

# GRATITUDE NEWS



## Celebrating Cardinal Collins' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By: **Father Ian Duffy**

On the Feast of the Ascension, Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins graced his home parish with a visit to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood.

Cardinal Collins was ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton on May 5, 1973, and celebrated his First Mass here at the Church of Our Lady on the following day. For his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we were pleased to be able to offer him the same vestments that he wore fifty years ago, which have been in the archives. The theme of the Cardinal's homily for the occasion was "Majesty and Mission", reminding us that Christ in majesty in Heaven sends us on a mission to draw all people to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Following the Mass, many parishioners and guests enjoyed a lovely reception in the Parish Hall, where an historical display of the Cardinal's life and ministry had been prepared. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this day memorable.



**Photo above:** Cardinal Collins' first mass;  
**Photo right:** Cardinal Collins and his sister, Catherine Collins



## A Visit from Our Lady of the Cape

By: **Father Ian Duffy**

For our first Marian Day of 2023, we were pleased to welcome the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of the Cape. The statue of Our Lady of the Cape, under which title the Blessed Virgin Mary is honoured as a special patroness of Canada, comes to us from the national Marian Shrine of Cape de Madeleine in Quebec.

Bishop Ustrzycki presided at the Mass and Rosary Procession, and in the afternoon Father Wedner Bérard, one of the chaplains of the Shrine of Notre Dame du Cape, gave us a stirring talk on Mary as our loving mother, and invited us to come on a pilgrimage to Cape de Madeleine.



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## Celebrating and Honouring Heritage

By: Agnese Nagy

Catholic Hill is steeped in history and heritage. On Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Basilica joined in celebrating Guelph Heritage Week by hosting tours of Catholic Hill. Approximately 150 people attended and learned about our Parish history and long association with Guelph.

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and continuing on with the heritage theme, the Parish hosted a St. Patrick's Day Tea. St. Patrick Church, a humble wooden structure, was the first church building on Catholic Hill. Through the efforts of Parish volunteers, a High Tea experience was provided for parishioners following both Sunday Masses. Funds raised by the Tea were offered to the Parish for the ongoing needs of the Basilica.

Have you ever paused at the St. Patrick Shrine in the Chevette? The stained-glass window furthest to the left shows St. Patrick standing on some snakes. Serpents are often used as symbols of the devil and legend has it that St. Patrick cleansed Ireland of "evil" by banishing all snakes.

Another legend associated with him is that he used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, with each leaf representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three leaves are also said to stand for faith, hope and love. If you had paid any particular attention to the statue of St. Patrick atop the altar, you would have noticed that, sadly, he stood empty-handed. He should have had a shamrock in his right hand and a crozier (bishop's staff) in his left hand. We cannot determine when or how those items went missing; however, now with special thanks to Deacon Quinto and his associate, Angelo Stefanelli, a skilled and talented craftsman, those items have been restored and the statue returned to its original splendour.

We take pride in our heritage and strive to preserve it!



**Photo above:** before restoration.

**Photo below:** after restoration.



## Basilica Tower Pinnacles

By: Agnese Nagy

We have been hearing a lot about the Basilica Tower Pinnacles lately. What exactly is a pinnacle? The dictionary definitions describe a pinnacle as:

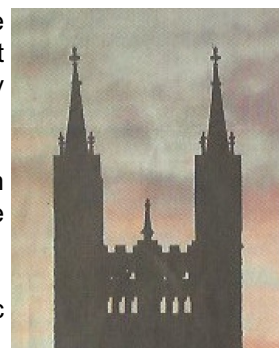
- a slender upright structure in the form of a cone or pyramid located on the top of a buttress, gable or tower;
- a small spire;
- an element mainly used in Gothic architecture.

Why were the pinnacles on each corner of the Basilica towers removed and the corners capped? Simply put: they were made of concrete and were disintegrating, and so the structures were no longer deemed to be safe.

If you have been in the vicinity of the Crypt Chapel lately, you may have noticed a folk art model of the Basilica (see photos below). This model has been in archival storage for many years. Coincidentally, its pinnacles also have issues! Luckily, they can and will be repaired with a bit of glue and TLC. Not so easily accomplished for the Basilica tower pinnacles.

Will the pinnacles be returned? We hope and pray that they will, but timing for this is still to be determined.

In the prophetic words from a Joni Mitchell song, "*Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone.*"



**Photos above and below:** Historical photos of Pinnacles from newspaper archives



**Photos left and below:** Photos of folk art model of Basilica



## St. Vincent de Paul Society – 2022 Achievements

By: *Cathie Evans*

The St Vincent De Paul Thrift Store located on Elizabeth Street developed a small “THANK YOU card” that included some interesting and important information for the store's shoppers.

During 2022, the Thrift Store, with the help of the four church Conferences, was able to give to those in need approximately \$87,600 in furniture and household items. During the same time period, the Conferences were able to provide approximately \$115,500 in grocery store vouchers. In addition, many needy families in our community were visited and provided free clothing. In fact, 1,100 home visits were conducted which included assistance to 1,200 adults and 800 children.

These are important facts that should be shared with anyone who regularly shops at the Thrift Store as it illustrates the breadth of assistance their patronage provides to those in our community who need our help from time to time.

