



# 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) 2019: Volume IV

**Week 1**  
**Hope**

**Reminds us...**  
Jesus is coming

**Bible verse**  
Romans 15:  
12-13

**Bible verse**  
Luke 2:10

**Reminds us...**  
The joy at the coming  
birth of Jesus

**Week 2**  
**Faith**

**Reminds us...**  
To prepare the way of  
the Lord

**Bible verse**  
Luke 3:4-6

**Bible verse**  
Luke 2:14

**Reminds us...**  
"Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth  
peace for those he favours"

**Week 3**  
**Joy**

**Week 4**  
**Peace**

What do we  
remember each  
week of  
Advent?

## MISSIONARIES IN THE WORLD

This fall has been a special time for our Church both locally and around the world. In October Pope Francis called all the world to an Extraordinary Mission Month. Posters and special prayer cards were distributed in the diocese at our churches and prayers were prayed at our Sunday Masses for missionaries and those who support them. Pope Francis wanted to emphasize that through our Baptism, we are all called to be missionaries in the world. Our baptism not only unites us to the Church family as brothers and sisters of the Lord, but also it commissions us to be proclaimers of the Gospel or Good News of Jesus through our lives. The theme of the month was “Baptized and Sent”.

Being missionaries is not something we think about very often. However, the Pope notes that the church is called to Mission – to reach out to others, especially those who feel alone or alienated; and to invite and welcome them into the life of the Church family. In some cases this might mean going to another country to announce the Gospel, but for most of us it means being a witness to Jesus especially in our families and in our community. St. Pope Paul VI noted that people are attracted to the Church community more through authentic witnesses than through preaching or teaching.

How do we become authentic witnesses to Jesus? We begin by developing a close relationship with the Lord through our prayer, through the sacraments – especially the Holy Eucharist or the Mass – and through our study of the scriptures or God’s word. It does not have to be onerous to do this. A simple prayer each day, a short reading from the Bible, in particular from the Gospels, and receiving Holy Communion regularly will enable us to enter into this personal relationship with Jesus, who directs us to the Father. Even as a bishop, I am continually working on this relationship, because it is a lifetime journey with the Lord.

Extraordinary Mission Month has passed; however, our call to be missionaries continues. May we take a moment to think about our relationship with Jesus, and our call to be a witness to Jesus and the values He taught us, in our daily lives and in our interactions with others.

In his message to the Church for this Mission Month Pope Francis said: “The transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church’s mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfillment in life. The spread of the faith ‘by attraction’ calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is stronger than death. And that expansion generates encounter, witness

and proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it, and perhaps even hostile or opposed to it.” In this Pope Francis challenges all of us to reach out as missionaries of Jesus in our world today.

In speaking of Missions, I wish to express in a special way our appreciation to Catholic Missions in Canada for its generous support to many of our smaller parish communities. Catholic Missions assists parishes in special projects and renovations which are too costly for the smaller communities. As a diocese we support Catholic Missions in Canada with an annual collection.

This time of the year also brings us to the season of Advent. This is our preparation for the celebration of Christmas or the Incarnation of the Lord. Each year the Church gives us these four weeks to search our hearts and prepare ourselves spiritually for this great feast. However, Advent is not just about Christmas; it is a time for us to recognize that as Catholics we are on a journey together to the Kingdom of God. This journey reminds us of our ultimate goal, which is to be with the Lord and His saints forever in His kingdom. Sometimes Advent is only about a practical and limited preparation for Christmas, but it also reminds us that Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Then we will rise to share in His glory forever.

Each Advent I not only prepare for Christmas but also I am reminded of the striking passage in the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 31- 45. When Jesus does come again, will you be ready to show him how you lived your life and how you reached out to those in need in compassion and love in order to enter the kingdom of heaven? This scripture passage gives us a compelling reflection on life, especially during the Advent season when we are bombarded with the commercialism of our world. Let us make this Advent a true time for deepening our link to Christ and His Church and in our witness to Him in our lives.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who have participated in my annual Bishop’s Diocesan Ministry Campaign which ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This is one way that as a diocesan family, we can follow the directives of Jesus which we find in Matthew’s Gospel. This is our special outreach to those in need around us. I thank you for your generosity and kindness. I pray that the Lord will bless all of you in a special way this Advent and Christmas.

