



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON

JOURNEY

COMMUNICATOR FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON



Art by Andy, age 4

WE LOOK
TO THE
HOLY
FAMILY

CATECHESIS AND THE FAMILY
A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP MULHALL

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...
HOW FAMILIES ARE LIVING THE FAITH AT HOME

FAMILY AS THE DOMESTIC CHURCH
OCTOBER 2023

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My Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese,

I pray that these summer months have been a time of rest and peace. For our families of the Archdiocese, the summer can be a time away from the regular schedules of education and work. Such a change from the ordinary can strengthen the natural bonds within families and create memories which will last a lifetime.

This edition of Journey is dedicated to the gift of family life, the precious institution which the Lord has granted to humanity as a sign of his love and presence. In his loving design for humanity, God sent his only beloved Son into the world, born into a human family and through his death and resurrection enters in a marriage covenant with his Church. The Church cherishes this precious gift. So great is this appreciation that, the Church has understood the family to be a domestic Church or a Church in miniature. Many of the articles of this edition will reflect upon this great mystery. May our prayers and reflections allow us to see more profoundly God's presence and grace in the natural activities of family life. When family life is stable, loving, and fruitful, God enters into the life of the family and its members. When family members allow God and His grace to enter and play a fundamental role, the family flourishes through the trials and joys of life.

Marriage preparation programs, support of families in liturgical worship and, preparation of young people for their sacramental life requires our constant care and time. It is in this context that I share with you a letter prepared for families, which touches upon our aspirations for the sacramental preparation of young people. The letter is especially addressed to families with younger children, and it deserves to be transmitted to all the faithful. The source of these orientations and directives is the rich teaching of the Church, especially over the past sixty years on the importance of catechesis.

In the past twelve months, I have spoken on many occasions with the priests of the Archdiocese about this topic. Our time and discussions have been fruitful and inspiring. I am grateful for their dedication to the Church's vision for the importance of catechesis and their priestly ministry to families and all the faithful.

Above all else, I ask for your prayers for this mission. Without the prayer of the faithful our efforts will lack the power of Christ's grace to open the hearts of his people to the message of his salvation. Please keep these intentions in your prayers and know of my prayers for all families in our Archdiocese.

In Christ,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston



Dear Families,

Grace and peace to you. How blessed we are by the Holy Spirit!

In St. Matthew's gospel, we read the account of Jesus and the Children. The "people brought their little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and pray." (Matt 19:13) Parents and grandparents alike, brought their little ones to meet Christ and receive his blessing.

Not many years ago, you brought your daughter or son to your local parish and requested the Sacrament of Baptism. In the waters of Baptism, they received a second birth as a child of God. The Holy Spirit poured out the saving graces of Our Redeemer. As your child reaches the natural age for the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, and Reconciliation we are charged with the sacred task of preparing their hearts and minds to celebrate the Sacraments with knowledge, understanding, and faith.

"The family is a domestic church, that is, a community where faith, hope, and love are taught and lived by word and example in union with the larger family of the parish church." Together with the pastor and faith community, parents and families will serve as the primary catechist for the immediate preparation of sacraments. Parents have been entrusted by Christ and His Church with the task of teaching their children how to live the Christian life. You are your child's primary educator in matters of faith. The rationale for this policy is outlined in the Sacrament Preparation for School-Aged Children: The Role of Families, Parish and Catholic Schools. You will find the full text of the policy on our website: www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca.

The sacraments are both a personal and a communal encounter with Christ. The family's active participation in the preparation provides a unique opportunity for parents to engage spiritually with their children. "Daily, you model and witness to the love, mercy, and grace of our God." The schools will continue to teach the religious education curriculum but the catechesis for the sacraments is the privilege and obligation of the faith community, particularly parents and guardians.

The local parish, together with the Pastor, will offer their warm welcome, care, and prayerful support for you as a family. The sacraments graft us to Christ and unite us with the faith community and its sacramental life. Weekly participation in the Holy Eucharist, on the Lord's Day, is the best preparation for the sacraments. It is our privilege to accompany you in the preparation of your children for the Sacraments of Initiation. We remind all parents and guardians that you are qualified, able, blessed, and called to prepare your son or daughter by your love, faith, sincerity, and especially by your God-given privilege of having your child entrusted to you by Him.

Prayerful best wishes,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston



Holiness and Prayer in Family Life

The Holy Family teaches us that holiness is fostered in each of us through the loving bonds of mothers, fathers, and children as we place Christ and the love of God's will in the centre of our lives. These bonds within a family are precious gifts that lay the foundation for all other healthy relationships and the understanding of love as an eternal joy, and God as the source of all love.

In this way, the family is a domestic church, that is, "a community where faith, hope, and love are taught and lived by word and example in union with the larger family of the parish church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church). The family is the place where faith is lived in everyday life and provides an important environment of faith and prayer, and where the values of the Gospel are taught by example with the worship of God. Parents have been entrusted by Christ and his Church with the task of teaching their children how to live the Christian life, "because they gave life to their children, parents have the most serious obligation and the right to educate them. It is therefore primarily the responsibility of Christian parents to ensure the Christian education of their children in accordance with the teaching of the Church" (Can.226 §2). Parents are called to do this by word and example and family prayer is a beautiful way for parents to support their children in growing a loving relationship with God.

