



April 2021

www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

My dear faithful of the Archdiocese,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

One year ago, as we entered Holy Week, we were all making the first adjustment to conditions imposed by the lockdowns. The Holy Week liturgies were celebrated privately by the priests of the Archdiocese, and within weeks, live streaming began in many parishes. In mid-June we were able to open our parishes to the faithful for Mass and aside from a lockdown in the early months of this year, the Church has been able to provide the sacraments. The grace of these sacraments has been of enormous benefit for those suffering from the fears and anxieties of the pandemic. Without the dedicated ministry of many volunteers across the Archdiocese, the gift of the sacraments would not have been possible. I express to all the volunteers my deepest appreciation for your generous service. On behalf of all the faithful, I wish to thank the priests of the Archdiocese. During this past year of constant changes, their imagination has been wonderful and their solicitude for the faithful under their care has been edifying. We have been blessed by their priestly ministry. Eventually conditions will improve. This will allow for more opportunities to gather together. I look forward to making pastoral visits across the Archdiocese and meeting many of you. I feel the neglect of this part of my ministry very much. I wish also to apologize for the many emails and communications which have not yet been addressed. If we can avoid another lockdown and closure of the Chancery, I hope to catch up with these communications very soon.



The past year has also brought many gifts from the Lord. One such gift has been our expanded appreciation for the simple beauties of our faith. Another is the gift of discerning the essentials, a task made easier when our regular routine is restricted. I pray that together as a local Church, we may carry these gifts well past this pandemic year. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit will use the challenges of the past year to draw forth from the heart of the Church a new spiritual energy for her essential mission, namely, evangelization, catechesis and the sacramental life of Christ. The signs of inventive imagination and generosity so evident in these past months, strengthen my confidence for our future ministry.

The approaching Easter mysteries always renew the Church. The self-emptying sacrifice of Jesus is glorified by the Father. As we live this mystery together in the coming days, may the profound joy of Easter pervade our being and carry us on toward a new Pentecost. May the intercession of St. Joseph guide us safely in the coming months.

† Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston

Partnering with the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Valerie Kelly, Justice and Peace Commission

These are certainly hard times for many people. At the January meeting of the Justice and Peace Commission, we discussed the challenge of meeting the needs of the increasing number of disadvantaged individuals and families in our community. We focused particularly on the efforts of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Kingston, whose volunteers work hard every day at the Stephen Street facility to provide assistance to people in need. They offer a hot meal at lunchtime, five days a week, all year long. Their WearHouse offers free household items and clothing, and the Emergency Food Pantry distributes food to those who are having difficulty making ends meet.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was incorporated in Kingston in the early 1870s. The story of its current location at 85 Stephen Street began in 1965, when the Society worked with St. Mary's Cathedral to find a permanent place to provide care for the poor and disadvantaged. By 1966, other local parishes had joined in the efforts of the Society to help those in need. In 1967-68, under the leadership of Archbishop Wilhelm, the property at 85 Stephen Street was purchased. After more than 50 years, the Society has outgrown the small Stephen Street facility. As Judy Fyfe, Executive Director of the Society, explains, "There isn't enough space for us to continue to serve. Our meal program is overcrowded; we've got two seatings now just to meet demand. It's tricky because it's a building that holds 45 chairs, and, for Thanksgiving alone, we did 148 meals, so it's tough. And with the demographic we serve, it's challenging to be in such a loud and crowded space." Plans are underway for the Society to build a new facility at the corner of Bagot and Charles Street in downtown Kingston. A private donation has already secured the property, and a capital campaign is underway to raise funds for the construction of a new building.

A Community Engagement Committee has been established to promote public engagement and partnerships within the community; to raise public awareness about the good work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society; and to coordinate long-term, sustainable funding to enable the expansion of programs and services. The Justice and Peace Commission has pledged its support for the Committee's endeavours and would like to encourage our faith communities to do the same. During a recent Zoom meeting with Judy Fyfe, she commented that, "It's impossible to map the connections of support throughout the community. Our organization has broad and deep roots in Kingston."

