



GRATITUDE NEWS

Bidding a Fond Farewell to Monsignor Noon

By: Laurie Vescio

This past June, after 44 years as a priest, and 16 of those years in our Basilica, we bid a fond farewell to Monsignor Dennis Noon who retired at the age of 75.

Monsignor Noon spent his early days as a priest in various parishes throughout the Hamilton Diocese, and was called to serve here in Guelph at St. Joseph's Church in 1994. It was in 2003, that Monsignor was appointed as our Pastor here at Our Lady.

Being appointed as the Pastor of the historic "Church on the Hill", came with the enormous responsibility to oversee the complete restoration of the Church, which in the end totaled \$10 million. Watching the restoration unfold and move through the various phases was truly amazing, and Monsignor Noon's vision, commitment and leadership throughout the process enabled the successful completion. The restoration work began in 2006 and was completed in December 2014. Change of any kind can be difficult for people to accept, and making changes to the Church interior involved a lot of communication, and Monsignor skillfully kept parishioners informed along the way to help ensure everyone knew what was happening. At the completion of the renovations, at a special mass on December 8, 2014 to celebrate the church's new altar, Bishop Crosby announced at the end of his homily that Pope Francis had approved the designation of the Church to Basilica.

Another key contribution Monsignor made to our Parish was the creation of a Stewardship Committee. The Committee, led by Monsignor with about 12 parishioners, established a mission to foster a welcoming and active faith community through the sharing of members' time, talent and treasures. The Stewardship Committee remains an active and vibrant Committee that over the years has established many annual events and opportunities to bring parishioners together and make them feel part of our faith community. Many of these events include the Parish Picnic, Prime Rib Dinner, Pasta Supper, Golf Tournament, Donut Sundays, Cupcake Sunday, Multicultural Food Fiesta, to name a few.

On Sunday March 4, 2018, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton, Monsignor Noon was formally installed as a Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Francis, which entitled him to be called "Monsignor". His Eminence Gerald Cardinal Lacroix Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada presented the Scroll along with the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby OMI, Bishop of Hamilton.

In recognition of Monsignor Noon's significant contributions to the Basilica of our Lady, he was presented with a dedication plaque that is hung near the Baptismal font, and the Parish Hall was named "Monsignor Dennis Noon Parish Hall".

On behalf of all the parishioners at the Basilica of Our Lady, we sincerely thank Monsignor Dennis Noon for his spiritual leadership over the years, and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.



In This Issue

- ◆ Farewell to Monsignor Noon
- ◆ Our Organ—A Piece of History
- ◆ An Evening with David Wells
- ◆ 13th Annual Parish Picnic
- ◆ Welcome to Father Ian Duffy
- ◆ Catholic Grandparents Assoc.
- ◆ Cupcake Sunday
- ◆ Annual Golf Tournament
- ◆ Multicultural Food Fiesta
- ◆ Dr. Michael Higgins
- ◆ Music of the Knight 2
- ◆ Upcoming Events

Our Organ—A Piece of our Basilica History

By: Joe Carere

The year was 1917 and the majestic Church of Our Lady Immaculate had recently been painted, and the decorating was all falling into place. The one thing missing was an instrument to lead the people in sung worship.

Father Doyle, the Pastor at the time, contracted with Casavant Freres of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec to build an instrument worthy of the space. Casavant is a world leader in the pipe organ industry and still to this day building and maintaining instruments all over the world. The original Casavant brothers Samuel and Claver Casavant were very much still active in the family business and the task was left to Claver to develop the organ we have today in our church. This was to be their Opus 719 (the current opus listing is near 4,000!). This meaning the 719th organ that the firm had built. Finances were arranged and the grand total for the organ was \$11,490. Quite a sum of money for the day and so much that the church made installment payments for a couple of years to pay for the organ. The replacement price for such an organ in this day would be close to \$4 million.

