



SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021

11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**

304 Highway 8, Stoney Creek, Ontario, L8G 1E6

Tel: 905-662-8593 Fax: 905-662-8029

Email: [saintfx@cogeco.net](mailto:saintfx@cogeco.net)





Dear Friends,

We have been back in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time since we concluded the season of Easter, but the past two Sundays we celebrated important Solemnities that constitute the core of our Christian faith. This Sunday we are back, so to say, on the regular schedule as we celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time and we reflect on the parable of the growing seed.

“Jesus’s parables are not nice entertaining little stories. As Jesus proclaims in the first words he speaks according to Mark (Mark 1:14-15), his mission is to announce the Good News of the kingdom, the reigning and transforming presence of God in his person and words, and call the people to faith and repentance. Like all the parables, the two parables of green and growing things we hear today are words of Jesus that tease us into contemplating our own lives and our response to the kingdom.

In the first parable, Jesus compares the growth of the kingdom to the seed that is planted by the farmer who then retires from the scene into the rhythm of his everyday life. Day and night he wakes and sleeps, while the seed, once sown, has its own potential for growth independent of the farmer. The mystery of growth belongs to the seed and the soil, to the gradual “dispossession” of the hard little seed to the nourishing earth, and its consequent unhurried and gradual growth: first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain. The only activity required of the farmer is vigilant patience. In the dispossession that is his

incarnation, even Jesus had to accept some unknowing, some surrender of events into his Father’s hands (Mark 13:32).

Perhaps we have had the experience with children who have planted their seeds in the garden and, excited about the possibilities of the flowers or vegetables to come, must be dissuaded from regular and disastrous digging down into the earth to see how the growth is proceeding! The farmer must wait confidently on God’s good time and providence, and eventually the time of growth and the time of harvesting will intersect. Once we have received the seed of God’s word in the soil of our hearts, we must be ready for the dispossession, the gradual unfolding of the seed’s potential that will push into our consciousness and transform our lives, making us a plentiful harvest and enabling us to become nourishment for others. Because the growth of the seed is God’s secret, it can often happen in what, to our limited human perspective, are the most unlikely places: in the lives of the poor, the despised, the persecuted. This was surely a great consolation to Mark’s community, for this was the reality of their lives. It should give the same hope and confidence to Christians today in our personal, communal, or national situations. What seems humanly insignificant, and even a failure, is transformed by God’s power, just as the seed of Jesus’s life fell into the ground of death to be transformed by his resurrection (cf. John 12:24). This is the great encouragement for disciples as we live between the planting and harvesting into the kingdom of God.

The parable of the mustard seed and its surprising growth is also one of encouragement for struggling communities frustrated or despondent because of what seems the small and insignificant growth of the kingdom of God and its impact on the world around them. Jesus makes use of legitimate poetic license in exaggerating the size of the mustard seed (“the smallest of all the seeds on the earth”) and the bush that grows from it (“the largest of plants”), in order to stress the extravagant and disproportionate growth of the kingdom. That God is in all our beginnings and endings is the

great and faithful hope of Jesus's disciples. The mustard bush, we are reminded, does not exist only for itself, but it offers a welcoming refuge for the birds of the air who nest in its shade. So the Christian community should spread out its branches in welcome to others, especially to those who are enduring the heat of suffering, who are searching either physically or spiritually for some "shade" or sanctuary.

We often find it hard to be at home and comfortable with mystery; there is still the primeval temptation to be like gods, to know everything, to overreach our God-given humanity. That we have Jesus's word to "explain" to us the deeper meaning of God's action in our lives and our world, is the privilege of Jesus's disciples." (Living Liturgy 2021)

This past Monday we received confirmation from the Chancery Office that **as of today** (Friday), **churches in our Diocese can reopen!** At the present time we can accommodate 15% of our seating capacity as per provincial guidelines during the time of pandemic, and with all pandemic protocols in place. Here at St. Francis Xavier we will gather for the Lord's Day Masses at 5:30PM on Saturday and at 9:00AM and 11:00AM on Sunday. Since we are already into the summer months, the 4:00PM Mass will take a break for the time being. Please note that as we are now allowed to have Masses inside the church building, we will not be having the outdoor Masses that were mentioned in my previous email. Also, our parish office will now be more available to you as of Tuesday, June 15. If you would like to visit the office, please call ahead of time to let us know and we will schedule your visit so you are not left outside waiting in the heat of the day for your turn to come inside.

