



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON

JOURNEY

COMMUNICATOR FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON

THE BLESSINGS OF
PILGRIMAGES

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE:
PILGRIMAGE FROM
KINGSTON TO LISBON
WORLD YOUTH DAY

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO:
FINDING YOUR WAY
WITH OUR LORD



THE PILGRIM CHURCH
DECEMBER 2023

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Art by Andy, age 5.



Message from Archbishop Michael Mulhall

My dear faithful of the Archdiocese,

The teachings of Jesus are full of allusions to journeys and pilgrimages. Not only did he travel ceaselessly throughout Palestine, but he gave to his first apostles and disciples the mandate to go out to the ends of the world. These journeys were to spread the good news of the kingdom to all the towns and villages of the Holy Land and to proclaim the gospel of the resurrection of Jesus to all nations.

Very early on, fervent Christians traveled to holy places, especially the places in Palestine connected to the earthly life of our Saviour. To the holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem, was added the pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul at Rome, and later to the tombs of apostles, saints, and places of Marian intercession. These physical and at times difficult journeys were intended to give clarity to the journey of the soul towards heaven. This is the calling of all the baptized to our heavenly homeland with God.

In 2025, the Church will celebrate a jubilee year. These are years set at various stages of the Church's life as she journeys on the pilgrimage toward salvation. Many will remember the important jubilee year of 2000 and the many graces bestowed on the faithful.

In 2026, the Archdiocese will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its founding. This will be a precious and unique event for our local Church and all the faithful. We will look back in thanksgiving to all those who built this Archdiocese through their faithful and loving embrace of the gospel message of Jesus. This anniversary will also be a time for the living to rededicate ourselves to the pilgrimage of our time in our journey to the Father. May these celebrations strengthen within us the conviction that the Church does not wander aimlessly in the world of human events but, founded on the apostles, she makes patient progress, as the bride of Christ, to the fulfillment ordained by God.

As we reflect on the Nativity of Christ this Christmas, let us profit from the wonderful journeys and pilgrimages in the Christmas scriptures. Immediately after accepting the message of the Angel Gabriel, Mary makes her journey to the hill country of Judea to comfort Elizabeth. Impelled by the decree of Augustus, the Holy Family travels to Bethlehem, flees the cruelty of Herod through Gaza to Egypt, returns to Nazareth to establish a stable home, and makes the proscribed pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem. And let us not forget the joyful journey from the fields by night of the shepherds nor the challenging pilgrimage of the wise men from the east to the humility of the Blessed Mother and Child.

In this edition of Journey, members of the Archdiocese will give testimony to various pilgrimages they have experienced in the past. May these testimonies evoke within our hearts a fervour to continue the spiritual pilgrimage of our life. As our feet carry us on an actual journey in this life, so the Lord gives us the grace of will to move our souls to all that is good, true, and faithful. May we be vigilant and watchful, looking for the star which will be the sure indication to us to find the child who will give meaning and happiness to our baptismal pilgrimage.

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston



The Blessings of Pilgrimages

By Fr. Justin Pulikunnel

Growing up, our family would make an annual summer pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory, not only because it was a fun and relatively short-day trip, but to seek the assistance of St. Joseph and his biggest promoter, Brother Andre (Bessette), who has since been canonized. The highlight for us kids was rolling down the grassy banks of the shrine (while serious pilgrims went up the stairs on their knees), and of course, lighting candles in the great Art Deco votive chapel, where we offered ardent prayers at the various bas reliefs accorded to St. Joseph – my favourite was “St. Joseph, Terror of Demons.” On my last visit to the Oratory, I was utterly dismayed to learn that the traditional prayers at the prie-dieus of these beautiful reliefs have been re-written in a wordy, politically correct, flat style, which annoyed me to no end, but my anger subsided when I looked up to see all the ex-votos (canes, crutches) suspended and left behind by grateful pilgrims healed through St. Joseph's intercession over the years.



When I was in university, a friend invited me to join him for a Marian pilgrimage in May. While I knew that pilgrimages to the shrines of our Lady had an ancient pedigree, I guess I never knew that they could be undertaken locally and quite simply. My friend explained that this custom (which he had been doing for years) was simply a desire to show an outward expression of devotion to Our Lady during the month that the Church traditionally dedicated to her. It was an intimate pilgrimage, just the two of us, setting off from our apartments in the Mile End of Montreal, making our way (by foot) to Notre Dame Basilica in Old Port. We kept a spirit of prayer and penance, and prayed two sets of the mysteries of the Rosary on the way there, another set when we got to the shrine itself, and another set on the way back, capping it off with the Litany, all in the hope that the intentions we had in our hearts for ourselves and others would be assisted by the powerful intercession of Mother Mary. Ever since that spring 2003 pilgrimage, I've kept the custom every May, inviting a couple of friends to accompany me.

Pictured (Top) Fr. Justin and Fr. Brian Price outside the Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, Jerusalem. (Bottom of next page) The Mount of Beatitudes in Galilee.

As a seminarian and now priest for almost 10 years, I've had the privilege to lead many pilgrimages to holy sites the world over: In the footsteps of St. Paul to Greece and Turkey, to Egypt (where our Blessed Lord spent the first three years of his life), to the Eternal City of Rome, and of course, to the Holy Land, traditionally described as 'the Fifth Gospel'. These trips have been tremendous blessings – a chance to follow (literally) in the footsteps of our Lord and the saints; to have the sacred scriptures opened in new and exciting ways; to experience God's mercy; to ask for conversion or a healing; to make atonement for my sins, and simply to give thanks to God for all the blessings He's given me. The last pilgrimage I led (with Fr. Stéphane Pouliot and pilgrims from across our Archdiocese) was to accompany Pope Francis in his penitential pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre in response to the role of the Church in the historical mistreatment of Canada's Indigenous peoples. It was pretty neat to be in such proximity to and solidarity with the Holy Father, to express our sorrow and implore God's forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

If you've never been on a pilgrimage – whether local or international – I encourage you to undertake one sooner rather than later, as it mirrors and provides a much-needed spiritual boost to us weary sojourners in this valley of tears.

Fr. Justin Pulikunnel is the pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus (Marmora) and Sacred Heart of Mary (Madoc) and will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Nov 17-26, 2024. If you're interested in joining him, he can be reached at sacredheart.mm@archkingston.ca





CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

FINDING YOUR WAY WITH OUR LORD

For thousands of years, pilgrims have walked hundreds of kilometres of trails associated with the route of St. James the Apostle as he took the good news of the gospel to Spain. The Camino de Santiago which ends at the Cathedral in the city of Santiago de Compostella, is known in English as 'Way of St. James'. The Cathedral is the final resting place of St. James, the Patron Saint of pilgrims. Approximately 350,000 pilgrims from all over the world travel the long trails each year. Below are the testimonies of Julia Mazlymian of Kingston and Angela Quinn of Smith Falls who each returned from recent pilgrimages to experience Camino de Santiago.