If you would like to join us in supporting this important ministry, you can make a donation through Canada Helps at: <https://loom.ly/ftLsaal> or by contacting the St. Vincent de Paul Society directly at 613-766-8432. Your prayers would also be very much appreciated in this time of transition.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Justice and Peace Commission, please contact Rev. Canon Valerie Kelly at vkelly@ontario.anglican.ca.

On behalf of the Commission members, I extend best wishes for Easter blessings to you and your loved ones.



St. Vincent de Paul Society
Of Kingston



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This past Ash Wednesday, the parishes of the Central Deanery of the Archdiocese accepted donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Kingston capital campaign.

A sincere THANK YOU for your support towards this important endeavour.

May we who are challenged and concerned about our own health and lives,
have mercy on all of our local brothers and sisters who are in even greater need.

An exciting year for Michel Quenneville and for the Archdiocese of Kingston

by Nadia Gundert



What a Spring blessing it is to have an ordination to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Kingston! This May, Michel Quenneville will be ordained a priest, after completing formation at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting Michel will know what a wonderful, faith-filled person he is. When I first met this fine man, he was just beginning his studies at the seminary. I could see the joy and peace in his eyes as he discerned a vocation to the priesthood. He is so authentic and constantly shares his faith through words and deeds.

Michel was born in Kingston but grew up in the country just outside Gananoque. He is very athletic and has participated in all kinds of sports, including hockey, soccer, football, rugby, running, and biking. As a teen, Michel -- like most of us -- longed to fit in and belong. He attended Mass with his family on the weekends, but the rest of the week was just like everyone else his age. In his heart, Michel felt a deep desire to live for a greater purpose. He thought that he might find that fulfilment in the military and, so, spent four years as an army reservist. He went on to study Engineering at Queen's University, and, after earning his degree, moved to Alberta

to work as a chemical engineer in the oil and gas industry. Michel still felt a restlessness inside him and that there was something missing in his life. In the Summer of 2010, he encountered the mercy and love of God in a powerful way while he was travelling abroad. He felt God calling him to a different vocation: the priesthood. After much prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, Michel gathered his courage and reached out to the Vocations Director of the Archdiocese of Kingston, who set up a meeting with Archbishop O'Brien. After that meeting, he enrolled at St. Augustine's Seminary to deepen his prayer life and discern if the priesthood was indeed the vocation to which God was calling him. Through his discernment, Michel learned that "when we walk this journey with the Lord, we are not alone". To learn more about Michel's vocation story and see his personal testimony, visit the Vocations page of our website at: www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/vocations

Michel helped to launch the Totus Tuus Summer Camp in our Archdiocese and served as a team lead. His leadership, gentle presence, humility, and prayerfulness were so refreshing to see and such a witness to his deep faith, both for the missionaries with whom he served and the young people and volunteers who were part of the camp. The young campers would follow him around and light up in smiles whenever he came into the room. He would sit down with them at lunch, share a story, join in on a soccer game, or even good-naturedly agree to get slimed with chocolate sauce as a human sundae! His grasp of the concept of relational ministry and the value of presence is truly extraordinary and will be such an asset to his priesthood. During his pastoral year, Michel was assigned to St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Kingston, where the community was instantly drawn to him, recognizing his ability to connect with others and articulate his faith. Students in the parish schools were always delighted when he came to visit and talk with them. Last year, Michel also joined the Archdiocesan Duc in Altum leadership team, journeying with young adult participants in this experience of "going into the deep" to discern where God is calling them in their lives. His contributions to Duc in Altum were invaluable, and all those involved were better for knowing him. As he wrapped up his pastoral year and went back to the seminary, he made "Did You Know?" videos that shared aspects of the faith. These were definitely a hit!