We are continuing to hold online gatherings on Zoom to help parishioners stay connected during this time when our regular ministries and programs can not take place in person. This week's gatherings are Coffee With the Clergy on Monday evening, hosted by Fr. Claude and Deacon Carmelo and Pray & Chat on Thursday evening. Please visit the online bulletin for more

details, and contact Wes at [wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com) if you would like the Zoom invite for either gathering.

Registration is now open for our **summer online activities for students!** This summer we will be holding two weeks of an **online mini-camp for students entering Grades 3-6** in the fall. Each day of camp will focus on a different saint and will include games, prayer, videos, crafts, and outdoor activities! Kits with supplies will be delivered to campers in advance. Students going into Grades 7 and up can volunteer as leaders!

We will also be having an **online evening series for those entering Grades 7-12** called Coffee with Jesus. Through stories from Scripture, videos, small group conversations, prayer, and games, this 4-part series will encourage participants to accept Jesus' invitation to be refreshed and renewed by their relationship with him!

More information for both of these online activities, as well as registration forms, can be found [here](#).

This week on Thursday we celebrated the funeral Mass for Mrs. Evelina Grilli. Please pray for the repose of her soul and also in your prayers remember her grieving family. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Because we have now reopened, the live-streamed Sunday Mass for those who cannot attend in person will be moving to our regular Sunday Mass at 9:00AM with the Rosary prayed a half an hour before. You are invited to join us virtually for this Mass if you prefer to not yet attend in person.

God bless, everyone.

Fr. Mariusz

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

And all the trees of the field shall know  
that I, the LORD,  
bring low the high tree,  
lift high the lowly tree,  
wither up the green tree,  
and make the withered tree bloom. (Ez 17:24)

## PSALM:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (Ps 92)

## SECOND READING:

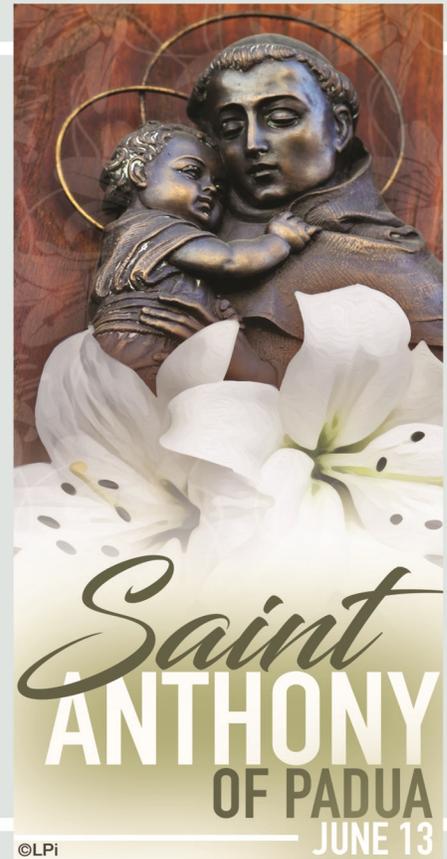
We are always courageous,  
although we know that while we are at home in the body  
we are away from the Lord,  
for we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor 5:6-7)

## GOSPEL:

"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,  
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.  
But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the  
largest of plants  
and puts forth large branches,  
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."  
(Mk 4:31-32)

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 13, 2021

Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Saturday: St. Romuald, Abbot; BVM  
Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

The prophet Ezekiel's image of God growing Israel into a mighty majestic cedar tree bearing fruit, with birds nesting in its branches was intended to be words of comfort for the exiled Israelites in Babylon. How do you find God's comfort in times of distress?

### SECOND READING

Paul encourages the believers in Corinth to be courageous in knowing one day all will appear before "the judgment seat of Christ." How confident are you in reflecting on judgment day?

### GOSPEL READING

Mark tells us that Jesus often spoke in parables to the crowds about the kingdom of God. Today's parables speak to the often unseen and subtle growth of the kingdom of God in our midst. How might you better observe the kingdom of God at work in your life?

