

FALL 2025

JOURNEY

COMMUNICATOR FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON

Introducing the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston – December 8, 2025 - December 8, 2026

**A MESSAGE
TO THE
FAITHFUL**

**200 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

**CREATION
OF AN ICON**



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON



IN THIS ISSUE

Archbishop Mulhall’s Message to the Faithful..... 1

Historical Timeline 2

200th Anniversary Program Outline 4

Making of an Icon 6

Anniversary Prayer 7

Exaltation of the Holy Cross 8

Jubilee Year Canoe Trip 9

Lenten Collection 10

Fr. Rod McNeil’s 45th Anniversary 11

From the Archives..... 12

Cover photo:
The sculpture in the image is the Holy Christ of Lepanto, also known as the Christ of Lepanto, located in the Chapel of the Holy Christ of Lepanto within the Cathedral of Barcelona. Photo: **Gregory Holland**



Archbishop Mulhall holding the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament before pilgrims at St. Mary Cemetery on Sept. 14, 2025



My dear faithful of the archdiocese,

December 8, 2025, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Patroness of our Archdiocese, we will begin our celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese. On January 27, 1826, Pope Leo XII erected the Diocese of Kingston and nominated Alexander MacDonnell as the first Bishop of Kingston. With this Papal act, Kingston became the second diocese in Canada and the first Roman Catholic diocese erected in the British Empire since the Reformation! It so happens that the anniversary begins as the Jubilee Year of Hope of 2025 comes to an end. It is our hope that the Jubilee will be a complement to the celebration of the anniversary with many combined graces for the Archdiocese.

The initial preparations for our anniversary began in 2024. The Priest’s Council of the Archdiocese met in that year to consider the general direction of our celebrations. I was deeply edified by their common desire to celebrate the anniversary in a manner that would aim to sustain the life of our many parish communities for future years. An anniversary committee was formed of lay people from across the Archdiocese and began the challenging task of planning our celebrations. An enormous amount of work has already been accomplished, and they deserve our deep thanks.

We live in the historical path of a wonderful heritage. Several weeks ago, on my return from the bishop’s meetings in Montreal, I stopped at the Church, St. Raphael, in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. This small community is the location where our first Bishop, Alexander MacDonnell, lived and offered his priestly and then episcopal ministry to the faithful of Ontario. Here, a Church was built along with a bishop’s house, and the small college of St. Iona for the education of young adults. After moving his residence to Kingston, the Lord blessed his tireless efforts with the development of many parishes, as the waves of settlement increased with every year of the nineteenth century. The establishment of the religious communities so dear to our present Archdiocese took place during this time. Their vocations and ministry led to the opening of many hospitals and schools, which have served the faithful over the years.

It is our hope to plan celebratory events with the aim of promoting parish renewal. We wish to avoid a year of celebration that will be quickly forgotten at the end of 2026. Rather, I pray that our celebrations may put in place the foundation for the continued renewal of the Archdiocese for the next 25 years. As always, this will take place within the heart of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, in the implementation of the Second Vatican Council, with attention to the particular needs of the Archdiocese in these years. A Eucharistic focus, a dedication to prayer and conversion, mark the Church’s renewal in each generation.