In the Spring of 2020, amidst pandemic restrictions, Michel was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate. He is currently finishing up his final year at the seminary as he awaits his ordination to the priesthood. Please pray for him and join me in thanking God that Michel Quenneville answered "yes" to His call. The Archdiocese of Kingston is truly blessed to have him!

From the Pastoral Offices

Mariola Gozdek, Liturgy Office Coordinator

Mary-Jo MacKinnon-Simms, Office of Religious Education Coordinator

Sister Lucy Kearney, SP, Family Ministry Coordinator

“Keep doing everything you learned from me and were told by me and have heard or seen me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” *Philippians 4:9*

The Pastoral Team of the Archdiocese of Kingston would like to share some of our recent initiatives and others that are being planned for the Spring of 2021.

We have had a number of Zoom meetings to offer resources and support to parents and their children who are preparing for First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation.

On January 26th, we hosted a productive evening session regarding Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter, ***Fratelli Tutti***, which was facilitated via Zoom by Robert Mundle. There were some excellent discussions about Pope Francis's letter and what it means to be community. As a follow-up to this session, we will be offering a series this Spring on some of the themes in ***Fratelli Tutti***, including **faith, accompaniment, journeying, and community**. Please watch your bulletins and our website for more information.

From October 2020 until March 2021, we hosted **training sessions for Parish Christian Initiation Leaders** (RCIA). Each of the 10 sessions gave parish ministers a deeper understanding of the four Formation Periods and Liturgical Rites marking Catechumens' and Baptized Candidates' progress towards full initiation into the discipleship of Jesus Christ.

On February 22, we facilitated an evening for grandparents with David Dayler, author of ***Sharing our Story: How Grandparents Today Pass on the Catholic Faith***. During this workshop, David spoke about how grandparents can be mentors, nurturers, and role models for their grandchildren. He offered practical advice on ways that grandparents can share the Catholic faith with their grandchildren and take a leadership role in modelling a spiritual life for their families. To order David's inspiring book, visit the Novalis website: <https://en.novalis.ca/products/sharing-our-stories>

In preparation for Easter, we offered a six-week **Lenten Reflection Series** via Zoom. This guided Lenten reflection on the Sunday Scripture Readings was led by a different presenter each week. These well-attended sessions also provided the opportunity for group discussion.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, it became necessary to move to Zoom for our **New Life Group** meetings in support of those experiencing separation and/or divorce. Those enduring the trauma caused by a problematic marriage and searching for ways to cope with their situation need a safe environment where confidentiality is respected. The themes of accompaniment, faith, journeying, and community which are proposed for the Spring series on Pope Francis's ***Fratelli Tutti*** are very much part of our bi-weekly New Life Group meetings. For more information about the New Life Group, visit our website or contact Sister Lucy Kearney, SP at 613-548-4461 or family@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

We are excited to present new initiatives this Spring. Please visit our Archdiocesan website for details, registration information, and Zoom link for the following sessions:

Over the Easter Season, we will be offering via Zoom an **Easter Series** entitled ***Encountering the Risen Christ in His Word: Reflections on Sunday Scripture***, beginning on **Tuesday April 6th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Through prayer, guided reflections, and group sharing, these series will help us to understand the significance of our Baptism, and what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ and a disciple of our Risen Lord in today's world.



EASTER REFLECTIONS ON SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN CHRIST IN HIS WORD

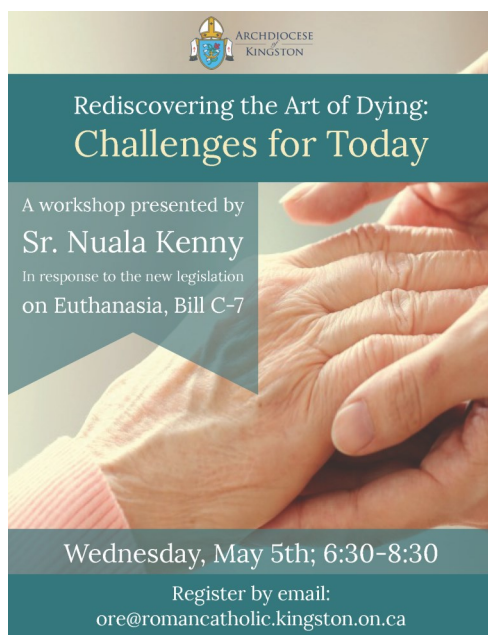
Tuesdays, 6 April - 18 May
7:00 - 8:30pm