# Daily Schedule

Date	Celebration - Time	Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar
<p><b>Monday,</b> June 14:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 6.1-10 Gospel: Matthew 5.38-42</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Naveed Arif, O.P.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday,</b> June 15:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 8.1-9 Gospel: Matthew 5.43-48</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Piotr Golinski</p>
<p><b>Wednesday,</b> June 16:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11 Gospel: Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Sisters of Social Service (S.S.S.)</p>
<p><b>Thursday,</b> June 17:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 11.1-11 Gospel: Matthew 6.7-15</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Phillip E. Cook</p>
<p><b>Friday,</b> June 18:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 11.18, 21b-30 Gospel: Matthew 6.19-23</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> – 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Lukasz Kopaniak, S.A.C.</p>
<p><b>Saturday,</b> June 19:</p> <p>1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 12.1-10 Gospel: Matthew 6.24-34 OM: St. Romuald OM: Our Lady's Saturday</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:00 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:30 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed) <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> – 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM (or by appointment, please call the parish office) <b>Mass</b> – 5:30 PM</p>	<p>Rev. Kevin D'Souza</p>
<p><b>Sunday,</b> June 20:</p> <p>1st Reading: Job 38.1-4, 8-11++ 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.14-17 Gospel: Mark 4.35-41</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) <b>Mass</b> – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) <b>Mass</b> – 11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b></p>

## ST. ANTHONY CAN FIND ANYTHING — EVEN YOU

“Tony, Tony, come around! Something is lost and it must be found.”

Did you learn this one when you were a kid? In my experience there are even a lot of lapsed Catholics — or people who were never Catholic at all — who know that when you lose something, St. Anthony becomes your best friend. Missing keys? Pray to St. Anthony. Can't find your favorite sweater? St. Anthony. Forget where you parked your car in the mall lot? St. Anth— okay, you get the idea. Whatever it is, large or small, important or trivial, Tony has a reputation for finding the lost things.

It's a devotion that can seem a little like superstition — witchcraft, even? — if you don't really understand it. Mumble an incantation to a dead guy and you're guaranteed to find your

sunglasses. But as with most traditions that are old, beloved and effective, looking a little closer reveals the truth of the matter.

When we lose something really important, what do we do? We make the whole household stop what they're doing to join the search. Having St. Anthony as a friend means you ask him to stop what he's doing to help, too. And how he helps is by taking the matter exactly where all matters need to go — straight to the feet of Christ.

Here's the real genius of St Anthony: he takes the most mundane, commonplace occurrence — misplacing socks — into an encounter with the divine and truly all things great and small are gifts from God. He grabs our hand and points to the cross. “That's what you're looking for,” he tells us.

In the end, Tony doesn't really find the lost things. He finds the lost people

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO THAT IS COLLECTED EACH WEEK AT CHURCH?

This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are programs to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programs.



# THIS WEEK'S ONLINE GATHERINGS!



## **Monday, June 14: COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY**

**Hosts:** Fr. Claude & Deacon Carmelo

**Time:** 7:00-8:00pm

**Includes:** Faith-centred presentation and discussion, open Question & Answer period. Please submit questions for the Q&A in advance to [wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com).

## **Thursday, June 17: PRAY & CHAT**

**Hosts:** Deacon Carmelo & Wes Moga

**Time:** 7:00-8:00pm

**Includes:** Check-in/chit-chat time followed by some time in prayer using a different form of traditional Catholic prayer each evening

**FOR THE ZOOM INVITES:** Please contact Wes at [wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com).

# LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds. When planted, the tiny mustard seed grows into a tremendous tree with large branches. So too in each of our lives small things can have profound effects. God can use one of our more insignificant gestures to radically change another person's life. It may be the kindness of a smile, our willingness to accommodate someone, listening to someone's story, helping someone who is hurting, standing up for someone who is right or complimenting someone on something they did. We all have God given gifts and talents. What are some of yours? Our task is to use our talents creatively, consistently, lovingly, and generously. Because we are always guided by the Holy Spirit, things that may be insignificant or unnoticed to us can profoundly change the life of someone else. While we may think we are small and insignificant, God can make us large and magnificent. All we have to do is open ourselves to being used. We trust that God will take care of the rest.