Julia Mazlymian

I left Kingston Aug 8, 2023, for Paris then took a train to Lourdes. I arrived in time for the candlelight procession and rosary which was so beautiful. I spent three days in Lourdes then started the Camino pilgrimage. I picked the French route as I knew it was the most popular route, so after a 2-hour train ride I arrived in St. Jean Pied de Port. It took me 35 days to walk. My friend, Rocio, joined me for two weeks but otherwise, I completed this pilgrimage on my own. I walked an average of 25 km per day. I saw a person I met at Lourdes many times on the trail and we became good friends. I could see how God was placing certain people on my journey. I would leave at 4:00 or 5:00 am and listen to some worship music. I was walking for a personal intention, for healing. In all of the time and silence, I was kind of forced to confront many things that I hadn't come to terms with and you literally have no choice but to confront them when you are on the Camino. I stopped at all of the beautiful churches along the way to just sit with God.

My mom says this pilgrimage changed me a lot. I still feel like myself – I learned a lot and I was just so deeply touched by so many people along the way. You don't really know what to expect and when you get there it isn't at all what you thought it would be.



It can be very challenging emotionally, physically, and spiritually. There was an overall sense of joy and relief when I made it to the Cathedral. I collapsed on the floor and silently cried looking up at the Cathedral. It's overwhelming and I was thinking about how I had just finished walking 779 km. I had a Pilgrim Passport and it helped me document all of the stops along the way, villages and churches, and I look at it now all the time. Because of this pilgrimage, I've built a lot of lifelong lasting friendships all over the world. Some of them I message every single day. I would love to go back!

Pictured: (Top to bottom) Julia on the Camino trail; Julia in front of the cathedral.

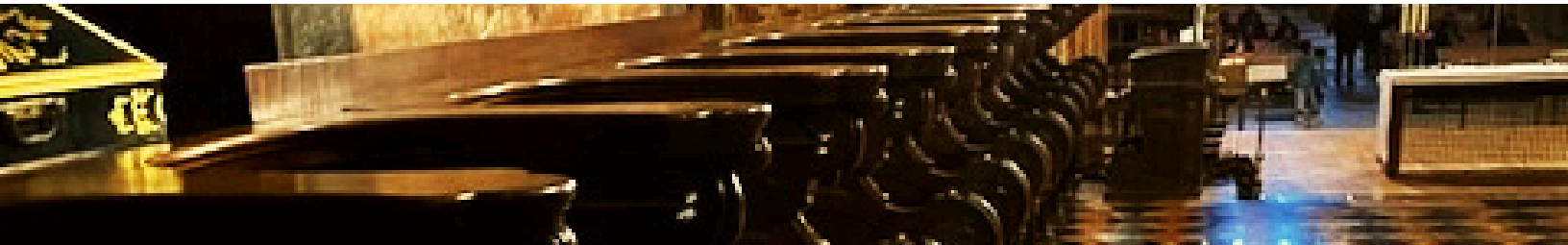


Angela Quinn

What was I thinking? Walking 250 km to join pilgrims on their quest to reach the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. After a special blessing from our parish priest Father Brennan my friend and I set off. It was an extreme challenge at this stage of my life. Through many challenges such as constant rain, demanding terrain, and aching bunions (oh they would sing to me every day) I did it!

I used this time to reflect on my spiritual life (no electronics for me). It strengthened my faith. Each church brought comfort and moments of peace... deep peace. I felt inspired by all those who came before me. Since the Middle Ages pilgrims have come on this path as a way to pray and strengthen their faith. We were able to appreciate the wonders of God's creations. We could smell the eucalyptus trees, taste the chestnuts, and admire the many churches, rivers, bridges, and oh the many, many hills. We were fortunate to arrive in Santiago de Compostela on All Saints Day and take part in the mass and ceremony with the Botafumeiro, watching the giant censer swinging to the ceiling. It was very impressive and awe-inspiring.

On my voyage, I felt peace but also to my surprise, gratitude. I didn't wish for "more things". I learned to be grateful for the good things in my life, my husband, my daughters, my grandchildren, and my friends. All are healthy and doing well in life: That is enough for me.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: PILGRIMAGE FROM KINGSTON TO LISBON FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023



Photo: World Youth Day 2023 Opening Ceremonies, Creative Commons photo shared by attendee.

By Joshua and Michael Terpstra

World Youth Day (WYD) was celebrated in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2023, with approximately 1.5 million young people from around the world attending the closing Holy Mass with Pope Francis. The theme for this year's WYD was, "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). Michael and Joshua Terpstra, from St. Joseph parish, Kingston responded to the call in their hearts and participated in this life-changing pilgrimage and shared their testimonies.

Joshua Terpstra:

WYD is certainly not quiet or ordinary. It is radically different than anything we typically experience in our lives. It is an encounter with the universal Church – an opportunity to see Christ in the people also journeying to encounter Christ alongside you. It is not a silent retreat. It is a gathering of the Church from around the world and a recognition of the saints we walk with around this world – a thing difficult to conceptualize when we are back home in our small communities.

Jesus has a habit of calling me to get to know particular saints. It is a gift whenever the Lord offers you the chance to encounter the saints of our great Church. Over the week, I had the privilege of venerating the relics of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Joan of Arc, St. Faustina, St. Anthony, St. John Paul II, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassatti, and Blessed Carlos Acutis. We also visited the tombs of the shepherds of Fatima. Despite the craziness of WYD, the experience with these Saints was enough to grant me palpable times of interior silence and intimacy with the Lord.

After visiting the apparition site at Fatima, I can confidently say this is the closest I have ever felt to Our Lady. I have never had a strong devotion to the rosary or to her as Mother, but I left Fatima knowing who she was and felt a deep sense of her calling me to get closer to her Son. I had the chance to approach the site on my knees in prayer. Despite my knees being torn up by the end of it, I had a beautiful experience of my own poverty, an opportunity to give a tangible sacrifice for my future family and enter into the rosary in a way I never have before.

Hearing Pope Francis, the successor of St. Peter, exhort us as the future of the Church fills me with hope for the future and with a sense of excitement about my faith. This experience will continue to be unpacked as I discern my vocation. I hope my testimony is one of many that shows the hope that is within the youth of our Church.