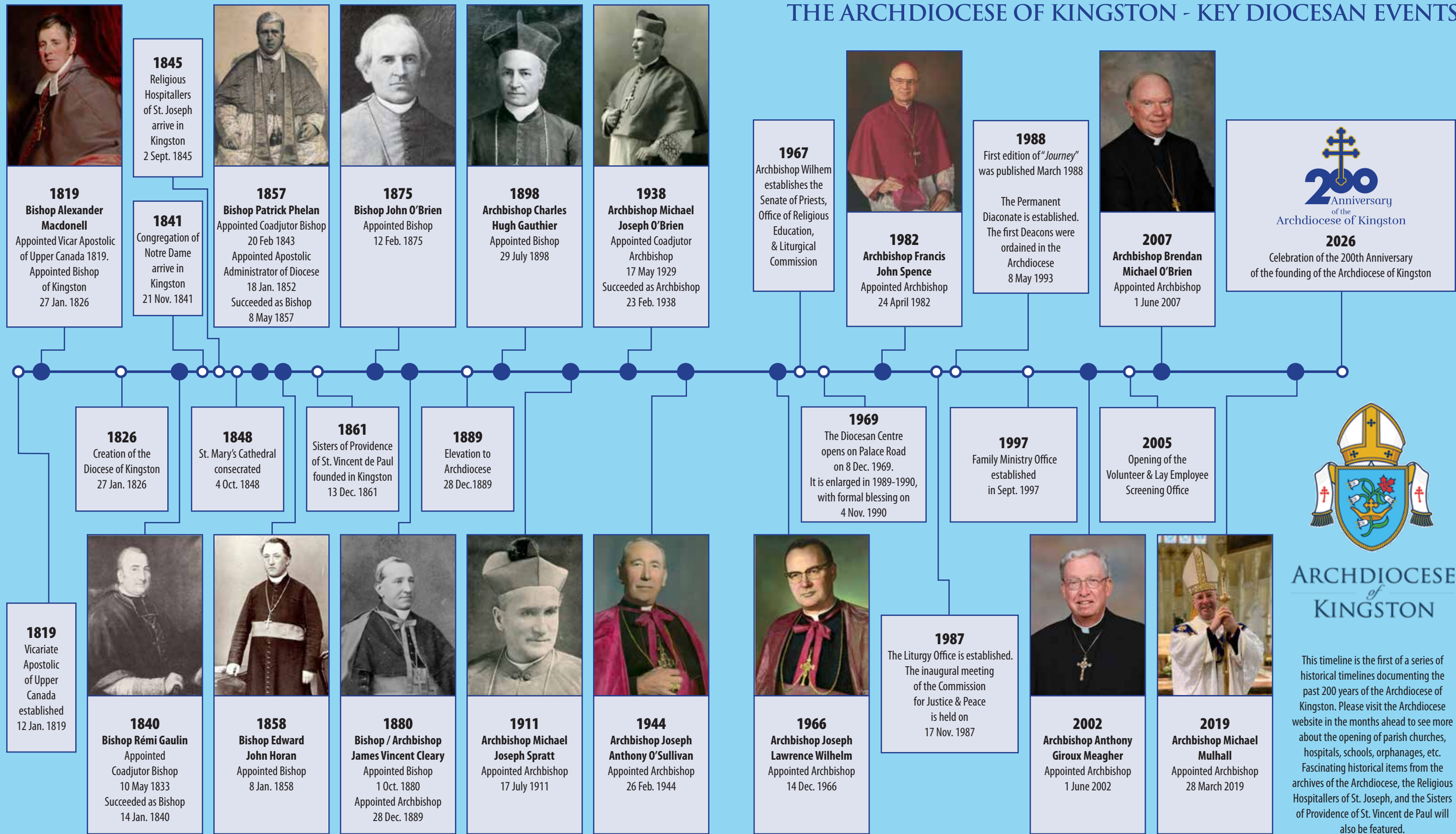
As a focused theme for the anniversary, I chose the following phrase from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3.10). This phrase captures a beautiful sentiment and prayer in St. Paul’s heart as he writes to his beloved fellow believers in the city of Philippi. St. Paul is in prison. The Philippians have recently sent prayers and assistance to him. He, in turn, consoles and exhorts them in their spiritual pilgrimage, and he shares with them his deepest and most intimate desire to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Through the ministry of the Church, these words are not only addressed to the Philippians mentioned above, but to the baptized in all ages. For centuries, these words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have been a source of great strength to Catholics. Let us embrace these words for ourselves during this anniversary. May our souls express and strengthen a desire to know Christ, to listen to His words in the Gospels, to receive in faith His precious body and blood in the Eucharist, and in our prayer grow into a deep personal relationship with the Risen Christ. This will involve an experience of God’s overwhelming love, a movement of conversion from our sins, and a commitment to make Christ known to the world.

In subsequent letters, I hope to reflect further on these words of St. Paul and to appreciate more fully his understanding of the power of the resurrection. At this stage, let us begin with prayer. I invite you to read St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians and prayerfully reflect on the beauty of his writing.

Archbishop Mulhall

May the Lord guide our plans for the anniversary and continue to send his bountiful graces to our parish communities.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON - KEY DIOCESAN EVENTS



A "coadjutor bishop" is a bishop whose main role is to assist the diocesan bishop in administering the diocese. The coadjutor automatically succeeds the diocesan bishop when he leaves office. Historically bishops weren't required to submit their resignation at a specific age, and a coadjutor bishop was often appointed when the diocesan bishop was elderly or incapacitated due to failing health.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON PROGRAM OF CELEBRATION

Opening of the 200th Anniversary Year with Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The theme chosen for the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston, from Philippians 3:10, is “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection”. We begin our anniversary celebrations on the Patronal Feast, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, invoking Our Blessed Mother to lead us to her Son and transform us in His image. An Icon has been written to inspire our prayer and commemorate this special anniversary within the archdiocese.

Blessing of the Icon, “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (Phil. 3:10)

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral

10:30 a.m. December 8, 2025

Parish Mission Facilitated by Fr. John O’Brien SJ, Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland, Ontario

Fr. John O’Brien SJ, Rector of the Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland, Ontario

A Lenten Parish Mission with veneration of the relic of St. Jean de Brébeuf and talks by Fr. John O’Brien SJ, Rector of the Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland, will take place at St. Mary Cathedral.

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral March 8, 9, and 10, 2026.

Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese

The pinnacle celebration of the 200th Anniversary will be celebrated on April 18th, in the second week of Easter, with the faithful, religious sisters, and clergy from across the archdiocese, and special guests. Following Holy Mass on April 18th, a reception will be held at Our Lady of Fatima parish hall for all who wish to participate.

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Holy Mass 10:30 a.m.

Reception will follow at Our Lady of Fatima parish hall, 12:00 p.m.