It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

MARK 4:31

## PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



## 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Coming this Summer!

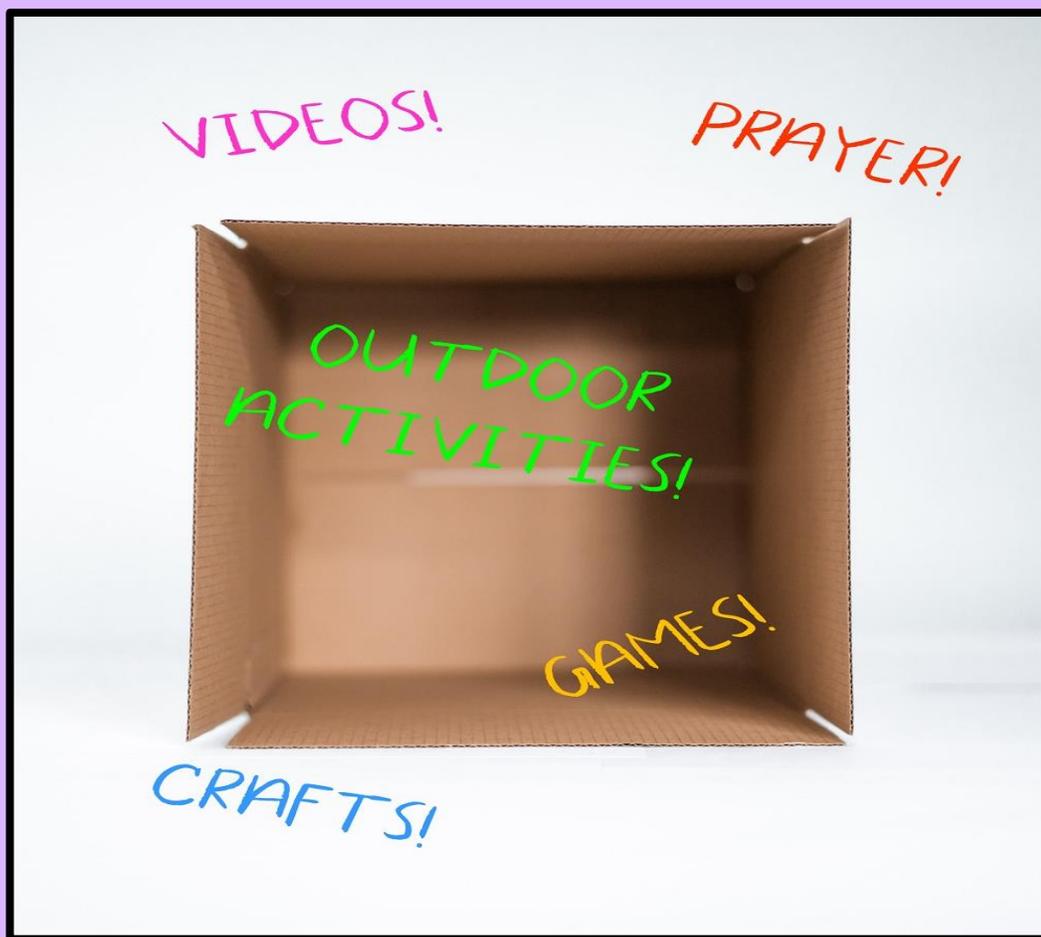
## CAMP IN A BOX

A week-long online Mini-Camp for Grades 3 - 6

Held on Zoom

Week 1: July 26 - 30

Week 2: August 16 - 20



2 time options:  
Morning  
(10:00am-  
12:00pm)  
or  
Afternoon  
(2:00pm-4:00pm)

Each day of  
camp will focus  
on a different  
saint!  
Kits with supplies  
will be delivered  
to campers in  
advance.

Registration opens June 9!

For more information, please visit

<https://saintfxstoneycreek.com/youth-ministry/>

# Coming this Summer!

A 4-week series for Grades 7 – 12



*“DRINK AND BE REFRESHED”*

Tuesdays on ZOOM

July 13 - August 3 from 7:30 - 9:00pm

**Just Be. Be Made New. Be Filled. Be Restored.**

This is what Jesus wants for each of us!

Through stories from Scripture, videos, small group conversations, prayer, and games, this 4-part series will encourage participants to accept Jesus' invitation to be refreshed and renewed by their relationship with him.

Registration opens June 9!

