

GRATITUDE NEWS

8th Annual Golf Tournament—Weather Can't Rain on our Golf Tournament's Parade

By: Steve Nagy

Sunday, June 3rd dawned sunny, bright and warm - a perfect day for golf. Little did we know, however, that rain was on the way. Most people were able to finish their round despite the weather, and everyone had a fun time. The prizes were especially good this year, thanks to the Golf Committee of Alex and Mary Magyar, Mark Sammut, Dominic Carere and Steve Nagy, and their magical work in getting donations. As usual, Victoria Park Valley Golf Club provided a great meal and a well-groomed course to play on.

The highlight of the day had to be Erik Horner's hole-in-one on the closest-to-the-pin hole. Thanks to everyone who participated this year and we hope to see everyone, on Sunday, June 2, 2019 for next year's tournament.



The Lucky Foursome; Pictured Top L to R: Greg, Steve; Bottom L to R: Mike, Erik

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Catholic Women's League—Focus on Homelessness

By: Jakki Jeffs

I was surprised to enter 2018 as the newly elected, and second time around, president of our wonderful Basilica Catholic Women's League. It was this very same League which 35 years ago took me—a new immigrant—under their wings and taught me how to better serve God and our parish using the gifts he had graciously bestowed on me.

The League showed me back in 1984 how to love those outside my family and also those whom I did not necessarily relate to as well. It showed me how to really "love thy neighbour", and now here again in 2018 it is still endeavouring to bring a truer, deeper and faith-filled meaning to what it means to be a Catholic Christian woman. The theme "Inspired by the Spirit- Women respond to God's Call", is our current national theme and we have been asked to focus more closely on the tragedy of homelessness in our community and our country.

We began this learning journey at our early Spring meetings with speakers from our local Drop-in Centre who showed us the picture of the situation right here in Guelph and provided us with a better understanding of just who is on the street. It could be any of us - if life circumstances or mental health, relationship issues or addictions were to shake our core foundation. God always gets us ready for the message he wishes us to learn and in late September 2017, I made the acquaintance of a beautiful young woman who lived on the street. She opened my eyes to the fact that the slightest deviation in life circumstances might be what places a person on the street and the events that tend to keep them there, if they do not get help. In one of her deepest anxieties she shared with me that she was so disgusted with herself for giving her body in exchange for a room, food and even a cigarette. She showed me photos of herself in her late teens and it was hard to see the content and smiling young woman from the photographs in the sad young woman I held in my arms.

I have nothing but praise for the Drop-in Centre which cares for and nurtures those without homes and the many without hope who cross their doors. Our Basilica CWL is committed to helping in every way that we can to assist the Drop-in Centre in its wonderful ministry to those living on the streets of Guelph. We are committed to "popping in for coffee" on a regular basis at the Drop-in Centre to see if we can make new friends there. We also have a new project - we are stuffing small bags with personal items - please watch the bulletin for a list of items we need.

In May, we listened to Deacon Robert Kinghorn and were amazed at his ministry on the streets of Toronto, mostly to women who were controlled by pimps and worked in prostitution. He told us of the many friends he had made over the years which included drug dealers who *watched his back* as he strolled down some of the most dangerous of streets to be on, looking for those he might be able to help and praying with anyone that wanted to pray with him and providing hope and a way out or just a way up to many!

In June, we were enthralled by the story that Jessie Thistle told us regarding homelessness from an indigenous point of view. Jessie is a Metis-Cree from Saskatchewan and he related a story to us of his youth which involved addiction, drinking and criminal activity. At a very low point in his young life, he actually committed a crime with the intent of getting arrested in order to have a place to lay his head. His grandmother's words came to him that he needed to make something of himself and could if he chose. So began a long, hard journey of learning and courage which revealed to him that homelessness is not just a physical state but a homelessness of the heart and the soul. His parents released him for adoption at a very early age and so Jessie did not maintain his native tongue nor many of his traditions. For all his trials, Jessie remains a man at peace with himself, his experiences and others and spends his time explaining the very specific "homelessness" and sense of isolation that comes from being parted from lands, family and tradition.

He is now a Trudeau scholar and graduated from York University and heads up the office at the Homeless Hub which specifically oversees indigenous homelessness. Jessie single-handedly encouraged the change of the definition of homelessness in Canada to include its Indigenous people.

We were so very glad to have learned so much from all our speakers and will continue to try and assist in whatever way we are called for God and Canada and our beautiful Basilica community.