Teaching children to notice and appreciate the beauty around them stimulates awe and gratitude, "it is a short step from experiencing wonder, amazement, and beauty to praising, thanking, and loving the supreme Artist of it all, who is endless Beauty. (Thomas Dubay, S.M. Prayer Primer, Igniting a Fire Within, p. 121). St. John Paul II wrote that family prayer, "has its own characteristics. It is done in common, husband and wife together, parents and children united. The words of the Lord promising his presence among us can be applied to the members of the Christian family in a special way" (Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio, Nov. 22, 1981). Confident in the loving aid of our Lord, let us invoke the intercession of the Holy Family to guide and protect all families:

Pictured: The Holy Family, by Claudio Coello, c. 1700





The Holy Family with a Little Bird, by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, c. 1650

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"

Joshua 24:15

"In my own family, Grace is always said before meals, regardless of whether we have guests or not. On special occasions, dinner parties, or big family dinners, a specific Grace is printed out for each person to have a copy. Everyone is given a line to read as we go around the table. Often guests will take home their copy of Grace.

I also say the Liturgy of the hours every morning. My family and friends know that I get up very early in the morning "to say my prayers". A couple of times, I have had young grandchildren wander into my room to inquire what I was doing. I tell them that I am talking to God because He loves me so much, and if they can read, I will invite them to respond to some of the prayers."

- The Davidson Family

Live among them, don't become them.
(Blessed Pierre Giorgio)

"Raising teens in today's world they have had this mantra to repeat in many situations. Thank you Blessed Pierre Giorgio for your example in faith to help during these times."

- The Duffy Family

"As we gather for meals as a family, we always pray, often singing a seasonal or Marian hymn, or reciting the Angelus. We have chosen a homeschooling curriculum that is centered in the Faith and includes high school studies in Scripture, Church Fathers, Doctrine, Apologetics, and Moral Theology. Throughout our home, crucifixes and statues of saints are reminders of our faith. Our family prayer corner displays an image of the Holy Family and a rotation of icons of saints to whom we have a special devotion. We read the lives of the saints, and gather together to read the Gospel of the day, often with family intentions. On family trips, we pray the rosary in the car, and take time to visit Catholic shrines when nearby.

During Advent and Christmas seasons, we gather around the piano daily to sing carols and hymns, and we have shared Christ-centered Christmas carols in our neighbourhood and beyond. We sing seasonal choral music and Gregorian chant, and we listen to authentic sacred music. For Sunday Mass, our children lead music and our boys are eager altar servers. We take part in Faith-based activities such as the local Catholic Girls Club, a father/son canoe retreat with our 3 sons, and a parish faith formation video/discussion series with our older children. We also organize regular activities for Catholic families and fellow homeschoolers, and strive to integrate the Faith in our daily life."

- The Moellman Family

"We have a tradition of praying together as a family every day. When we were kids and lived with our parents and grandparents, we all sat together and prayed the Rosary and sang a song together. Our song to the Holy Spirit is Parisudhathmave Nee Ezhunnalli.

Now that we have our own kids, we want to carry on the tradition. We pray together as a family with our children and say the Rosary whenever we can and take turns doing each decade. Before going to bed, they always say a small prayer thanking God for the day."

- The Thomas Family

"There are a few simple ways we, as a family, give witness to our faith. A couple of times a month we'll have a pizza night and we always order extra pizzas and take them to the homeless and we let them know that God loves them because He has put it on our hearts to do this. It's important that our kids learn to be compassionate and to care for others.

We have religious articles in prominent areas of our house so when our children's friends come over they see them and sometimes they ask about the statue of Our Blessed Mother or about the Bible. The final thing is that whenever we hear a siren we all take a moment to say a prayer for the first responders and for those who are in difficulty. My kids will initiate this on their own now as it is part of living our faith every day."

- The Powell Family

"As a godmother to my niece, I really love how much she has expressed an interest and love for Jesus. I've been drawn to picking up different children's versions of the Bible to read to her, and we have discussions in between stories. We print out colouring pages of Jesus to colour, and include Brother Francis videos with our movie nights, which has helped explain different parts of Mass which she attends with us when she sleeps over. Her interest and curiosity gives me some renewed interest and fodder for thought in my own faith.

We took a family trip to Portugal, and our home there has old fashioned keyholes. She came to me one day to say while pointing down the hall, 'if you look through that keyhole, you'll see Heaven.' So, a little confused, I went to look through the keyhole she indicated, to see that through it, there was an unobstructed view of a statue we had on the entrance hall table, of Jesus on the cross."

-The Santos Family



Helping Catholic Families Nurture the Faith in CDSBEO

Pictured: CDSBEO elementary children pray before a Grotto of Mother Mary.

