



Diocese of Thunder Bay

Newsletter

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1222 Reaume Street | PO Box 10400 | Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T8 | www.dotb.ca

Fall 2017



His Eminence Cardinal Lacroix concelebrates the Opening Mass for the Provincial Catholic Women's League Convention at St. Dominic Church on Sunday, July 9, 2017 with Bishop Fred Colli and (l-r) Fr. Greg Bonin (London, ON), Msgr. Pat Stilla, Fr. Richard Kowalchuk (St. Catharines, ON), Fr. Maurizio Maifredi, Fr. Luigi Filippini, and Fr. Justin Eze. This Mass was celebrated for the intentions of the living and deceased members of the CWL of Ontario and their Spiritual Advisors.

Sharing Many Colours

With the coming of the fall season and the fall colours, we know that for each of us it seems like the beginning again of our year, with the opening of schools, the start of many meetings, and the setting of routines for household situations. We give thanks for the experiences we have shared this summer, and now we ask the Lord to guide us into the fall and winter months with all that we are called to do.

I wish to share with you some important experiences that touched my life as the bishop of the diocese and also to suggest some directions for our future growth as a family of faith in northwestern Ontario.

As I noted in a previous newsletter, my visit with Pope Francis in April of this year was probably the most notable event for my year. He encouraged us as bishops to pray with our people and to preach the Gospel with enthusiasm and joy. He also encouraged us and our diocesan families to reach out to our young people, to listen to their concerns, to help them to see the face of Jesus in us, especially when they are in need. This visit to Rome and with Pope Francis has deepened my spiritual life and strengthened my commitment to serve our diocese generously, wisely and lovingly to the best of my ability.

With the coming of the fall season, I wish to thank my priests, deacons and lay persons who have been active in supporting the Bishop's Annual Diocesan Ministry Campaign. We started the campaign early this year, and it is hoped that many parishes will be able to finish their goals before December and the closing of the campaign at the end of the year. Your support for me and this campaign is essential for the ministry work in our diocese. Much of the money collected is distributed to special needs: to help struggling parishes, to assist families in need, to help in the education of priests and deacons, to assist university students with chaplaincy service, to reach out to the poor at the Dew Drop Inn, and to assist in diocesan works for the good of our faith family. Again, I wish to thank all those who contribute to this important campaign, and in particular to my priests who give me their support. I seek your generosity again this year.

The fall season also turns our eyes to school and the education of our children. This fall, the Ontario

bishops, in union with our many partners in Catholic education, will be holding a special symposium in Toronto examining Catholic education in the province of Ontario and how we can work together to build a stronger and more vibrant system for all our students and teachers. Catholic education has many challenges and has been with us in Ontario for over 160 years, educating thousands of students in the province. It is a vital part of the entire Provincial education system and we all must work together to preserve and protect this important ministry for our Catholic faith communities.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the many volunteers who assist in all our parish churches and organizations, sharing their talents and gifts. Many volunteers assist in parish liturgies and ministries, many bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, many assist in feeding the poor and needy at soup kitchens or with particular needs, many give of their time to reach out to our elderly people in homes and institutions. To all these volunteers I want to express appreciation for your dedication and generosity. You are many colours of kindness and love to so many people in our diocesan family and community, and your generosity and kindness is recognized and appreciated. Pope Francis encourages us to always see ourselves as a family, helping one another, supporting one another and linked to one another through the Lord Jesus. Family is at the very heart of society.

May our work in the upcoming months lead us to a greater awareness of our vocation as a Christian as being one who is called by the Lord to bring His love and compassion to all whom we meet, especially to our sisters and brothers in need. May our many colours of kindness illuminate the society and the world around us.

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



Catholic Women's League Diocesan Convention, May 2017

Inspired by the Spirit: Responding to God's Call

The 64th Catholic Women's League Diocesan Convention was held on May 5, 6, and 7, 2017 at St. Margaret's Church, hosted by St. Margaret's CWL Council. The convention began Friday afternoon with a workshop, "Joy Journey", facilitated by Life Member June Meady while the executive attended the pre-convention meeting. The meeting included the elections for the Provincial Elected Officers and the instructed vote will be taken to the convention by our new Diocesan President, Mary Wilson, who will vote on behalf of the members in the Thunder Bay Diocese.