Blessing and distribution of 200th Anniversary Icons for parishes

Novena to the Holy Spirit
for the intentions of the Archdiocese

May 15 – 23, 2026

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
in thanksgiving for graces received

June 3 – 11, 2026

“Come Away with Me” Spiritual Speakers Series and Liturgy

The Spiritual Speakers Series begins on August 13th in all deaneries of the Archdiocese and concludes with Holy Mass on Saturday morning at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, August 15, 2026. Within each deanery of the Archdiocese, a spiritual talk will be offered at the churches listed below for all who wish to participate. An evening prayer liturgy will conclude the program with coffee/tea and refreshments to follow. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Leo will speak at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral on the evening of August 14th with a Taize liturgy to follow. Archbishop Michael Mulhall will preside at Holy Mass on Saturday, August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. Details on speakers and topics will follow in 2026.

St. Michael the Archangel, Belleville

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph, Kingston

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist, Perth

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Brockville

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Kingston

Friday, August 14, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Mass Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m.

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Closing of the 200th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Mass 10:30 a.m. December 8, 2026

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral

200th Anniversary Devotions for the Faithful

Liturgical resources for the anniversary year have been provided to all parishes to enable the faithful to meditate on the theme, “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection” throughout all liturgical seasons. Anniversary prayer cards are provided for your use. Please pray in thanksgiving for the blessings and graces received over the past 200 years and for the continual renewal of faith in all parishes for many years to come.

The faithful are encouraged to participate in pilgrimages to the five designated churches of the archdiocese, one in each deanery, listed below. A plenary indulgence may be merited in this anniversary year in accordance with the standard terms of indulgence.

Pilgrimage Churches of the Archdiocese

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Kingston

St. Michael the Archangel, Belleville

St. Joseph, Kingston

St. John the Baptist, Perth

St. Francis Xavier, Brockville



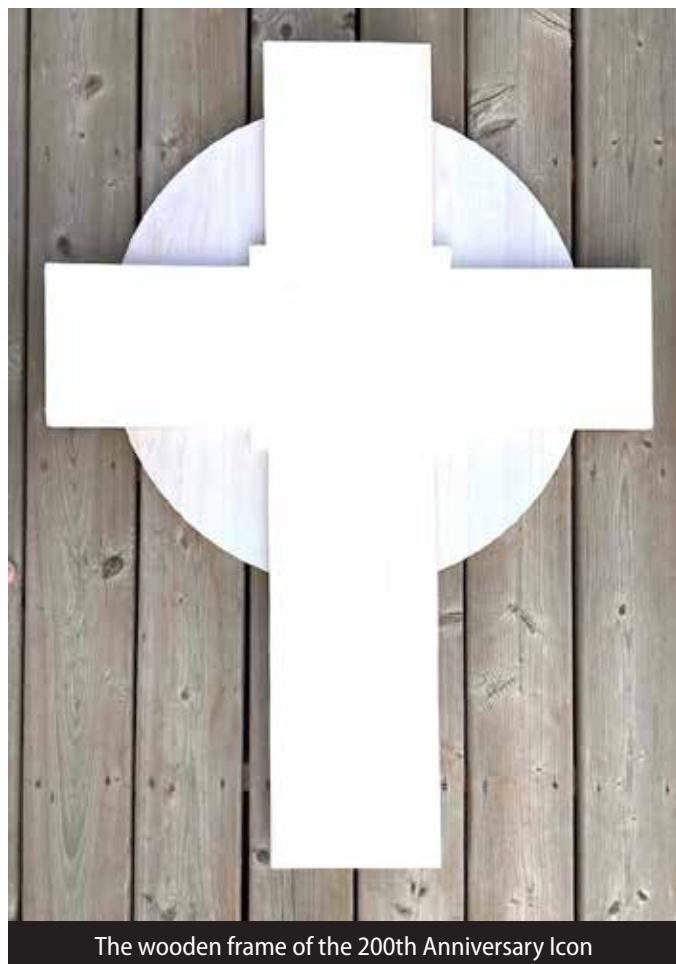


The 200th Anniversary Icon in process

THE CREATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY ICON

An Icon is a spiritual work of art created after many hours of prayer, fasting, and contemplation of scripture. The lengthy process is referred to as the writing of an icon. The images and design expressed in the icon depict a visual representation of the Word of God, and it takes months or even years to complete. Once completed, the icon receives a sacramental blessing of Holy Water, Oil of Chrism, and Incense, transforming the wood and paint into a holy object. This blessing confers on the icon, anointing for use as an object of veneration, aiding the faithful in contemplation and worship of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

An icon is the Bible in colours



The wooden frame of the 200th Anniversary Icon

For centuries, Sacred Scripture was not accessible to many people due to the scarcity of printed books and the inability of many to read. The devotion of praying before an icon dates back to the early church and continues to inspire deep sentiments of union with Christ, the Word. Every detail on the surface of the icon has a purpose and meaning as set out in the canon of the Byzantine tradition that guides the writing of the icon.

