ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF THUNDER BAY

FALL 2026

# Newsletter

*"Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News"* (Mark 16:15)


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## *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.*

*By Alan E. Campeau*

A familiar prayer which we say at every Mass. It is part of the preface and just before the Eucharistic Prayer. It speaks of our desire to give

God thanks and praise for all that we have. Is this a prayer that we simply recite out of habit or is it a prayer that we are very much conscience of and pray intentionally? Because it in the context of the Mass or the Eucharistic celebration, we should be reminded that 'Eucharist', in fact, means 'Thanksgiving". And although it is a short prayer, it invites us to review, almost instantly, of all for which we are thankful. Canadians across the country will celebrated Thanksgiving on October 12th. A day on which we pause annually as a country to count our bless-

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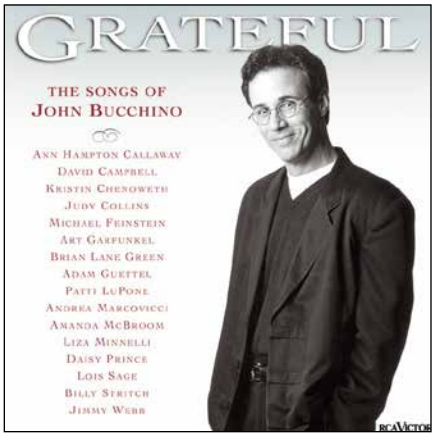
ings and ideally give thanks to God.

Years ago, I came across John Bucchino's song entitled 'Grateful'. It helps me to stop and consciously name my blessings and say thank you to almighty God. I don't wait until Thanksgiving to listen to it. I listen to it often and I recall the simple ordinary blessings that come my way as well as the most profound. It reminds me that life is not perfect with challenges and that sadness is real. It is a conduit that brings me back to faith, hope and the assurance of God's love and presence in my life. I hope it helps you as well. Please listen to it, review the lyrics and allow the blessings you received come to your mind and tell God thank you in a quiet prayer.

John Bucchino's 'Grateful' can be found on Youtube via this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcHZBL89tl4

May God continue to bless you and may you give Him thanks always. ✝




# Corpus Christi's Young Adult Leadership

*By Grace Daigle-Matkowski*

This past August, I had the chance to interview Faustina, a former leader of the Corpus Christi Young Adult Group—now core participant—about her experiences in that role. My first question for Faustina was on what inspired the beginning of the Young Adults Group and whether she was a part of the idea's inception.

"Yes." She answered. "It was really low-key when a couple of other people and I started doing potlucks at Corpus Christi which we held occasionally. I stepped back for a little bit during the Summer, but a few of my friends kept the momentum going. Then in the Fall of 2025, our parish welcomed a new priest, and wanted us to become more established and organized with our events. So we sat down with Fr. Terry and he gave us his full support and guidance. A lot of it was a learning experience. I had this desire to bring people together, and I knew young people were looking for more ways to stay active in the Church."

"Looking back at your time leading the group, what was your overarching goal or hope for the young adults involved?"

"Connection was the main goal, and helping people realize they share the same values with others their age. I wanted that for myself because I experienced it in different places outside of Thunder Bay. I told God 'if you want this to happen, you'll get it off the ground.' I wanted people to get in touch with others of the same faith. Not that people of other faiths weren't welcome, but it's another level of brotherhood or sisterhood when you share the same Catholic faith."

"What was one of your favorite events, traditions, or moments during your time in leadership? For me personally, my favourite event as a participant was the panel talk."

"That was good," she agreed.

The Panel Talk was held at Corpus Christi Church with guests sharing how they discerned and lived their vocations. Fr. Terry Sawchuk offered insights on the priesthood, a religious sister spoke on religious life, Deacon Pasquale Coccimiglio on his vocation to the Diaconate,

Anthony Agufenwa reflecting on his journey as a seminarian, and Tanner and Kim Coursolle on marriage. The event was relaxed, warm, and allowed us to learn from friends in an insightful and honest way.

"How did being in a leadership position impact your own personal relationship with God and the Church?"

