

The operational foundation for the Society's work using home visits was established with the direction of a Daughter of Charity, Sister Rosalie Rendu. An attentive, listening ear and the mandate of providing service to the poor has lead Vincentians in many directions and to many types of service over the years.

The stories recorded in the announcement books and other sources reveal social conditions, the challenges, needs and living conditions of the poor, the resources available to bring them some assistance and comfort, and the functioning of the Conference at that time in our Cathedral history. One story provided information about a Vincentian considered to be a saint, a second told of the preparation of eight hundreds of jars of preserves for the poor by a committee of women, and a third described how pennies donated by the poor helped to pay for a holy water font for the chapel. Others gave accounts of the Golden Mass celebrated prior to Christmas in aid of the poor, and described the supervision of Ontario Conferences by the Children's Aid Society early in the last century.

As the history of our conference of SSVP unfolds and the date of our celebration approaches, we would like to share these stories with you in our bulletins, in Cathedral Connections and in displays on the day of our special Mass of Thanksgiving.

**Please join us in celebrating this very significant
occasion, the 150th Anniversary of our parishioners'
support of the poor and the needy in our parish
community, in conjunction with the
St. Peter's Conference of SSVP.**

**Details will be announced early in September.
Your financial and prayerful support of our work
for a century and a half have made significant
differences in the lives of our friends and
neighbours in need.**

**Blessings to you for your prayerful support and
donations for this important work.**



Our logo has the following meaning:

The *fish* is the symbol of Christianity and represents the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The *eye of the fish* is the vigilant eye of God seeking to help the poor in our midst.

The *crossing at the tail* represents unity among members and our union with the poor.

The *circle bounding the logo* signifies the worldwide stature of the SSVP, an international Society.

The words *serviens in spe* mean to serve in hope, the hope that comes from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Values

The mission of the Society implies that as Vincentians, we

- see Christ in anyone who suffers;
- come together as a family;
- have personal contact with the poor;
- help in all possible ways.

Hermaneutics: North of Franz Liszt and South of Gustav Mahler



by Herman Goodden

editor's note: Reprinted, with permission, from the January 16 edition of the London community paper The Yodeller



My friend Jane Loptson died in the hallway outside of her apartment at the Mary Campbell Co-op in the early afternoon of December 27th, on her way out to buy some groceries following a rough Christmas when she'd had more than her usual difficulty breathing. Jane would have turned 60 this April though no one expected her to make old bones, saddled as she was for nearly 30 years with multiple sclerosis which incrementally wasted her body away (the 1980s would've been the last time she weighed more than

100 pounds) and stripped away one physical faculty after another.

There was a major scare about four years ago when Jane was hospitalized with collapsed lungs. The doctors managed to (as she described it) kind of re-inflate one of them and glue it back to the inner wall of her chest but she was always weaker thereafter and had to haul an oxygen tank with her wherever she went and wear one of those nose clips that shoot oxygen straight into the nostrils. A friend and I took her to see Of Gods and Men at the Hyland and from inside her backpack about every 20 seconds or so her oxygen tank would make a little gushing noise that was only noticeable during quiet passages – of which that film, set in a monastery, had many.

I last visited her in late October after Sunday morning mass, helping to fix her incredibly wholesome lunch of salad, tea and a no-nonsense muffin and then cleaning up afterwards. She seemed in pretty good shape that day, jubilantly showing off a new treadmill that her neighbours had set up in her bedroom. This meant that no matter how much it snowed in the months ahead, she wouldn't have to struggle with her walker to navigate clogged and slippery sidewalks to keep up her exercise regimen.

The first hint I had that everything might not be hunky dory was after the mail came on Christmas Eve and I noticed that her Christmas card hadn't. Jane's cards were always on time and, as the most religiously fervent of all my friends, featured unapologetically Christian art and messages. I made a mental note to check in with her early in the New Year and see how she was doing. Then I got the awful phone call 72 hours later.

We attended South Secondary School in the late '60s/early 70's but I first got to know Jane well in the autumn of my 18th year when her boyfriend (and my best friend) headed off to India and asked that I drop in on her from time to time. She had a large circle of friends at that time and was heavily involved in various musical undertakings. She played piano well and guitar passably and even worked up some compositions of her own.