Picture: Panoramic shot of Fatima including the Shrine of Fatima, the tree Our Lady appeared, and the Basilica of the Holy Trinity.

Michael Terpstra:

The experience of going to WYD was very powerful for me in being able to see just how alive and thriving the Church is. A lot of news these days is not great with war and violence happening everywhere. Being surrounded by so many young people, no matter where they were on their faith journey, was incredible. It was profound to see hundreds of thousands of pilgrims all walking down the streets of Lisbon singing and waving their countries' flags on the way to the opening Mass. All of us pilgrims from different countries, cities, life situations, backgrounds, and ages were coming together to receive Jesus in the Eucharist; to be with Him who was fully present.

The final Mass took place in a beautiful park overlooking the water. Our group was located in section A, close to the main stage and the moment the Monstrance was raised and the Eucharist exposed, everyone in our section faced toward the Eucharist, went silent, and kneeled. There was no prompting or direction given, just silence over the whole crowd. Even the city close to the park seemed to fall quiet. It was as though everyone recognized that Jesus was there.

There were many phenomenal moments for me, from being able to see so many relics of different saints of the Church to standing in some of the most beautiful churches and then spending time in Fatima. Our time in Fatima was very profound for me. I prayed the Rosary on my knees near the Basilica. The pain was intense and the heat of the sun was pretty bad, but during that time of prayer and suffering it really struck me how intense the actual crucifixion was. This moment of perspective made me feel so thankful. It was truly an amazing journey and pilgrimage.



Pictured right: Our Lady of Fatima statue in the Shrine of Fatima, Photos by Elisabeth Santos.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS AND THE UNBORN

In 1531 Our Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego requesting that he ask the Bishop to build a Church in her honour on Tepeyac Hill, which would later become Mexico City. As a result of the miraculous events related to the apparition of Mary to Juan Diego, 8,000,000 people native to Mexico would convert to Catholicism between 1531 and 1538 (guadalupe Shrine.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe-shrine). Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and Sanctuary is visited by over 20,000,000 pilgrims each year. Shelley Macintyre and her mother, Murielle Burton, from Trenton, made a pilgrimage to this holy Shrine in 2022.

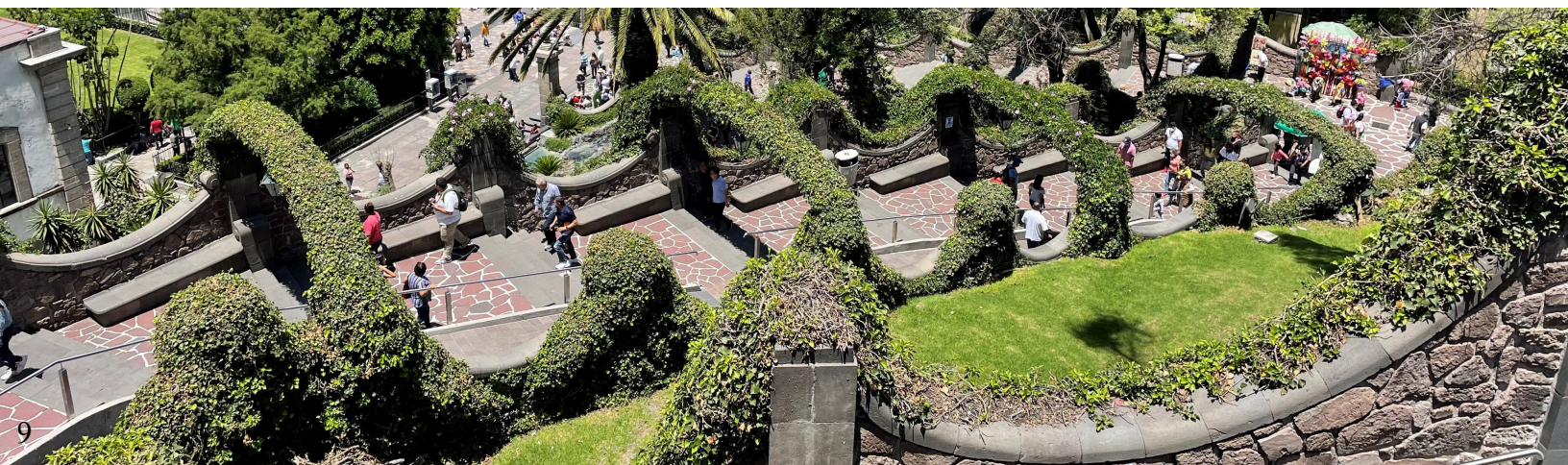
Shelley Macintyre

In August 2022, my mother and I went on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico for six days. There were approximately 40 people in our tour group. My husband and I had traveled there in 2019 after a ten-day international conference with the St Andrew's School of Evangelization which took place in Mexico. I had told my mother all about it and she really wanted to go so we picked a 6-day pilgrimage to go in March of 2020 but Covid shut that down. It was rescheduled three times, and we finally went in August of 2022.

It was an incredibly holy and beautiful time. We went back to the Shrine three times over our six days. We went to see other holy sites as well as some of the other historically significant places in Mexico, but always returned to the Shrine. What I didn't realize the first time I went there, with my husband, was that it was necessary to spend more time taking part in a few Masses at different Catholic churches on the site of the Shrine as well as much time in prayer, for me to enter into the beauty and holiness that is truly present. It allowed me to get much closer to Our Lady because I had never felt super close to her prior to this time. In fact, I wasn't really looking forward to the trip because I had already been and I was not as close to Mary as others may be, but it was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I saw it from a whole new perspective going on a pilgrimage and I truly entered into prayer with Mary. She showed me her love and drew me closer to her so that now I can lean more on my Heavenly Mother as she leads me closer to her Son.



Bronze statue of the Bishop receiving the roses from Juan Diego.





I would suggest to anyone interested in going to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to try hard to spend as much time as possible in prayer and rest while you are there. If you only focus on all the touristy stuff (there is a lot of that) you could lose out on the incredible beauty and magnitude of what took place there. Our tour also gave us a special session of learning the magnitude of the picture itself that is on Juan Diego's tilma. So much detail that is beyond comprehension, but all of this could be missed in the hustle and bustle of a non-guided tour. In my opinion, because I went both ways - once on our own and once on a pilgrimage, I would suggest going with a pilgrimage, so you don't miss out on any of the important details of what truly took place.