Scripture Readings
Prayer
Guided Reflection
Discussions
Sharing



[www.Zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join):
Meeting ID: 875 7951 9160
Passcode: 052444

For more information please visit:
www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/easter



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Rediscovering the Art of Dying:
Challenges for Today

A workshop presented by
Sr. Nuala Kenny
In response to the new legislation
on Euthanasia, Bill C-7

Wednesday, May 5th; 6:30-8:30

Register by email:
ore@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca

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In response to the new legislation on Euthanasia, Bill C-7, we have invited **Sister Nuala Kenny** to present a workshop on ***Rediscovering the Art of Dying: Challenges for Today***. The workshop will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, May 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Also this Spring, we will be presenting a workshop on Pope Francis's encyclical ***Laudato Si - Care of Our Common Home***.

As always, we look forward to your ideas and invite you to reach out to us at any time!

Seeking Men with a Deacon's Heart

Deacon Bill Gervais

The Archdiocese of Kingston is currently planning an inquiry session for those who are interested in becoming permanent deacons. While there are specific qualifications required of candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, perhaps the most important is that he "possess a deacon's heart".

The first characteristic of a man with a deacon's heart is his recognition that a true vocation does not spring from personal ambition. He does not seek ordination because it is something to do in retirement, or because it will give him a high profile in the parish. Rather, he knows that it is a call from God to the service of His people. The ministry of deacon is a gift with its own charism and contribution to the life of the Church.

The second characteristic of a man with a deacon's heart is a willingness to live the Gospel values of simplicity of life, compassion, forgiveness, humility, and obedience throughout his ministry.

The third quality of a man with a deacon's heart is an understanding that a deacon is called to be a sign of the servant Christ in his community. This requires him to actively seek to serve the needs of the poor, the forgotten, and the neglected. He acknowledges that service at the table of the poor is a prerequisite for service at the altar.

The fourth characteristic of a man with a deacon's heart is the ability to balance his service to the Church with the responsibilities of family and employment. He understands that an ordained minister gives public witness by following Christ in all areas of his life – his marriage, his family, his secular occupation, and his lifestyle.

The fifth quality of a man with a deacon's heart is the ability to be an intermediary and an animator. He recognizes that a deacon has a foot in both worlds – religious and secular – and that this is not an identity crisis but, rather, an opportunity to be a bridge between the sacred and secular in a unique vocation that serves the needs of all the baptized.

The sixth characteristic of a man with a deacon's heart is the desire and ability to be a man of the Word. He knows that the foundation of diaconal ministry flows from the words of the bishop as he places the book of Gospels in the hands of the newly ordained deacon: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." He understands that, since a deacon is charged with the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel at Mass, he must constantly reflect on the Word of God and allow Scripture to shape his life, so that, by both preaching and example, he shows how the Word of God guides the hearts and minds of all who follow Christ.

If you believe that you have a deacon's heart and would like to find out more about this sacred vocation, please contact Deacon Bill Gervais, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 390 Palace Rd. Kingston, K7L 4T3; telephone 613-548-4461; email deacon@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca. The next inquiry session is scheduled for September 2021.