Iconography is sacred art. Holy icons are a timeless phenomenon of the revelation of God, represented by colors, shapes, lines, and other elements of art. The most important principle of their creation is adherence to the established rules of writing icons. Thus, the iconographer strictly follows the Christian Tradition and the canons of iconography. This is why an icon is the Bible in colors

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston, an icon is being written on the theme, “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection” (Phil.3:10). It will be consecrated and installed in December 2025 at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Kingston. The faithful are invited to spend time before the icon, read and contemplate the images, and accept the invitation to come to know Him and the power of His resurrection in a deeply personal manner. A booklet will accompany the icon for those who wish to learn more about the symbols, colours, and composition used in the writing process.

INTRODUCING THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

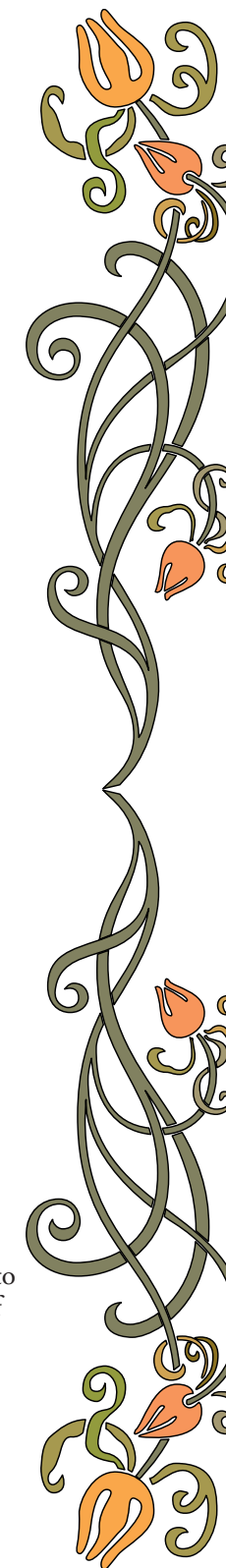
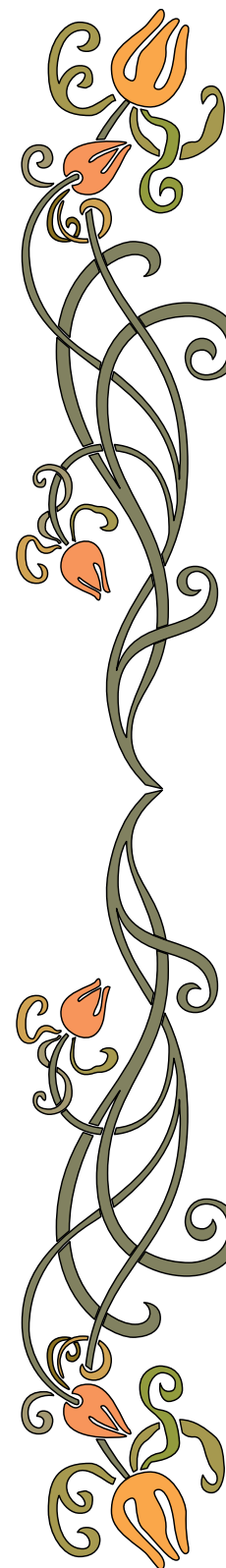
By Fr. Justin Pulikunnel

December 8, 2025 marks a significant milestone for the Archdiocese of Kingston as we begin our celebration of 200 years of faith, service, and devotion to Christ the King. We are one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in Canada, and over the centuries, countless priests, religious, and lay faithful have lived out the call to know Christ more deeply and spread His love through the establishment of parishes, schools, and charitable institutions rooted in the Gospel.

To commemorate this anniversary, a special prayer has been composed, offering thanksgiving for the solid foundation of faith built over the past two centuries. The prayer reflects the core mission of our Archdiocese and the theme of the 200th anniversary: “*To know Christ and the power of His resurrection*” (Phil 3:10).

*O Christ our King,
who, for two centuries has
built up the Archdiocese of Kingston,
upon the solid rock of Faith,
grant that your people
may know you, the Risen Christ,
and through participating in your suffering and death,
come at last to attain
the glory of your resurrection.
You, who live and reign with the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.
Amen.*

This simple but profound prayer beautifully captures the essence of this journey and reflects the deep longing of our hearts: to know Christ Jesus and to reign with Him through uniting the ups and downs of our ordinary lives to His suffering and death. By praying these words, we not only make thanksgiving for the faith passed down through the generations, but also recommit ourselves to the present and future mission, asking for the grace to do our part to continue building up the Archdiocese upon the solid rock of Christ by configuring our lives to the Cross so that future generations may continue to proclaim His holy name and share in His mission. Copies of this anniversary prayer can be found in all parishes, missions, schools, and institutions of the Archdiocese. Pray it often so that all may come to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.



