



Journey

A Communicator for the Roman
Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston

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www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

Reinventing Liturgical Ministry during COVID-19

Father John Hibbard, Chair of the Liturgical Commission



Photo by: Sharon Buffett

It has been six months since news of a pandemic spread across the world, and our lives changed completely. On Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Archdiocese joined the rest of the country and the world in closing our churches. The priests of the Archdiocese celebrated Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent in empty churches, and people stayed isolated in their homes. But the priests were not idle. Articles circulated on the Internet about how to respond to the Coronavirus, and these were posted on parish websites. I posted two of them myself: "A Faith Response to the Coronavirus" and "How should I spend my Sundays when public Masses are cancelled?" The Central Deanery had planned a Prayer Vigil to Saint Joseph, Patron of Canada, for March 19th, and its Prayer to Saint Joseph was hurriedly altered to fit the new situation.

By the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 22nd), several parishes were already experimenting with live or recorded Masses via YouTube, Facebook, and Vimeo. In a very short time, Mass was available on the Internet from parishes in all four corners of the Archdiocese. For many priests, learning this technology was a steep curve; although there were several "younger" priest with more technological expertise. Nevertheless, getting the picture and the sound calibrated took a few weeks of adjustment. Some parishes did not have a strong enough Internet signal to telecast, but that did not stop them.

Continues on page 2.

Reinventing Liturgical Ministry during COVID-19 ***(continued from page 1)***

They used the signal from cellphones – a technology I still do not understand. As the weeks went by, an increasing number of parishes were livestreaming Sunday Mass, and a few were also bringing their parishioners daily Mass via a webcam, which worked well in small, confined spaces. Several priests moved the Tabernacle so that it could be seen from the outside of the church, and parishioners were invited to come in their cars and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. There were even a few ingenious parishes which offered the Sacrament of Confession outside, or from a Rectory window, or between cars in the parking lot.

Holy Week was a particular challenge, as the Sacred Triduum could not be celebrated with parishioners present. One priest offered the Archdiocese a series of reflections, which were cleverly entitled, “I Will Keep Passover at Your House”. Some deacons prepared meditations. Many parishes livestreamed their Holy Week Liturgies, and Stations of the Cross for both adults and children were posted on parish websites. Later, I recorded two series: the first was a five-part series on the “Significance of Sunday”; the second was a 13-part series on the “The Eucharist”. Both of these will receive more prominence when Sunday Masses return to a more normal manner of celebration. I suspect that, after a long abeyance of the Sunday obligation, it will be important to remind people of the significance of the Sunday Eucharist. We are still living with the uncertainty of what will happen in the future. Many parishioners are waiting to celebrate First Communion and Confirmation with their children. Weddings and Baptisms have been postponed or celebrated very simply.

During this pandemic, when the celebration of the Sacraments has been impossible, I have often thought of the Christians in Japan, China, Korea, and other areas of the world who have survived hundreds of years without priests and the Eucharist. Despite trials and challenges, the lay people have kept the faith alive and active. They catechized their children and converts and celebrated Baptism. Although we are not in the same dire situation as they, we, too, are facing a crisis. Our churches are open at 30% capacity, but many people are still hesitant to return. However, the practice of our faith does not have to be hesitant. After most people had completed a thorough house cleaning in the early months of the pandemic, they turned to prayer and spiritual reading, making their homes a true domestic church. With strong homes, we have strong parishes. Saint Peter, in his First Letter, wrote: “... now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” [1 Peter 1:6-7]

HUNKERED BUT NOT CONQUERED

A Pastoral Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Hope, Faith, and Creativity

by Father Cosmas Ajawara
St. Mary Parish, Carleton Place

From the perspective of a local parish priest, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a lot of pastoral and liturgical responses and changes. During this time, the default setting of parishes and parishioners has been completely altered. There seems to be a sense of confusion as to what lies ahead, both for the duration of this pandemic and even post pandemic.

It all began on March 17, 2020, when the Government of Ontario declared a state of emergency throughout the province in response to the pandemic. Strict rules were put in place, and I knew that my ministry in the parish would have to change. But what I did not know was how this change and the new realities would play out. Immediately, I began to reflect on the pastoral implications of the mandated closure of our parish church, the suspension of public Masses, the suppression of celebration of the sacraments, the closure of the parish office, and the halting of parish pastoral activities, including visitation to the sick and shut-ins. I knew that I must respond with faith in the midst of uncertainty, with hope in the midst of fear and anxiety, and with creativity in the midst of isolation. Given that the whole experience of the pandemic was uncharted territory, I also knew how important it would be to reach out to the people of the parish and beyond for assistance in navigating the whole situation.

