



# Diocese of Thunder Bay

## *Newsletter*



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Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1222 Reaume Street | P.O. Box 10400 | Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 6T8. | [www.dotb.ca](http://www.dotb.ca) 2019: Volume I

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## The “In Between” Times

Usually after the celebrations of Christmas and the beginning of a new year, things are rather quiet at the Pastoral Centre and in the Bishop’s office. Many priests are away for a winter holiday, so they can return for the season of Lent in their parishes, and the telephone seems rather mute many days. But because things might seem quiet, that does not mean that nothing is happening.

In January we celebrated World Youth Days in Panama, Central America. The theme was “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38) Pope Francis attended these special days, where he celebrated Masses, gave homilies and encouraged the young people from all over the world to join him in letting the world know about Jesus and how we can imitate Mary in her faithfulness and love. During Lent I hope to have some special sessions with young people in our diocese as we watch the main events of World Youth Days 2019 with Pope Francis and reflect on their meaning in our lives.

Continuing our discussion on young people, the Vatican produced the final document from the special Synod that was held in Rome last October on youth and our church and discovering their vocation. The document is a solid presentation of the issues discussed and shared at the Synod and it is available at the Vatican website. The document is divided into three sections:

*Part 1* “He walked with them” - helps young people see themselves and their place in the church today by examining relationships.

*Part 2* “Their eyes were opened” - discusses the mystery of knowing Jesus personally, and discovering what God is calling you to do in this world, discovering your vocation. It also discusses how we journey together and support one another and it notes the challenges of this new digital world in which we live.

*Part 3* “They set off without delay” - shares ideas on the missionary aspect of church, and how together, in our relationship with Jesus, we help to spread the good news of salvation to others in our daily lives. The importance of the family and spirituality are also noted in this chapter.

This document should help all pastors learning how to better minister to our young people and their needs in our church and world.

Also during this in between time, we are preparing ourselves for the next major spiritual season in our church, which is the season Lent. It is an important time for all Catholics and Christians, since Lent gives us the challenge and the time to look at our lives and our relationship with God and to see, in these special 40 days, what needs to change in our lives and behaviour in order that we better reflect the mercy and compassion of Jesus in our encounters with others.

Pope Francis in his lenten message stresses the importance of respecting all creation using this quote: “For the creation waits with eager longing, for the revealing of the children of God” Rom. 8:9. The pope also notes: “the “lenten” period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be “set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom 8:21).

Finally, as we leave the winter months and wait expectantly for the springtime and new life, let us give thanks, as Pope Francis encourages, for all of creation, beginning with the great gift of human life which we all share. Life surrounds us in so many ways, and the whole of creation cries out with life and with the glory of God. We share in that cry of life and glory for we are God’s children. May our lenten journey remind us of the great love God has for each of us and our sharing in that love with one another.

I wish to add a special thanks to all those who so generously contributed to the Annual Bishop’s Diocesan Ministry campaign last year. Your generosity helps me to keep that cry of life and hope alive in our diocesan Church.

God’s blessings to you all.

**THE MOST REV. FRED J. COLLI  
BISHOP OF THUNDER BAY**



## Lent: ONE Thing

“Write something about Lent”...that was my assignment. “That’s a no-brainer,” I thought. “I will whip something up about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving” ... the three pillars of every good Catholic’s Lenten journey, right? I always start off with good intentions on Ash Wednesday, or rather, lofty, unrealistic goals similar to midnight on December 31st. My New Year’s resolutions are already down the drain...all ten of them. Lent begins late this year, on March 6, 2019. I wish it started sooner so I could get back on track. I can still hear the words of Monseigneur Stilla at New Year’s Day Mass 2019, “Just do ONE thing; not ten, just one!” I should take his advice and apply it to Lent. He is a very wise man. However, here is an example of what goes on in my mind:

“For prayer, I am going to attend Mass daily; say the Liturgy of the Hours morning, evening and night prayer; a daily rosary for each child and one for priests; read Psalm 51 each morning; read the daily Gospel complete with Lectio Divina; and recite the Litany of Humility each and every day. Oh yes, how could I forget adoration? I will attend every opportunity there is to attend. For fasting, I will fast (bread and water only - none of this wimpy fasting) every Wednesday and Friday for a specific person or intention. On my non-fasting days, I will eat only three meals and no snacks. I will give up sugar, caffeine, gluten, dairy and meat. I will fast from social media, which will free up some time (hours) to complete my previous list of daily prayers. For almsgiving, I will ... hmmm. How can I donate my time, talent and treasure? With this pillar, the options do not roll off my tongue so easily, which probably means something. Free time is rare, perhaps non-existent, in the busyness of life these days, and I do not really want to donate it. My talent? What on earth is my talent? I don’t think I have one. My treasure, ouch. I really need to buy two chairs for my living room, and that pair of leopard print pumps I recently saw online at Nordstrom. I could resolve not to buy anything ... not one thing during Lent. Each time I go to buy something, I could put that

money aside to give to a charity. I need to do the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. What are they again?”