Somewhere around '73, '74 Jane went over to England to live and work, imbibing as much music and theatre as she could as well as other miscellaneous stimulants popular at that time and got more than a little strung out. She would disappear from the flat she was renting for days at a stretch and come back to her roommate with tales of meeting the Swiss psychoanalyst

Carl Jung on a bus and in a cemetery. Jane was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia and struggled mightily with that for the next 20 or so years.

Every fall as the anniversary of her father's 1976 death came around the hallucinations and voices would get particularly bad. She would try to shut them out and adhere to reality as best she could discern it but it became too much and she'd check back into the hospital for two or three weeks to ride out the worst of the storm. Late one Labour Day evening she was driving me out to my job and our car was passed by a bunch of high school kids decked out in grotesque masks, hanging out the front and back windows and gesticulating to people in the other cars. Jane's eyes darted to the left and she didn't say a word; just shifted them back to the road ahead and continued to drive as if nothing was out of the ordinary until I said, "It's okay, Jane. They really are there."

As someone who could bring such willpower to the very act of perception, Jane had a formidable work ethic and studied music theory and composition at UWO through the very worst period of her psychological turmoil, graduating in 1982 and then working as a piano teacher at a London conservatory and privately as well as continuing to write her own music. She eventually produced two CDs worth of original music, including two string quartets, works for smaller chamber ensembles and songs for which she set favourite psalms and religious poems. I wrote the liner notes for these albums which sold dozens upon dozens of copies (sigh) and she cackled with delight when she wanted to refer to one of them during a visit to my house and I pointed to the shelf and said, "I think you'll find yourself situated north of Franz Liszt and south of Gustav Mahler."

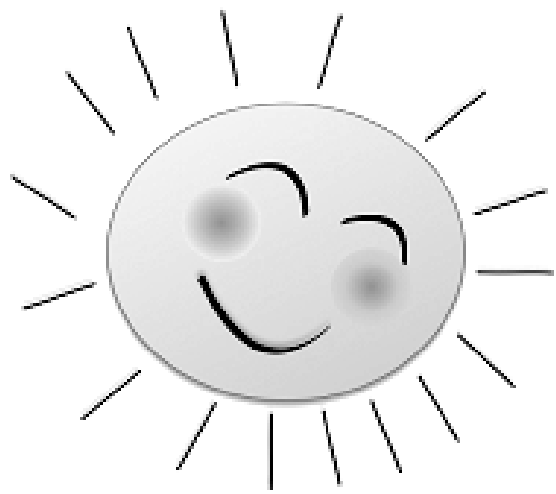
Like myself, Jane was always drawn to God and the church. She regularly attended Metropolitan United Church in the early '80s and, naturally, sang in their choir. Her deepest desire was to join the Catholic Church but she couldn't commit to the one year preparation course demanded of their members. **It was Jane who first persuaded me to check out a Catholic Mass one summer Sunday night in 1983 at St. Peter's Cathedral and was, I think, a little miffed when I signed up for instruction that night and joined the church the following Easter. She followed me in a few years later** (I was her sponsor) after the late Monsignor John O'Donnell let her forgo the classes and consulted with her one on one.

Once in, Jane became a super Catholic far outstripping me in devotion and commitment, praying daily with the Sisters of the Precious Blood and joining the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order. She found such peace of mind in the Catholic Church that she never again had to check herself into hospital for psychiatric care and never succumbed to despair or self-pity when Multiple Sclerosis was added to her woes. I occasionally found her a little judgemental and was ticked off when she refused to attend the reception after my Dad's funeral because we held it in a pub. But my rancour melted away when I discovered that she'd arranged for the Sisters at the Monastery to add my father to their prayers for the dead.

About an hour after I got back from her funeral on January 3rd – a thoroughly Catholic affair, as it should have been, but in which I struggled to get a sense of the person I missed – Jane's Christmas card showed up in that day's mail. So there she was after all.



Cathedral Word Puzzle



summer

Peter

Paul

grass

flowers

rain

Assumption

June

July

August

schools out

vacation

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