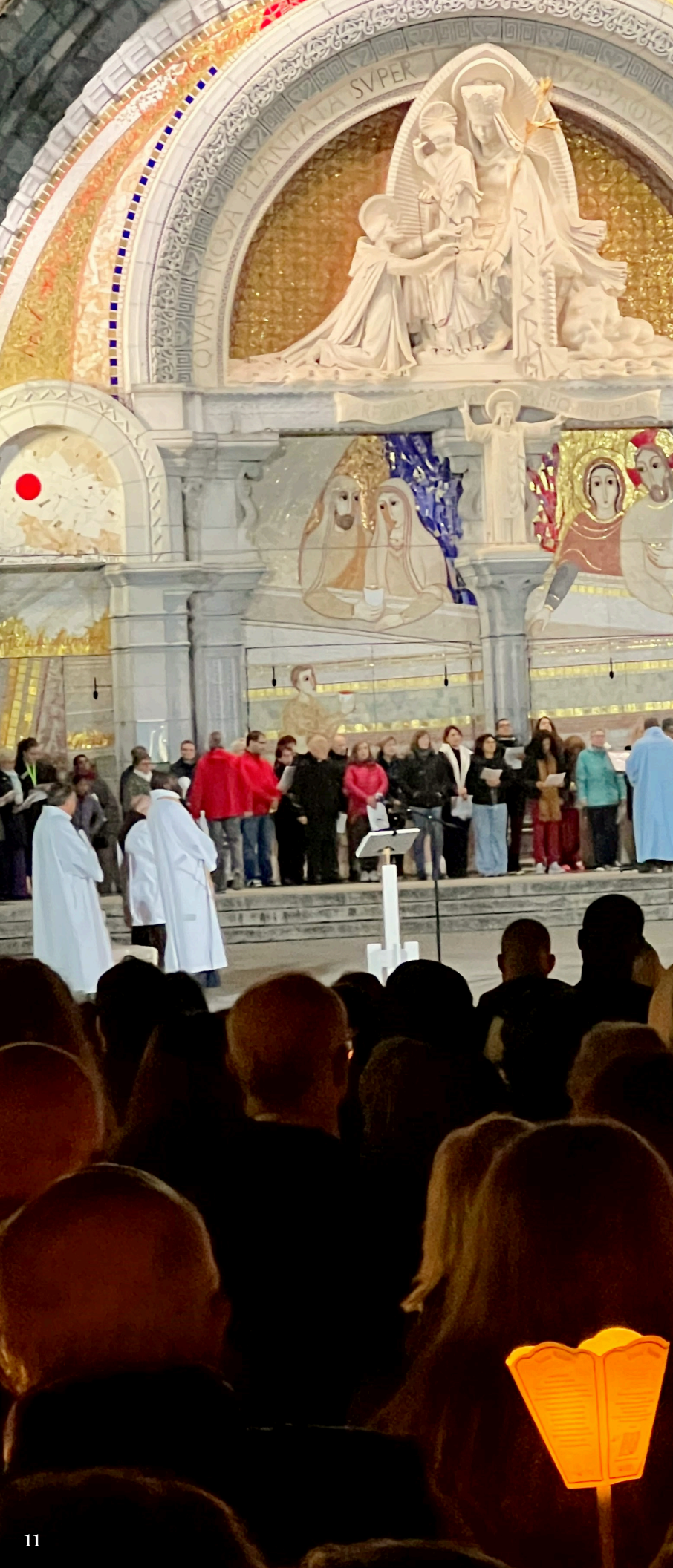
Pictured: (Above) The framed miraculous Tilma of Juan Diego;
(Bottom) The great crowds of faithful pilgrims from Mexico who visit the Shrine there regularly.

Pilgrim Experiences and Wisdom

By Fr. John Gillis

Recently, after returning from a ten-day pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain, and France, I was asked to share a few thoughts with you on the experiences I have had while on the pilgrimages I have participated in. Although I have often been the spiritual leader and sometimes organizer, I have nonetheless been a pilgrim on each trip. Defining what a pilgrimage is very much depends on the objective of the individual who has made the commitment of time and resources to visit a destination deemed to be Holy in the mind of the Church; or in their very purpose and desire for going to a particular place. Indeed, it is often during the hardship of travel that God reveals His intention for that person.

One of the first pilgrimages I organized was actually a very simple affair to a rather obscure shrine in the Archdiocese of Kingston. Having been appointed as Administrator of St John the Evangelist Church in Flinton, I was informed of a shrine to Our Lady of Fatima in the neighbouring parish of Madoc. Of course, there was not only local knowledge of the parish but also there were family members who lived there. With the enthusiasm of Helen Yanch, Fran Pollock, and a few others we had a prayerful day where Our Blessed Mother witnessed every prayer and indeed prayed with us. I am sure the sincerity and devotion were as fervent as if we were in Fatima itself, which due to health and financial resources would not have been possible. The hospitality offered by members of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish was beyond our expectations and a blessing to each of us. While in Chesterville, I have led tours to the beautiful churches of Ottawa and Montreal with the same sense of welcome and enthusiasm from hosts and pilgrims. Locally we have an abundance of Holy places to explore and share with each other that are often overlooked.



That being said, I have been privileged to provide spiritual support for trips to Lourdes, Fatima, and Medjugorje over the past twenty-five years, and recognize the same desire to offer their suffering, fasting, and prayer for those not able to make the arduous journey. I have been amazed more by the people than the sites and have even met descendants of the shepherds of Bethlehem while leading a tour to the Holy Land in more peaceful times. Post tour I have prayed with some who gained the strength and faith to prepare for their departure from this life into the life to come.

I would conclude by saying I am a great promoter of pilgrimages where people form a prayerful intention for a specific purpose, set a start, and then proceed to carry it out; regardless of whether it is in Europe, North America, or in their local parish visiting the Holy Land as St Francis has taught us. May God bless all pilgrims, hear their prayers, and guide them along their way.

Pictured (Left page) Candelight procession at Lourdes.

Pictured below: (Left) In front of St. James Church in Medjugorje; (Right) Underground church in Lourdes.



GRADE 6 WITNESS FAITH DAYS

Mike Gundert, Coordinator of Religious & Family Life Education, ALCDSB

We were excited to reintroduce the grade 6 Witness Faith Days for all grade 6 students in the ALCDSB as part of Catholic Education Week in May of 2023. The purpose of these days is to empower students to be witnesses to the Catholic faith and the Scriptural theme of the event was: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Two events were offered, hosted in Belleville at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and in Kingston at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church.

The Witness Faith Days included praise and worship music led by the Josh Blakesley Band (pictured below), whose music is included in many Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) hymnals, including Spirit & Song and Never Too Young. The band has extensive experience leading engaging music for young Catholics, including its involvement in the Steubenville Youth Conferences across North America and World Youth Day. In addition to the music, the day included a keynote by musician Josh Blakesley, sharing his personal story and witness of faith, a breakout session offered by secondary school Chaplaincy Leaders on how we can be faith witnesses, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We, as Church, are pilgrim people, and these days helped students see that we are a community that accompanies one another and are called to be witnesses along our journey of faith.