By Laurie Corrigan, Director of Education
Fr. John Whyte, Board Chaplain

The Catholic church has always upheld the right and duty of parents to be the first educators of their children. Catholic author Thomas H. Groome in *Educating for Life* puts it this way: “Parents, especially of younger children, have a hundred educating opportunities every day, not only in explicit conversations but in the curriculum implicit throughout the shared life of the home. And parents, as much as any teacher, must make curriculum choices about their educational approach – how and what to teach within the family and to what end.” To help parents and guardians in their role of nurturing the Catholic faith in their children, our school board strives to support parents in their God-given role as the primary educators of their children. Here are some of the ways we help:

CONNECTING WITH PRAYER

We pray every day as a school family and teach our young people the power of personal prayer and meditation. Children and teens experience the different types of prayer in our classrooms: contemplative, scriptural, intercessory, praise, and thanksgiving. Students also learn Christian meditation and how to pray the Rosary.

UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES

We have Bibles in every classroom and the Word of God is the source of our daily prayers and reflections. We encourage young people to read the scriptures regularly and to receive it as the Word of God.

GIVING BACK WITH ACTS OF SERVICE

Our schools honour the words of Jesus and the Catholic Social Teachings that come from this instruction. All our schools support the local community and those in need with Catholic acts of service. These many initiatives by our young people make an enormous difference in their communities. None of these projects would be possible without the amazing involvement of our families.

LIVING THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Liturgical celebrations in our schools highlight important religious feast days and milestone experiences such as First Sacraments, Advent and Christmas, the Lenten Season, Easter, Saint's Days, and many others. We support the preparation for the sacraments of Confession, first Eucharist, and Confirmation in partnership with our families and the local parishes. We offer school-wide liturgical celebrations, masses, and parish visits to encourage involvement in the local parish community, but not to replace participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family

GROWING IN FAITH, GROWING IN CHRIST

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ is a new program, prepared by the Ontario Bishops, that provides Catholic catechesis and moral instruction for our students up to Grade 8 (high school grades are coming soon). Through this program, teachers develop the faith life of children by talking about Catholic values, prayer, catechesis, and contemporary religious issues. It's important to note that this program has resources for parents and families as well. These resources are provided to help connect families to Sunday worship by deepening the appreciation of the mass through a variety of age-appropriate enrichment activities, creative Bible activities, and videos. Families can gain access to Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ by contacting their child's school. We hope you will check out the Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ resources found in the parent portal. It is our hope that by using this common platform the faith of our families will be nurtured, and our parishes supported, as we grow together in faith!

Religious Education in Catholic Schools: Supporting Families in Living out Their Faith Journeys in ALCDSB

By David DeSantis, Director of Education and Mike Gundert, Coordinator of Religious & Family Life Education

Catholic schools are blessed with the privilege of supporting parents and families, who are the first educators of their children in the practice of the faith (CCC 2223). Through religious education, Catholic schools support parents and families as they live out their faith journeys.

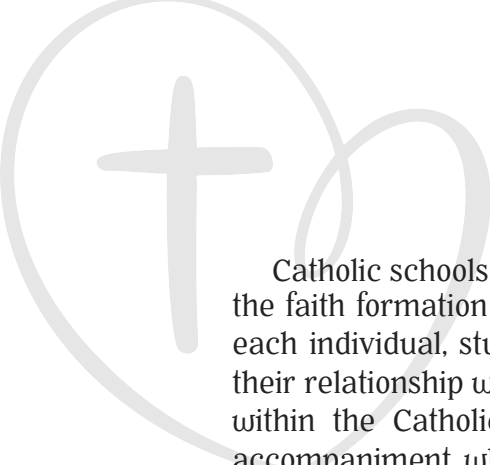
In 2018, The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario authored *Renewing The Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education*. This is the third pastoral letter since 1989 and includes messaging for all stakeholders connected to a Catholic school community. In the letter, the Bishops identify how parents and families are called into partnership to accompany their children: Your parish community and your Catholic school are there to support you in caring for and nurturing your children. Work with the school community to help your child realize the gifts they have been given by our Creator God (16).



Pictured: Fr. Tim Shea celebrating Mass with the students and staff of Holy Cross Catholic School.

Catholic schools across the province teach religious education through *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*, the program published by Pearson Education that is approved by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. The program includes an “At Home” feature, which connects in-class learning to the home and family with suggestions of how families can support the faith development of their children. Each of the five units include one or two of these features. Parents, families, and parishes have online access to the program online, so that they may support their children and students in their learning.

Catholic schools play an important role in evangelization and the mission of the Catholic Church. For many students, the Catholic classroom will provide an introduction to the faith not only for them, but also for their parents and caregivers. It is hoped that the Catholic classroom will draw the family into the life of the Church. For some students, the school will clarify beliefs and values introduced in the home. It will serve as an extension and reinforcement of the Catholic faith culture lived within the family. Providing faith experiences that meet the needs of each of these groups of students is a primary goal of the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program (Introduction to the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* Program).