Visit <https://saintfxstoneycreek.com/youth-ministry/>  
for more information.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A favorite motto of St. Teresa of Calcutta was, “do small things with great love.” This is how it works in the kingdom of God. God can do tremendous things with the smallest gesture, especially when it is done in love. We can clearly see that our world is suffering greatly. People are struggling to find peace, navigate through conflicts, earn a sustainable living, find security and enough food to eat, and work through political tensions and conflicts. In the light of the magnitude of the difficulties that exist around us and even within us, we can find ourselves floundering to discover practical, effective solutions. How can something so large be helped by someone as small and seemingly insignificant as me? While whole systems and structures may be out of the league of our personal influence, are we really that helpless in the midst of all of the turmoil, sadness, and suffering?

If we believe that God is with us and that God is still working to bring about the glory of God’s kingdom, then the answer is no. We are never helpless or without hope. Armed with a strong life of prayer, we can always flee to God and ask for inspiration, wisdom, and especially love. We are all blessed with unique gifts and talents and it often seems



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that considering all that the world lacks, love and charity remain at the top of the list. Life can easily become a battleground of hostility. Because life is challenging and difficult, anger is not far away. We see it on people’s faces and hear it in their voices. There is a measure of frustration that permeates all avenues of life. It is even felt in the air.

As people of faith, we know that what we see here is not the end but only a part of something far greater to come. We know that God’s kingdom is where we are ultimately meant to be, and the Gospel is the way to get there. If love

and charity can prevail in us, then God will be able to do what God does best. God will use us to scatter the seeds of his kingdom. Through our small gestures, those seeds can receive the nurturing attention that is necessary for them to bear great fruit. We cannot fall victim to the strife that is around us. We have to keep ourselves refreshed and focused so that even in small ways, we can become part of the solution, not the problem. Love and charity, which come from God, can help to heal the ills of the world. May we bring these simple gifts to the everyday simple tasks of our lives! Watch how big the plant grows!

*“This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land...Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.” - Mk 4:26, 28-29*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*“Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each is loved, each of us is necessary.”*

**Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

# 3 EASY STEPS

## TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



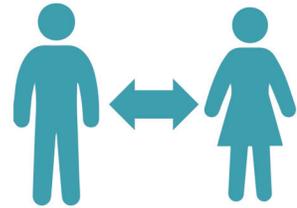
### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



### DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

# Summer





# Bill C-7 Information and Discussion: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Online via ZOOM

[Hamilton Right to Life](#) and the [Hamilton Diocesan Family Ministry Office](#) are partnering to bring you an online information session and discussion regarding Bill C-7 – the Bill expanding euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Please join us as Mrs Teresa Hartnett (MRE), Director of Family Ministry, shares important information regarding Bill C-7 which expands the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide.

In the Senate further changes were made to Bill C-7 which would allow MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) to occur more often by removing the “reasonable foreseeability of natural death” criterion currently in the Criminal Code. It will also allow MAID for those who are suffering from mental illness.

While this online event is FREE, Hamilton Right to Life gratefully accepts [donations](#) from those who are able to support our work as we strive to promote the sanctity of human life.

Please [register early](#) as we can accommodate up to 100 people. A ZOOM invitation link will be sent to the email address provided.



## **CCCB Executive Committee Statement on the Recent Acts of Violence in Canada**

In recent weeks, Canada has unfortunately witnessed a disturbing rise in harmful and violent acts against the Jewish People and Muslims. These acts have included offensive slurs, prejudice, hostility, and even terror claiming lives.

The Catholic Bishops of Canada adamantly object to all forms and expressions of hatred and they strongly denounce the recent violence seen in Canada against the Jewish People and Muslims, for which there can be no possible justification ever.

The Bishops appeal to the minds and hearts of the Catholic faithful, and all people of good will, to denounce Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all similar forms of extremism and violence against fellow human beings of all faith traditions. They likewise pray for an increase in tireless, sincere and constructive dialogue, greater understanding, social harmony, and mutual respect, in order that Canadians from all backgrounds, faith traditions and cultures may live not as strangers or adversaries, but peacefully as brothers and sisters.

Let us all heed Pope Francis' call, inspired by the Gospel, to be "peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter." (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 225)

+ Richard Gagnon  
on behalf of the Executive Committee of the  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

10 June 2021



## **CCCBC Statement Delegation to the Holy See**

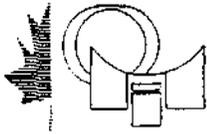
The Catholic Bishops in Canada have genuinely heard the sincere invitation to engage wholeheartedly with the past and are deeply committed to take truly meaningful active steps together with Indigenous Peoples in view of a future filled with greater respect and cooperation. The recent discovery of children's remains at a burial site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia remind us of a tragic legacy still felt today. With the strong encouragement of Pope Francis, the Bishops of Canada have pledged true and deep commitment to renewing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the land. In recent years, regional and diocesan listening circles have taken place across the country in order to hear the stories from local Indigenous communities and their hopes for the future. Mutual listening is the beginning of our common efforts to bring about shared and long-lasting reconciliation, authentic healing and bridge building.