Jubilee Year of Hope Exaltation of the Holy Cross Pilgrimage



Jubilee of Hope Pilgrims of the Archdiocese of Kingston at St. Mary Cemetery September 14, 2025

A beautiful fall day offered the perfect conditions for Sunday, September 14th, to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This holy day was chosen by the Central Deanery to organize a Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage open to all of the faithful of the archdiocese. In keeping with a tradition observed by many generations in the history of the archdiocese, a Eucharistic Procession was held at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kingston, led by Archbishop Mulhall. The Blessed Sacrament was carried by Archbishop Mulhall in procession through the cemetery to an altar for Adoration and Benediction, accompanied by priests, deacons, and consecrated religious. The altar was positioned in close proximity to the graves of the three founding religious orders: the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Following Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, all present were invited to venerate the Holy Cross, which contained a relic of the True Wood of the Cross.

The Holy Cross was carried throughout the streets of Kingston from St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral to St. Mary Cemetery by students involved in the Catholic Christian Outreach community at Queen's University. Many pilgrims from local parishes walked in this procession from the Cathedral with the Holy Cross.

Representatives from numerous parishes attended, including Catholic Women's League, Legion of Mary, and Knights of Columbus members, as well as visitors from other dioceses. Many families and children of all ages participated reverently and joyfully in the procession, waving flags and carrying banners.

Hymns of praise, led by a music ministry team comprised of members of different parishes in Kingston, resounded joyfully throughout the cemetery grounds. The Rosary was prayed in unison by those seated near the altar as the Eucharistic Procession progressed along the designated route. "This pilgrimage provided the opportunity for everyone to praise and worship God in the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and to receive the indulgences associated with Benediction, visiting a cemetery, and undertaking a pilgrimage in this Holy Year, the Jubilee of Hope", stated Fr. John Brennan. Fr. Brennan is Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Kingston, Dean of the Central Deanery, and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Kingston. Fr. Brennan, as well as Fr. Shawn Hughes, Fr. Jan Kusyk, Fr. Brian Russell, and their teams spent several months planning and organizing this Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage celebration.

This joyous celebration commemorating the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was a great sign of hope for the Archdiocese of Kingston. As the Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a close, Archbishop Mulhall reminds the faithful, "As pilgrims of hope, strengthened in our true identity, our task in 2026 will be to deepen our knowledge of Christ. I hope that the graces and fruits of 2025 will serve as a fitting introduction to our anniversary celebration in 2026. Let us pray that the Lord will bless our preparations, make holy our celebrations, and give His life-giving Spirit to our parishes now, and in future years as He has in the past."

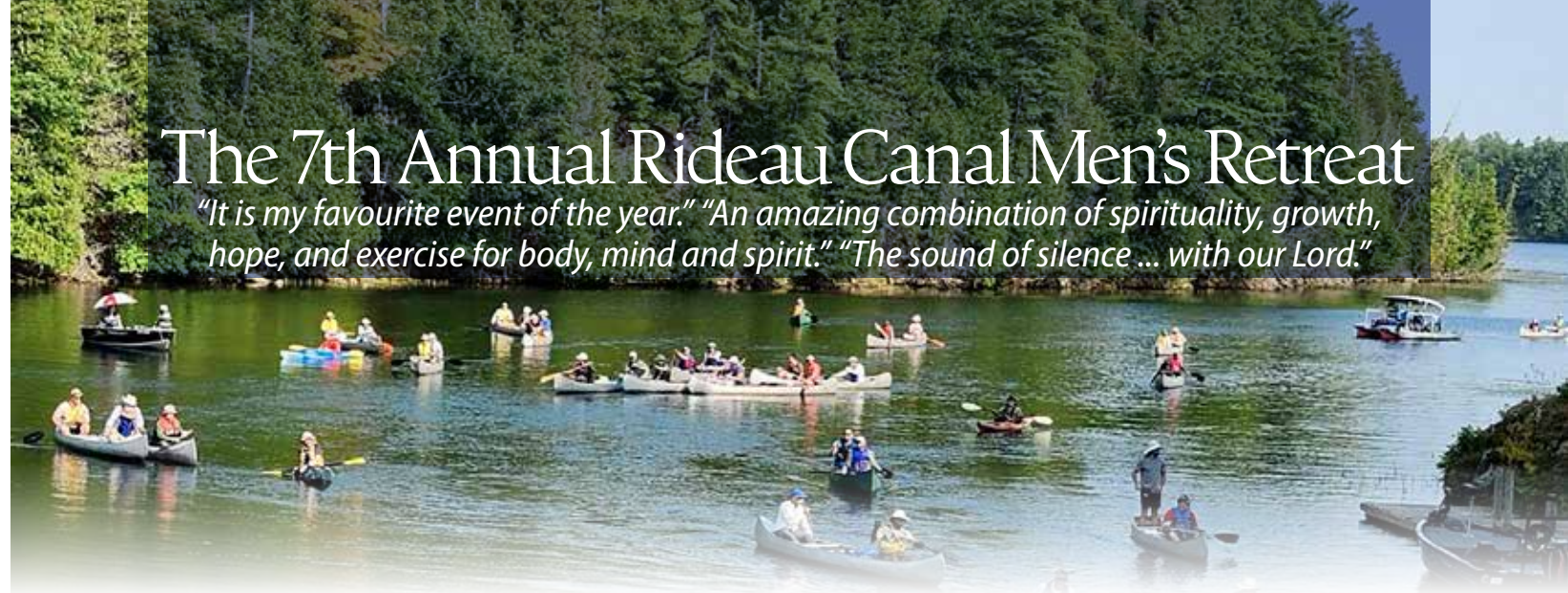


Archbishop Mulhall carries the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament to the altar set up in St. Mary Cemetery, following a Cross containing a relic of the True Wood of the Cross.