Bishop Colli celebrated the opening Mass concelebrated by Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Jerin Louis and council Spiritual Advisors. Greetings were brought by city dignitaries; Knights of Columbus; Bishop Colli; Father Jerin Louis, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor; Father Ciaran Donnelly, Spiritual Advisor host council; Provincial Council Representative, Colleen Martin; Host Council President, Marlene Pavletic; and Diocesan President, Alice Uvanile. Dinner for delegates and Spiritual Advisors was held in the church hall following Mass.

The business sessions were held on Saturday, starting with morning opening prayer and reports from council presidents, a Life Member report from June Meady, as well as a report from the Spiritual Advisors' dinner. The new theme for the next two years is: "Inspired by the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call". Msgr. Pat Stilla gave a wonderful talk on the theme using the lives of women saints and how they responded to God's call. He encouraged us to use them as a model. Our second facilitator was Provincial Representative, Colleen Randall, Education and Health Standing Chair, who gave a talk on mental health with the focus being autism. Life Members, Liz Bortolussi, Colleen Martin and Sandra Wieckowski, gave an interactive workshop on "Our Changing Times". This workshop was in regards to changes that will be taking place in the League. Dialogue and ideas were given by the delegates as to what changes they would like to see (what works, what doesn't work). Joleene Kempe talked to delegates regarding the upcoming Provincial Convention being held in Thunder Bay on July 8-12,

2017 at the Victoria Inn. Joleene gave highlights of the convention and identified areas still needing member support. Mary Jo McDermott informed us of Rachael's Vineyard and how the CWL can support this organization. The delegates later enjoyed a banquet at the Italian Hall.

On Sunday, the elections for the Diocesan Elected Officers were held, and we are very happy to report that we have a full slate of officers for the coming two years! These women truly responded to God's Call and we are grateful to them!

The convention was attended by approximately 140 delegates. It is our hope that they will continue their work for God and Canada by being "Inspired by the Spirit: Responding to God's Call" and "DO IT WITH JOY!!"

ALICE UVANILE

PAST DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



Quilts made by the councils for Palliative/Hospice Care were judged and the winning quilt was one made by the members of Couchiching Council, Our Lady of Lourdes. This quilt will be taken to the Provincial Convention and put on display with one quilt from each of the other twelve dioceses in the province. They will be judged and the winning quilt will go to the National Convention in Prince Edward Island in August.





A concert titled "Singing Through the Seasons" was held at St. Agnes Church on Friday, June 2, 2017. Organized by Rachelle Paquette, St. Patrick High School volunteer choir director, the concert also featured: the (St.)PJPII choir, under the leadership of Carla Fazio; the St. Agnes parish choir, under the leadership of Marcia Vaillant; and St. Patrick High School choir alumni. St. Patrick High School alumnus Christine May, teacher Joanne Borgo, and music teacher Mark Soderlind accompanied the choirs. The concert truly was a walk through the liturgical seasons of the church, with commentary and brief explanations of the significance of the seasons provided by Debbie DeBruyne, St. Patrick High School Chaplain. Those who attended the concert were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for St. Agnes Church's St. Vincent de Paul, who distribute hampers weekly. In addition, the \$900 profit from ticket sales was also donated to St. Vincent de Paul.



Fr. Francisco Blazek celebrated his 50th Anniversary with the parishioners of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church on Sunday, July 2, 2017 at the Four Season Super Buffet.



Discovery Camp 2017

Where can you experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit in a forum with 104 young people, junior counselors, senior counselors, extraordinarily dedicated staff and a resident priest in a beautiful setting? Discovery Camp at Sunny Cove on scenic Rainy Lake near Fort Frances, Ontario.