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



## THE BEGINNING OF FORMATION AS LAY MISSIONARY OF CHARITY

The Lay Missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa and Fr. Sebastian Vazhakala, was formed on April 16, 1984. Its mission is to work for the poorest of the poor in the world. Retiring from the workforce in 2014, I was aware of how important it is for me to be active and busy. I was accepted into the Lay Missionaries by my Regional Director Deacon Chuck, to whom I am so truly grateful. The sign of consecration is a simple cross that I wear around my neck. I received my cross at an evening Mass at Corpus Christi Church on March 31, 2019, signifying the beginning of two years of formation to become a Lay Missionary of Charity.



The spirit of the Lay Missionaries of Charity is total abandonment to God's will through service to the poor. During these two years I have obligations to prepare me for vows. I will attend to my spiritual practices which consist of attending regular reception of the Eucharist, daily prayer (especially morning and evening with the

Liturgy of the Hours), regular confession and one hour a month of Eucharistic adoration. Fr. Victor De Gagné has consented to be my local spiritual director.

During formation, I will be preparing to take vows to formally become a Lay Missionary of Charity. The first vow is a vow of poverty, freely and joyfully choosing a simpler life, being content with the basic necessities, imitating Jesus who was born poor, lived poorer, and died the poorest. The second vow is one of obedience, first to God, and second to those in authority representing the Church and the movement. I also follow my own conscience, choosing to do good and avoid evil. The third vow is conjugal chastity.

Mother Teresa added a fourth vow: wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor — to be always ready to offer humble and loving service to the best of our ability, not only with the intention to help them, but out of love for God. Our first responsibility is to our families, then to our neighbours — those we work and pray with, and those in our community. The Holy Family of Nazareth is our model of life.

I am truly grateful to God for the gift of being able to embark on this wonderful life as a Lay Missionary of Charity now in formation.

**BERTHA NYLUND**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH**



Father Larry Kroker, s.j., passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at the Jesuit Infirmary in Pickering, Ontario. During his sixty years as a Canadian Jesuit priest, Father Kroker helped the Indigenous people of north-western Ontario to reclaim their own spiritual traditions. In 1971, he was made an honorary chief of the Fort William First Nation. As pastor of parishes in Armstrong, Gull Bay, and St Anne's on the Fort William Reserve he was instrumental in offering training to Indigenous leaders for the diaconate



Diocesan Archives

program within the Diocese of Thunder Bay. He also worked alongside elders in the formation of Kitchitwa Kateri Parish in Thunder Bay, which serves Indigenous people who have migrated to or are visiting the city. Father Kroker firmly believed that the Indigenous community in Thunder Bay and northwestern Ontario “want to get back in touch with their spiritual traditions” and have come to grips with who they are.





## MEET 3 NEW PRIESTS

### REV. BERCHMANS FRANCIS

**Q.** *Please tell us about yourself.*

**A.** I am Fr. Berchmans Francis, a priest for 27 years. I am from the Diocese of Kottar, Tamil Nadu, South India. We are five children in my family and I am the third child for my parents. My parents are deceased. My siblings are settled in India. I am interested in music. I have published two albums. I am interested in games. I was a football player.

**Q.** *Why did you choose to come to Canada?*

**A.** I like traveling. I came to Manitowadge in May 2019 to visit Fr. Gino Mathias, the parish priest. Fr. Gino is from my home diocese. With the permission of Most Rev. Frederick Colli, the Bishop of Thunder Bay, I got an opportunity to serve as a fill-in priest in Thunder Bay.

**Q.** *What is it like to be a missionary in Thunder Bay?*

**A.** When I came to Thunder Bay in June, there was a different climate, a very pleasant one. I was asked to prepare for cold weather in the months to come. I feel the months are already here.