Journey Publication Dates

Winter Edition 2020—December 12-13; deadline November 6

HUNKERED BUT NOT CONQUERED

(continued from page 2)

As a priest who lives his life in and around the Church, this has been a time of great anxiety, and I am sure that this is also true for my brother priests. I have found myself in the difficult position of assuaging my own fears and apprehensions while doing my best to attend to the fears and needs of our parishioners. Added to this anxiety has been concern about the wellbeing of my family in faraway Nigeria. The pandemic turned me into a worrier – about my parishioners, about my family overseas, and about myself. I can only say thanks be to God that all of us are doing well and staying healthy. In a sense, my personal fears, combined with ministerial experience, informed my pastoral responses to the pandemic. These responses have been guided by three principles: hope, faith, and creativity.

The first of these responses was to offer hope to my parishioners. This pandemic has made everyone fearful and anxious. Never have people been so afraid of coming close to one another – let alone hugging and shaking hands – even with their own family members. Never have people been so afraid of stepping out of their homes, even to buy food, medicine, or gasoline. Never have people been so anxious about their own mortality in a fight against an invisible enemy. Never have people been so afraid of going to church, even on Easter Sunday. Indeed, the pandemic has reaped a harvest of fear. My own experience with, and empathy for, these fears prompted me to post a series of weekly messages of hope to our parishioners via all our online channels (e-mail, Facebook, and our parish website). All the messages had the same theme – “Hunkered but not Conquered”. Writing these messages was something I looked forward to doing, and something our parishioners told me they looked forward to receiving. I am grateful that technology enabled me to maintain communication and a pastoral presence with our parishioners during an unusual and perilous time.

The second pastoral response to the pandemic was to ensure that parishioners remained rooted in the faith, despite the uncertainties around us. The pandemic has shaken us to the core. From the government’s action of deeming church “a non-essential service” to the many personal questions about the place of God in the pandemic, people grappled with their faith and struggled to find answers to their faith questions. Unfortunately, the closure of churches meant that many were left to find the answers on their own without the direct support of their pastor and fellow parishioners. This made me realize the importance of emphasizing the place and strength of the home as the domestic church. Hence, my catechesis was developed to address the need to find God before the storm, during the storm, and after the storm, even from the comfort of our individual homes. This can happen through prayer, scripture readings, private and family faith study, and outreach to the needy. In our parish, we organized an outreach program to telephone practically all of our parishioners, helping them to rediscover the importance and beauty of family prayer and worship. Where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, there He is in our midst. Home is where we can build up our faith when circumstances separate us from the parish church.

Finally, the third way that I responded to the pandemic was to be pastorally creative. The pandemic challenged priests in different ways. For some, the challenge was living in isolation; for others, it was upping their game and brushing up on their technological skills, since activities and outreach would have to take place online; for others, it was simply finding ways to fill up their hours and days while they were hunkered down. Each challenge called for some measure of creativity on the part of the priest. In my own case, I can say that necessity has improved my technological skills. One sure evidence of this is the weekly celebration of livestreamed Masses and liturgies. I am very grateful for our “techier” parishioners who have come to my rescue. So, whether it is acquiring technological skills or learning how to use the fogging machine after Masses, the pandemic has created opportunities for creativity and growth in more ways than one. This is certainly something I will bring into my post-COVID-19 pastoral ministry.

COVID-19, as bad as it is, has led us, as a people and as a Church, into new ways of thinking and acting. As clergy and as lay faithful, it is left for us to find and embrace these new ways of relating to God and to one another. I believe that the pandemic has revealed our deepest longing for God, for one another, and for our communities. How we respond now will determine the type of Christians and the type of Church we will be when we fully emerge from our isolation and liturgical semi-lockdown. My hope is that we will emerge as a more faithful Church of which we will be more creative members, and that all of us will be more hopeful Christians. Yes, we may be hunkered down, but we are not conquered in faith, hope, and creativity.

Deacons Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Ordination

Deacon Philip Carney



Published in the Journey Oct/Nov 1995. Photo by Bohdan Yakimeczko.