Pilgrimage as a Union of Charity

By Rodney Carter, RHSJ St. Joseph Region Archivist

Ninety years ago, three Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) traveled across the Atlantic on a nearly four-month-long journey through Europe. They were the first Canadian RHSJs to make a pilgrimage to their congregation's houses in France and to Rome. The adventure was detailed by Mother Marie-Berthe Thibault of the Hotel Dieu Athabasca in a document entitled "Humble Sheaf of Souvenirs of France and Rome by a Congressist Dedicated to Mary Immaculate", a 45-page typescript detailing the trip made from April 21st to August 7th, 1933. It describes her pilgrimage to France, Belgium, and Italy where, travelling accompanied by Mother Lacas and Sister Allard of Montreal, she visited the ancient RHSJ Houses and other sites of religious and cultural significance.

During the pilgrimage, they attended the International Congress of Hospitals in Bruges, the International Congress of Nursing that was held jointly in Paris and Brussels, and the Congress of the International Association of Catholic Nurses which took place in Lourdes in conjunction with the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the last appearance of the Immaculate Virgin to Bernadette Soubirous (who was canonized that December). In Rome, they attended the Canonization Mass for St. Andre-Hubert Fournet and had a private audience with Pope Pius XI at the Vatican.

The first of the nine RHSJ houses they visited was in Ernée, France, where, as in all the places they stayed, they were greeted with exceptional hospitality. At the end of their stay there, Mother Thibault wrote "...I can but imperfectly express the happiness I felt at the warm sympathy and affection in autonomous monasteries like ours, preserved through the ages, and radiating today with such intensity, and this because one same bond binds them together as one religious family. The House of Ernee shall ever have a special place in our memory – it was the first towards which God directed our steps, the first which confirmed the sincere attachment of our beloved French Sisters."

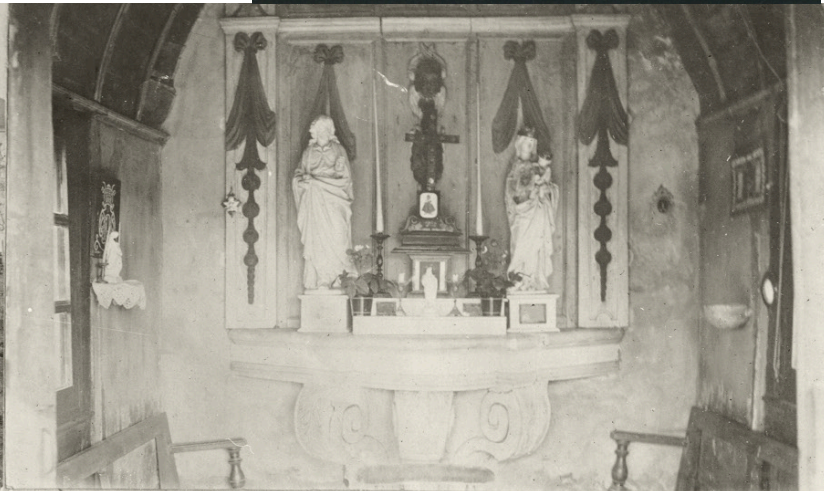
Pictured: Detail of a panoramic photograph of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes [19--]



Later in the narrative, she describes the Hotel Dieu of La Flèche as the “House more loved than the others, being the cradle of our Institute, and filled with precious memories of the heroic devotion of Jeanne Mance, Mothers Mace, Maillet and Bresoles.” Mother Thibault reflects on how courageous these Foundresses of the RHSJ in Montreal must have been in the face of the exceptionally difficult three-month long journey to New France. She writes: “Yes – they were saintly heroines, our French missionaries, and after 300 years their humble Canadian daughters were happy and proud to bear for the first time to La Fleche, their perpetual remembrance, as well as the survival of the traditions bequeathed to the Canadian branch, born of their sacrifices and vivified by their virtues.”

The Canadian RHSJs visited the original Hotel Dieu, the home of Founder Jerome Le Royer, and other sites associated with the Founders and the history of the congregation. Contemplating her time in La Flèche, she wrote: “I shall always preserve a sacred memory of La Fleche and its pilgrimages [...]. For our dear Sisters who are there, we have feelings of deepest gratitude for their kindness, devotion and generosity towards their little Canadian Sisters, now more than ever attached to the religious cradle.” Upon leaving Beaupréau, the final RHSJ house they visited, Mother Thibault reflected, “Everywhere the same kindness, the same spirit of union – who would not be deeply touched by it? New bonds of affection were formed in each dear House, to be broken again on our departure, but spiritually they will be stronger than every before, in union of charity.”

Pictured: (Right) Mother Marie-Berthe Thibault, RHSJ Superior General [1950s];
(Below) The Hotel Dieu of La Fleche (1909).





Pictured: The Hotel Dieu of La Ernée (1909)

Upon her return to Canada, Mother Thibault sent a letter to the Sisters of France, thanking them for their hospitality. She wrote: “I continue to thank our Lord each day for leading me, as it were, by the hand to our blessed French houses. I cannot tell you what deep union, what sincere attachment my poor heart carried away; the thanks I wish to convey will never be complete except in heaven.” The opportunity to visit sites of historical and continuing significance for Catholics and for the RHSJs, in particular, allowed for reflection and a deepening of faith. The idea of union, repeated in the report and the correspondence, is particularly important. The pilgrimage confirmed the continuity of tradition and the connection of RHSJs worldwide through their common religious heritage, which had been preserved over three centuries and across an ocean.

Twenty years after her pilgrimage, Mother Thibault became the first Superior General of the Congregation of Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, which united the previously autonomous houses in North America. The houses of France joined the Generalate as the Holy Family Province in 1965, administratively connecting all the houses of Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph and completing the “union of charity”.