Pictured above, Speaker Jessie Thistle

St. John's Bible Concert—Sing for Joy

By: Joe Carere

In the Fall of 2017, I received a call from the Diocese of Hamilton Chancery Office. The request being made was a tall order and challenging—to be one of four choirs invited to perform at the choral program at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in April. Would our choir be up to the challenge, and could we make the deadline while maintaining the regular duties from week to week at the Basilica liturgies? The answer was yes!

After many trips down to the Chancery Office and countless emails of planning, the program was set. The event I am speaking of is "Sing for Joy". This program of music and song was conceived to celebrate the completion of the acquisition of the Heritage edition of the St. John's Bible. The St. John's Bible is a collection of seven volumes of all 73 books from the Old and New Testaments using the New Revised Standard Version. The entire collection is more than 1,150 pages. The larger-than-life volumes reside in the Bishop Farrell Library on the grounds of the Hamilton Diocese at 700 King Street. Our Diocese was able to acquire one of only 299 editions published.

On Sunday April 29, in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton, the choir of our Basilica took part in a stellar vocal offering also featuring the choir of the Cathedral Basilica, the Diocesan Choir and the Grand Philharmonic Choir from Kitchener. To a full Cathedral and over 200 singers combined, each group sang repertoire reflecting on one of the illuminations of the Bibles.



The choir at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate has been cultivated and shaped through many years of excellence and tradition. Our choir comprises of a diverse cross-section of exceptional people. We are fortunate to have some gifted individuals in our choir which enhance the learning of each section of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. Our choir sings samplings of all the major repertoire from Handel's Messiah to John Rutter to Palestrina and so forth. In 2013, our choir participated in the International Advent Carol Festival in Vienna, Austria, singing at such venues as the Grand City Hall and Schonbrunn Palace. Currently, the choir is making plans and preparing for a choir trip to Rome in April of 2020. Our choir will be singing at Masses at the Vatican and also in Florence, Assisi and Venice. New members are always encouraged to join our Music Ministry as we continue to enhance the celebration of our Sunday Eucharist at 11am.

Our organ is a Canadian Heritage designated instrument from 1919 of the Casavant Freres firm of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. It consists of 51 ranks and 2,950 pipes. Please feel free to visit the choir loft for a tour or to ask any questions. Our door is always open!

The Most Magical, Holy Night of the Year!

By: Cathy Doucette

On reflecting about the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant, Kelly Raftis shared that the way it started "felt like Divine Intervention". It started in 2010 with the St. Paul School choir singing at the Basilica on Christmas Eve. The families involved, and everyone at the parish that night, reacted so positively that the following year, another dream was born—A Christmas Story play.

"Many hands make for light work", Kelly shared that the first year Kathy Gemin saw the vision of what this could be and helped to organize the pageant, along with many others. There have been countless parents and volunteers that have given their time, talents and gifts to help support the Pageant. The first couple of years were a lot of work, but all fun and exciting - costumes, props, script - everything fell into place and set the path for the years to follow.

Currently, parent volunteers are needed to continue to assist and organize the Pageant. It appears that some of the past children are a little too big to be angels or shepherds. If you are interested in helping out or learning more about what is involved in the planning and organizing of the Pageant, please contact Cathy at catharine.doucette@sympatico.ca.



Knights of Columbus— Habitat for Humanity Build

By: Denis Depratto

Our Parish Knights of Columbus have enjoyed another successful Build Day by helping Habitat For Humanity install insulation in the new condominiums that are being built for 28 families on City View Drive.



The warm weather was definitely testing our endurance to stay hydrated and productive. Lots of great laughs and camaraderie amongst volunteers made the day more bearable.

Once again the support of the Knights was truly appreciated.



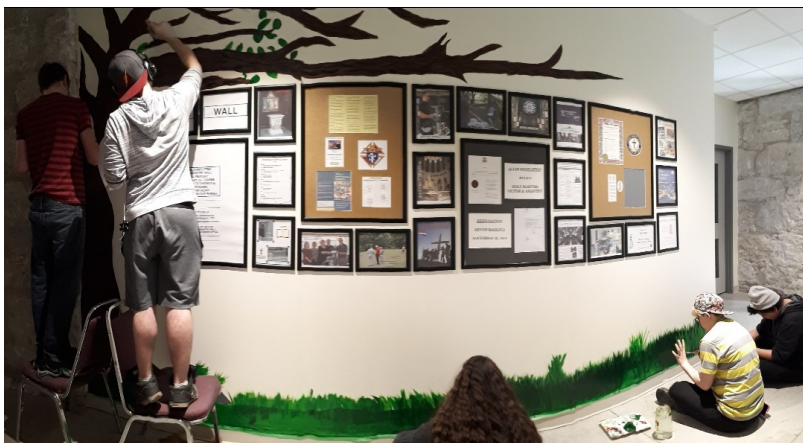
The Ministry Wall—Showcasing the Involvement of our Parishioners

By: Agnese Nagy

The Stewardship Committee Mission Statement is 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 time, talent and treasure. We continue to grow in the Spirit, loving and serving God and each other."