Photo: Paul Hibbard

The 7th Annual Rideau Canal Men's Retreat

"It is my favourite event of the year." "An amazing combination of spirituality, growth, hope, and exercise for body, mind and spirit." "The sound of silence ... with our Lord."



The above comments are from those participating in the 7th Annual Rideau Canal Men's Retreat by canoe and kayak in August, 2025. A record number of fifty-six men, ages 13 to 82 and including six diocesan priests, enjoyed an inspiring pilgrimage over the waters of the Rideau Canal. This outdoor adventure was a God-given occasion to share and strengthen our faith as Catholic men, while enjoying camaraderie in a beautiful setting.

Over the course of three days we unpacked the Jubilee 2025 theme, "Pilgrims of Hope", in a practical way.

After making our way to Father Brian McNally's family farmhouse along the Upper Rideau Lake shortly after dawn on Tuesday, August 5, we travelled by bus to Seeley's Bay. Each man was assigned to his position in the stern or bow of the canoes, after which tents, sleeping bags and personal items were loaded into the watercrafts.

The pilgrimage officially began with the celebration of Holy Mass by Archbishop Mulhall in a nearby pavilion. After the Mass, instructions on water safety and how best to proceed through the Canal and its locks was followed by a stand-up breakfast. We then launched canoes, kayaks and accompanying motor craft to begin a 16 km journey northward over the waters of the lakes and channels of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The handiwork of the Creator and Divine Artist was on display throughout the pilgrimage, beginning with our passage over the clear, sparkling waters of Whitefish Lake and along scenic tree-lined shores, granite hills and canal cuts. Arriving at Jones Falls we were transported sixty feet upwards through four locks, and then docked briefly along the historic Stone Arch Dam. When completed in 1832, it was the largest dam (107 m X 18 m X 8 m) in both the British Empire and North America.



After a brief retreat talk we made our way across Sand Lake to Davis Lock. Tents were set up and dinner was enjoyed, followed by talks and a welcomed night's sleep next to the lock basin. Wednesday began with Holy Mass at 8 am, followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. After breakfast we began a 17 km journey across Opinicon Lake, through Chaffey's Lock, and over the waters of Indian, Mosquito, Pollywog and Newboro Lakes. After passing through the lock into the scenic Newboro Canal, we reached Upper Rideau Lake, the summit of the system. We camped overnight on the McNally 1831 pioneer farm along McNally's Bay, enjoying retreat activities until departure Thursday afternoon.

Blessed by the Lord with perfect weather and protection from accidents and injuries, in addition to daily Mass we prayed the Holy Rosary together, received the sacrament of Reconciliation, swam, broke into the occasional lively song, and engaged in good-humoured banter. Quiet contemplation, conversation and interaction - plus a good deal of paddling and even a game of competitive frisbee - made this Catholic men's retreat a joyful, grace-filled and invigorating event again this year.



The enthusiasm of the participants should help ensure that the August 4-6, 2026 retreat is similarly well attended and enjoyed, providing a special occasion for Catholic men and their sons of the archdiocese and beyond to "know Christ and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10), the theme of this edition of *Journey*.

Contact information for the 2026 retreat:

Dan Hart - hart.daniel64@gmail.com or 613-899-9514;

Richard Miron - rrmiron2019@gmail.com or 613-218-6497.

2025 Lenten Collection Update

By Taylor Lynch, Director of Family Ministries and Outreach

Throughout scripture, we observe God’s particular concern for the downcast and marginalized, along with His desire for us to open our hearts to them. In the Old Testament, the most vulnerable in society are represented by the neediness and vulnerability of the stranger, the orphan, and the widow (see Psalms 146:9 and Deuteronomy 10:18). In the New Testament, Jesus broadens the scope of our concern to include all our neighbors with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25a-37). Today, in our local communities, vulnerability manifests in issues like food insecurity, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction, violence, exploitation, loneliness, and unstable families. This represents a poverty, both spiritual and material, that requires our compassionate attention and care.

Every Lent, our parishioners are called upon to help address poverty in all its forms by contributing to the Lenten Collection. This year, the collection was taken up on Ash Wednesday and remained open throughout the season, drawing

attention to the charitable aspect of Lent that colours its full forty days.* Parishioners, as they have done in the past, responded to the Lenten call for almsgiving with overwhelming generosity. To date, we have received a total of **\$89,825.73** from our parishes to be allocated to agencies serving our most vulnerable populations. This total was rounded to **\$88,000** to make distribution easier. The remaining funds and any additional donations will be rolled over to the 2026 collection.