December 25, 2023 - The 800th Anniversary of the Christmas Creche

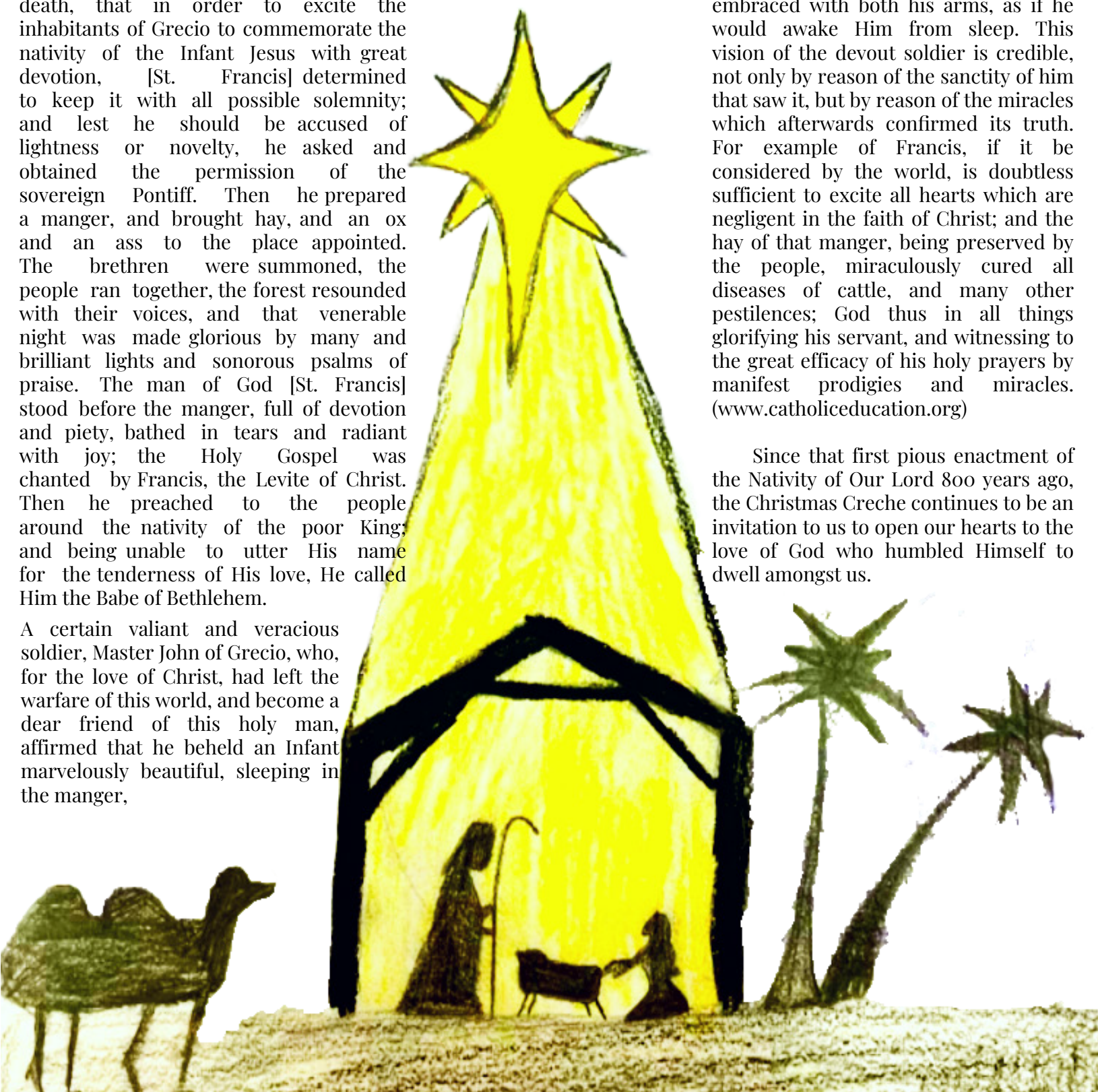
The first Christmas Creche, a tableau of the Nativity, was created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio in Lazio, Italy. It is believed that St. Francis was concerned about the growing materialism he was witnessing around him and wanted to remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas, opening the hearts of all who came to view the scene at Midnight Mass. St Bonaventure (d. 1274) wrote the following account of this event 800 years ago:

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.

A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger,

Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles. (www.catholiceducation.org)

Since that first pious enactment of the Nativity of Our Lord 800 years ago, the Christmas Creche continues to be an invitation to us to open our hearts to the love of God who humbled Himself to dwell amongst us.



PILGRIM HEARTS, PRAYER, AND THE THIRST OF OUR LORD FOR US

Pilgrimages are often described as journeys seeking an encounter with God, personal transformation, and an interruption to the routine of everyday life. Within the Catholic Church, our identity as pilgrims is fundamental to our existence as followers of Christ. During the Third Eucharistic Prayer, the Priest petitions, “Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and Michael our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy and the entire people you have gained for your own.” We are united as followers, brothers, and sisters, the Body of Christ in the pilgrim Church. We are all making our way home to our heavenly Father.

Within the traditions of the Church, many beautiful devotions teach us to embrace the disposition of a pilgrim, contemplating the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and joining our small crosses to His. Praying the Stations of the Cross and the full Rosary are two such devotions which are pious pilgrims' journeys available to all the faithful. Making time and space in our lives to put all else aside and spend time with Our Lord moves us forward on the path as pilgrims regardless of our ability to visit Holy Sites around the world. It is our act of will, opening our hearts to Our Lord, which advances our earthly pilgrimage. He is close to us wherever we are. The following excerpts from a reflection written by Fr Joseph Langford, Missionaries of Charity, describes the thirst of Our Lord for each of us and our invitation to receive His saving Grace, whoever and wherever we are:

It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there: waiting for even the smallest signal of your response, even the smallest suggestion of an invitation that will permit Me to enter. I want you to know that each time you invite Me, I do come always, without fail. Silent and invisible I come, yet with a power and a love most infinite, bringing the many gifts of My Spirit. I come with My mercy, with My desire to forgive and heal you, with a love for you that goes beyond your comprehension. A love in each detail, so grand like the love I have received from My Father “I have loved all of you as the Father has loved me...” John 15:10 I come longing to console you and give you strength, to lift you up and bind all your wounds.

...Don't you realize that My Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life, beginning from this moment? Trust in Me. Ask Me every day to enter and take charge of your life and I will. I promise you before My Father in Heaven that I will work miracles in your life. Why would I do this? Because I THIRST FOR YOU. All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself to Me completely. I will do all the rest. From this moment, now, I behold the place My Father has prepared for you in My Kingdom. Remember that you are a pilgrim in this life traveling back home. Sin can never satisfy you, or bring the peace you seek. All that you have sought outside of Me has only left you more empty, so do not tie yourself to the things of this world; above all, do not run from Me when you fall. Come to Me without delay because, when you give Me your sins, you give Me the joy of being your Savior. There is nothing I cannot forgive and heal; so come now, and unburden your soul. No matter how far you have strayed without a destination, no matter how often you have forgotten Me, no matter how many crosses you bear in this life; I want you to always remember, one thing that will never change. I THIRST FOR YOU – just you, as you are.

