



# Diocese of Thunder Bay

## *Newsletter*

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1222 Reaume Street | P.O. Box 10400 | Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 6T8. | [www.dotb.ca](http://www.dotb.ca) Spring 2017



Courtesy L'Osservatore Romano

*Pope Francis stands with the Most Rev. Fred J. Colli, Bishop of Thunder Bay wearing the stole created by Grace Esquega and Sarah Matasawagon of Kateri Parish in Thunder Bay. The stole was presented to Pope Francis on behalf of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.*

## A Very Memorable Trip

During the month of April I visited Rome for my 'ad limina' visit with the other bishops of Ontario. The 'ad limina' visit is required by bishops in order to make a report to Rome and to the Holy Father about the situation of the local church in their diocese. I gave a report for Thunder Bay Diocese. The weeklong visit was a busy time. We attended sixteen meetings and made reports to the different Congregations and Commissions. The topics included Catholic Education, Priesthood, Missionary activities, Celebration of the Mass and Sacraments, the Law of the Church, Inter religious Dialogue, the Role of Bishops, Consecrated life, the New Evangelization etc. These Congregations and Commissions listened to our concerns and shared insights into how these topics relate around the world and what advice we might share in responding to their challenges. The highlight of the week was our meeting with Pope Francis, who spent two hours with us in dialogue and sharing.

The Holy Father was most welcoming and compassionate as we shared ideas and concerns with him. We discussed ministry to Youth, Catholic Education, the role of Religious communities and the new groups and associations forming in the Church. We noted the challenge of physician assisted suicide in our health care system, the important ministry to our aboriginal peoples, the impact of the Year of Mercy for prayer. Pope Francis told us not to forget our primary mission as bishops, which is to pray for our people and to preach the Gospel message of Hope and Mercy. He greeted us with much kindness and encouraged us, as brother bishops, to be strong and yet merciful leaders. He was most grateful for the beautiful stole that we presented to him on behalf of our First Nations people of Thunder Bay and Ontario. I considered it a great honour to meet personally with Pope Francis and to share information with him.

Also during this visit we celebrated Mass in the four main basilicas of Rome — St. Peters, St.

Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul outside the Walls. Each visit and Mass was to strengthen us spiritually and to guide us in our work as bishops in the Church. The purpose of the 'ad limina' visit is not just to make reports but also to renew ourselves spiritually, especially at the tomb of St. Peter, the first bishop and Pope.

After our week of meetings, we spent two days in Assisi in prayer and careful reflection on our week together and on our discussions and sharing. We asked St. Francis and St. Clare to intercede for us in our prayers and to strengthen us in our spiritual lives as bishops.

This visit which bishops from all over the world make every so many years to Rome, is an important time for us to share our ideas of pastoral work as bishops and for a better understanding of our responsibility of leadership in the Church today. It is a renewal for us, of our call to the episcopacy, and our sharing in the work of Pope Francis in leading God's people in the Church. The 'ad limina' visit requires work, but it is well worth it.

The Pope also encouraged us to invite our people in every parish to make sure we are welcoming and prayerful parish communities. Through welcoming and dialogue, through sharing and acceptance, we are able to build a stronger Church in the name of Jesus, and each of us shares in that responsibility through our Baptism and Confirmation. He also noted, as did the Congregation for the Sacraments, how important it is for us to attend Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist to nourish us in our faith journey. I bring these messages of hope to all our people in our diocesan family, and I know that Pope Francis prays for us, as we in turn pray for him in his work and ministry. A Very Memorable Trip

**BISHOP FRED COLLI**







*On a regular basis, the bishops from around the world travel to the Vatican for ad limina visits with the Pope. On April 22, Ontario Bishops met with Pope Francis. In this photograph, the Pope welcomes the Most Rev. Fred J. Colli, Bishop of Thunder Bay. This was Bishop Colli's third ad limina visit — he met in 1999 with Pope John Paul II, in 2006 with Pope Benedict, and in 2017 with Pope Francis.*



*The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario gather around Pope Francis during their ad limina visit on April 22. Bishop Fred Colli stands in the front row third from the left of Pope Francis.*





## Easter Celebrations — Chrism Mass and Holy Saturday



Diocesan Archives

*Bishop Colli, assisted by Father Victor De Gagné, Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, blesses the oil of the sick brought to the altar by Deacon Etienne Roussel and Minister of Service Beverley Proctor during the Chrism Mass on April 6 at St Patrick's Cathedral.*



Diocesan Archives

*Father Maurizio Maifredi, c.s., Pastor of St Dominic Parish in Thunder Bay, welcomes Waqqas Atcha into the Catholic Church prior to his baptism and confirmation on Holy Saturday, April 15. Standing with Waqqas is his sponsor Lori Racco.*







*Priests and Deacons from across the Diocese assemble in the sanctuary of St Patrick's Cathedral in Thunder Bay to concelebrate the Chrism Mass with Bishop Fred Colli on Thursday, April 6.*



*Rev. Mr. Larry Kurec presents Holy Chrism Oil to Bishop Colli.*

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**Send news items and stories  
to:**

**[chancery@dotb.ca](mailto:chancery@dotb.ca)**



## New Evangelization Summit — Schreiber and Terrace Bay



*The New Evangelization Summit is an annual two-day, Ottawa-based conference. It brings together Catholic leaders and public speakers to provide inspiration, practical wisdom and resources on how Catholics can effectively live and share the gift of faith. This year, the Summit was held on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13, and was live-streamed to over 30 host-sites across North America and beyond.*

*The parish communities of **St. Martin of Tours, Terrace Bay**, and **Holy Angels, Schreiber**, were honoured to co-host this event locally, a first for the Diocese of Thunder Bay. The Summit was live-streamed to the host site of St. Martin of Tours School, Terrace Bay. Over 100 delegates from parishes along the North Shore and from the city of Thunder Bay gathered to be inspired, informed, and connected.*

*Presenters included Peter Herbeck of Renewal Ministries, Meghann Baker of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Michael Dopp, founder of NES, Patrick Sullivan of Evango Catholic Ministries, Tom Corcoran and Fr. Michael White, coauthors of Rebuilt, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, and Bishop Robert Barron, of Catholicism fame. One participant said attending the Summit was “like receiving a booster shot of faith.” Others called it “inspiring”, “uplifting”, and “encouraging.”*







*The two-day gathering concluded on Saturday evening with an evening Mass at Holy Angels Church, Schreiber, celebrated by Fr. Terry Sawchuk. Assisting in the sanctuary were Deacons Dennis Visintin, Dave Dupius, Frank Beck and Dennis McDermott.*

*Following Mass, a dinner, fittingly called the “Feast of Faith” was held at the Schreiber Recreation Centre. Over 200 people enjoyed a wonderful meal which was prepared with loving expertise by parishioners of Holy Angels. Lively entertainment provided by the Cedar Valley Band had toes tapping and hands clapping.*

***Plans are already underway for next year’s New Evangelization Summit - Friday, April 27-Saturday, April 28. Save the date! To learn more, visit [www.newevangelization.ca](http://www.newevangelization.ca) .***





## St Benedict Mission Church Restoration by Knights of Columbus Council 15995



*The Knights of Columbus Council 15995 has completed its Catholic outreach project of restoring and painting St. Benedict's Mission Church on Highway 61. All of the work was done with K of C volunteers and the cost of the project was paid for with fundraiser events held by our council over the past year, as well as a generous donation from the Sherwin-Williams paint store in Thunder Bay.*

*May the community continue to worship in this beautiful and historic chapel for many years to come.*

*Mike Meady, Grand Knight  
Father François Maynard Council  
St Peter's Church.*