There you have it, my inner dialogue...not exactly St. Catherine of Siena! Did I mention the leopard pumps have a gold sculptured heel? I think for now I will stop having this one sided conversation with myself, and I will start spending some time in prayer asking God what He would like me to do for Lent 2019. I have found in the past that when I do this, I have a life-changing Lent. For example, the year I did one thing, one life changing thing ... daily Mass. My spiritual life changed forever for the better. Another year I wrote a letter each day of Lent to someone who had affected my life. In those letters I was thankful, grateful, loving, apologetic, but above all, I was humbled. Lent should not be approached as a self-improvement program (note to self), but rather to prepare us to celebrate the great mysteries of Holy Week. The prayer and penances of Lent help us to grow in charity by removing obstacles between God and ourselves. This Lent I am going to do ONE thing ... place myself at God’s disposal and see what He will do. His plan is always better than my own, no matter how elaborate.

**HANNAH HAY**  
**ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**  
**DIOCESE OF THUNDER BAY**



## Discovery Camp 2018

**D**iscovery Camp 2018, directed by Michael and Kali Brady under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, will never be forgotten by those who attended. It was a journey of hearts and souls to connect with the heart of Jesus, and we know that everyone left the camp changed.

Keynote speaker Chris Bray from London, Ontario called on the Holy Spirit at his first talk of the week to transform hearts. He did this with his spiritual music and heartfelt talks. Chris, father of five girls, touched the hearts of the youth as he sang some of his original songs written for his children. The youth were able to relate to his personal stories about life in a busy Catholic home.

Guest speaker Michael Chiasson again made it a priority in his busy schedule to come and share his testimony and spend time meeting new campers and checking how returning campers were doing in their spiritual walk. *"This camp has inspired me to continue through faith, even when times can be difficult and chaotic."* Michael shared his grief in the loss of his grand-father and then his father, all in one week. He witnessed how his faith in Jesus carried him through. Many youth have grandparents who have passed on and their hearts were blessed by Michael's courageous sharing.

Chris and Michael were a dynamic duo as they wrapped up the camp on Thursday, giving advice and wisdom to the campers as they prepared to return to their reality of home and school and peers.

The theme of the camp this year was "Making Order Out of Chaos." Jesus' mission on earth was to bring the order of redemption out of the chaos of the fall. The goal of the camp was to invite the campers into a relationship with Jesus, allowing Him to transform their chaos into a life gifted into Him.

The spiritual hub of Salt & Light Discovery Camp is the little prayer chapel centred at Sunny Cove on beautiful Rainy Lake. This beautiful chapel



is prayerfully directed by Barb Godbout. The blessed Sacrament is exposed all day every day and the

*"This camp helped my faith in God grow because I realized that 'things' won't make me happy, God will, and I know He will always love me."*

campers are encouraged to visit and pray in the peace and serenity of the Lord. Every year we are blessed by many parishioners from St. Mary Church who come out to pray for one or two hours for the grace and mercy of Christ to bless the campers. This prayer coverage protects everyone and brings a peace

to the camp that surpasses all understanding.

Over 50 staff gave up a week of work or their holidays to spend this week with the Lord and His precious youth. They came from Fort Frances, International Falls, Milton, Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Devlin, Terrace Bay, Emo and Sioux Lookout. We are grateful for their support and dedication. The Diocese was well represented and we pray more parishes will send youth next year.

A big thank you is extended to Fr. Alan Albao and Reverend Bishop Colli for their continued prayer and financial support. We also would like to thank the priests who took time out of their busy schedule to come for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Fr. Thomas Mullamangalam,

*"This camp helped me really open up and to trust that God will always be there when you need someone to talk to."*



Fr. Alan Albao, Fr. Alan Campeau and Fr. Chinonso Alaribe. This special Sacrament was the turning point of the camp, as always. The healing, forgiveness and grace everyone received changed the ambiance.