Pilgrim's Prayer

by Nineveh Murray

Dear God,
We ask your blessing as we travel today in spirit;
Guide our minds as we learn of those who came before us, traversing the pilgrim way.
Give us a hunger to seek your face in paths through fields,
along roads trod by many seeking the blessing of your presence.
Nurture our fellowship
And help us to see each other as a brother or sister
Sharing the journey to your blessed kingdom.
Amen.

Pilgrim Prayer of Pope Francis at Fatima, Portugal

Pope Francis describes himself as a pilgrim of light, hope, and peace at Fatima, Portugal. May 12, 2017. He prayed the following prayer before the image of Our Lady in the Little Chapel of Apparitions:

“Hail Holy Queen,
Blessed Virgin of Fatima,
Lady of Immaculate Heart,
our refuge and our way to God!
As a pilgrim of the Light that comes to
us from your hands,
I give thanks to God the Father,
who in every time and place
is at work in human history;
As a pilgrim of the Peace that, in this
place, you proclaim,
I give praise to Christ, our peace, and I
implore for the world
concord among all peoples;
As a pilgrim of the Hope that the
Spirit awakens,
I come as a prophet and messenger to
wash the feet of all,
at the same table that unites us.”

(www.fatima.pt/en/news/pope-presents-himself-as-pilgrim-of-hope-in-portugal-)



Priests of the Archdiocese of Kingston Complete Their Earthly Pilgrimages

Every pilgrim's journey ends when they are called home by Our Lord. Please remember in your prayers the following Priests who died in the past twelve months. They have served the Archdiocese of Kingston over the past six decades. We thank God for the Graces we have received through their ministries and humbly pray for their eternal salvation.



Fr Liam P.J. Tallon

Father Liam Patrick James Tallon died peacefully at Providence Manor, Kingston on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in his 95th year. The son of John and Eleanor (Ward) Tallon, Father Liam was born in Liverpool, England on July 25, 1929. He earned degrees in philosophy from Melbourne University, Australia, the University of Alberta, Canada, and completed postgraduate studies at Oxford University, England. After a career teaching, he responded to the call to the Priesthood, graduated from St. Paul University in Ottawa, and was ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of Kingston on May 29, 1975. Father Liam is survived by his loving sister, Eleanor Loftus, of Cheshire, England, nephew Nicholas and nieces Annette, Catherine, and Clare. During his 48 years of priesthood, he served as associate pastor in the parishes of St. Michael the Archangel, Belleville; St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston; and St. Francis de Sales, Smiths Falls. He was pastor of Sacred Heart, Bedford & St. James Major, Sharbot Lake; St. Bridget, Stanleyville & St Vincent de Paul, Bathurst; and St. John the Apostle, Kingston. Following his retirement in 2004, he continued in part-time priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Kingston. He was Spiritual Director of the Archdiocesan Legion of Mary and a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, November 13, 2023. May he rest in the peace of Christ.



Fr Edward J. Keyes

Father Edward James Keyes of Gananoque, Ontario, in his 94th year, died peacefully at Carveth Care Centre, Gananoque, on Friday, January 6, 2023. Predeceased by parents Joseph and Emily Keyes (nee Fowler), brothers Kenneth, Richard, Vincent and John, and sisters Mary, Margaret and Helen. Survived and fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. A native of Gananoque, Father Keyes graduated from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto in 1953 and from St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto in 1957. Ordained to the priesthood in 1957 for the Archdiocese of Kingston. Father Keyes began his ministry as chaplain at the Newman Centre, Queen's University, followed by pastoral duties as parish priest in St. Michael's Parish, Belleville; St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Marmora; Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Lanark & Missions of Ferguson Falls and McDonald's Corners; Sacred Heart Parish, Cardinal; St. Gregory's Parish, Picton; and St. Edward's Parish, Westport. Mass of Christian burial took place Friday, January 13, 2023 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Gananoque. May he rest in the peace of Christ.



Fr Edward J. Barrett

Father Edward Henry Barrett, JCD, died peacefully at Kingston Health Science Centre on Saturday, December 10, 2022, in his 92nd year. Born February 28, 1931, in Kingston, Fr. Barrett was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1957. Over four decades, he served in the Archdiocese of Kingston at St. Mary Cathedral, Kingston, St. Francis Xavier, Brockville, St. Patrick, Railton, St. Mary, Odessa, Blessed Sacrament, Amherstview, St. Patrick, Napanee and, St. Barnaby, Brewers Mills. He was predeceased by his parents John and Dorothy (nee Cuddy). Father Barrett was a former president of the Canadian Canon Law Society. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, December 19th, 2022, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Amherstview. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Christmas and New Years Mass Schedule

Parish	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
St. Mary's Cathedral	5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 12:00 Midnight	10:00 am	7:30 pm	10:00 am
St. John the Apostle Parish	4:30 pm, 8:00 pm	9:30 am	4:30 pm	9:30 am
St. Joseph Parish	5:15 pm, 8:00 pm	9:00 am, 11:00 am	5:15 pm	11:00 am
St. Francois-d'Assise (French)	5:00 pm	11:00 am	-	11:00 am
Holy Family Parish	7:00 pm	11:00 am	-	11:00 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish	5:15 pm	10:30 am	5:15 pm	10:30 am
Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Portuguese)	11:00 pm Portuguese	9:30 am Portuguese 11:00 am English	-	9:30 am Portuguese 11:00 am English
St. Paul the Apostle Parish	5:00 pm, 7:00 pm,	10:00 am	5:00 pm	10:00 am
Amherstview—Blessed Sacrament	5:15 pm, 9:00 pm	10:00 am	5:15 pm	10:00 am
Ardoch – St. Kilian Parish	4:30 pm	-	-	11:00 am
Athens—St. Denis the Areopagite Parish	5:00 pm	-	5:00 pm	-
Batawa—Sacred Heart of Jesus	-	10:00 am	-	-
Bath—St. Linus Parish	7:00 pm	-	-	-
Bedford— Sacred Heart of Jesus	6:00 pm	-	6:00 pm	-
Belleville—St. Michael the Archangel	5:00 pm, 7:00 pm,	9:30 am, 11:00 am	-	-
Belleville—Holy Rosary Parish	4:30 pm, 6:30 pm	10:00 am	4:30 pm	10:00 am
Belleville—St. Joseph Parish	6:00 pm, 8:00 pm	9:00 am, 11:00 am	-	9:00 am, 11:00 am
Brewers Mills—St. Barnaby Parish	7:30 pm	9:00 am	7:00 pm	-
Brockville—St. Francis Xavier Parish	4:30 pm, 7:00 pm	10:00 am	4:30 pm	10:00 am
Brockville—St. John Bosco Parish	5:00 pm, 7:30 pm	9:30 am	5:15 pm	9:30 am
Cardinal—Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish	6:00 pm	9:00 am	-	9:00 am
Carleton Place—St. Mary Parish	5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 12:00 Midnight	9:00 am, 11:00 am	5:00 pm	9:00 am, 11:00 am
Centreville—St. Anthony of Padua Parish	5:30 pm	9:00 am	-	9:00 am
Chesterville—St. Mary Parish	5:00 pm	10:30 am	5:00 pm	10:30 am
Deseronto—St. Vincent de Paul	-	10:00 am	5:00 pm	-
Elgin—St. Columbanus Parish	4:00 pm	-	4:00 pm	-
Enterprise—Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	6:30 pm, 12:00 Midnight	-	5:00 pm	-
Erinsville—Assumption of the Blessed	4:30 pm	11:00 am	-	11:00 am
Flinton—St. John the Evangelist	7:30 pm	9:00 am	7:30 pm	9:00 am
Frankford—St. Francis Assisi Parish	7:00 pm	-	-	-