Right now I am at St. Peter's Parish as a fill-in priest. Celebrating Mass in English is a unique experience. Another unique experience is that the parishioners at St. Peter's are welcoming. I find them prayerful and spiritual. They encourage me.



### REV. JEROME NNANNA

**Q.** *Please tell us about yourself.*

**A.** My name is Fr. Jerome Ikechukwu Nnanna, a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Umuahia in the Igbo-speaking area of Nigeria. On the 22nd of July 2006 at Mater Dei Cathedral, Umuahia, I was ordained a Catholic priest by Bishop L.I. Ugorji. It was a big celebration for my family and my entire community that one of their own had been called to offer sacrifices to God in the order of Melchizedek. For the past 13 years, I worked in different parishes and different cultures in my diocese, searching for souls.

**Q.** *Why did you choose to come to Canada?*

**A.** When I was invited to Canada for mission by Bishop Colli and my local bishop accepted the invitation, I saw it as God's will, a means of moving further in preaching the good news and also in gaining experience in another continent and culture.

**Q.** *What is it like to be a missionary in Thunder Bay?*

**A.** I am happy to be in the Diocese of Thunder Bay and in St. Anne and First Nation Parish, even though the climate and culture are not the same. The parishioners have been so welcoming and good to me, especially in preparing me for the coming winter. The climatic condition is not the same as Nigeria and I must say I am really missing home. Apart from the hospitality of my parishioners, I am also looking forward to seeing and touching snow for the first time in my life.



## REV. MARCO LADAO

**Q.** *Please tell us about yourself.*

**A.** I was born on July 29, 1970 in Mambajao, Camiguin Island, Northern Mindanao, Philippines. I was ordained into the priesthood on May 21, 2014 at Metropolitan Cathedral in Cebu City. Here, I served as a parish priest, a Vocation Director, and a hospital chaplain. In Carcar City, Philippines, I served as the Treasurer and Local Superior in the Society of the Holy Family Station House, Theotokos Shrine. I have three brothers and one sister. However, I am sad to say that my eldest brother, Rev. Martinii “Tenet” P. Ladao, Missionary of the Sacred Heart Congregation, passed away two days after I arrived here in Thunder Bay. My mother, Anita, is a retired high school teacher, and my father, Teodulo, Jr., was a secretary to the bishop in Surigao Del Norte, Mindanao, Philippines; a high school principal; and then the Head Director of the Indigenous peoples on our island, Camiguin Province.



**Q.** *Why did you choose to come to Canada?*

**A.** My cousin Rev. PJ Pabatao, Order of Franciscan Congregation, asked me to come to Arizona. However, I chose to come to Thunder Bay because my good friend Rev. Allen Abadines told me that the Diocese of Thunder Bay needed a priest. I asked my beloved Archbishop of Cebu City, Most Rev. Jose Palma, D.D. for a recommendation to come and help the Diocese of Thunder Bay and he gave me a letter of recommendation to our beloved Most Rev. Fred Colli, D.D., Bishop of Thunder Bay.

**Q.** *What is it like to be a missionary in Thunder Bay?*

**A.** For me, to be a missionary priest is serving the people of God unconditionally and as a missionary here in Thunder Bay, my challenge is to be like my brother, Rev. Tenet, a good missionary priest in his time. Regarding the climate here, I have experienced that if I buy good jackets, pants, shoes, and a good car then everything is under control. My home city, Cebu City, is big like Toronto. I love Thunder Bay because there is little traffic, and no typhoons or earthquakes. Thunder Bay is a beautiful place to live and enjoy God’s blessings. The people here are almost the same as in the Philippines – welcoming, friendly and understanding to our culture. However, not as many people attend Sunday Mass here. As an on-call priest every month, I’m very happy to serve the people in the hospital because it helps me to realize day by day that “without God we can do nothing” (John 15:5).