The food was delicious as always under the direction of Chief Cooks, Gemma Lamonato and Kim LePine, and their wonderful kitchen volunteers.

The camp was followed up by a well-attended youth Mass at St. Mary Church and a social and

*“I loved this camp so much. I’m going to go every year. It’s so much fun and you meet amazing people and it helps you grow in your faith in God.”*

potluck at the home of Barb & Vince Godbout on Rainy Lake.

It is evident that the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of the youth, as seen in the comments from the camp evaluations (see inserts), and that is what keeps the directors, staff and volunteers coming back year after year. It is so rewarding and fulfilling to be part of this amazing ministry.

**BETTY GRYNOL, STAFF  
DISCOVERY CAMP**



*A women’s Cursillo was held, October 11 to 14, 2018, at Eagle’s Nest on the shores of Lake Superior.*

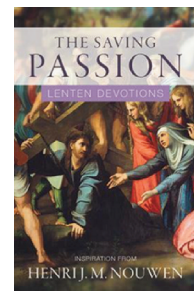
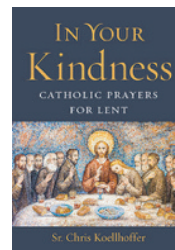
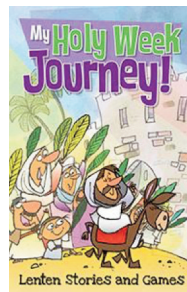
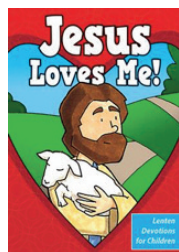
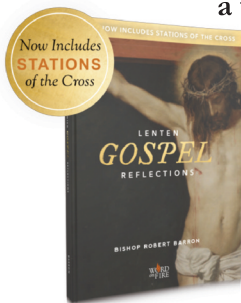
**Next Issue**

**Volume II 2019**

Please send news items and stories to [chancery@dotb.ca](mailto:chancery@dotb.ca)  
\*Please ensure that all images are sent in JPEG or TIF format

*Deadline for submissions:  
April 9, 2019*

**In stock at the Catholic Pastoral Centre:  
a variety of daily **LENTEN** meditations for all ages!**



## Looking Back: 1959

### Mayor Catherine Seppala, First Woman Mayor of Fort William



Photo by Harold Lockwood, Diocesan Archives

#### *Inaugural Meeting of Fort William City Council, January 1959*

**Centre:** Mayor Catherine Seppala, Rev. Reginald A. Carroll, Pastor, St Elizabeth Church, Fort William.  
**Right side** (councilors elected 2 December 1957): Herb Carroll, Gordon P. Dalzell, William ('Bill') Spicer, Rev. A. Norman Day, Mrs. Catherine Bishop, James Colosimo. **Left side** (councilors elected 1 December 1958): Alex Anderson, Alex Morgan, John Edward Young (resigned 17 February 1959; replaced by Alex Papeza), Ernest H. Reed, John Booth, Clarence Moores. **Former mayors** (to the right of mayor's chair): Hubert Badanai, Joseph (Jos) Cranford, Dr. Benjamin Hardiman, Gordon Carson.  
**Centre table:** Donald M. Martin, City Clerk. **At microphone:** Garfield Anderson (former mayor).

Catherine (Katie) Seppala rose to prominence in Fort William municipal politics during the 1950s. Born on 17 January 1909 in Fort William she was the third youngest in a family of fourteen children. Catherine was of Italian descent. She was baptized Catarina Cerva; the father's name was Luigi Cerva and he changed his name to Louis Jarvis. On 17 January 1924, she married John Emile Seppala in Fort William's St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church. They resided in Fort William's East End at 431 Southern Avenue. They had no children.

Prior to becoming involved in municipal politics Catherine Seppala volunteered in a host of organizations including the presidency of the Fort William Diocesan

Catholic Women's League (1957-1959) and the Fort William Red Cross. She served as a City of Fort William councilor for six years beginning in 1953 and was elected President of the Thunder Bay Municipal League in 1958, the first woman to hold that position in its forty-one year history.

The following year she ran for mayor of Fort William and won handily over three other candidates, becoming the first woman mayor of Fort William. In the second year of her term she resigned for health reasons. She passed away on 5 July 1975.

**ROY PIOVESANA**  
**ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN**  
**DIOCESE OF THUNDER BAY**



## Divine Mercy in Thunder Bay

In October 2001 I planned a trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz. Prior to the visit, I had never heard of the Divine Mercy of Jesus or St. Faustina. On October 7 at 4:30pm, after visiting Auschwitz, my English-speaking Polish friend guided me to the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, where St. Faustina lived and served. Here, I was introduced to the Divine Mercy of Jesus and St. Faustina.