The Society of St Vincent De Paul is very grateful for the generosity of those persons who regularly give both in financial donations and in donations of goods that are sold at the Thrift Store. Through this generosity we serve with hope and joy.

The Thrift Store is always looking for volunteers. If you're interested in giving of your time, please contact the store at 519-836-5829.



## Ordination and Mass of Thanksgiving of Carlos Diaz

By: *Agnese Nagy*

On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Deacon Carlos Diaz was ordained a priest at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. The next day, Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Father Carlos celebrated his first Mass at the Basilica Of Our Lady Immaculate. It will be forever etched in his mind as a most “alarming” and memorable afternoon.

Family, friends and invited guests gathered in the Parish Hall later in the evening to mark and commemorate this beginning milestone to Father Carlos’ journey of priestly service.

A sense of jubilation and thanksgiving permeated the air! All present enjoyed a catered meal served by a team of parish volunteers who lovingly lay claim to Father Carlos as “one of our own”.

A special “cultural surprise” was provided by the family to the delight and enjoyment of all gathered. The Parish Hall echoed with music and laughter while “tears of joy” flowed freely.

God bless you Father Carlos!

## Knights of Columbus – April 16<sup>th</sup> Breakfast

By: *Don Locke*

The Knights of Columbus charity breakfast was a great success with eggs, ham, pancakes, and beans cooked up and served to full houses after each mass in the parish hall.

We are grateful to our parishioners for generously donating close to \$1,000 in freewill offerings at the breakfasts, and these funds will go towards the many charities and groups in Guelph and surrounding areas supported by the Knights.

We held another breakfast on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and there will also be a breakfast on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, after both masses.

Would you like to become a Knight? We are always open to new members. If you are a Catholic man over the age of 18, you are welcome to become a Knight. No other qualifications or special skills are required, as we do everything as a team. See our webpage for more information.

<https://www.kofc1507.org>



## Ministry Fair

By: **Agnese Nagy**

The Parish Stewardship Mission Statement reads as follows:

*As the Eucharistic family of Our Lady Immaculate, we believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We foster a welcoming and active faith community by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure. We continue to grow in the Spirit, loving and serving God and each other.*

We are blessed here at the Basilica to have so many ministries available to help us in our "growth in the Spirit". Our Ministry Fair in January helped to showcase our available ministries and sought to recruit volunteers.

Are you looking for a way to "love and serve God and each other"? Get involved! Volunteer your time and talents - We need you! Contact the Parish Office and we will find a place for you.

Mark your calendar – Join us on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for the next Ministry Fair and Basilica Food & Friendship (BFF), after the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses, in the Parish Hall.

## Annual Pasta Dinner

By: **Angie Hunt**

The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Annual Pasta Dinner resumed this year after a three year hiatus. On February 19, 2023, over 100 parishioners attended the dinner in the Monsignor Noon Parish Hall. The menu included: Lasagna, sausage, vegetables, salad, dessert, coffee and tea. Red and white wine were available for purchase.

The dinner was catered by Victoria East Golf Course, and our students from the University of Guelph Newman Center volunteered to serve and clean up under the leadership of Agnese Nagy and Cathie Evans.

A wonderful evening was had by all who attended and we look forward to next year's event. Thank you to all who helped to organize and run the dinner.

## Annual Parish Golf Tournament

By: **Stephen Nagy**

On Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Parish held its Annual Golf Tournament. Thirty-five golfers enjoyed playing in the beautiful sunny and cool weather (probably the best weather we have ever had since the inception of our tournaments) and a further ten people also enjoyed the apres-golf meal at the Victoria Park Valley Golf Course.

Thanks to all the individuals and businesses who donated a prize for the prize table, to the staff of the golf course who made sure everything ran smoothly, and to the parish golf committee.

We hope to see everyone from this year and new entrants next year on the first Sunday of June, 2024.



## BASILICA OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

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**Gratitude News** is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee of our Parish, and is intended to keep you informed and connected, and to celebrate our active and vibrant Parish Community.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **June 24** – CWL Trunk Sale
- **July 1** – Marian Day
- **July 16** – Knights BBQ and CWL Bakesale
- **Aug. 5** – Marian Day
- **Aug. 13** – Knights Breakfast
- **Sept. 2** – Marian Day
- **Sept. 10** – Annual Parish Picnic
- **Sept. 17**– Ministry Fair/Food and Friendship Sunday
- **Oct. 7** – Marian Day
- **Oct. 7** – Regina Caeli Tea

For more information and details about upcoming events in our Parish, visit our website at [www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com). To receive the weekly bulletin, news and events in your inbox each week, go to our website and at the bottom of the homepage enter your email to "Join our Mailing List".

### Did you know...

You can follow the Basilica through social media on Instagram and Facebook:



**Instagram:** @shrinebool (Basilica Shrine Guelph)



**Facebook:** @shrinebool (Basilica— Shrine of Our Lady Immaculate)

**Facebook:** @boolchoir (Music at the Basilica of Our Lady)

### Are you new to our Parish?

Welcome to the Parish Family of Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate! Please take a moment to register as a parishioner by completing the Parish Registration form located on our website: [www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com), Click on **Resources**, then **Forms**, then select **Parish Registration**.