"It did impact me. It gave me insights into people and the Church itself, but more so in the responsibility I felt. I prayed more because of some doubts, and more people knew me because I was getting more involved." Advice Faustina would offer to someone considering joining a leadership role is to know one's strengths, staying mentally flexible without losing sight of your goals, and keeping things fresh to avoid stagnancy. I can say that the talented and skilled members of our group are already making this a reality.

To conclude the interview, I asked how she hopes to see the Young Adult Ministry evolve in the coming years.

"I would love spend more time with the friends we make at these gatherings, going on hikes and praying the rosary while we do so. All I wanted was to bring people together and show that we can have fun in Faith related ways."

I thank Faustina for her significant help in building connections, and for her time. We invite young adults aged 18 to 35 to join their community for spiritual growth and fellowship by contacting the Corpus Christi parish office for upcoming events. ✝

*Corpus Christi Young Adult Group Summer Barbecue at Corpus Christi*

*Monseigneur Stilla leading a tour of Saint Patrick's Cathedral to the Group, and friends Lucas (left) and Elias (right). Photos taken by Daniela Carlino*

# Bishop's Diocesan Ministry Campaign

## The Roman Catholic Diocese of Thunder Bay

### "Love as Jesus Loved"

As many of you know, the Provincial Catholic Women's League Convention was held in our diocese this past July. As Spiritual Advisor for the Provincial League, I delivered a reflection on the Sacred Heart of Jesus in connection with Pope Francis' Encyclical "Dilexi Nos" ("He loved us," John 15:9, 12 and John 4:10) and Pope Leo's Exhortation "Dilexi Te" (I have loved you. Rev 3:9). Both reflect the human and divine heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart speaks to us of His infinite compassion and burning love for humanity; it draws us to Him, and it is there where we choose to model our lives on His example of love and mercy.

Pope Francis used the story of the parable of the Good Samaritan (LK 11:29-37) in his Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" (all brothers) to challenge us to put this example of love and mercy into practice. It is with this mind and heart of the Good Samaritan that Pope Francis urges us to spring into action by loving one another. This means taking responsibility and knowing how to assist each other on our faith journey. Referring to the final instructions of the same parable, Pope Leo XIV encourages us to be proactive in our Christian witness by hearing Jesus' words "Go and do likewise."

As you review this year's brochure, you will see how and why it is with this Church teaching that I ask you to consider the people we collectively serve. We need not only reach out to the vulnerable in our local communities, but we also need to serve each other. I trust that you will appreciate the effort put forth to prepare those in your parish who take up the responsibilities of liturgical ministry, locally and abroad, ongoing formation for our Priests, our Deacons, and our Ministers of Service.

I ask you for financial support to mirror the love we receive from the Sacred Heart of Jesus as we work together to build the diocesan Church and serve one another. I pray that the image of the Sacred heart of Jesus not simply be an image to look at, but be an image that speaks to us, and calls us to know Jesus' heart, to appreciate the depth of his love, and to share that love generously.

In Christ,
+Alan Campeau

## Diocesan Ministries in Our Parish

### Education

#### Adult Faith Office: $35,000

Houses the resource library that offers a wide variety of religious materials for Parish/School/Personal study programs as well as sacramental preparations programs for children and adults. This office also offers a variety of sacramental gifts, books, videos and religious articles through the gift shop. This gift shop is open to the public Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Office of Worship: $20,000

This office encourages liturgical understanding through programs designed to enhance the quality of Parish and Diocesan Liturgical Celebrations. There is currently one casual employee working in this office who's objective is to education and train ministers for their ministry through literature and workshops across the diocese.

### Youth

#### Youth Ministry: $20,000

In the hope of finding a Coordinator for the Diocesan Youth Council, this office will provide training for youth leaders across the diocese, creating workshops and retreats for youth. They also provide support and resources for many diocesan youth programs.

## Social Services

### Diocesan Marriage Tribunal: $20,000

Provides help to those who need to reconcile their marriage with the Church through the annulment process. There are currently two casual employees working in this office.

### Refugee Settlement: $20,000

Through the operation of the D.O.O.R.S. (Diocesan Office of Refugees) office assists refugees with clothing, housing, medical needs and their settlement in Canada.