In conversation with Indigenous people and communities, both at the local and national levels, and bilaterally with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit national organizations, the Bishops, sponsors of this project, have been preparing, for over two years now, a delegation of Indigenous people to meet with the Holy Father to foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing. This pastoral visit will include the participation of a diverse group of Elders/Knowledge Keepers, residential school survivors and youth from across the country. The event will likewise provide Pope Francis with a unique opportunity to hear directly from Indigenous Peoples, express his heartfelt closeness, address the impact of colonization and the implication of the Church in the residential schools, so as to respond to the suffering of Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma.

The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has stalled this project; however, the Bishops remain committed to moving forward with the delegation prior to the end of 2021, in compliance with international travel guidelines.

The delegation to the Holy See represents an important step on the journey of reconciliation and shared healing for Indigenous Peoples and the Church in Canada. Pope Francis, in his 6 June 2021 Angelus message, spoke about the shocking discovery of children's remains at the former Kamloops residential school and, while conveying sorrow and solidarity, emphasized the importance of "*walking side by side in dialogue and in mutual respect in the recognition of the rights and cultural values of all the sons and daughters of Canada*". It is our hope that these forthcoming encounters – and the important collaboration and partnership that has supported the planning – will lead to a shared future of peace and harmony between Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church in Canada.

10 June 2021



LES MISSIONNAIRES OBLATS DE MARIE IMMACULÉE  
THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

AN APOLOGY TO THE FIRST NATIONS OF CANADA BY THE OBLATE CONFERENCE OF CANADA

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Canada wish, after one hundred and fifty years of being with and ministering to the Native peoples of Canada, to offer an an apology for certain aspects of that presence and ministry.

A number of historical circumstances make this moment in history most opportune for this.

First, there is a symbolic reason. Next year, 1992, marks the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Europeans on the shores of America. As large scale celebrations are being prepared to mark this occasion, the Oblates of Canada wish, through this apology, to show solidarity with many Native people in Canada whose history has been adversely affected by this event. Anthropological and sociological insights of the late 20th century have shown how deep, unchallenged, and damaging was the naive cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious superiority complex of Christian Europe when its peoples met and interrelated with the aboriginal peoples of North America.

As well, recent criticisms of Indian residential schools and the exposure of instances of physical and sexual abuse within these schools call for such an apology.

Given this history, Native peoples and other groups alike are realizing that a certain healing needs to take place before a new and more truly cooperative phase of history can occur. This healing cannot however happen until some very complex, long-standing, and deep historical issues have been addressed.

It is in this context, and with a renewed pledge to be in solidarity with Native peoples in a common struggle for justice, that we, the Oblates of Canada, offer this apology:

We apologize for the part we played in the cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious imperialism that was part of the mentality with which the peoples of Europe first met the aboriginal peoples and which consistently has lurked behind the way the Native peoples of Canada have been treated by civil governments and by the churches. We were, naively, part of this mentality and were, in fact, often a key player in its implementation. We recognize that this mentality has, from the beginning, and ever since, continually threatened the cultural, linguistic, and religious traditions of the Native peoples.

We recognize that many of the problems that beset Native communities today - high unemployment, alcoholism, family breakdown, domestic violence, spiraling suicide rates, lack of healthy self-esteem - are not so much the result of personal failure as they are the result of centuries of systemic imperialism. Any people stripped of its traditions as well as of its pride falls victim to precisely these social ills. For the part that we played, however inadvertent and naive that participation might have been, in the setting up and maintaining of a system that stripped others of not only their lands but also of their cultural, linguistic, and religious traditions we sincerely apologize.