On September 2, 1995, Bill Gervais, John Ezard, Bill Heasley, Ralph O'Brien, and Keith Dorschner were ordained by Archbishop Francis Spence to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Kingston. As they celebrate their 25th anniversary of ordination, we offer sincere congratulations to Deacon Gervais and his wife, Ellen; Deacon Ezard and his wife, Jocelyn; Deacon Heasley and his wife, Dorothy; and Deacon O'Brien and his wife, Elaine. Deacon Dorschner passed away in 2014, and we also remember him and his wife, Christine, at this time.

These deacons and their wives were the first to complete all of their formation in the Archdiocese of Kingston's Permanent Diaconate Program. Before that program was established in Kingston, Terry Lynch, Bob McDonald, and I were given permission by Archbishop Spence to enrol in the formation program offered by Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg, New York. Terry Lynch and I were ordained to the Diaconate by Archbishop Spence in 1993. After his wife passed away, Terry Lynch entered the seminary and became a priest. Bob McDonald was ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Pembroke.

The Archdiocese of Kingston's Permanent Diaconate Program was first conceived in 1985, in discussions at the Advisory Board of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Six years later, in 1991, the first candidates were accepted, and classes began that same year. Monsignor Don Clement was the first Director of the program, and Sister Theresa Shannon was its first Coordinator. For many years, Sister Shannon shepherded her little flock through their training, including prayer, classes, and homework. It is fair to say that, as their avid supporter and valued taskmaster, Sister Shannon holds a special place in the hearts of all of the candidates she guided through the program.

The wives of the deacon candidates are included in the program, and are encouraged to attend all of the formation sessions. In Kingston, the Permanent Diaconate Program has benefited greatly from the support of spouses and from their participation in liturgies, sacramental preparation, and their lived witness to the gospel. What is "lived witness"? It is a response to the call that all of us share as baptized followers of Jesus. The difference for deacons is that this living out is made permanent, public, and committed through ordination. Spouses are integral to that witness, and, as we celebrate the deacons who are marking this special anniversary of ordination, we express our gratitude to their spouses for twenty-five years of dedicated contribution to the life of the Catholic Christian community in the Archdiocese of Kingston.



Let's look at the deacons themselves, beginning with **Deacon Bill Gervais**, who has been serving as Director of the Permanent Diaconate Program since 2005. Deacon Gervais is a retired York Regional Police officer and teacher at Loyalist College. He and his wife, Ellen, live in Kingston and have two children and five grandchildren. After ordination, Deacon Gervais was assigned to St. Gregory Parish in Picton, where he and his family were then residing. Following their move to Kingston in 2008, he served as deacon at St. Mary's Cathedral before being assigned in 2013 to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Amherstview. He served as Director of Pastoral Care at Hotel Dieu Hospital from 2007 to 2013, and, for the past seven years, he has been the Archbishop's Delegate for Professional Standards. As Director of the Permanent Diaconate Program and Coordinator of Formation for Deacon Candidates, Deacon Gervais oversees the selection process for new candidates and has evolved the training program itself through relationships with St. Francis Xavier University and Notre Dame University.

Deacon John Ezard and his wife, Jocelyn, have three children and live in Kingston. In 1985, John was involved in the initial discussions of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Advisory Board to establish the Permanent Diaconate in Kingston, and, when the program was approved, he found himself on the implementation committee. In 1991, when the Program began to recruit candidates, John was asked if he would like to apply. He had had a full career in the military, and, at the time he entered the program, was working in human resources for the provincial Ministry of Health. After he was ordained in 1995, he was assigned to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Amherstview. In 2005, he was appointed Coordinator of Continuing Formation and served in that capacity until 2011. He was assigned to Holy Family Parish in 1999, and remained there until his retirement in 2016.



Deacon Bill Heasley and his wife, Dorothy, have six children, and live in Brockville. Bill spent his career with Brockville's wire and cable manufacturer, Phillips Cables. After ordination to the Permanent Diaconate, Deacon Heasley was appointed to his home parish of St. John Bosco. He was very active in parish and community ministry, notably in palliative care. With Deacon Hank Gray, he founded the Loaves and Fishes Restaurant in Brockville and served on its Board of Directors for 18 years. Deacon Heasley retired from Diaconate Ministry in 2010.