Catholic schools work in collaboration with parishes in nurturing and supporting the faith formation of students and their families. Catholic schools recognize that each individual, student or adult, is at a different stage in their faith journey and their relationship with God, and so we must be intentional in reaching all members within the Catholic school community. Catholic schools are communities of accompaniment where the story of our salvation is known and shared, offering encouragement knowing that Jesus walks with us. In addition to being places of teaching and learning, Catholic schools live the Emmaus experience as they witness to the Risen Lord. Jesus provides the model for how our schools and parish communities need to accompany students and families with great respect, patience, and love, inviting all to deepen their understanding of Christ and his Church (Renewing The Promise 7).



Pictured: Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Belleville during Catholic Education Week

The 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



«His mercy is from age to age» (Lk. 1:50) was the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the III World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and for the Message, that bears the date of the Feast of the Visitation.

This year's celebration dedicated to grandparents and the elderly took place on Sunday, July 23, just days before the start of World Youth Day in Lisbon. Pope Francis provided the following instructions and invitation to the faithful in preparation for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:

In the meeting between Mary and Elisabeth, between young and old, God points us towards the future that he is opening up before us. Indeed Mary's visit and Elizabeth's greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation. In their embrace, God's mercy quietly breaks into human history amid radiant, abundant joy! I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting. To picture like a snapshot that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of St. John the Baptist and frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon. Next, I would invite you to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly. Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its roots. From the elderly, we received the gift of belonging to God's Holy people. The church as well as society needs them to entrust to the present the past that is needed to build the future. Let us honour them neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is meant to be a small but precious sign of hope for them and for the whole Church. (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 23 July 2023, p. 5)

Prayer for the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023

Virgin Mary, Mother of faith and hope, an example for this humanity bent by indifference, make me as willing as You to accept the will of God, to magnify and praise His Mercy. Mary, Mother of fortitude, you who knows my heart, do not allow me to become discouraged. I confidently surrender my life into your hands. Heal my wounds. May your tenderness accompany me on the way. Your presence, Mother of love, brings us to experience the joy of seeing our families united. Help me to transmit the tenderness and Love of God to the grandchildren and youth so that, in addition to praying for them, we can pray with them. Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit intercede for me: sustain my weakness; breathe into my heart the consolation that I may leave traces of faith among the young, bearing witness to the beauty of life, knowing that life has a limit and that beyond it lies before us our Father's embrace. Amen.

From the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life



Supporting Families and Children in Need: The Catholic Orphanages of the Archdiocese