Saint Joseph, the Hidden Saint at Easter

Father John Hibbard, Chair of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission



Pope Francis has proclaimed 2021 a special Year of Saint Joseph to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX naming Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Catholic Church. Of course, Saint Joseph is also the Patron Saint of Canada. According to Friar Ed Debono of Saint John the Apostle Parish in Kingston, the Canadian devotion to Saint Joseph has its roots in the earliest days of the settlement known as New France. In 1624, the French settlers designated Saint Joseph as their patron saint, as proposed by the Recollect Franciscan Friars who served in the new colony. This designation, which was confirmed by Pope Urban VIII in 1637, has particular significance for the Archdiocese of Kingston. In 1808, the first church built in the area of the present city of Kingston was named for Saint Joseph, and Saint Joseph's was the only Catholic church in Kingston until Saint Mary's Cathedral was built in the 1840s.

Pope Francis refers to Saint Joseph as one who often goes unnoticed. This reminds us, he says, that those who appear hidden or in the shadows play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. I think of Saint Joseph as one who can accompany us through this paschal season. The Gospels tell us that the Blessed Virgin Mary accompanied Jesus on his way of the cross and crucifixion, and I think of Saint Joseph as the hidden person who also

accompanies Jesus from heaven. He now accompanies us on our journey as we complete the way of Jesus's cross in our time. Saint Joseph certainly knew the cross in his life, but now he shares the joys and glory of heaven. Jesus has promised us new life, and that is the joy of the Easter Season.

The joy of Easter is not based on earthly happiness or situation, but on the love of God revealed in Jesus and confirmed by his Resurrection. In these troubled and worrisome times, we can ask Saint Joseph to inflame our hearts with spiritual joy. The Second Reading for Easter Sunday exhorts us: "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above...for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory" (Colossians 3.1-4). In a time when the concern and vision of most people is focused only on this earthly life, Saint Joseph can help us lift our thoughts and hearts to the reality of God's Kingdom. Let us pray in a special way this holy season for spiritual joy.

Our family celebrations will be smaller this Easter, since the pandemic has made it impossible for us to gather as we normally would, but we can make Saint Joseph present at our Easter meal. It was a Jewish custom to set a place for the expected Prophet at the Passover Meal. Similarly, we could set a place for Saint Joseph at the table or at least remember him in prayer. If we are unable to attend Mass, we can think of Saint Joseph homeless in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, or exiled in Egypt far from his family in Nazareth. We are not alone -- Saint Joseph is with us, and, where he is, there also are Jesus and Mary.

Very little is known about the life of Saint Joseph; we presume that he died before Jesus began his public ministry. Over the course of this pandemic, many parishioners have lost loved ones, and some were not able to be with their dying relatives in their final hours. At times like these, we can look to Saint Joseph as a patron and consoler. I think of him being with those who are dying, just as Jesus and Mary were with him in his death.

I cannot think of Saint Joseph without reflecting on the family. Families are facing pressure from all sides, which is pulling its members in diverse directions. The family is key to the wellbeing and life of the Church, as well as the State, even if this fact is not recognized by many in our society, including civic leaders. This is an excellent time to pray to Saint Joseph to safeguard the family.



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In many ways, Saint Joseph is a 'man for all seasons'. He is the Guardian of Families, who knows the perils that many families experience. He had to leave his home and livelihood in Nazareth to go to Bethlehem, and then had to flee with his young family to Egypt to protect them from the wrath of King Herod. In the same way, he is the Protector of those in our world who are migrants and exiles, especially those persecuted for their Christian faith. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who worked with his hands to provide a living for his family. As Pope Francis tells us, he is an example both for workers and for those seeking employment and a life of dignity for themselves and their families. "In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron." (*Patris Corde*) Although there is little written about the life of Saint Joseph, we can imagine him as a model of humility, courage, and the patient acceptance of the will of God, who will help us in our present difficulties and in all the circumstances of life.