Deacon Ralph O'Brien and his wife, Elaine, also live in Brockville and have three children. Ralph served as an OPP officer and teacher for nine years before joining the federal government, where he worked for Revenue Canada as a customs officer and adjudicator. At the time they entered the formation program, Ralph and Elaine were living in Morrisburg. After ordination, Deacon O'Brien was assigned to St. Mary's Parish, Morrisburg, and St. Cecilia's, Iroquois. After the family's move to Brockville, he was assigned to St. John Bosco Parish, where he remained until his retirement from pastoral ministry in 2013.



Congratulations to all of you – you are a blessing to the people of the Archdiocese of Kingston.

From the Office of Family Ministry

Sister Lucy Kearney, SP

Every year, the reflection of contributors to the September edition of 'Journey' has focused on events that had or were soon to take place in the Archdiocese. The year 2020, with its COVID-19 pandemic, has made event planning impossible and has brought previously unimaginable changes to home, parish, and Archdiocesan life. I am sure that other writers will also address reflections on their own COVID-19 experiences.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, a future full of hope". (Jeremiah 29:11)

This scripture passage is my source of hope and trust whenever I am facing difficulties, and that is true for the challenges created by this pandemic. On the weekend of March 15th, I moved into the Sisters' residence at Providence Manor. Just one hour before my arrival came the announcement that Providence Manor would be locked down. With no visitors, no volunteers, and the chapel closed, public health protocols would become our way of life. To protect the Sisters at the Motherhouse from the virus, those living elsewhere could not visit Heathfield. The Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre closed two days later, and scheduled meetings and workshops were cancelled. Thanks to prayers, effective leadership in each of the mentioned institutions, and dedicated adherence to public health regulations, the residents of Providence Manor and our Sisters at the Motherhouse were kept safe from the coronavirus. The efforts of the Archdiocese to offer spiritual, emotional, and physical support to the faithful created new and innovative parish life connections.

Response from the Pastoral Centre

Regular news updates on the virus were a constant reminder of the challenges families were facing every day and the ways in which they were adapting to those challenges. Meetings of Pastoral Centre staff were held via ZOOM, enabling us to connect with one another, share experiences, and offer support. The Family Ministry office looked for new ways to provide effective outreach to the members of the New Life Group for Separated and Divorced Catholics. Telephone calls and e-mail messages were somewhat helpful, but they did not match the confidential and safe environment of our bi-weekly support group meetings. A few ZOOM meetings enabled face-to-face support, but not all members had access to that technology. When inquiries were received from new individuals who had been referred to us by a counsellor, priest/minister, or friend, we endeavoured to provide whatever support we could, looking forward to the time when we could resume our regular Support Group meetings with required safety protocols.

NEXT MEETING
SEP 15
7:30-9:00PM
A CATHOLIC MINISTRY
FOR THE SEPARATED & DIVORCED
NEW LIFE
SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

WELCOME & INFORMATION MEETING

ALL FAITH DENOMINATIONS WELCOME
CONTACT SR. LUCY KEARNEY, SP.
OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY
613-548-4461 X 113
FAMILY@ROMANCATHOLIC.KINGSTON.ON.CA

What is Ministry to the Separated and Divorced?

Briefly, our ministry to Separated and Divorced Catholics is centered on the love of Christ and the belief that any person whose marriage has ended in separation or divorce deserves the loving, caring, healing support that Jesus would extend. Ministry to separated and divorced Catholics strives to adhere to the traditional teachings of the Church and endeavours to balance those teachings with the infinite love, mercy, and compassion of God. The reality is that Catholics who are separated and divorced endure much pain and suffering because of their inherent belief in the permanency of marriage. Our group offers them a safe environment where confidentiality is ensured; where they are free to speak without being judged; and where compassion is evident in the care and concern of others who have experienced similar pain and struggle. Oh yes, it is not by accident that this group is called "New Life"! Each individual really goes through a life, death, and resurrection experience, strengthening their understanding of the Paschal Mystery.

