



GRATITUDE NEWS



Music of the Knight 2

By: Brian McCulloch

The second *Music of the Night* provided live musical entertainment on October 19, 2019 to raise funds for the Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" program. From the proceeds raised at the event, we were able to purchase approximately 90 coats for needy children in Guelph elementary and secondary schools.

The event was held in the lower level of the Basilica and the artists performing were *Rachel Jones, James Gordon*, and the final act was the group *Corduroy Gordon*. All the performers donated their time for the event and we also had donated sound and lighting equipment. Based on audience reaction, the entire evening was very well-received.

We are grateful to Long and McQuade for their generosity. And finally, thanks go to Father Ian Duffy and the Basilica of Our Lady for hosting the event.



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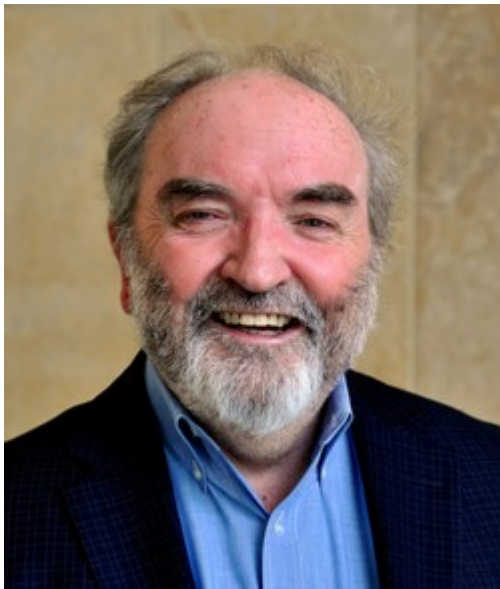
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Michael Higgins' Presentation

By: Father Ian Duffy

On Saturday, November 9 Professor Michael Higgins returned to the Basilica of Our Lady for the third time, and spoke to an audience of around 80 people about the life and witness of the late Henri Nouwen.

Michael began his presentation with an overview of the state of the Church and of the Priesthood today, both of which have been rocked by the sexual abuse crisis, which may, according to Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP, be “the most serious crisis for Christianity since the Reformation.” Lest this seem like a rather bleak presentation, Professor Higgins



proceeded to present Henri Nouwen as a model for the reform of priestly life, and for Christian living in general.

Michael spoke of Henri Nouwen as a priest, an academic, and a psychologist, but mostly as a friend and a disciple of Christ. He presented Nouwen as a man of immense compassion, who listened intently to each person he encountered, and endeavoured to be the presence of Christ for them. Nouwen once said that “My job is to understand the Gospel, and to help people know that they are God's beloved.”

While definitely not downplaying the academic rigour of Professor Higgins presentation, I certainly feel that he was at his best when he spoke from the heart about Henri Nouwen, and shared some very touching personal anecdotes. He brought to life how Nouwen lived out his ministry as a priest as a teacher, a friend and a soul companion.

At the end of the evening Professor Higgins fielded questions from his audience and answered them with a delightful mix of intellect and wit.

Thank you very much to the Knights of Columbus who arranged this evening.



The Catholic Women's League Christmas Bazaar

By Agnese Nagy

'Twas November the third, and all through Basilica hall,
Smiles of wonder and pleasure were on the faces of all
Who had travelled to visit, from near and from far,
The Catholic Women's League Annual Christmas Bazaar.

The tables and booths were prepared and looked fine,
You could even buy tickets to win baskets of wine!
Many, many donations did we gather, display and sort,
From our parish we are blessed with so much faithful support.

So much to attract you; where did you move first?
To Penny Table, to Bake goods or perhaps quench your thirst
In the Tea Room resplendent with savouries and sweets
A delight for the eyes and for your tummy a treat!

The Crafts boasted skill; vintage was found at Boutique.
The Attic Treasures' table groaned with riches unique!
Did the Jewelry draw you? Silent Auction warrant notation?
Or did the Knights' shortbreads and cakes prove a temptation?

Did you buy a ticket to share in the 50/50 amount?
Or were you attracted by the “HO, HO, HO” sound?
The Hamper overflowed with donations of food!
All the funds that we raised will do so much good!

We are thankful for our volunteers, loyal and steady
Who worked all week so that Sunday was ready
To welcome our visitors: and when you left, did you hear us all cheer!

“Make sure that you return - about the same time next year!”



Cardinal Collins' Presentation - St. John Henry Newman

By Angie Hunt

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate and The University of Guelph Newman Centre hosted an evening of Sung Vespers for the Feast of Christ the King with a Lecture on St. John Henry Newman by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins.



The Cardinal presented Fr. Mark Morley, Chaplain of the University of Guelph, and student representatives from the Newman Centre with a picture of John Henry Newman, and a small paper with Cardinal Newman's signature. The signature is a second class relic of St. John Henry Newman, and will hang in the Chapel of the Newman Centre.

The evening ended with this reflection by St. John Henry Newman followed by a reception in the Monsignor Dennis Noon Parish Hall.



Lead, Kindly Light

Written by: St. John Henry Newman

*Lead, Kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.*

*I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!*

*So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!*

*Meantime, along the narrow rugged path,
Thyself hast trod,
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith,
Home to my God.
To rest forever after earthly strife
In the calm light of everlasting life.*





An Evening with David Wells

By: Deanna Stanley

On November 11, the Ministry of Compassion along with the Catholic Partners hosted David Wells, author, speaker and teacher.

Everyone who braved the snow and cold to attend this presentation was treated to an evening of laughter, prayer, reflection and conversation. David's topic was "Thy Will be Done . . . The Joyful Discovery that We Are Not in Charge".

David began the evening by explaining that the Church is at risk of losing her mission because we, the people, are becoming preoccupied with ourselves. We seem to have made a virtue of being in control and living our lives by comparison to others. His explanation included examples of how we tend to boast about the many aspects of our lives, such as our possessions, salaries, responsibilities, even our ailments. We seem desperate to prove ourselves and to be admired. David explained that this will result in an empty feeling, comparing this feeling to Christians whose lives seem like "Lent without Easter".

He suggested that we were not created to be in control. We need to let go to find our true selves in order to discover what God wants us to be. David shared thoughts to help us attain this goal.

Holiness. We need to recognize that holiness is where our weakness meets the power of God's grace. It is not achieved by our strength but by putting our faith in God.

Idealization. We must understand and remember that everyone is broken, confused, bewildered and untidy. We need not attempt to make everything perfect, but rather discover our own true selves in order to continue our conversion which began at our Baptism and will end at our death.

Movement. God wants us to reach out from ourselves and not view life from a balcony. We must dream freely, make enlightened decisions and be a Church on the move, unafraid to go out and get involved with the weak and neglected.

Through stories, conversation and thought-provoking discussion, David challenged us to find out who God made us to be and find the courage to be that person.



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Gratitude News is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee, and published three times a year to keep Parishioners informed and connected.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Ministry Fair & Donut Sunday** —January 19
- ◆ **Annual Pasta Supper**—February 9
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday**—February 26
- ◆ **Knights of Columbus Breakfast**—March 1

For more details about upcoming events, visit the Events section of our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com

5th Annual Prime Rib Dinner

By: Cathy Doucette

This year marked our 5th Annual Prime Rib Dinner and it was a huge success! A delicious dinner was prepared by Nick Finoro's Catering, and it is always wonderful to see his family all work together to prepare and serve this amazing meal. This year, we sold 142 tickets and the evening was enjoyed by all.

A very special thank you to our student volunteers from the Wellington Catholic District School board for donating their time so generously!