Normally, during a special Year of Prayer, there would be diocesan celebrations and pilgrimages, but neither is feasible during a pandemic. The Archdiocese of Kingston has within its borders five public health zones, each with a different colour designation. This makes it impossible to have diocesan celebrations or parish events. Since Saint Joseph was a family man and is the Guardian and Protector of the Holy Family and all families, perhaps it is appropriate that this year devoted to him must be celebrated within families. Suggestions for family prayer, including a special Prayer to St. Joseph, can be found on the Archdiocesan website. Since the Church and State rise and fall on the strength of families, it is important that we do all that we can to strengthen our own families in prayer and the practice of the faith.

Saint Joseph, pray for us. May we all have a blessed and happy Easter.

From the Youth Office

Nadia Gundert, Coordinator

Easter Blessings! In this time of pandemic, youth ministry has been operating virtually, and it has been wonderful to connect with youth and families in new ways. Whether hosting virtual events for young adults and sacramental preparation information sessions for parents, or developing digital resources to support all age groups as they pray, worship, and go deeper at home, it has been a blessing to have the technology and networks that enable us to reach out and support one another in faith and relationship.



On our website's vocations page and on social media, we recently posted the vocation stories of our seminarians. If you haven't yet checked these out, please do! What a blessing it is to have three amazing young men discerning the priesthood for our Archdiocese.

This Summer, we will not be offering Totus Tuus Summer Camp in person because of the uncertainties around the pandemic and some logistical challenges. We pray that Camp will return in the Summer of 2022. In the meantime, the Youth Office will continue to share lots of activities and resources on our social media, and all camp content from last year's virtual Totus Tuus Summer Camp will remain available on the youth tab of our website.



Fond Farewells

by Katherine Quinlan

On December 8, 2019, the priests and parishioners of the Archdiocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Mulhall announced that evening that **Monsignor Joe Lynch** would be retiring at the end of the year. There was an audible gasp from the congregation, which was followed by a collective sigh of relief when the Archbishop clarified that the retirement was only from his responsibilities at the Pastoral Centre and that he would remain as Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish. No one could have guessed that evening that everything would close just a few months later, and that plans for a suitable expression of gratitude to Monsignor Lynch would be thwarted by a pandemic. As restrictions enter a second year, and with the departure this month of two other staff members, **Susan Lett** and **Bob Bryan**, it seems an appropriate time to express gratitude to three valued members of our Archdiocesan family.

Thank you, Monsignor Joe



Those two words, 'thank you', do not seem nearly enough to express the debt of gratitude that the entire Archdiocese owes to **Monsignor Joseph Lynch**. For more than 32 years, he was the lifeblood of the Archdiocese, giving his all for the Archbishops, the priests, and the parishioners he served.

In 1992, just four years after his ordination, Father Joe Lynch was appointed by Archbishop Spence as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Kingston, a position he held for more than three decades. For the first 12 years, he also served as Associate Pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral, until his appointment in 2004 as Pastor of St. Joseph's. During all that time, he gave his heart and soul to the Archdiocese. In fact, he did not take even one vacation, but worked every single day for the people he served. His knowledge, ability, skill, and talent

were so greatly valued by Archbishop Spence and his fellow priests that he was nominated by the Archbishop to receive the title 'Monsignor', an honour conferred in 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

When Archbishop Spence retired in 2002, he was replaced by Archbishop Meagher, who quickly recognized Monsignor Lynch's expertise and proficiency and appointed him Vicar General of the Archdiocese, in addition to his responsibilities as Chancellor. For the next five years, Monsignor Lynch was an invaluable support to Archbishop Meagher, especially as the Archbishop battled the devastating illness that would eventually take his life. Through this very difficult time, Monsignor Lynch was the steady hand that kept the Archdiocese on an even keel.