The Diocese of Thunder Bay, under the present leadership of Bishop Fred Colli, and St. Mary's Church has been hosting Discovery Bible Camp at Sunny Cove for over 65 years. This work of the Lord continues to bear much fruit.

For the past twelve years, Deacon Bob and I have looked forward to directing and witnessing the exciting things the Holy Spirit does at Discovery Camp. Each camp has a flavour of its own. We see this as a privilege. Few situations place you in the midst of adolescents at a time when they are most vulnerable and most real. For many campers, this camp is the first time away from family and friends.

Many of the new campers are quiet, anxious and difficult to engage in conversation on the first day. The counselors do their best to have them participate in ice-breaker games and to make them feel welcome. All the staff know the transformations that occur at Discovery and can hardly wait to see the amazing work of the Holy Spirit. At the final Mass, the youth are bursting with praise and worship and not wanting to leave anytime soon. They leave with joy in their hearts and happiness rooted in the Holy Spirit. There are endless hugs, high fives and sharing of contact information. They all want to keep in touch. The parents that pick up their children sense the change in them. Campers are bubbling with excitement and confidence about the faith their parents are handing down to them.

One of the many great takeaways for the campers is the power of Eucharistic Adoration. You wouldn't think that young people would be so happy to spend an hour on their knees on a hard wooden floor, but they are. They feel that strong presence of our Lord. They love the serenity and peace. You can hear a pin drop, and that quietness only happens during Adoration. This



year, our resident priest, Fr. Milton McWatch, presided over this reverent hour as well as offered confessions and Mass with a meaningful homily every morning.

We hire a full time nurse, qualified Lifeguards and dynamic speakers. This year we had Face2Face Ministries from Saskatoon back for a second year, and Michael Chiasson for his tenth year with us. We have already booked Chris Bray for Discovery 2018, July 2nd to 6th.

A very important part of the camp is the good example and witness of each successive generation on the one before. The youth in grades seven to ten value the example of the junior counselors, who esteem the witness of the college and university students and other young adults, who learn from the slightly older adults and seniors. We have a trajectory that supports the faith of others and makes it credible. It needs to be formed at an ever-earlier age. Some young people are making decisions about whether to remain in the faith by the time they are entering high school. Twelve-year-olds are asking why they didn't hear the Good News sooner.

The connection these young people make with Christ is beyond words, and it is obvious they have the capacity to go deeper. What should our parishes look like so that this transformation continues to happen? What adjustments must be made so that this energy and truth can be the foundation of every parish? These youth are an important part of the Holy Spirit's work, which is intended to further enrich and renew the splendour of our church.

BETTY AND DEACON BOB GRYNOL
DIRECTORS OF DISCOVERY CAMP 2017



70th Annual Provincial Convention of the ...

The Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada gathered in Thunder Bay in July for the 70th Annual Provincial Convention. Provincial President Pauline Krupa welcomed over 250 members from across the province to participate in business sessions, workshops, prayer and fun. The convention theme was *"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call."* This theme was manifested in daily Mass offered by Bishop Colli and in activities celebrated each day. His Eminence Gérald Cardinal Lacroix, Primate of Canada, Archbishop of Québec and Bishop Colli, CWL Provincial Spiritual Advisor, celebrated the opening Mass at St. Dominic's Church.

Cardinal Lacroix delivered the keynote address which was centred on *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)* by Pope Francis. The Pope writes of the beauty of love and of love as a continuing journey that grows through many crises and difficulties. Cardinal Lacroix brought to our attention key pastoral attitudes or ways of living our faith that can make a world of difference in our lives. He spoke of the many challenges facing Catholic women and the need to prepare ourselves to face these challenges by embracing the word of God and developing a growing and personal relationship with Him. Our ability to evangelize depends on how we look at people. We must look at them with respect, recognize their dignity, be non-judgmental and give credibility to their faith; we are all children of God. (Read part of the Cardinal's speech on next page.)