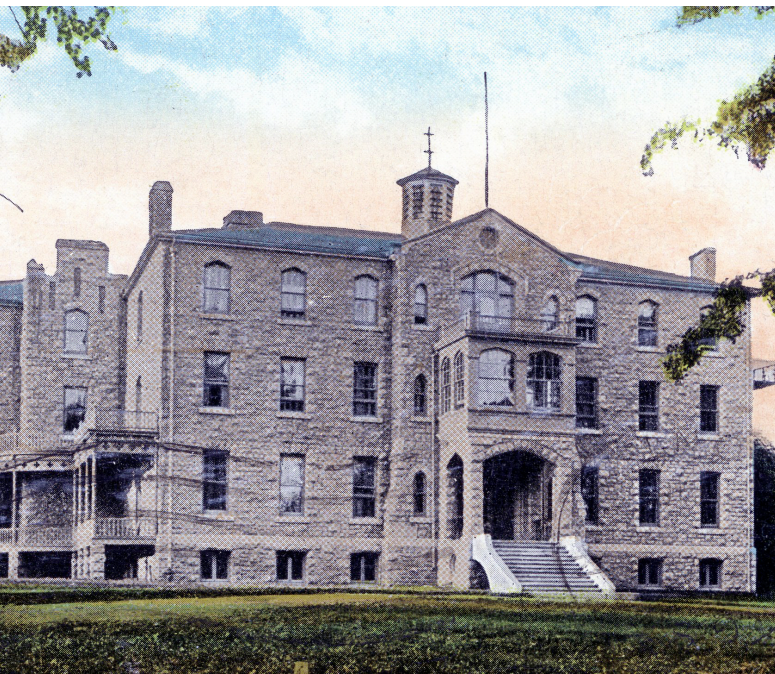
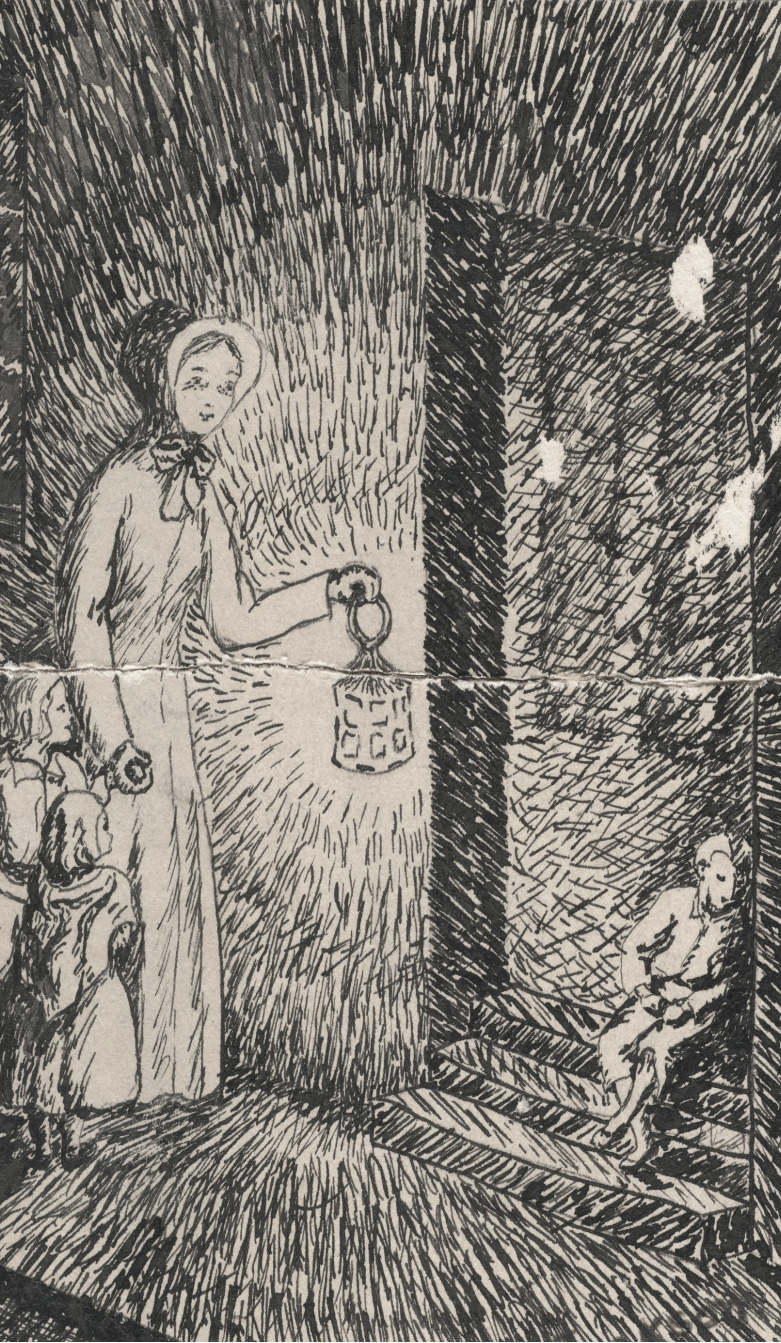
By Rodney Carter, Archivist, RHSJ St. Joseph Region Archives
and Veronica Stienburg, Archivist, Sisters of Providence of St.
Vincent de Paul

The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) and the Sisters of Providence (SPs) share a similar mission of caring for the poor, the sick, and the needy. Central to this mission has been the support of families, particularly in the care of the elderly and, especially in their early history, their care for children.

Alongside their Hotel Dieu Hospital, the RHSJ ran an orphanage in Kingston for 65 years. The four founding Sisters arrived in Kingston on September 2nd, 1845, and moved into their hospital on September 4th. On that same day, they admitted a six-year-old girl named Mary Anne Burns to their orphanage, three days before they saw their first patient. She lived in the orphanage until 1850.

Two years after the institute's foundation, the RHSJ would face its greatest challenge in caring for a huge influx of Irish children who came to Kingston in 1847 fleeing the Great Hunger on ships stricken with typhus. On Christmas Eve, 1847, Josephine Perras, a laywoman who was a benefactress of the RHSJ, went around the city at night to gather up lost and abandoned children whose parents were sick or who died from typhus. That night, she brought 71 children and more came in subsequent days. They ranged in age from just a few weeks to 20 years old. There were so many children they had to eat in shifts as there was not enough crockery. They were housed in the unfinished hospital building located at 227 Brock St.

Pictured left: Drawing of Mme. Josephine Perras, RHSJ Benefactor, searching for children to bring to the orphanage." [19--]



Bottom left: Hand tinted postcard of St. Mary's of the Lake Orphanage, between 1910 and 1916.

Bottom right: Modern photograph of 227 and 229 Brock Street, the original Hotel Dieu Hospital and Orphanage building and the first expansion.



Pictured: Children in the wading pool at St. Mary's Orphanage Heathfield, July 1957.

The Sisters of Providence also cared for orphans in Kingston, running an orphanage from 1861 to 1964. Five days after the Sisters of Providence were founded in Kingston on December 13th, 1861, the founding Sisters received the first orphans, Hugh (aged 7) and Michael (aged 3) Traynor into the House of Providence, now known as Providence Manor. They lived in the orphanage until April 1863. The SPs work with orphans from across the Archdiocese continued to be an integral part of their ministry in Kingston over the next 100 years. In the mid-19th century, the term "orphan" did not necessarily mean the child did not have living parents. Often the child could not be cared for by the family, due to poor circumstances, and, when the situation improved, they would return to their family. Many of the Irish children who ended up in the care of the RHSJs were discharged into the care of their parents or another relative. There are also several examples in the SPs' orphanage registers of children entering the orphanage upon the death of their mother, and returning to live with their father once he remarried.