### Catholic Support Programs: $20,000

Financial Support is given to organizations such as, Mission to Seafarers, Serena, Cursillio, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Development and Peace, and Jail Ministry in order to minister to the faithful across the diocese.

### Chancery: $60,000

Supplements some of the operating costs of the Pastoral Centre.

### Immigration: $19,000

Financially supports a portion of the legal fees, Work Visa's and Travel Expenses associated with priests and religious sisters who come from other countries to minister in the Diocese of Thunder Bay. We currently have five (5) priests and two (2) religious sisters who are working through the immigration process who will contribute to religious and pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Thunder Bay.

### Social Communications: $30,000

Funds the support of the FACE (Foundation to Advance Catholic Education); Diocesan Newsletter and publications; Internet services including the Diocesan Webpage; supporting the Monday Memo which promotes parish activities and events as well as updating equipment and remaining current with technology. We currently employ two casual employees working in this office.

## Truth & Reconciliation and Healing Ministries

### Truth & Reconciliation and Healing Ministries: (NBoojimo'iwewin ne'en da'ing – Healing of the Hearts) $30,000

In Union with all the Catholic Churches in Canada and along with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, these funds will be used for special projects of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous peoples in the Diocese of Thunder Bay. These funds will be used solely within the Diocese of Thunder Bay and in consultation with the approval of the bishop and the Elders Council. This stems from a five year commitment through the "Truth and Reconciliation Agreement". The year 2027 is the final year of our pledged commitment to the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

## Clergy

### Vocations: $3,000

This money is used to foster vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Thunder Bay.

### Permanent Diaconate Program and Ongoing Education for Permanent Deacons and Ministers of Service. $20,000

Provides programs for education of our deacons and ministers of service in their ministry. This money is also used for the Deacon/Minister of Service formation program.

### Ongoing Education of Priests: $25,000

Sponsors retreats, Study Days, Guest Speakers for priests.

### Priests' Infirm Fund: $28,000

Assists priest who are ill and unable to minister. We currently have one priest who receives assistance from this fund.

### Priest Retirement Fund: $50,000

Contributes to the retired priests pension fund.

# Bishop's Diocesan Ministry Campaign Total: $400,000

**Traditionally, I would have included a support request for World Youth Day which is not included in this year's campaign. As noted in your February tax receipt, surplus funds from the 2026 Campaign will be used to support World Youth Day 2027.**

# Knights of Columbus, District 14 Highlights for 2025/2026

*By Bruce Sutton*

In Thunder Bay the five Knights of Columbus councils conducted a variety of activities in our program areas of faith formation, community service, family support and support for life. We offer our 605 members the opportunity to participate in our *Cor* Program which is centered around spiritual growth, prayer and fellowship. We do all of this with a spirit of fraternity with our Brother Knights, and we have fun!

To highlight some of many activities the Knights did in Thunder Bay for our 2025/2026 fraternal year, we conducted two huge food drives in support of the Dew Drop Inn. Each of those drives brought in about 20 truckloads of food and $7000 to $8000. Our annual basketball free throw competition saw over 100 kids compete. The winners in each age category competed in the regional competitions with five of our athletes taking first place in the region. One young lady won her age category for the entire province! Our Coats for Kids program saw the councils purchase about 300 quality winter coats for kids and adults. We supported our local parishes with a variety of maintenance projects and made significant donations to a variety of worthwhile causes. Through our recruitment efforts we welcomed 27 new Knights in Thunder Bay which is more than we have recruited in many years.

I thank everyone who supported us this year, especially our chaplains, spiritual advisors, priests and deacons. Also, thanks to Bishop Campeau for his ongoing support and participation in our Mass for Deceased Knights, the Marion Prayers for the Unborn, and the Mass for Deceased Priests. ✝

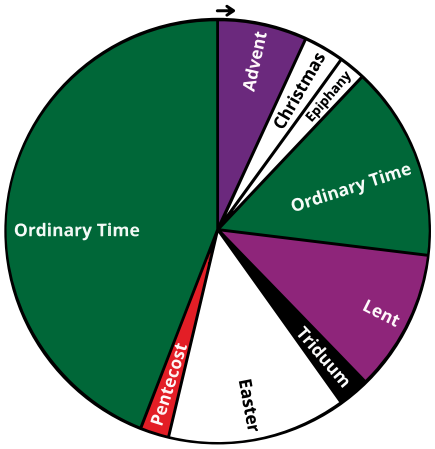
# The Meaning Behind the Liturgical Calendar