---

Next Issue

Volume I: 2020

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:  
January 8, 2020*



## VOICES OF YOUTH: HOW ARE WE SHAPING THE FUTURE?

Just before the Diocesan **Development and Peace—Caritas Canada** launch of its 2-year campaign **“For Our Common Home”** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre on October 19, 2019, two young teen activists, namely Autumn Peltier and Greta Thunberg, captivated my attention with their profound sense of courage, commitment and wisdom. Their spirited proclamation to hear the cries of Mother Earth reminded me of the urgent appeal of Pope Francis that calls “for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of the planet”. (*Laudato Si*)

Autumn Peltier from Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island and Greta Thunberg from Sweden have both made their way to the UN and to the hearts of many. As the chief commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation on water, Autumn has a vision for a world in which everyone has access to clean water. She stands on the shoulders of her indigenous tradition and the inspiration of her great aunt, a water walker, Josephine Mandamin. Before Mandamin died Autumn was asked to continue the water advocacy work for her. And so, she has. She has been relentless over the years in sharing her vision and belief “that water has a spirit and water is alive”. At thirteen, Autumn addressed the UN General Assembly telling leaders “to warrior up” to protect water. At the age of fourteen, she received the Water Warrior Award at the Docs Film Festival in Toronto, and at fifteen, she recently addressed hundreds of international guests at UN headquarters in Manhattan. In addition, Autumn has been nominated for the 2019 International Children’s Peace Prize by the David Suzuki Foundation. These are only a few details of Autumn’s journey to protect the water!

In September 2019 Greta Thunberg, a sixteen-year-old teen, travelled from Sweden to New York and Canada to make her position on the climate crisis clear. Greta’s impact in Montreal is undeniable and her message simple and uncomfortably challenging. “We are not in school today. You are not at work today. Because this is an emergency, and we will not be bystanders. Some would say we are wasting lesson time. We say we are changing the world. So that when we are older, we will be able to look our children in the eyes and say that we did everything we could back then. Because it is our moral duty and we will never stop fighting for a living planet and for a safe future – for our future.” (*Greta Thunberg, Montreal Climate March, Sept 2019*)

Greta stands her ground fearlessly when attacked by certain groups. Chief Percy Bellegarde describes her as

a “young warrior lady”. Greta expresses her own bewilderment about it, “I don’t understand why grownups would choose to mock children and teenagers for just communicating and acting on science...” (*Canadian Press, Sept 2019*)

Greta grew up in a family that is committed to respecting the environment. Greta’s mother, an opera singer, and her dad, an actor, are together committed to furthering the conversation regarding the environmental crisis and sustainability. As parents they have given Greta, who was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome, the great gift of not viewing her diagnosis as a “handicap” but a “superpower”. She may speak alone at the various pulpits, but she is definitely not alone – she is encircled by both her immediate and extended family. After describing her diagnosis on Tedx in 2018, she made the comment, “That basically means I only speak when I think it necessary. Now is one of those moments.” And she is right, now is the moment to re-examine our environmental choices and the impact they have. Are we really caring for our home?

Autumn and Greta are two teens that bring a human

face and vibrant voice to the much needed environmental conversation regarding the climate crisis we are facing today. Their voices join the chorus of many others. The chorus

refrain could well be “now is the moment to listen and act on the wisdom that combines the authority of a spiritual tradition and the authority of science.”

St. Francis is noted as saying, “No one showed me what I ought to do,” and then, at the very end of his life, he said, “I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours!”

To help us navigate through this crucial moment, The Thunder Bay Diocesan Council, Development and Peace—Caritas Canada is providing the following events:

**November 20:** A Brief Look at *Laudato Si*, *On Care For Our Common Home* Seminar, 7:00pm to 8:00 pm, facilitated by Rev. Mr. Terry Platana at Catholic Pastoral Centre.

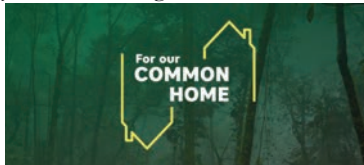
**Spring 2020:** A retreat entitled “The Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, Yesterday, Today” at Anemki-Wadj Retreat Centre. Details to follow.

Visit [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org) for excellent resources!