From the Office of Religious Education

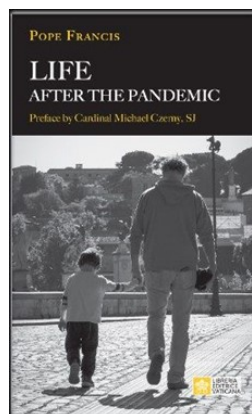
Mary-Jo MacKinnon-Simms

"Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness, and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour!"
 Pope Francis *The Joy of the Gospel*

During these challenging times in our world, the Archdiocese of Kingston's Office of Religious Education is finding ways to support our faith life through innovation. We are exploring some Fall projects examining the topics of faith and support, and we will be connecting with people through webinars and Zoom sessions. We will also be featuring some of the great work being done by parishioners throughout the Archdiocese. Watch our website and Facebook page for details. If you have recommendations about individuals, groups, and activities that could and should be highlighted, please let me know.

In this time of pandemic, as we spend more time at home and on our computers, many of us are looking for good reading material. I am happy to recommend the following resources:

- Two new books have just been published featuring the pandemic homilies of Pope Francis:



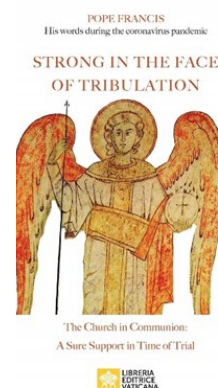
Life after the Pandemic with Pope Francis

A book-companion for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic through the vision and words of Pope Francis.

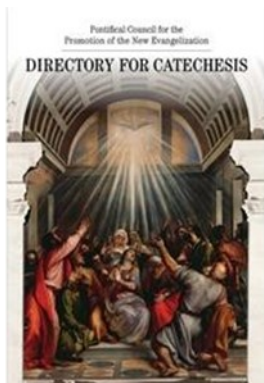
Strong in the Face of Tribulation

A companion volume and contains all of Pope Francis's homilies delivered from March 9 to May 18, 2020.

Both can be purchased online at www.amazon.ca



- The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has several resources on faith, history, and education which can be accessed on its website at www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education
- Novalis Canada has an excellent selection of books and DVDs for purchase, and also features some of its authors on YouTube. Its web address is <https://en.novalis.ca/>
- Newman Theological College continues to offer online courses on lay faith development. For more information, contact www.newman.edu/CCS
- The McGrath Institute for Church Life (University of Notre Dame) is presenting a free self-paced online lecture series entitled "A Season with The Saints". Check out this site for more information www.mcgrath.nd.edu/news/mcgrath-institute-for-church-life-invites-reflection-on-devotion-to-saints-in-online-lecture-series/



- The New Directory for Catechesis is now available for purchase at <https://www.josephsinspirational.ca/collections/whats-new/products/new-directory-for-catechesis-new-edition>

Our Pastoral Centre library has some excellent books and DVDs. For more information, call or email Gorett at 613-548-4461 ext 112, ore@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

As always, I welcome your ideas and insights. Please contact me anytime: 613-548-4461, extension 115, maryjo@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

From the Youth Office

Nadia Gundert, Coordinator

This Summer did not turn out quite as we had planned, but, thankfully, we had the opportunity to provide a virtual Totus Tuus summer camp. We were able to hire our young adult missionaries -- Mikaela, Hilton, Jude, Rebecca, Hannah, Abby, and Reuben -- to create online content for young people across the Archdiocese. What a blessing! It was a big learning curve technologically, but what fun we had creating entertaining faith-filled content. Our theme for the summer camp was 'Totus' Got Talent', celebrating everyone's God-given gifts. Each day, new camp content was shared with participants. On Scripture Sundays, one of the missionaries provided a scripture reflection on our theme. On Music Mondays, we shared music videos of favourite Totus Tuus Camp songs, including 'Rise & Shine', 'The Banana Song', and 'Making Melodies', as well as praise and worship covers. On Talent Tuesdays, campers were given a different challenge for each of our themed weeks: music challenge, baking challenge, artistic challenge, and active challenge. Talent Tuesdays also featured a Totus Tuus Theatre - one of the highlights of summer camp for sure! Our missionaries did an extraordinary job prepping funny and



faith-filled skits for our campers! On Witness Wednesdays, Abby (and Squish and Squash) interviewed our missionaries about their faith, gifts, and talents, and also did an interview of a different clergy member each week. We got to know Father Jan Kusyk, Father Francis Zambon, Deacon Michel Quenneville, and Father Justin Pulikunnel, as we heard their vocation stories and learned about their particular gifts. On Teen Thursdays, we had a virtual teen night with games, discussions, and sharing by our missionaries. On Fun Fridays, we had some awesome activities, including cookie baking live, making watermelon Rice Krispie treats, a live paint class, and some videos of Friday activities in