The Ministry Wall, located in the basement of the church, outside the Monsignor Newstead meeting room, helps us to celebrate and showcase the "active faith community" of our parish. To frame and highlight the Ministry Wall, a mural of a tree in foliage has been added. This is a common visual of the theme of stewardship.

We are grateful to the Art students of St. John Bosco: Kaleb, Dilian, Olyvia, Riley, Patrick, Joshua, Victoria, Abi and Isaiah, under the direction of their Art teacher, Ms. Lupo and with the support of their principal, Mrs. Angerilli, for the time and talent they displayed in painting this image. It is a treasure we will cherish for years to come. During your next visit to the church, please take a moment to check out the Ministry Wall. It is well worth your time!



12th Annual Parish Picnic

By: Mark Sammut

On Sunday, September 9th, we celebrated our 12th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day at the St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Despite the cool temperatures that weekend, we still had over 230 attendees!

The celebrations started at 1pm with an open air Mass, followed by an afternoon of fun and activities for everyone which included: great music from The Music Makers, children's games, raffles, bocce and euchre tournaments. A delicious BBQ dinner was served, followed by the raffle draws.

A very special thanks to all the volunteers, groups, business sponsors and supporters. It is because of all this support that we were able to donate nearly \$500 to the Church Building Fund - all while keeping our ticket cost at only \$5.00 per person!!

Thanks to everyone for making this year's Picnic another great success! We hope to see you at next year's Picnic -- please mark Sunday, September 8, 2019 on your calendars!

Parish Rectory Renovations

By: Monsignor Dennis Noon

Over the last few years, there have been many discussions concerning the condition of the Parish Rectory. After several meetings, the decision was made to restore the building, and the Diocese has agreed to finance this project as the parish already has a debt on the church.

After months of planning and a major clean up, on June 1st, we moved out of the Rectory to temporary housing on Edinburgh Road. The parish offices were relocated to trailers parked on the north parking lot. On June 4th, CSL of Cambridge began the work which is expected to take one and a half years. Within a short time, the garage was demolished, the front sunroom on the second floor and the back of the house, which was built in the 1950's, were removed.

The plan involved researching the history and look of the building as it has undergone several changes since the 1850's. The back portion of the Rectory will be re-built as a two-story office building with a basement accessible from the parking lot. The upper floors of the house will be closed off and the clergy will live on the two remaining floors. There will be a new roof, and the hope is to retain as much of the old limestone on the building as possible.

These changes will make the building safer, and more comfortable, and less expensive to manage, while maintaining its traditional look alongside the Guelph Museum.

The Heritage Committee and the City of Guelph have been very supportive of our plans and we look forward to the completion of this project and thank you, the parishioners, for your patience and understanding.



Farewell Father Paul and Congratulations to Deacon Bert Tami

On June 10th, it was not only Donut Sunday after the 9 and 11 a.m. masses—it was also an opportunity for parishioners to wish Father Paul Hrynczyszyn a fond farewell, and a warm congratulations to Deacon Bert Tami on his ordination as the first Permanent Deacon from the Basilica.

Father Paul joined us at the Basilica one year ago as Associate Pastor, and during this short period of time, endeared himself to all. He was reassigned as the Pastor at St. Basil Parish in Brantford.



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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

- ◆ CWL Brunch and DVD Showing of "Fatal Flaws— Legalizing Assisted Death"— October 20
- ◆ Donut Sunday—October 21
- ◆ Sacrament of Confirmation— October 27
- ◆ Memorial Mass and Reception —November 2
- ◆ CWL Christmas Bazaar— November 4
- ◆ Speaker, Michael Higgins— November 10
- ◆ Knights of Columbus Breakfast—November 11
- ◆ Ministry of Compassion, Grief Session and Reception— November 15
- ◆ Music of the Knight— November 17
- ◆ Annual Prime Rib Dinner— November 18
- ◆ Singer, John Miller— December 2
- ◆ Donut Sunday—December 9

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