**EVELYN MARCON**

**CHAIR, DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE—CARITAS CANADA**



## ADVENT'S INVITATION

“We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible while the other two are visible. In the first coming He was seen on earth, dwelling among men; ... in the final coming ‘all flesh will see the salvation of our God and they will look upon Him whom they have pierced’. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves and they are saved.

In His first coming our Lord came in our flesh and our weakness; in this middle coming He comes in Spirit and in power; in the final coming He will be seen in glory and in majesty. Because this [middle] coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last.” (Advent Homily given by Bernard of Clairvaux, a Franciscan Friar, early in the second millennium.)

We are invited into the Season of Advent to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, “the anointed one”, an invitation to empty ourselves so He may dwell wholly within us.

“If your heart is full of worldly things, you cannot hear the voice of God. But when you have listened to his voice in the silence of your heart, then your heart is filled. Then from the fullness of the heart the mouth will speak... Your heart may speak through your writing. Your heart may speak through your eyes also.” (Mother Teresa in *Thirsting For God*, available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre)



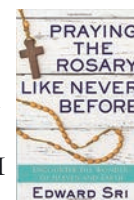
Advent offers an invitation to keep our eyes upon God and to take pause from the day's pace to be with Him in prayerful reflection and devotion, a time to deepen and strengthen our faith, fully entrusting ourselves to Him and being in communion with Him. How can we be in communion?

- In our reflection upon the Word in our place(s) of prayer individually or with family, in our faith community, audibly in our vehicles, during our coffee break or lunchtime or standing in the grocery store line
- In the sacrament of Reconciliation
- In the Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
- In our worship at Mass
- In the sacrament of the Eucharist where “God himself became so small that just two fingers can hold him in the host.” (Mother Teresa)
- In sacred music, not only during Mass but at home, in the car, etc.
- In our work – “If you do your work with joy you

can bring many souls to God. Joy is a prayer, a sign of our generosity, evident in our eyes, our faces our actions.” (Mother Teresa)

- In the silence of our hearts
- In the care of the sick and shut-ins and the hungry and homeless
- In random acts of kindness
- In our meditation of the rosary

*Praying the Rosary Like Never Before* by Dr. Edward Sri (available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre) powerfully and comprehensively deepens our understanding of the rosary. It ignites our senses to visualize and to meditate upon each of the Mysteries in relation to the Old and the New Testaments.



“One of the approaches St. John Paul II suggested when praying the rosary is the Ignation method of prayer. St. Ignatius of Loyola recommended that Christians use their minds and imaginations to place themselves reflectively in the scene that is contemplated.” (*Praying the Rosary Like Never Before*)

During our meditation and contemplation through Advent, may we reflect upon the prayer of St. John Paul II, Totus Tuus on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. A beautiful, powerful prayer always!

Immaculate Conception, Mary My Mother  
 Live in me, act in me  
 Speak in me and through me  
 Think your thoughts in my mind  
 Live through my heart  
 Give me your dispositions and feelings  
 Teach, lead me and guide me to Jesus  
 Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts and  
 behaviour  
 Possess my soul  
 Take over my personality and life, replace it with  
 Yourself  
 Incline me to constant adoration  
 Pray in me and through me  
 Let me live in you and keep me in this union always  
 AMEN.

“May Mary continue to implore Christ’s spirit to transform our weak self-centred human nature with his infinite supernatural love.” (Dr. Edward Sri in *Praying The Rosary Like Never Before*)

May Advent’s invitation resonate within us through every season!!!

**MIMI ZUGIC**  
**ST. ANDREW PARISH**





## READYING THE HEART BY RAISING SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

### A Reflection on the Season of Advent

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’”(Matt. 3:3) is a familiar proclamation heard during the season of Advent. Priests will preach to their congregations about examining one’s conscience, invite them to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, to prepare oneself spiritually for the celebration of our Saviour’s birth. Advent is a time of spiritual renewal; a time for Christians to focus on the gift God gives us in the Incarnation of Jesus, His Son.