The House of Providence served as orphanage, home for the elderly, novitiate, and residence for sisters. By the early 1900s it was at capacity and they purchased the St. Mary's of the Lake property in 1904 with the intention of using the site for an orphanage. In August 1910, St. Mary's of the Lake opened as an orphanage and novitiate. The novitiate, a training school for Sisters, moved back to the House of Providence in 1914 and St. Mary's of the Lake continued to function as an orphanage until 1941.

An inspection of the Hotel Dieu orphanage conducted on May 2nd, 1910 reported that there were 31 girls being cared for but that the building is "not equipped with the requirements fixed by Statute as necessary for the care of children". It recommended that the children be moved to St. Mary's of the Lake when it opened and the orphanage register recorded that 19 children were transferred to the care of the SPs on 29 August, 1910. School children in the Archdiocese were encouraged to buy *The Guardian*, a monthly children's magazine published by the SPs from 1916 to 1959, and the funds raised supported St. Mary's of the Lake Orphanage. The magazine highlighted writing by students who attended schools throughout the Archdiocese of Kingston and beyond.

In 1941 the Department of National Defense requisitioned St. Mary's of the Lake for use as a military hospital. On October 31, 1941 the orphans and staff moved to Heathfield Villa on the grounds of Providence Motherhouse. Demand for the orphanage decreased over time and towards the end of the orphanage's existence, the institution functioned more as a respite and day care facility. St. Mary's orphanage and day care closed its doors in June 1964.

Both the RHSJs and the SPs continued to be involved in Catholic family life through parish ministry and teaching in the separate school system.

God Restores Hope and Human Dignity

We are all called to see Christ in everyone we meet and to love each person as a child of God. Rita Peng has lived this calling through her work as a Prison Chaplain for the past 25 years. Her strong faith and dedication to helping others led her to complete a Master of Divinity degree at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Living in Toronto, she had experience working in schools and in hospitals as a Chaplain when she saw the advertisement for a position of Chaplain working in ministry at Joyceville Penitentiary. After discussing the role with her spiritual advisor and praying about it, Rita applied for the job and subsequently moved to Kingston.

Over the past 25 years, Rita has worked the majority of her time as Chaplain at Joyceville Penitentiary and retired from her full-time role there in July of 2023. When asked to share her thoughts about her work and advice to those who may feel called to such a role, Rita commented, "It is a lot of journeying with them. To be there with them. You grow in gratitude. If you think your life is hard, you'll hear from people who have really suffered. Day in and out you cannot pretend or lie about who you are. People observe you all the time. It is a humbling experience when the men really open up. I have to be open to being a vessel, an instrument of God. Stewardship is important to respect the sacredness of this ministry. Good boundaries are very important as well. You must realize that God is the one who makes the changes. Seeing someone with restored human dignity after working together is so wonderful. Helping people experience hope is a significant accomplishment. You can see changes in their behaviour when they develop hope. I always needed to be humble. I knew I would not necessarily get to see the fruit of this harvest."

Rita continues to return to Joyceville Penitentiary as Chaplain a couple of days a month and now dedicates more time to taking care of her physical and spiritual health as well as spending time with her many friends. We are grateful to Rita for the life-affirming ministry she has provided for the past 25 years to those imprisoned in our local penitentiaries and wish her peace, health, and happiness in her retirement. For more information about Chaplaincy within the Penitentiaries of the Kingston region, please contact Mary-Jo MacKinnon-Simms at religioused@archkingston.ca.



THE DOMESTIC CHURCH AND THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

By Deacon Robert Wojcik , Formation Coordinator
Office of the Permanent Diaconate