In 1931, Sister Faustina, a Polish nun, received an image of Jesus and was instructed to proclaim the message of divine mercy to the church and to the whole world. Jesus said to her, "Paint this image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world. Have this image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter." This is the Sunday we now celebrate as the Feast of Divine Mercy.

I wrote in my diary, "I don't know if I am worthy of what I just experienced." I knew that I didn't possess the grace to understand or comprehend why I received such great blessings. On that trip, I came to understand that divine mercy was for the needs of those suffering from social and physical illnesses, as well as personal and spiritual warfare.

I prayed for divine mercy on behalf of sick souls in our community and in our diocese. I saw all of these illnesses through my position as a Justice of the Peace for Ontario and I discerned that divine mercy is what we needed for our entire community and diocese.

In 2010, with the approval of Bishop Fred Colli, I travelled to Poland with Deacons Armand Danis and Stepan Bilynsky. We arrived at the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy to officially receive and bring the relic of St. Faustina home to our diocese.

Since the introduction of the Feast of Divine Mercy to our diocese in 2011 and the presence of the relic of St. Faustina, seven different churches have hosted the Feast of Divine Mercy. In 2019, it will be celebrated at Holy Family Church.

Veneration and adoration of Divine Mercy with the relic of St. Faustina has been celebrated in several churches from Kenora to Manitouwadge. The veneration has also been brought to schools and senior citizen homes, as well as to the sick and dying.

Presently the Hour of Great Mercy (3:00 p.m.), which represents the passion of Jesus' death on the cross, is held every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at St. Anne Church.

Under the guidance of Bishop Colli, plans are underway for adoration and veneration of the Hour of Great Mercy to be offered and made available every Sunday on a rotational basis to each church where and when requested. The purpose is to provide the opportunity for your church members to collectively pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. At 3:00 p.m. both the image of Jesus and the relic of St. Faustina will be available for intercessory prayers for the sick and dying, family members in your church, and for our bishop and priests in the diocese.

St. Faustina was canonized by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000.

If you wish to have the relic of St. Faustina brought to your church, please call St. Anne Church at 807-622-8301, or Gene Bannon at 807-622-7369 or 807-474-9201. Security regulations are required by Bishop Colli when the relic is in your church.

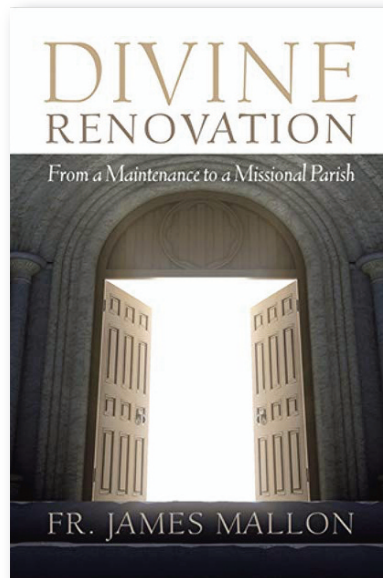
**GENE BANNON**  
**ST. ANNE CHURCH**  
**FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATIONS**



Diocesan Archives



## Available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre



*An engaging guide for parishes seeking to cultivate communities of discipleship and vibrant, dynamic faith.*

Highly acclaimed for his work with parish renewal and the New Evangelization, Fr. James Mallon shares with us the many ways for bringing our parishes to life. Through humorous and colourful stories, Mallon challenges us to rethink our models of parish life, from membership-based communities to assemblies of disciples of Jesus who proclaim and share the good news with all peoples. Accessible and engaging, *Divine Renovation* turns to the Church's many writings on evangelization and mission so as to articulate practical ways for injecting new life into our parishes. Pastors and parish ministers will be inspired by this book and turn to it for many years to come. This book is also recommended to all parishioners seeking to be effective in bringing their parishes to life.

Fr. James Mallon is one of the keynote speakers at the 2019 New Evangelization Summit, which takes place May 4, 2019 in Ottawa. The Summit is being livestreamed to locations around the globe, two of which are located in our diocese: St. Martin's School in Terrace Bay, and St. Agnes Church in Thunder Bay! More information about the 2019 New Evangelization Summit to follow over the coming weeks. To register for this free event, visit [newevangelization.ca](http://newevangelization.ca).



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