When Archbishop O'Brien was appointed in 2007, he immediately connected with Monsignor Lynch and re-appointed him as Vicar General. Throughout the next 12 years, Monsignor Lynch was a constant support to the Archbishop, and they worked closely together to meet challenges and accomplish the Archbishop's vision for the Archdiocese. In 2019, when Archbishop Mulhall succeeded Archbishop O'Brien, Monsignor Lynch again provided much appreciated support, and the Archbishop relied on his knowledge and experience as he navigated the challenges of his new Archdiocese. Once Archbishop Mulhall had settled into his new responsibilities, Monsignor Lynch quietly took his leave from the Pastoral Centre and, for the first time in his priesthood, became a full-time pastor.

The above tells only part of the story of Monsignor Lynch's contribution to the Archdiocese of Kingston. For 32 years, our priests relied on his exceptional proficiency and sage advice to resolve issues in their parishes. He was a friend to all of them, always available with a helping hand when any of them needed his support. And he was a cherished friend to all the staff at the Pastoral Centre. Monsignor Joe's door was always open, and he was ever ready and willing to give advice, provide support, and help with any endeavour. His wonderful sense of humour added cheer to the office, and we were all the fortunate recipients of his kindness and thoughtfulness.

One of Monsignor Lynch's many talents is his fluency in the French language, and, so, perhaps the French expression, **merci infiniment**, is the most appropriate expression of our appreciation for all that this fine man has contributed to the Archdiocese of Kingston. It is no wonder that, at the Mass on December 8, 2019, Archbishop Mulhall's kind words about Monsignor Joe Lynch's years of service to the Archdiocese were followed by a sustained ovation of loud and sincere applause. The people of the Archdiocese are so very grateful to this beloved priest, and we hope that he knows that he has our **infinite gratitude**.

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Susan Lett embraces a new challenge



For 18 years, **Susan Lett** has been a dedicated member of the staff of the Pastoral Centre, the last 12 years as Accounting Assistant. Her job title belies the true nature and importance of her responsibilities and the key role she has played in the smooth functioning of the Pastoral Centre and the parishes it serves. Not only has she carried out the many financial tasks that are required in a Chancery Office, but she has been a knowledgeable and indispensable resource for parishes. All the priests, parish secretaries, and bookkeepers know Susan well and count on her expertise and extensive financial knowledge. This expertise has been particularly valued during these pandemic months when she has been instrumental in keeping our parishes solvent.

Finances are just one of Susan's many talents. She is also an effective organizer, coordinating events and activities at the Pastoral Centre and overseeing building maintenance and office improvements. She is a creative expert, designing letterhead, invitations, and even Christmas cards, and facilitating the development of a new Archdiocesan logo. Susan is also a technology wizard, ordering and installing computers, resolving technical issues for staff, and managing the development and maintenance of the new Archdiocesan website. As all Journey readers will know, Susan has been the Editor of our Archdiocesan communicator for the past several years, accomplishing with excellence the many and varied tasks that responsibility entails.

At the end of this month, Susan will be leaving the Pastoral Centre to take on a new position as Parish Secretary at St. Joseph's, Kingston. We know that she will be dearly missed by all the priests and parishes she has served so well, and especially by the staff of the Pastoral Centre. St. Joseph's is Susan's home parish, and she is looking forward to serving its parishioners and to working with Monsignor Lynch, Father Quirk, and Deacon Wojcik. Although Susan is leaving our office, we are glad that she will remain in our Archdiocesan family. Our sadness at her departure is tempered with the knowledge that she is just moving across the parking lot! Thank you, Susan, for everything you have done for us. Please know that all your hard work has been truly appreciated. We wish you well as you begin a new chapter in your life.

A well-deserved (second) retirement for Bob Bryan



Fifteen years ago, **Bob Bryan** began his second career, coming out of retirement to take on the position of caretaker at the Pastoral Centre. Instead of enjoying the reward of a well-deserved rest after a full career of service, this decorated firefighter chose to devote himself to the service of the Church. Ever since he joined our staff, he has done just that, taking exceptional care of the Pastoral Centre inside and out.