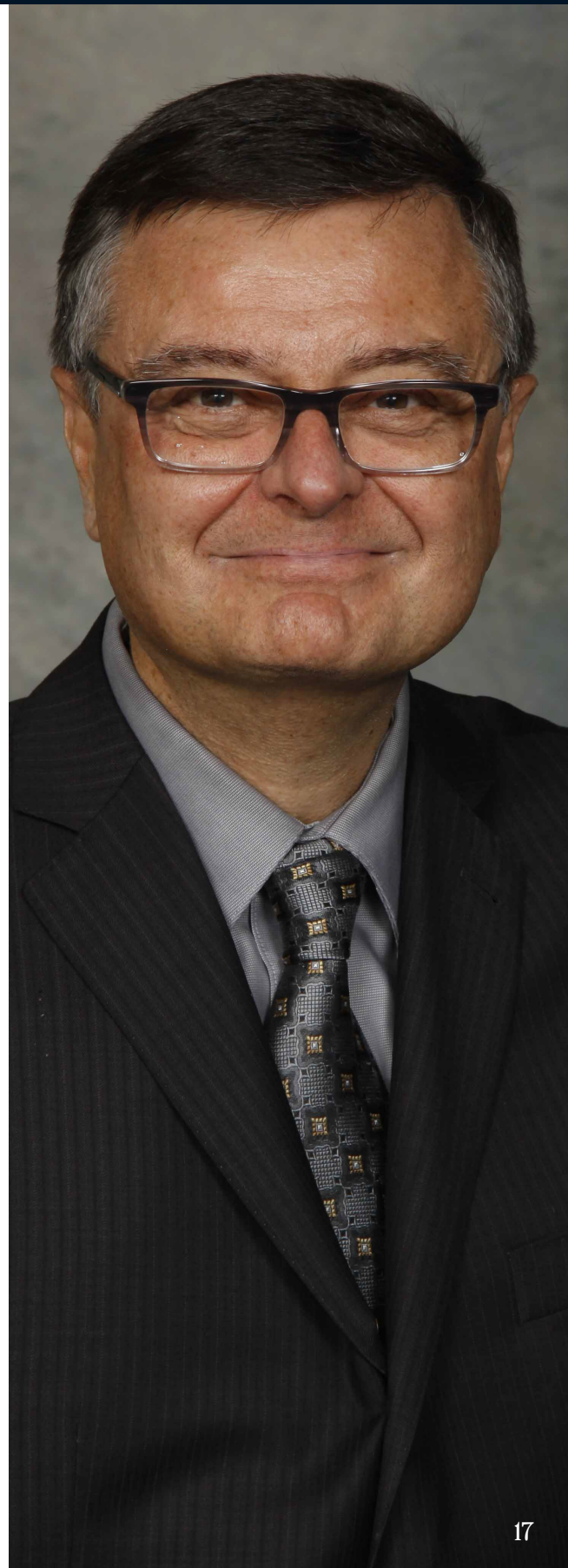
The family is the womb for vocations to sacred service, whether it's to religious life, priesthood, or the permanent diaconate. The family, often referred to as the "domestic church," (CCC #1666) holds a central place within Christian theology and tradition. At the same time, diaconal ministry represents the hands-on service-oriented characteristic of our faith. There is a deep connection between the family as the domestic church and the model of diaconal ministry. Families personify spiritual principles within their homes and communities and diaconal ministry extends those principles to the broader world through service. Both the family and diaconal ministry are the expression of faith through action. A dynamic force that motivates individuals to extend love and care to those in need.

Within the domestic church, families nurture a spirit of service by modeling Christ-like behaviour. Parents teach their children about compassion, empathy, and willing the good of the other. As families engage in diaconal activities together, such as volunteering in a church or helping at their local food bank, they reinforce the teachings of Jesus that faith is intimately linked with service. These shared experiences strengthen love within the family while cultivating a commitment to making positive contributions to the world. This collaborative effort provides practical assistance to those in need and fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within the larger church community.

The connection between the family as the domestic church and diaconal ministry demonstrates the full nature of Christianity. Through their shared commitment to living out their faith, families become beacons of compassion and service. By engaging in this ministry, the deacon extends his service beyond the boundaries of his home and church. In this resonant interaction between diaconal ministry and the domestic church, families become instruments of God's love and mercy in the world.

If you feel called to serve God and the Church by following in the footsteps of Christ the servant, please talk with your parish priest, or call me at 613-548-4461 ext. 116; email diaconateform@archkingston.ca

The initial Inquiry session for the Permanent Diaconate will be on Saturday October 21, from 10:00 AM until 2:30 pm at the Francis J. Spence Pastoral Centre, 390 Palace Road, Kingston Ontario. Please bring your own bag lunch. Refreshments will be provided.



St. John the Evangelist Parish, Flinton Celebrates 150th Anniversary



Pictured: (Left) St. John's Parish taken in 1902. (Right) Group photo reenactment in 2023.

By Maude Formosa-Topping

Sunday, August 20, 2023, was a day of great joy at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Flinton as the community came together to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the parish. Over 100 people attended, and the church was FULL! It started off with Mass at 11:00 am, with Archbishop Michael Mulhall presiding, with Father Paul Njoku and Father Joseph Machaj concelebrating with him in the Sanctuary. Following Mass, we took a group photo to reenact the 1902 picture hanging in the church. We then all went outside for more pictures and the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the 150th Anniversary and the newly planted spruce tree. Archbishop Mulhall blessed the new church sign after blessing the new spruce tree. A reception followed at the Flinton hall where all enjoyed lunch and the displays set up documenting the history of the parish through photos and special artifacts including a painting of the church by parishioner Mary O'Donnell. Certificates of Congratulations were received from the Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, MPP Ric Bresee & MP Shelby Kramp-Newman.



Pictured: Table of artifacts and historical facts from St. John's.