Following the presentation of Resolutions, the delegates participated in several activities that brought to our attention the plight of indigenous women: those missing and murdered. We were joined by community elders, drummers and storytellers. Each elder was presented with a blanket that had been blessed by the Bishop. In exchange for a single "lost" earring each delegate received the name of a missing or murdered Canadian indigenous woman. Jody Porter, CBC Senior Reporter, shared her award winning stories of indigenous peoples.

Cindy Crowe, Lodgekeeper, Blue Sky Community Healing Centre, facilitated a ceremonial walk and sacred



The CWL flag is raised at Thunder Bay City Hall by Councillor Linda Rydholm and CWL Provincial President Pauline Krupa on July 7, 2017.

circle to honour the women. During the smudging ceremony elders and delegates shared powerful stories of their experiences. Delegates brought vials of water from streams in their home community. The collected water was brought in procession and poured out into Lake Superior where a lakeside ceremony concluded the program with the promise that the missing and murdered indigenous women would not be forgotten.

New Provincial Advisor Bishop O'Brien celebrated the closing Mass at St. Peter's Church. The new Provincial President Anne Madden and her executive were installed and all were invited to attend the 71st Annual Convention in Toronto July 2018. The delegates left the city with a greater appreciation of the beauty of our community - in its people and in its surrounding - and with the knowledge that Thunder Bay is most certainly "Superior".

SYLVIA KAYZER

MEMBER, CONVENTION PLANNING TEAM



The choir performing at the CWL Provincial Convention was made up of men and women from various Thunder Bay parishes, and was led by Marci Vaillant, Director of St. Agnes Senior Choir.



Ontario Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada

Taken from conference given by
His Eminence
Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix
Archbishop of Québec
Primate of Canada

70TH ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONVENTION
ONTARIO CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay, Ontario, July 10, 2017

"Amoris Laetitia and the struggles of Catholic women today"

I bring you warm greetings from Quebec City, a land that has been blessed over the past four centuries with holy missionaries who evangelized and catechized families and built faith communities. Quebec is the cradle of Catholicism in Canada and for a good part of the United States of America. When the Diocese of Quebec was founded in 1674, it covered all of Canada and went as far south as Louisiana. At the time, it was the largest Diocese in the world.

Thank you very much for your invitation to share with you at this Ontario Convention of the Catholic Women's League. I am honored and privileged to be here with you and with my brother, Bishop Fred Colli, Bishop of the Diocese of Thunder Bay and your Provincial Spiritual Advisor, and with Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston.

This is my first visit to this part of our country and already I have discovered two very important facts. Thunder Bay is very far from home but as it is written on the road signs, it is Superior by nature!

I am pleased to share with you a few thoughts on a very interesting subject: *The Joy of Love* and the struggles of Catholic women today.

The Joy of Love is the English translation of the document published by Pope Francis last year, following the two Synods on the Family. In Latin, it is called *Amoris Laetitia*. The Holy Father invited me to participate in the Second Synod which was held in October of 2015. A very interesting experience to share with bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, lay faithful and couples from all over the world. I learned very much by listening, praying and sharing during the three weeks of the Synod.



Much has been said and written about the conclusions of this Synod on the Family. Many declarations and opinions have been expressed since the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* was published. Let's dig in if you allow me the expression and explore some of the themes that I find to be very nourishing and encouraging.

This exhortation embraces many topics; it also embraces the reality of our lives. Pope Francis talks to us as if he had his arms around us. He speaks of the beauty of love, reflecting on the words of St Paul that love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful, arrogant or rude, never rejoicing in what is wrong, but hoping and enduring all things (Cf. 1Cor 13.4-7). He writes of how this love finds its place in family life and grows through many crises and difficulties.

Indeed, he speaks of love as a craft, something at which we have to work hard, with care, understanding and perseverance. Love is always a journey, in all true friendship and especially in family life.

As soon as *Amoris Laetitia* was published, I gave a copy to a young married couple of my Diocese who are at the beginning of their family life. They have two children. The wife and mother said, after reading this long exhortation: "I didn't get the impression that Pope Francis was speaking about families when I read this. I felt he was talking to families and to our family."