Readying our hearts for the feast day of Jesus’ birth is often blurred by the influences of secular society. Inspiration for the celebration of Christmas finds its way into our homes and lives through advertisements in the newspaper and commercials on the television. Announcements of Christmas Teas, Bazaars, Craft Sales, parades and charitable gift giving programs are promoted over the radio. These, and anything of the like, can take away from the spiritual preparation of Advent. Advent tones down the pre-Christmas festivities, so the real celebration can take place on the birthday of Jesus, Christmas Day.

I believe that ‘readying the heart’ through Advent can take many forms as long as we are consciously aware of the renewal that is going on within us. Communal and private prayer accompanied by a cleansing of the soul through the sacrament of reconciliation are absolutes in our spiritual preparation. These primary elements in our Advent journey can ground us to remain focused on the most powerful impact of Jesus’ rebirth in our lives as we engage in the many physical and social events of our culture.

With each task of decorating, gift buying and wrapping, baking, greeting card and email writing, pre-Christmas Office party and concert, Advent school mass and pageant comes to mind the question of “Why we are doing these things?” It is my hope that we are following through with these activities in the desire to bring the light of Christ to those we share life with, and to express the joy that is within us – a joy that is to be shared. And it is only with a clear and conscious awareness of who Jesus is that we participate in these events and traditions genuinely. Without a prepared heart and mind, we are simply going through the motions which society dictates.

It seems that with each passing year, secular society is gaining more and more ground on monopolizing Christmas, drawing people away from its true meaning and leading God’s faithful people astray. The challenge is to remember who we are and to bring the spirit of

Advent to the reality of our modern world. If we have the right mindset, we can use what society throws at us as tools to keep our focus on ‘readying our hearts’ for Christmas and longing for the light of Christ to shine in our darkness in a new and exciting way. That is, to engage in these activities and events with the right mind and heart.



One of the first programs that my parishes participate in during Advent is “Operation Christmas Child”. This is an opportunity to make a world of difference in the life of an impoverished child born in a Third World Country. Fred Weiss, Executive Director of the Samaritan’s Purse, reminds us that:

“Operation Christmas Child is a power tool in awakening the church to Christ’s Great Commission. Many people think of gift-filled shoeboxes as nice presents for children in need, but they are so much more. With each shoebox gift, Canadian believers are part of a ministry that God is using to transform children and families in some of the darkest places of the world. It’s a ministry of compassion. A ministry of love. A ministry for the eternal souls of children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to know the hope and the saving power of Jesus Christ. And that is just the beginning. After each shoebox distribution event, Samaritan Purse partners with local pastors who invite the children who received shoeboxes to attend The Greatest Journey (a 12-lesson evangelism and discipleship program). Through the Greatest Journey, children learn about God’s great love for them. They learn how to follow Jesus faithfully, and how to share their faith with others. Through these children, entire families and even communities come to know Jesus. And it all starts with shoeboxes packed by believers.”





Each person preparing a shoebox for an anonymous child is 'sharing the light of Christ' and readying their own heart for Christmas.

Any such program or event that draws us to give to another (friend or stranger) is an Advent exercise when we are able to understand how it has an effect in our lives. Contributing to the local Food Bank, Christmas Cheer, Stuffing the Cruiser, The Teddy Bear Toss, Coats for Kids and knitting mittens for the Winter Warmth Initiative can be practical ways of readying the heart and raising our spiritual consciousness as we journey through Advent.

The season of Advent is indeed a period to renew our hearts, minds and world to receive the manifestation of God made man, in a deeper and more profound way than ever before. To overlook the significance of Advent and the effect it can have on our lives would be simply 'getting all this Christmas stuff over and done with', leading to no renewal and no deepening of the grace that comes with celebrating Emmanuel "God with us".