As the liturgical seasons turn from the penitential season of Lent to the joyous celebration of the fifty days of Easter, and finally back to the regular cadence of Ordinary time, it can be easy to lose focus on the plight of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. For our Young Adults Social Justice Committee, however, changing seasons means the reconvening of meetings and a renewed focus on pressing community issues. In May, a group of parishioners, 40 and under, from across the Archdiocese began to discern which agencies they would suggest for donations from the 2025 Lenten Collection. By August,

the committee submitted a list for Archbishop Mulhall’s consideration and the final selection was circulated to parishes shortly thereafter.

Though many community organizations are working tirelessly to address the systemic issues of our time, St. Paul’s Great Hymn to Charity (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) reminds us that without love, even our most well-placed intentions become hollow. Committee members thus intentionally sought agencies assisting vulnerable populations in practical and immediate ways, while also prioritizing hospitality, community, and connection. As in past years, agencies assisting with food insecurity, pregnant mothers, disadvantaged youth, and the unhoused were identified as recipients for donations in 2025. Human trafficking was also identified as a new priority during this collection cycle, as represented by the inclusion of **Beacon Bags** in Prescott.

Other new groups funded this year include **St. Francis de Sales’s Wednesday Lunch Program** in Smith Falls, the ecumenical **Friendship Lunch Program** in Kemptville, **St. Michael’s Senior’s Luncheon** in Belleville, **St. Gregory’s St. Vincent de Paul Committee** in Picton, **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Peter Conference** in Trenton, **Morningstar Mission** in Napanee, **QueenCare** in Brockville, The **San Damiano Foundation** with locations in Madoc, Trenton, and Tweed, and the **Help our Students Program**.



The Friendship Lunch Program is held weekly at St. John’s United Church in Kemptville, serving the community of North Grenville by providing a nourishing meal and fellowship.

Agencies that have received donations from the Lenten Collection in the past were also included in this year’s list, as they continue to do invaluable work addressing the pressing needs of our community. These agencies include **Grace Inn Shelter** in Belleville, **St. Mary of Egypt Refuge** in Queensborough, **Birthright** in Belleville and Kingston, **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store** in Belleville, **St. Vincent De Paul Society** of Kingston, **Anchor of Hope** in Madoc, and **Pregnancy and Family Care of Quinte West** in Trenton. Two parish-based food programs, **Holy Cross Knights of Columbus Council 5333 Food Bank** in Kemptville and **St. Mary’s Drop-In Centre & Veronica’s Veil Overnight Shelter** in Kingston, also received donations. Finally, two groups with long-standing connections to

the Archdiocese were granted funds: **the Natural Family Planning Association – Ontario** and **the missions of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph** in Peru, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.



Seniors Days at St. Mary of Egypt Refuge enable urban and rural seniors to enjoy a retreat to nature, companionship, working with youth volunteers as well as a beautiful lunch from our organic garden.

It is a privilege to work alongside Archbishop Mulhall and the Young Adults Social Justice Committee each year to help steward the generous giving of our faithful. Thank you to all our parishioners for their continued support of our vulnerable brothers and sisters.

***Note: Parishes and parishioners may anticipate this pattern of giving as the new normal for the Lenten Collection moving forward. The Lenten Collection will begin on Ash Wednesday, and parishioners will have the entirety of the Lenten season to contribute.**

Father Daniel Casey, Father Denis Casey and Sister Margaret Tierney in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston, Bishop’s Suite [1920s]. From the beginning of the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston in 1845, the Sisters and the clergy maintained a special relationship. Priests provided spiritual care for the sick and dying at the hospital and the Sisters cared for ill and infirm priests, including reserving a “Bishop’s Suite” in the Sydenham Wing for their care.



Celebrating Fr. Rod McNeil and 45 Years of His Priestly Ministry

By Kathleen Henry

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, Fr. Rod McNeil concelebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Tim Harrison and Fr. Tim Shea at St. Joseph’s Church, Belleville. This Holy Mass was offered in celebration of the 45th anniversary of Fr. Rod’s ordination. Following Mass, the parish held an Open House to honour Fr. Rod at St. Joseph Catholic School, where hundreds attended from all over southern Ontario. Entertainment was provided by Mike Kelly and his band, as well as students from The Kelly’s School of Irish Dance, directed by Caitlyn Callaghan, Fr. Rod’s cousin. Many visitors from Father’s current and past parishes as well as fellow priests, were there to offer him good wishes.

In his 45 years as a priest, Fr. Rod has served many parish communities in the Archdiocese of Kingston, including in Trenton, Belleville, Gananoque, Toledo, Athens, Stirling, Frankford, Batawa, Smith Falls, and Rockport. He returned to Belleville in 2021 and now calls St. Joseph parish home. As Father Rod stated, he has ‘come full circle.’

Happy 45th anniversary Fr. Rod McNeil.