I don't know how much of this 325-paragraph Apostolic Exhortation you have read. But I highly recommend it. As Pope Francis writes in the Introduction and has said various times, do not rush in the reading of this Document. Take your time to



ponder and reflect and see how this applies to you and your family life.

Most people commit the error of reading just a few paragraphs on the subjects that interest them. *Amoris Laetitia* deserves to be read thoroughly and discussed in small groups.

“Perhaps one reason *Amoris Laetitia* has been so widely and wholeheartedly embraced is because we recognize in it a loving openness to pastoral ministry attuned to the needs of an increasingly broken world and a statement of consensus that came out of the two synods of bishops in Rome.” (Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington)

I would like to present four very important words, or attitudes, that *Amoris Laetitia* brings to our attention and challenges us in our everyday life in our families, in our parishes, in our groups and movements and in our social life. They are key pastoral attitudes or ways of living our faith that can make a world of difference in the lives of families:

1. Welcoming and listening;
2. Accompanying;
3. Discerning;
4. Integrating.

Let’s briefly reflect on these four expressions. We are all aware of the frailty of many couples, marriages and families in our communities. Who does not have a couple that is going through struggles in his or her own family or close friends?

We all know the teaching of the Church and want to respect it. But how do we deal with all these difficult and often complex situations that we encounter?

The first thing that comes very clear in *Amoris Laetitia* is that we need to start by welcoming and listening to people. Not judging them or making them feel they are excluded from the community because of their situation. Pope Francis invites us to welcome and to listen... There is a lot we can learn by doing that. It is the starting point; the foundation of good pastoral dialogue. Life is not in black or white. If we want to be helpful and assist our brothers and sisters who are experiencing trials and difficulties, we need to make them feel welcomed and take the time to listen to them attentively and with respect. We need not have all the answers to do that.

Did you notice that in the Gospel Jesus often asks questions and does not give the answer? He gives people time to reflect, to look inside of themselves and find the good answer.

There aren’t too many men at this CWL Convention. I can say this without fear. I am convinced that you ladies are much better at doing this than us men. You have a natural gift from God that allows you to listen. I’ve noticed this so often. Please use it wisely and generously. So many people need to share what they are living and have no one to listen to them. And this is true not only for people who are in crisis or difficulties. Couples and families who are growing and doing well also need to share and enjoy an attentive ear.

Secondly, Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* tells us that we need to accompany... to take the time to walk with couples and families... all couples and all families. I remember in the Remarks given by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the Synod stating that in our Church, there is room for all families. That means we need to learn to accompany them, welcoming them where they are at, in the situation and circumstances that are theirs and start walking with them so that they can discover paths to grow in love.

Jesus was an expert at that. He knew how important it was to take time to walk with people. Remember the Disciples of Emmaus, on Easter afternoon, when he took the time to come close to the two discouraged disciples, walked with them, listened to them and then, and only then, shared the truth of the Word of God, the good news of his death and resurrection. He took time to sit down at table with them and broke bread. Then, their eyes opened and they recognized Jesus. It is a long process, a long journey.

Accompanying couples, families, is a life long journey and a very demanding one. The art of accompaniment is probably one of our weaker points in our pastoral life at this time of our history. We are so busy trying to cover all bases, with limited human resources, that we can forget how important it is to take the time to accompany, to walk with our people.

We are efficient, and sometimes too influenced by the corporate and economic worlds that are always pushing for faster and better results, with less people and less time. Life is not like that. People are not programmable like computers. We need time, sometimes a lot of time to decide, to integrate and to grow into healthy couples and healthy families. Couples not only need manuals and talks, and courses. They need mentors, witnesses, other people to walk with them as they grow, and struggle, and learn to love as God wants us to love.



I am convinced that you ladies are much better at doing this than us men. You are naturally gifted to accompany life, to foster it and to help it grow. Of course, we men are also capable of doing that, but you ladies are often more natural at accompanying life, from birth to natural death. God has granted you special gifts to accomplish this mission.