Beyond this regret for having been part of a system which, because of its historical privilege and assumed superiority did great damage to the Native peoples of Canada, we wish to apologize more specifically for the following:

In sympathy with recent criticisms of Native Residential Schools, we wish to apologize for the part we played in the setting up and the maintaining of those schools. We apologize for the existence of the schools themselves, recognizing that the biggest abuse was not what happened in the schools, but that the schools themselves happened ... that the primal bond inherent within families was violated as a matter of policy, that children were usurped from their natural communities, and that, implicitly and explicitly, these schools operated out of the premise that European languages, traditions, and religious practices were superior to native languages, traditions, and religious practices. The residential schools were an attempt to assimilate aboriginal peoples and we played an important role in the unfolding of this design. For this we sincerely apologize.

We wish to apologize in a very particular way for the instances of physical and sexual abuse that occurred in those schools. We reiterate that the bigger issue of abuse was the existence of the schools themselves but we wish to publicly acknowledge that there were instances of individual physical and sexual abuse. Far from attempting to defend or rationalize these cases of abuse in any way, we wish to state publicly that we acknowledge that they were inexcusable, intolerable, and a betrayal of trust in one of its most serious forms. We deeply, and very specifically, apologize to every victim of such abuse and we seek help in searching for means to bring about healing.

Finally, we wish to apologize as well for our past dismissal of many of the riches of native religious tradition. We broke some of your peace pipes and we considered some of your sacred practices as pagan and superstitious. This, too, had its origins in the colonial mentality, our European superiority complex which was grounded in a particular view of history. We apologize for this blindness and disrespect.

One qualification is, however, in order. As we publicly acknowledge a certain blindness in our past, we wish, too, to publicly point to some of the salient reasons for this. We do this, not as a way of subtly excusing ourselves or of rationalizing in any way so as to denigrate this apology, but as a way of more fully exposing the reasons for our past blindness and, especially, as a way of honoring, despite their mistakes, those many men and women, Native and white alike, who gave their lives and their very blood in a dedication that was most sincere and heroic.

Hindsight makes for 20-20 vision and judging the past from the insights of the present is an exact and often cruel science. When Christopher Columbus set sail for the Americas, with the blessing of the Christian Church, Western civilization lacked the insights it needed to appreciate what Columbus met upon the shores of America. The cultural, linguistic, and ethical traditions of Europe were caught up in the naive belief that they were inherently superior to those found in other parts of the world. Without excusing this superiority complex, it is necessary to name it. Sincerity alone does not set people above their place in history. Thousands of persons operated out of this mentality and gave their lives in dedication to an ideal that, while sincere in its intent, was, at one point, naively linked to a certain cultural, religious, linguistic, and ethnic superiority complex. These men and women sincerely believed that their vocations and actions were serving both God and the best interests of the Native peoples to whom they were ministering. History has, partially, rendered a cruel judgement on their efforts, showing how, despite much sincerity and genuine dedication, their actions were sometimes naive and disrespectful in that they violated the sacred and cherished traditions of others. Hence, even as we apologize for some of the effects of their actions, we want at the same time to affirm their sincerity, the goodness of their intent, and the goodness, in many cases, of their actions.

Recognizing that within every sincere apology there is implicit the promise of conversion to a new way of acting. We, the Oblates of Canada, wish to pledge ourselves to a renewed relationship with *Native peoples which, while very much in line with the sincerity and intent of our past relationship, seeks to move beyond past mistakes to a new level of respect and mutuality.* Hence ...

We renew the commitment we made 150 years ago to work with and for Native peoples. In the spirit of our founder, Blessed Eugene De Mazenod, and the many dedicated missionaries who have served in native communities during these 150 years, we again pledge to Native peoples our service. We ask help in more judiciously discerning what forms that service might take today.

More specifically, we pledge ourselves to the following:

\* We want to support an effective process of disclosure vis-a-vis Residential Schools. We offer to collaborate in any way we can so that the full story of the Indian Residential Schools may be written, that their positive and negative features may be recognized, and that an effective healing process might take place.

\* We want to proclaim as inviolable the natural rights of Indian families, parents and children, so that never again will Indian communities and Indian parents see their children forcibly removed from them by other authorities.

\* We want to denounce imperialism in all its forms and, concomitantly, pledge ourselves to work with Native peoples in their efforts to recover their lands, their languages, their sacred traditions, and their rightful pride.

\* We want, as Oblates, to meet with Native peoples and together help forge a template for a renewed covenant of solidarity. Despite past mistakes and many present tensions, the Oblates have felt all along as if the Native peoples and we belonged to the same family. As members of the same family it is imperative that we come again to that deep trust and solidarity that constitutes family. We recognize that the road beyond past hurt may be long and steep but we pledge ourselves anew to journey with Native peoples on that road.