Fr. Rod McNeil thanks St. Joseph parish





Batawa

Turning of the sod for the Sisters of Providence convent in Batawa, with the Sacred Heart Church visible in the background, ca. 1949. Left to Right: Mr. Viklisky, Fr. Gaborie, Sister Mary Zita Welsh SP, Sister Mary Theophile Labre SP, and Sister Mary Leo MacDonell SP. The Sisters of Providence taught at Sacred Heart School in Batawa from 1946 to 1975. Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Archives Erinsville, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Erinsville,



Erinsville

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Erinsville, 1899. You may notice that it looks a bit different than it does today, as this photo was taken before the tower was added in 1907. Archdiocese of Kingston Archives.



St. Mary's Cathedral

Construction of St. Mary's Cathedral began in 1843, but wasn't completed until 1848. Initially the front of the building featured a single belfry, as it did not gain its magnificent tower until the 1890s when Archbishop Cleary undertook an extensive building and decorating program dramatically altering both the interior and the exterior. Queen's University Archives. Henry Henderson Album (F1051-H26)



King's Visit

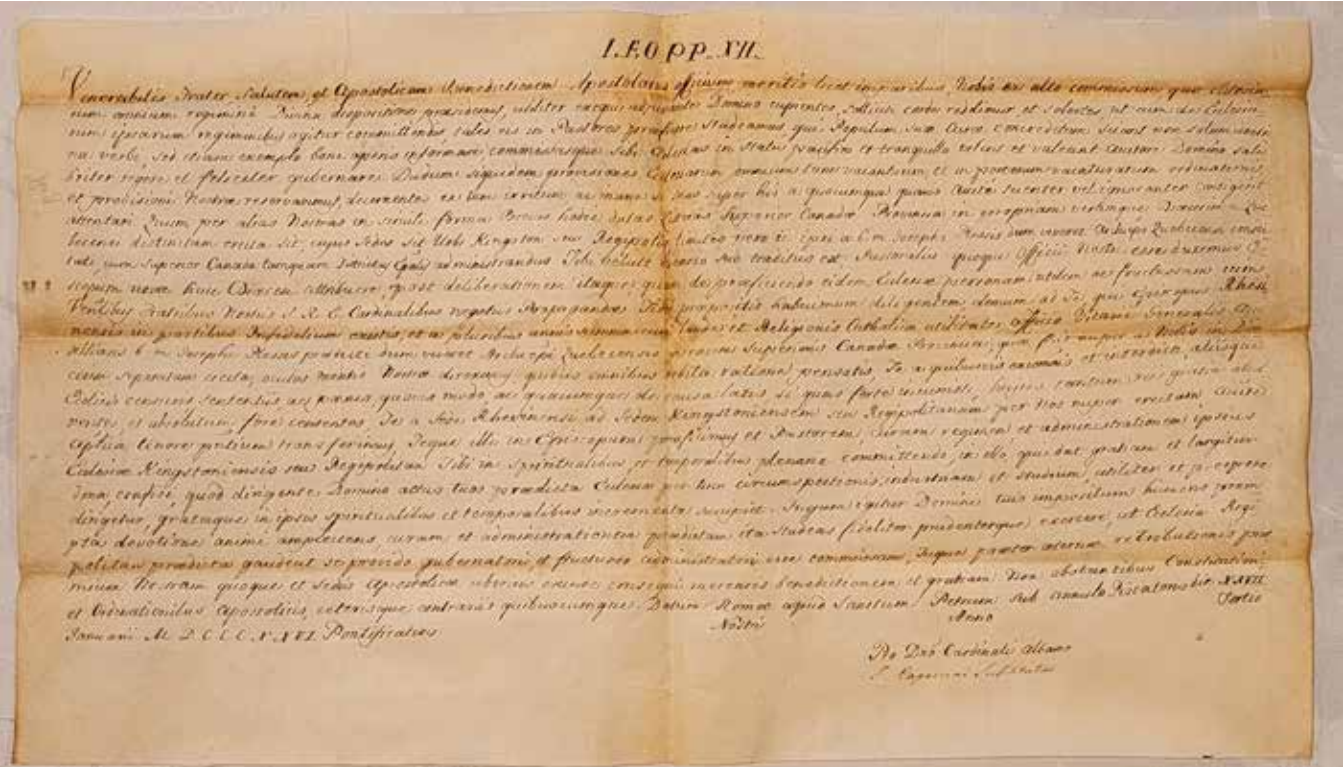
King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Kingston on May 16, 1939. Archbishop O'Brien, members of the clergy, and the Junior Band from St. Michael's Academy Belleville, conducted by Sister Mary Mercedes SP, stood on the steps of St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston to welcome Their Majesties. Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Archives

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Newman House

Members of the Newman House community, ca 1978-1979. Many secular universities have Newman Clubs to serve the Catholic student population. The Newman Club at Queen's University was founded in 1917 and St. Thomas More parish was established in 1968 with Newman House as its parish centre. Newman House moved to its current location on Frontenac Street in 1977. Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Archives



Papal bull dated January 27, 1826 erecting the diocese of Kingston and appointing Rev. Alexander Macdonell as Bishop of Kingston. Archdiocese of Kingston Archives



To know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10)