Thirdly, Pope Francis talks about discerning. That is a very Jesuit word, a spirituality that invites us to listen to God, but also to the reality that people are going through; a spirituality that invites us to listen to the Holy Spirit, but also to one another; a spirituality that invites us to listen to the Word of God and the teaching of the Church, but also to the circumstances and the situation a couple or a family is experiencing.

It is in this process that we are able to discover a pastoral discernment that will foster human and spiritual growth. We cannot offer ready-made answers to complex situations without discerning, without welcoming, listening and accompanying people. No easy recipes exist. Every person, every situation requires and deserves a good discernment process. And that takes time.

Now, I believe we must admit that we need to further our formation in this field, all of us, men and women, pastors and faithful. We need to grow and learn how to accompany people in the discernment of their personal situation. Pope Francis puts it this way: “What we are speaking of is a process of accompaniment and discernment which guides the faithful to an awareness of their situation before God.”

And finally, a fourth expression. The Holy Father leads us in this process of welcoming and listening, accompanying and discerning so we can help people integrate the Christian community and find their place in this lifelong journey of love and commitment, and bear fruit.

I am always saddened when I hear people share with me their personal stories and how they were wounded by pastors or fellow parishioners or members of their family because of their personal situation - a divorce, an unmarried couple living together, or a civilly remarried couple after a divorce - feeling excluded from the Church and unwanted, judged by the “good Catholics”.

We need to discover all the ways possible to integrate couples, families into our Christian communities, and offer them the support and accompaniment for growth. The Church is not a

select club of perfect people. We are a community of sinners, that God loves so much that He sent his only Son to reveal his Love to us and invite us to experience his Mercy and Love and enter into a profound friendship, a Covenant with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We must not be surprised that in our Church, we find prostitutes, unwed couples, same sex couples, divorced men and women, sinners who have made bad decisions, hurting people who need the compassion, the love and the Joy of the Gospel to continue their life journey and find the Hope that Jesus brings. Pope Francis often refers to the Church as a field hospital. We are surely not lacking patients at this moment of history. Let's not be scandalized by the men and women we share life with in our communities. Like us, they are yearning for the same love and dignity we are working for.

Helping people find their place in our communities, making them feel welcomed and loved is a path for integrating them into a Christian way of living. This takes time and patience. We sure appreciate when people take the time with us when we are hurting. Let's be generous and do the same with our fellow brothers and sisters.

So, four words or four attitudes necessary today to help families grow in love: welcoming and listening, accompanying, discerning and integrating. All of us can decide to make this process part of our journey, take these four attitudes and use them in our relationships, in our families and communities, in our movements, to foster growth... and isn't that what life is all about? I invite you to take the time to reflect on these four expressions. Which one is the one you excel in?



Bishop Colli introduces Cardinal Lacroix as the guest speaker. The red cap is noted since everyone was to wear the colour red on the first day of the Convention.



St. Agnes Amped Youth Ministry

The Amped Youth Ministry Programs encourage youth to get involved, make new friends, grow in faith, ask questions, make a difference in the community, and have a ton of fun!

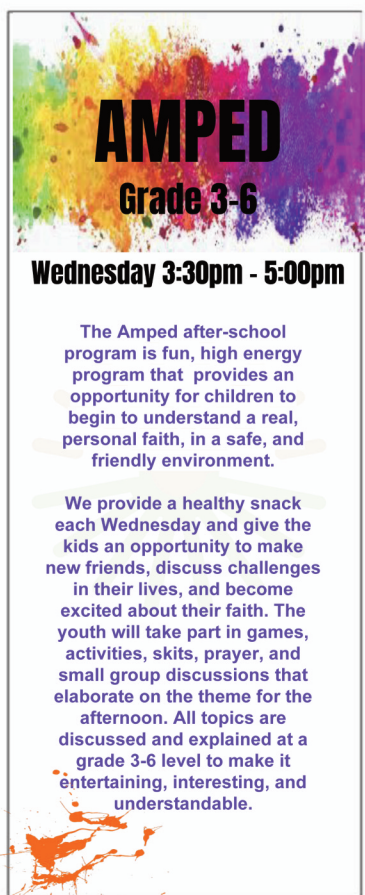
We have programs available for all ages!