With taking well over a year to build in the factory, (all pipes and components are handmade), the organ arrived by rail car and transported to the church. The organ was first heard by the congregation on Easter Sunday 1919, and officially dedicated by renowned French organist Joseph Bonnet in October of that year. The organ has continued to function weekly since then except for the 11 months of our major renovation when it was entirely dismantled and cleaned, repaired and electronically updated. Here are some fun facts of the organ. The console consists of three 61 note manuals with 30 note pedalboard. There are 51 ranks of pipes and approximately 2,950 speaking pipes which range in pitch length from 32 feet to 1 inch. The bass notes which cause the rumble are situated on the back wall under the Rose Window. The organ wind supply is powered by 2 high speed turbines of 3 ½ horsepower each. One for high pressure and one for low pressure. The total weight of the organ is around 40 tons. The pipes are made of a combination of tin, lead and zinc and the large bass pipes are made of fir and mahogany. The case is of carved Danish Oak with matching oak console. All the gold display pipes except seven in the north pedal tower are functional and produce sound.

Please feel free to stop up sometime if you would like to have a look inside and see the inner workings of the organ. It is a vital component to our church with our Eucharist and it is my fond wish to share its working with all of you!



An Evening with David Wells

By: Deanna Stanley

On Monday, November 11th at 7pm, the Ministry of Compassion is hosting an evening with David Wells at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate.

David is a renowned Catholic speaker, teacher, catechist and author. He has spoken at more than 500 conferences around the world, presenting a wide variety of topics through stories, humour, family and real-life situations.



David has authored two books entitled “The Reluctant Disciple” and “The Grateful Disciple”. David’s presentation will focus on the topics of “Surrender” and “Letting Go”.

We encourage you to attend this entertaining, thought-provoking and inspirational evening with David Wells.

Following the presentation, everyone is invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship in the Monsignor Dennis Noon Parish Hall.

Cupcake Sunday

By: Tony Furfaro

Our fifth annual Cupcake Sunday was enjoyed by all on Sunday, May 26th. We had a fantastic turnout and it was an impressive assortment of colourful icing, sprinkles and wonderful decorations.

Many thanks to all the children and their families of our parish for baking such delicious treats. Looking forward to our next Cupcake Sunday coming in May 2020!

Annual Parish Golf Tournament

By: Stephen Nagy

The Parish held its annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, June 2nd. Although the day was windy and a little cool, the sun poked out in the afternoon and saved the day.

Everyone that came out seemed to have a good time—and who wouldn’t, as the prizes were exceptional (a special thank you to all the donors!). The meal was especially good this year—thanks to Victoria Park Valley Golf Course! Unfortunately, this might have been the final time we will have heard Monsignor Noon give his famous “rub-a-dub-dub” blessing before meals! We can’t wait to hear Father Ian’s special grace before meals next year.

So, mark your calendars and hopefully we will see everyone who came out this year and new participants on Sunday, June 7th, 2020, when we will tee it up once again at Victoria Park Valley.

13th Annual Parish Picnic

By: Mark Sammut

On Sunday September 8th, we celebrated our 13th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day! This year we relocated within St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre to Orchard Park South. This new location works perfectly for our Picnic, and the 250+ attendees enjoyed an action-packed day!

The celebrations started at 1pm with an open air Mass, followed by an afternoon of music, activities, food and fun for everyone. The Music Makers shared their amazing musical talents, bocce and euchre tournaments were popular activities, and the children enjoyed games, face painting and fun all afternoon! A delicious BBQ dinner was served, followed by our exciting annual raffle.

A very special thanks to all the volunteers, groups, business sponsors and supporters. With all this support, we were able to donate over \$1,400 to the Church Building Fund - all while keeping our ticket cost at only \$5 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 13, 2020 on your calendars!



A Warm Welcome to Father Ian Duffy

By: Ian Macpherson

The parish community of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate is pleased to welcome Father Ian Duffy as our new pastor.

Father Ian, (as he prefers to be called), has been a life-long resident of Ontario, although he claims a strong affinity for all things UK - easy to understand with his Scottish and Irish family heritage.

Father Ian was educated in Kitchener, Waterloo and London Ontario and ordained on May 7, 1994 by Bishop Tonnos in Hamilton. Since his ordination, he has been assigned to parishes in Georgetown, Guelph, Burlington, Fergus and Ancaster. In addition to parish assignments, Father Ian has served as chaplain in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve, the Serra Club of Hamilton, and the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild. Additionally, he is a member of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Hamilton and the Confraternity of Our Lady Vulnerata of the Royal English College in Valladolid, Spain and has recently been invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.