For all these years, Bob has kept the offices and meeting rooms at the Centre in ship shape. Not only the staff has benefitted from his hard work, but anyone who has attended a meeting or event at 390 Palace Road has seen the results of his good work. From arranging tables and chairs in the meeting rooms and chapel to serving meals at events, the care is evident in every detail. Bob is also the ultimate fixer – adept at keeping all the building's systems in good working order. On the outside of the Centre, Bob keeps the lawns mowed, the shrubs and trees perfectly trimmed, and the walks clear of snow and ice. As soon as Spring planting season arrives, he and his wife, Joan, plant and tend flowers and shrubs at the front of the building. Joan can also be seen at meetings and events, helping whenever and wherever she is needed.

In everything he does for us, Bob Bryan always has a smile on his face. He is ever pleasant and kind and accommodating, and we know that we can always count on him. We are very grateful for his years of service to the Archdiocese.

We will miss you, Bob! As you take your second retirement, we ask God to bless you and Joan with many years of good health and happiness.

Volunteers make the difference – every time!

Julia Murphy, CWL President, Holy Name of Mary Parish, Marysville

Our parish community is made up three rural churches: Holy Name of Mary, Marysville; St. Charles Borromeo, Read; and St. Vincent de Paul, Deseronto. We were blessed to welcome a new pastor in October 2019 -- Father Francis Zambon. Father Francis fit in very well with our parish community, and he quickly accomplished the huge task of learning the names of all the parishioners and how we are related! Parishioners in all three churches contributed to a Spiritual Bouquet, which we presented to Father as a welcome gift on his first weekend with us. It was definitely a Thanksgiving to remember!



Just a few months later, in March of 2020, the Covid19 pandemic was upon us, forcing all churches to close their doors. None of our parishioners, old or young, had ever seen this happen before. We made it through those first months of lockdown by praying and working together to help our community. The spirit of service was alive and well as parishioners reached out to help their neighbours. There were phone calls and virtual chats to check in and sometimes pray together; lovely cards and notes were sent through the mail; and packages of delicious homemade sweets with accompanying messages of encouragement were left in mailboxes to brighten days and let our

neighbours know that others cared and were thinking about them. Many people expanded their existing vegetable gardens, while others planted a garden for the first time, and all were happy to share their produce. Our schools made signs congratulating the Grade 8 graduates, and families displayed these signs at the end of their laneways so that everyone passing by could share in celebrating our young people.

In June, we had our first drive-in parking lot Mass at Holy Name of Mary in Marysville. It was the Feast of Corpus Christi, and what a wonderful celebration it was! A temporary altar was set up on a flatbed trailer, and an FM radio transmitter enabled us to stay safely in our cars and hear what the readers and Father Francis were saying. Volunteers were ready and willing to help with all tasks, including setting up the altar, directing the parking and the exiting of cars, and distributing Communion.



In the days that followed, more volunteers gathered in all three communities to help with the many tasks needed to get the churches ready to resume indoor Masses. Volunteers also made themselves available at each Mass as greeters and ushers and pew sanitizers. Father Francis offered drive-through confessions, and he arranged for Adoration for a half hour before each of our weekday Masses, since our Adoration Chapel remained closed.

When another lockdown was announced, we all breathed a sigh of relief that it would not begin until December 26th, so that we could celebrate Christmas together as a parish community. After Christmas, the lockdown restrictions allowed only 10 people in the church at one time. Father Francis kindly offered additional Masses during the week, and we moved back out to the parking lot in Marysville for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Once again, our great volunteers, who included members of the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, and other

parishioners, stepped up to meet the challenge. Special thanks to the volunteers from Marysville who built a "Holy Hut" to ensure that Father would not freeze while celebrating Mass on the flatbed trailer.

We know that the goodwill we have experienced this past year in Marysville, Read, and Deseronto is not unique to our parishes. Countless parishioners across the Archdiocese have shown great kindness and generosity as they have helped one another through this difficult time. Even though we do not know what the future will bring, we have no doubt that our communities will always rise to the challenge.