With the planting of the spruce tree, we look forward to having our 1st Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the beginning of December, where we will invite the whole community to enjoy hot chocolate & cookies, sing a few Christmas Carols, say a prayer or two, and share in the joy of Christmas! Our hope is that as this tree grows...so will our parish! People came from all over to enjoy this special anniversary with us and we look forward to many more years of celebrating our faith together. To view all the photos taken that day and any upcoming events & information, please visit our Facebook Page: St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Flinton, Ontario.



Pictured above: Group photo outside the church with the new sign. Below: Archbishop Michael Mulhall blesses the spruce tree planted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist parish.

A Grand Celebration for the 175th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral

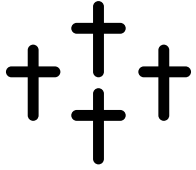


By Angela Gambin

A milestone celebration took place Sunday, August 13th at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, in thanksgiving to Almighty God for the consecration of the cathedral and all the worship of Him that has taken place within her walls for the past 175 years. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Mulhall, who was joined for concelebration by Archbishop Emeritus O'Brien, and many of the priests and faithful of the Archdiocese of Kingston. During his homily, Archbishop Mulhall stated "The magnificence of this cathedral and of the building itself is something that we marvel at every time we enter, and we recognize the great dedication and sacrifice of so many people over the years. It is a remarkable feat, and one that is given for our worship, the beauty of our own reflections. The beauty of this building lends so much to our liturgical actions and what takes place in our hearts. It is something we are deeply thankful for and continue to preserve as a great gift." Construction of the cathedral began in 1843 and was completed five years later in 1848, with much of the labour donated by volunteers.

After Mass, His Grace Archbishop Mulhall, blessed a newly installed bronze statue of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, generously donated by the estate of Patricia Fardella. To complete the celebration, a luncheon was prepared by volunteers and enjoyed by all in the cathedral gardens.

UPCOMING EVENTS



St. Barnaby's Parish, Brewers Mills Cemetery Mass Sunday, October 8; 9:00 am

Our regular Sunday Mass will take place outdoors in our cemetery on Sunday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m. It will be an opportunity for us to remember and pray for those who are buried at St. Barnaby cemetery. A reception will follow in the parish hall. This is an opportunity for us to come together in thanksgiving for all who are buried here and for those who came before us. A short update about our cemetery will be given at that time. Everyone is invited. Please bring your lawn chairs. In case of inclement weather the Mass will take place inside the church.



Rosary Coast to Coast Canada Friday, October 13, 8:00 pm

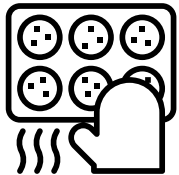
Livestream or in-person 3100 Weston Road, Toronto

Light a candle, pray with your family and friends, or join an online livestream event. Recitation of the holy Rosary, chaplet of the Divine Mercy, consecration to Mary in song, and a brief reflection. There is no better time to be on our knees and implore God for mercy on our families and country. For more information visit www.rosarycoasttocoast.ca. Zoom meeting ID: 373 133 3108

Public Square Rosary Saturday, October 14; 12:00 noon

St. Joseph Parish, 392 Palace Road, Kingston

You are invited to join in a Public Square Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 noon at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 392 Palace Road, Kingston. This Public Square Rosary, sponsored by Canada Needs Our Lady, will be one of hundreds of rallies that will take place across Canada on that day. Please join us in offering reparation for the sins and offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and fervently pray for the conversion of Canada. Will you be able to join us on that very important day? For further information, please call Cheryl at 613-929-0777.



Harvest Bake Sale Saturday, October 14; 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon

St. Patrick's Church Hall (179 West St. Napanee; Thomas St. Entrance)

You are invited to our Harvest Sale. Enjoy treats such as homemade pies, butter tarts, cookies, muffins and more; morning coffee and grand draw tickets.



14th Annual Women's Fall Retreat 2023 Saturday, October 21, 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Holy Cross Church, 503 Clothier St., Kemptville

Miriam Wright, a well-known speaker, will encourage us to respond wholeheartedly to the call of Jesus, the Bridegroom: "Arise, My Beloved, Come!" (Song of "Songs 2:10), so that we may come to love as we are loved. Cost (\$70) includes three keynote addresses and follow up discussions, plus lunch and snacks. Register at www.womensfallretreat.com.



Grief Retreat (Project Rachel) Friday, October 27-29, 2023

Project Rachel at St. Mary of Egypt Refuge (located near Madoc) is offering a retreat. We minister to those grieving the loss of their child from abortion. For more information, phone us at (289)691-6840, e-mail projectrachel@stmarysrefuge.org, or visit www.stmarysrefuge.org/rachel.



1st Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, December 1; 4:30 - 6:30 pm

St. John the Evangelist Parh (3529 Flinton Road, Flinton)

All are welcome to come out and celebrate with us. There will be hot chocolate and fresh baked cookies. This is a Free event for the whole family! For more information please call Maude (905)449-2160.

Blessing of a Pet

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air,
and animals on the land.

You inspired St. Francis to call all of them
his brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless our pet, our cherished family member.
By the power of your love, enable it to live
according to your plan.

May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.
Blessed are you, Lord God, and all your creatures!
Amen.