Outside of his ministerial duties, Father Ian enjoys music, theatre (he played the role of Tony in the musical *West Side Story* when in high school!), travel, skating, hiking and entertaining friends. He claims to be happiest when in or near the water, especially when swimming or sailing. Also, if you have the opportunity to visit Father Ian in his home, you will be welcomed by his cat, Brigid.

Father Ian—a very warm welcome to the Basilica! We look forward to getting to know you through our mutual faith journeys.

Multicultural Food Fiesta

By: Gavin Morgan

On Sunday, September 22nd, the Stewardship Committee hosted the Annual Multicultural Food Fiesta. This annual event is a great opportunity to gain an appreciation for the diversity of cultures represented in our Parish and experience this diversity through food prepared by members of the Parish.

The Monsignor Dennis Noon Parish Hall was decorated to reflect all eight countries represented, namely Holland, Hungary, India, Italy, Philippines, Wales, United Kingdom and, of course, Canada. More than 230 parishioners attended directly following the 9 am and 11 am masses. Various ethnic music was also playing in the background to add to the event.

Thanks to all who helped to make this annual event such a great success! Special thanks to Agnese Nagy for all her leadership and hard work in the setup of the hall.



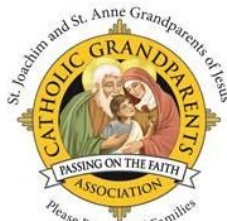
Catholic Grandparents Association – Passing on the Faith

By: Kathy Gemin

We are an International Association that was started in Ireland in 2009 by Catharine Willey. The mission of this association is quite simply - *Help grandparents pass on the Faith and keep prayer at the heart of Family Life.*

This Ministry was started in Holy Rosary Parish in January 2016 and is attended by members from parishes in Guelph, Kitchener and the surrounding area. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3:30pm in Our Lady of the Rosary Community Room at Holy Rosary.

If you would like more information on this Association, please contact Connie Bogoros by email at: cbogoros@hotmail.com



Dr. Michael Higgins

By: Roger Manning

The Knights of Columbus Council 1507 is pleased to welcome Professor Michael W. Higgins, Distinguished Professor of Catholic Thought at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn. to present the Knights' Annual public lecture. Michael is a prominent educator, author, radio and television commentator on Vatican affairs, and recipient of many academic and Church awards. The title of Dr. Higgins' presentation is **Henri Nouwen: an icon of wisdom and compassion in a time of dissolution.**

Henri Nouwen provides us with a model for priestly ministry that is distinguished by his expansive generosity of spirit, deep compassion for others, and enlightening understanding of human motivation and the quest for God in and through our woundedness. Dr. Higgins will explore why we need such a model now more than at any other time.

The lecture will take place in the Parish Hall of the Basilica on Saturday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to attend this significant event. Admission is free, refreshments will be provided, and a selection of Professor Higgins' books will be available for purchase.



Music of the Knight 2

By: Brian McCulloch

Knights of Columbus Council 1507 are happy to announce our second annual musical variety night.

The evening will feature three artists. The opening act will be Rachel Jones, a cantor at the Basilica, singing 60's and 70's hits. Following her will be James Gordon. James is a Guelph folk musician and has a variety of folk songs and ballads in his repertoire. There will be a short licensed intermission with a cash bar. The third act will be Corduroy Gordon from St. Mary's Ontario.

This foursome features local eclectic folk and regional music from down east. They played at last year's event and were a big hit.

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

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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:

- ◆ **Music of the Knight 2**—October 19
- ◆ **CWL Christmas Tea and Bazaar**—November 3
- ◆ **Memorial Mass**—November 6
- ◆ **Speaker, Michael Higgins**—November 9
- ◆ **Speaker, David Wells**—November 11
- ◆ **Donut Sunday**—November 10
- ◆ **Annual Prime Rib Dinner**—November 17
- ◆ **Evening with Cardinal Collins**—November 24
- ◆ **Knights of Columbus Breakfast**—December 8
- ◆ **Parish Feast Day Mass with Bishop Crosby**—December 9
- ◆ **John Miller Advent Concert**—December 11

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

The performance will be on October 19th at 7pm, in the Basilica lower level. All funds raised will go toward the Knights of Columbus, *Ontario Coats for Kids*. Admission is \$20 per person at the door and parking is free. *We hope to see you there.*