Reverend Doug Crosby OMI  
President of the Oblate Conference of Canada  
On behalf of the 1200 Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate living  
and ministering in Canada.

# Kids Corner

READ THE  
GOSPEL &  
COLOR



You and a few others believe in God. You do not think you can do much because you are a very small group. Like the very small mustard seed, God will help you grow into the largest church in the world. Its branches, like the mustard tree, will grow large enough to hold you and all God's other children. He will teach you his ways and help you share his love.

## PRAYER

Holy Spirit, show me how to teach the word of God to others.

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will share the word of God with my family and friends.

# Diocesan Announcements - June 2021

## PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH -

### Parenting Tip 130

June is a good time to help your children reflect on the successes and challenges of the past school year. God provides every person with gifts to use in the world and it is good to remind your children that we are called to use our God-given gifts. Ask them to reflect on the gifts they see in themselves and share the gifts you see in them. Help them realize that they are indeed special and have good things to offer to others in their lives.

## MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH -

### Marriage Tip 110

Marriages that have lasted over many years give gifts to future generations since it allows them to both look back and grow forward. Long-lasting marriages are a living example of what it means to have enduring love; they give hope. Marriage is at the heart of family, so celebrate your marriage milestones – tell stories of the good times, the times you persevered and the joy of older love. These are important legacies to leave your children and grandchildren!

## Marriage Support

Is your marriage experiencing more trouble than joy, feeling stagnant or disconnected and/or causing you worries? **The solution is Retrouvaille** - a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. Retrouvaille has one purpose: to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving partnership. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It also works well for couples who may be considering separation or divorce. Retrouvaille is offering their weekends by zoom offering more possibilities for engagement. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email [teamrecine@gmail.com](mailto:teamrecine@gmail.com).

## Do you need support after an abortion?

Either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is available to help. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings on an individual basis, with a trained counsellor, to find hope and healing.

**Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.**

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR JUNE 14 TO JUNE 20, 2021

DATE	MASS INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
<b>Monday</b> , June 14:	Margaret Badeau	Claude & Carol Luscombe
<b>Tuesday</b> , June 15:	Frank Coholan	Cinzia Carniti
<b>Wednesday</b> , June 16:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MULTI-INTENTIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Margaret Badeau For blessings &amp; health for the Kowlezyk Family Fred Mastroianni Franciszek Rapacz Fr. Jack Harley Special Intentions Special Intentions Intentions of Wieslawa and Adam Cybulscy Jadwiga Cwiklinska</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Trains" Grova Mom Kowlezyk The Mastroianni Family</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grazyna Chomicka Halina Kwasniewska Adam Cybulski Grazyna Chomicka</p>
<b>Thursday</b> , June 17:	Quinto & Maria Mazzuchin	Lidia Putigna
<b>Friday</b> , June 18:	Lorenzo Castelli	Maria Castelli
<b>Saturday</b> , June 19: <b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Angelo Giglia	Maria Giglia
<b>Saturday</b> , June 19: <b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MULTI-INTENTIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stefano Fortunato Edmund Kulak Luigi &amp; Antonio Giammarco Ignazio Cuti Fabio &amp; Donna Pettorossi Clemente &amp; Redenta Massignani All deceased members of the Altobelli, Batt &amp; Mancuso Families Peace for Le-Butler Family Joe Varrasso Tarcisio Reginato Brock Tanner Rosalina Parreira</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zbigniew Gebski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Margherita Fortunato Marek Kulak Sylvia Giammarco Sylvia Giammarco Pettorossi &amp; Laskowski Families Annamaria Reginato</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Altobelli, Batt &amp; Mancuso Families Kim Le-Butler Anna Varrasso Annamaria Reginato &amp; Family Nick &amp; Leorita Staresina Carmela Raniero &amp; Maria &amp; Filippo Sexiero Janina Pasadyn</p>
<b>Sunday</b> , June 20:		
<b>9:00 am Mass</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pietro Cantone &amp; Family In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to keep Domenico Villella in good health</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mina Cantone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Angela Villella</p>
<b>11:00 am Mass</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Emanuele Centofanti For the People of the Parish – Missa Pro Populo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MaryAnn Centofanti</p>