*By Grace Daigle-Matkowski*

I remember attending Mass with my family as a child and hearing the readers announce which Sunday in Ordinary Time it was. I wondered why it had to be pointed out that time was 'ordinary' the same way one might wonder why it had to be pointed out that we blink, breathe, and have a heartbeat. Thanks to my family, I later learned that the Catholic Liturgical Calendar is the organized cycle of seasons, feast days, and scripture readings that structures the worship life of the Catholic Church throughout the year.

Rather than working like a civil calendar, the liturgical calendar walks believers through the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus Christ. This story we are all familiar with is known as the Paschal Mystery—Paschal meaning Passover. The liturgical year does not start on January 1st; it begins on the First Sunday of Advent, usually in late November or early December. The calendar operates on two intertwined tracks, the first of which is the Temporal Cycle, or Proper of Seasons which traces the life of Jesus across six main seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Paschal Triduum, Easter, and lastly, Ordinary Time; two stretches of time focused on the public ministry and day-to-day teachings of Jesus. The word "Ordinary" doesn't mean "boring" as I mistakenly assumed as a child; it comes from *ordinal*, meaning ordered or counted weeks. This time is associated with the colour green. The second track is the Sanctoral Cycle or Proper of Saints. It runs alongside the seasons to commemorate the feast days of Mary, the martyrs, and the saints.

Some interesting facts about the calendar are rooted in history and how long it takes to read the Bible based on the readings for each Mass. Easter's date changes every year because it relies on a lunisolar calendar calculation established at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox. Following Vatican II in 1969, the Church instituted a rotating 3-year cycle for Sunday Mass scripture readings, referred to as Years A, B, and C. If one attends Mass regularly over three years for Sunday and the two-year daily Mass cycle, they will hear about seventy to eighty percent of the entire Bible read aloud. The reason why on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) and the 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare) the priest swaps violet vestments for rose pink is to mark a brief pause for joy and celebration




in the middle of a penitential season.

I realize now how *extra-ordinary* it is that the Catholic faith is so intrinsic to *life*, time itself is structured around the life of Christ, the one who gives us our precious time here on earth. Even blinking, breathing, and having a heartbeat—are the vital signs of that very life we have. *That* is also extra-ordinary. ✝

**Sources**


Liturgical Year and Calendar | USCCB

The Liturgical Year and Calendar - Catholic Life in Ottawa

Understanding the Liturgical Calendar – Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Liturgical year - Wikipedia

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/liturgicalyear.cfm

# Pontifical Society for The Propagation of the Faith: A Request

*By Bishop John A. Boissonneau, National Director*

Dear Friends in Christ,
Warm greetings on this very special commemorative year—**the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday**. As a supporter of the Pontifical Mission Societies, you know that each one of us is called to be a part of the Church's mission "ad gentes"—*to all the nations.* By praying for and supporting financially the missions you help spread the good news to people of all nations and walks of life. Together with missionaries and other supporters across Canada, we build churches, purchase equipment for essential services, invest in religious education, and form priests who offer the sacraments to local communities.

The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith (POF) is present in many countries experiencing profound political and social unrest. In Nepal, for example, amid such changes, about 9,400 faithful across 13 parishes continue to move forward with hope and confidence in God's providence. The local Church, however, is struggling to meet basic infrastructural needs. Father Silas Bogati, Administrator of the vicariate of Nepal notes, "We are still a poor Church. We lack the resources to build new churches, parish houses, and chapels."

In his message for World Mission Day, **"One in Christ, United in Mission,"** Pope Leo XIV reminds us that every baptized person is called to share in the Church's missionary nature through prayer and service to all people, especially those most in need

The support you generously provide helps to ensure that communities in more than 1,120 mission dioceses around the world have the resources they need to receive the Word of God in word and concrete action.

As we enter this special missionary period and commemoration, we invite you to pray for our efforts and, if possible, consider a donation today. We thank you for your unwavering support. ✝

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