years past, including water fights and sliming / human sundae missionaries. Throughout the week, we also shared lots of craft and activity ideas to do at home. On Fridays, we had a virtual camp Mass celebrated by a priest from each of our four deaneries. Every afternoon at 1 p.m., we prayed a decade of the rosary live and offered up the prayer intentions of campers and parishioners. To wrap up the camp season and highlight the gifts and talents of our young people, we held a 'Totus' Got Talent' finale talent show. Young people from across the Archdiocese submitted videos and pictures demonstrating their God-given talents. Incredible! You can view the 'Totus' Got Talent' finale show and find much of the camp content on our website www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/virtualcamp. We will keep these activities and videos up for the next few months so that they can be readily accessed. Feel free to share any of our content! We received many beautiful emails from campers and parents who enjoyed participating in virtual camp with us. While we missed seeing your smiling faces in person, it was a joy to be able to reach out to you virtually. Thank you for joining us.

As we continue to navigate this pandemic, I will post online faith resources for youth and families on our social media accounts and website. Check out www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/outreach. There will also be some virtual or socially distanced opportunities for young adults coming up in the coming months. We will be launching some virtual discussions, as well, for parents and young people on various topics. Stay tuned!

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime if there is anything that I can do for you, whether you are looking for a resource, looking to connect, or have any questions or inquiries.

Many blessings to all of you and prayers for a happy and healthy Fall.



Holy Rosary retires its mortgage

On March 15, 2009, Archbishop Brendan O'Brien consecrated the newly constructed church at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Belleville. Eleven years later, on March 13, 2020, parishioners of Holy Rosary gathered to celebrate the anniversary of that dedication and to retire the mortgage on the church. The original plan had been to burn the mortgage document after Mass in a large outdoor fire, but the wind was gusting so strongly that day that the bonfire was replaced with a simple candle burning during Mass. To commemorate the mortgage retirement, a large window, featuring a picture of the Last Supper, has been installed in the church.



Left: Tony Kelly, Chair of the Parish Finance Committee, lights the mortgage document.

Right: The beautiful new window features prominently in the interior of the church.



St. Rita's Café: Serving up Kindness

Excerpt from the newsletter of St. Mary's Drop-In Centre

Our Mission Statement

St. Mary's Drop-In Centre is a ministry of St. Mary's Cathedral living, in imitation of Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. His commandment that: *"I have set you an example that you should also do as I have done to you"* (John 13). Recognizing the dignity of each individual, through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (Matthew 25:32), we care for the material, emotional, and spiritual needs of the homeless and those most in need in the city of Kingston.

Dealing with COVID

During Stage 2 of Ontario's COVID re-opening plan, establishments could only serve food and drink outdoors. Since we wanted to be able to offer a place for people to relax, socialize (with physical distancing), and eat a nutritious meal, we opened St. Rita's Café, an outdoor patio on Brock Street.

During the summer, our clientele increased steadily; we currently serve over 500 guests a month.

The Kindness of Others

One of the highlights of this summer has been our Marian Donation Garden. Thanks to a group of 25 dedicated volunteers who care for the, over 1000 lbs of 12 different vegetables have been harvested.

From the fresh produce, our local Italian ladies have started *Cooking with Nonna*, making delicious soup for our guests and preparing extra portions to be frozen for the upcoming months.



St. Rita's Café



Gratitude and Best Wishes to Deacon Michel Quenneville

Congratulations to Michel Quenneville, who was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on July 11th. We have been blessed to have Deacon Michel as a volunteer this summer. He will be missed when he returns to seminary in Toronto. Please read through his reflection about the Drop-In Centre:

"I have been truly blessed in the past two months to spend part of my diaconal service at St. Mary's Drop-in Centre. I think that this is a truly anointed apostolate among the poor and homeless of the City of Kingston. Not only does it accomplish an important corporal work of mercy -- feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, and clothing the naked -- but it also sets the scene for an even more important encounter, a human encounter, by listening, comforting, journeying, and even praying with the men and women who come each day.



"I am truly edified by the volunteers who do not shy away from encountering each person in the fullness of their dignity as children of God, with true love and compassion. Keep St. Mary's Drop-in Centre in your prayers! I pray that it may always be faithful to its call to encounter and minister to Christ in the poor."

- Deacon Michel Quenneville