Join us at St. Agnes Parish each week to grow closer to Christ, take part in high energy games, activities (inside and outside of the church), praise & worship, prayer, issue nights, and small group discussions.

Every program includes a snack, and all topics are discussed and explained at the appropriate age level to make it entertaining, interesting and understandable.

There is no cost to attend our programming.

Please contact Kim Coursolle to register at 807-628-2724.



AMPED
Grade 3-6

Wednesday 3:30pm - 5:00pm

The Amped after-school program is fun, high energy program that provides an opportunity for children to begin to understand a real, personal faith, in a safe, and friendly environment.

We provide a healthy snack each Wednesday and give the kids an opportunity to make new friends, discuss challenges in their lives, and become excited about their faith. The youth will take part in games, activities, skits, prayer, and small group discussions that elaborate on the theme for the afternoon. All topics are discussed and explained at a grade 3-6 level to make it entertaining, interesting, and understandable.



AMPED UP
Grade 7-8

Wednesday 6:30pm - 8:00pm

The Amped Up Program encourages youth to get involved, make new friends, grow in faith, ask questions, make a difference in the community, and have a ton of fun!

Come grow closer to Christ and take part in high energy games, activities (inside and outside of the church), praise & worship, prayer, issue nights, and small group discussions.

Every evening includes a snack and all topics are discussed and explained at a Grade 7/8 level to make it entertaining, interesting and understandable.

Contact Kim Coursolle for more information
(807) 628-2724



AMPLIFY
GRADE 9-12

Sunday 8:00pm-9:45pm

AMPLIFY nights are exciting and fun filled evenings where teens join together and participate in a wide variety of Christ centered activities. Volunteer, get involved in your community, make a difference, and grow in your faith. A different theme is incorporated each night and topics can include topics like drinking, dating, gossip, bullying and many other issues that affect teens in the world we live in today.

Join us for appetizers, high-energy games, fun activities (inside and outside of the church), praise & worship, prayer groups, and small group discussions.



Testimonies



"Youth group was so much more than just playing games and hanging out with friends. It became a place where I had a support system; the youth ministers became role models whom I trusted with my struggles in life and struggles in my faith. My favourite part of youth group went from games to talks and praise and worship nights. I would come an hour early every week with my best friend and I wouldn't miss it for anything!"

"I started attending Amped Youth Ministry programming when I was in grade 7. Youth group re-introduced me to mass, which was SUPER exciting and it really helped my faith skyrocket. The program changed my life in so many ways, it gave me hope and helped develop my faith immensely. I am so lucky to say that I still attend Amped Youth Ministry programs as a grade 12 high school student in the Amplify program, where my faith in God continues to grow every day."



"Amped was a real confidence booster to get me back into socializing while I struggled with anxiety. I once again became closer with God and people because of the support the youth group community gave me."





On Sunday, July 9, 2017, Fr. Luigi Filippini and his team, "Luigi on Wheels 2017", completed a 100km bike ride to Kakabeka Falls and back to St. Anthony Church. Special thanks to the team: Barry, Don, and Ron, and to Christina and Vincenzo who cheered on the team in Kakabeka Falls with their family and delicious food! Funds raised will go toward replacing the heating and cooling system at St. Anthony Church. Thanks and many blessings to all who generously donated time, talents and treasure to make "Luigi on Wheels 2017" a great success!



Fr. Justin Eze baptized seven individuals at the North Spirit Lake Mission on August 21, 2017.

Next Issue

Winter 2018

Please send news items and stories to chancery@dotb.ca

*Please ensure that all images are sent in JPEG or TIF format

Deadline for submissions: *January 12, 2018*