Parish	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
Gananoque—St. John the Evangelist	5:00 pm, 10:00 pm	10:30 am	7:00 pm	10:30 am
Howe Island—St. Philomena	7:00 pm	8:30 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am
Iroquois—St. Cecilia Parish	8:00 pm	-	-	9:00 am
Kemptville—Holy Cross Parish	6:00 pm, 8:30 pm, 12:00 Midnight	10:00 am	-	9:00 am, 11:00 am
Kingston Mills—Holy Name of Jesus	4:30 pm	9:30 am, 11:00 am (Polish)	5:00 pm	9:30 am, 11:00 am (Polish)
Lanark—Sacred Heart of Jesus	-	9:00 am	-	9:00 am
Lansdowne—St. Patrick Parish	5:30 pm	9:00 am	-	-
Lombardy—Blessed Sacrament	7:00 pm	-	-	-
Madoc—Sacred Heart of Mary	5:00 pm	10:00 am	-	10:00 am
Marmora—Sacred Heart of Jesus	7:30 pm	10:00 am	-	10:00 am
Marysville—Holy Name of Mary	5:00 pm	-	-	8:45 am
Merrickville—St. Ann Parish	7:00 pm	11:00 am	5:15 pm	11:00 am
Morrisburg—St. Mary Parish	5:00 pm	10:00 am	-	11:00 am
Napanee—St. Patrick Parish	5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm	10:00 am	5:00 pm	10:00 am
North Augusta—St. Theresa	-	-	-	-
Odessa—St. Mary Parish	-	10:00 am	4:30 pm	-
Perth—St. John the Baptist Parish	5:15 pm, 7:00 pm, 12:00 Midnight	9:00 am	-	9:00 am, 11:00 am
Picton—St. Gregory the Great	5:00 pm (Family Mass), 8:00 pm	10:00 am	-	10:00 am
Prescott—St. Mark the Evangelist	4:00 pm, 8:30 pm	11:00 am	-	11:00 am
Railton—St. Patrick Parish	5:00 pm	11:00 am	5:00 pm	11:00 am
Read—St. Charles Borromeo	7:00 pm	-	-	10:30 am
Rockport—St. Brendan	7:30 pm	-	-	-
Sharbot Lake—St. James Major	-	8:45 am	-	8:45 am
Smiths Falls—St. Francis de Sales	5:00 pm	10:00 am	5:00 pm	10:00 am
South Mountain—St. Daniel	7:30 pm	8:30 am	7:30 pm	8:30 am
Spencerville—St. Laurence O'Toole	4:30 pm	9:00 am		9:00 am
Stanleyville—St. Bridget	5:00 pm	-		11:00 am
Stirling—St. James Minor	5:00 pm	-	-	-
Stoco—St. Edmund Parish	7:30 pm	-	5:00 pm	-
Toledo—St. Philip Neri Parish	7:00 pm	10:00 am	-	10:00 am
Trenton—St. Peter-in-Chains	5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm	10:00 am	5:00 pm	10:00 am
Tweed—St. Carthagh Parish	5:00 pm	10:00 am	-	10:00 am
Westport—St. Edward the Confessor	-	11:00 am	-	11:00 am
Wolfe Island—Sacred Heart of Mary	5:00 pm, 11:00 pm	9:00 am	-	9:00 am

Invitations to the Faithful

Come Celebrate "350 years of Meaning and Action" in Quebec City!



From December 8, 2023 to December 8, 2024, the Catholic Church in Quebec City will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of its Diocese! The oldest diocese north of Mexico, the cradle of faith in our country, has given birth to more than 150 dioceses over the years.

Its community has lived, celebrated and shared the faith, met social needs, founded organizations that are still vibrant, and helped give life to the culture we inherit today. The fundamental importance of this legacy will be celebrated in a program that also takes a look at the life of today's community.

The Catholic community of the Diocese of Quebec opens wide its arms to you. Cross the threshold of America's only Holy Door. Come and experience a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the founding saints of the Church in Canada. Like Compostelle pilgrims, criss-cross the magnificent Charlevoix and Côté de Beaupré regions on the new Kapoah Trail.

Rediscover our shared history through activities for all: visits to rarely accessible heritage sites, "Founders' Fortnight", exhibitions, concerts... All the details are available on the website: fetes350.ca. Happy 350th!

Upcoming Events



O Come All Ye Faithful: Epiphany Christmas Carol-Sing

Saturday, January 6, 2:00-3:30pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church; 392 Palace Road, Kingston

Led by the Trinitas Singers and Youth Singers under the direction of Jeffrey Moellman. Monetary and non-perishable/canned food donations will be collected in support of a local charitable organization. A festive reception will follow.



ALPHA is Coming! (Presented by Holy Family Parish)

Mondays, starting February 5 - April 8, 2024; 6:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall; 588 Division Street, Kingston

This is a FREE course and dinner will be served. ALPHA is a series of 10 videos, about 30 minutes long, that explore the big issues around the Christian Faith, with a Catholic view and allow us to deepen our relationship with Jesus. These are followed by group discussions, to share thoughts and ideas on the topic. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited. Registration is required. Please contact Holy Family at 613-548-8587 or holyfamily@archkingston.ca. For more information check out alphacanada.org.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

November 17-26, 2024

Fr. Justin Pulikunnel, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus (Marmora) and Sacred Heart of Mary (Madoc), will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 17-26, 2024. If you're interested in joining him, he can be reached at sacredheart.mm@archkingston.ca