**REV. ALAN CAMPEAU**  
**PASTOR, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – IGNACE,**  
**ST. JOSEPH – DRYDEN,**  
**OUR LADY OF FATIMA – VERMILION BAY**



*Young people from St. Joseph Church with prepared Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!*

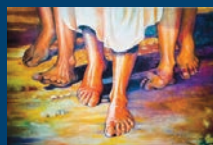
## Expressing *Thanks* to You

As the bishop of the diocese, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to my annual Bishop's Diocesan Ministry Campaign this year. The campaign ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> and our theme is "Along the Road Together", a reminder that we are a diocesan family together in our journey to God, and that Jesus accompanies us along the way to assist us.

Thank you for your support to this campaign made through your parish. Donations can also be made online through our diocesan website: [www.dotb.ca](http://www.dotb.ca).

*May the Lord bless you for your generosity and caring.*

Bishop Fred Colli



## MEN NEED OTHER CHRISTIAN MEN TO LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY

As a Catholic Christian man I often find it challenging to live out my faith in my family, my Church and especially the wider community. I often feel alone in the battle and have at times wished I had other Christian men to share my struggles. In my attempt to live with integrity as a Christian man in a culture that has increasingly turned away from the “faith of our fathers”, I have found great support and encouragement from meeting regularly with other men who can hold me accountable to the faith I profess.

Wherever I’ve lived I have sought out or started up a men’s group whose aim is to follow in the ways of our Lord Jesus, a group whose aim is to help fortify each other for the key role we are called to play in our families and in the life of the Church. It has been my experience over the past 35 years since I became a Christian that men need opportunities to share meaningfully with each other about the challenges they face.



I remember one such group I had been leading for several years. I asked why they came so faithfully to our weekly Friday morning gatherings, at 7:00am no less!!! I had come to know these men as seemingly well adjusted Christians with successful careers, wholesome though not perfect families, and community minded. It took me back to hear at least three of the men say that coming to our men’s group had literally “saved their life”. Wow! I never realized just how deep an impact our meetings were having on these men. We often don’t appreciate the suffering people around us are silently enduring. It impressed upon me the need men have to get together and share their struggles in a safe and confidential environment with other men they’ve learned to trust. The men whose lives had been “saved” through our meetings had overtime forged bonds of trust, mutual respect and even authentic masculine love for one another. No

matter the depth of their personal struggles, the group had given them hope and new life to persevere and triumph.

Fortunately in our Diocese, with the support of Bishop Colli and Monsignor Stilla, we have several men’s groups which serve to equip and strengthen men to live and serve with integrity their families, churches and communities; men who are embracing their God-given role as “leader, protector, provider”; men who gather regularly to learn how to follow Christ, the root of all graces and source of real life.

One such group is the **monthly men’s breakfast** held the first Saturday each month at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. This gathering includes an opening time of prayer and praise, followed by a continental breakfast, and then a guest speaker. Always informative and inspiring, our speakers uplift and encourage us to live out our Catholic faith with zeal, integrity and works of mercy.

Men from across our Diocese attend the **monthly men’s breakfast** representing many different parishes. We welcome any man regardless of race, denomination or creed while remaining firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition. I strongly encourage our Catholic men to participate in our monthly gatherings on first Saturdays, 8:30am-10:00am. A suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated to help offset costs. Please enter the Cathedral through the Donald Street side door. You’ll find us downstairs in the Church Hall where you will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

**DOUG McCLURE**  
**ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL**







*September 8, 2019: Fr. Antoni Fajarczuk and the St. Andrew Church were happy to welcome back many post-secondary students after the summer break!*

---



*September 18, 2019: 4 Seasons Shop at the Catholic Pastoral Centre hosted a Harvest Open House, complete with popcorn, cookies, punch, and door prizes! Guests enjoyed browsing through the abundance of gift items, seasonal decor, and a multitude of books.*







The Adult Faith Formation Office and 4 Seasons Shop are displaying the talents of local artists among a wide variety of Christmas gifts! Visit us at the Catholic Pastoral Centre to find unique and personal gifts, and browse through a large selection of Advent devotionals and an extensive collection of Christmas cards.



1222 Reaume St (behind police station)  
 Monday to Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm  
 (closed 12:30pm to 1:00pm)  
 Saturday — 10:00am to 2:00pm

