



The Divine Messenger

A Contact with Divine Infant Parish

Vol. 19 No. 2

June 2024



You are invited...

If you do not attend church at this time but would like to renew your church connections, please call 613-824-6822 to discuss anything with Father Waldemar, Father Michael, Father Tavis, or Deacons Jeff, Stephen, Gerry, Jim or Phillip. We would love to hear from you!

A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to close this school year and give you an encouraging message for summer rest by sharing with you this special letter from our Holy Father. This year, for the first time, Pope Francis met with children and their families from around the world in celebration of the very first World Children's Day. The message our Holy Father wrote for this occasion is both simple and inspirational. Definitely something we can share with all the graduating students and try to put in action during our summer rest. God Bless and have a wonderful summer!

In Christ,
Fr. Waldemar

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE FIRST WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY 25-26 May 2024

Dear Children!

Your first World Day, which will be held in Rome on 25-26 May this year, is fast approaching. That is why I thought of sending you a Message. I am happy that you will be able to read it and I thank all those responsible for passing it on to you.

I want to speak to each of you, dear children, because, as the Bible teaches us, and as Jesus showed so often, "you are precious" in God's eyes" (Is 43:4).

At the same time, I am addressing this Message to all of you, because all children, everywhere, are a sign of every person's desire to grow and flourish. You remind us that we are all children, brothers

and sisters. We would not be alive unless others brought us into this world, nor could we grow without having others to love and from whom to receive love (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 95).

All of you, girls and boys, are a source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church, in which each of us is like a link in a great chain stretching from the past to the future and covering the whole earth. That is why I encourage you to pay attention to the stories of grown-ups: your moms and dads, your grandparents and great grandparents. And not to forget all those other children and young people who are already battling illness and hardship, in hospital or at home, and those who even now are being cruelly robbed of their childhood. I think of children who are victims of war and violence, those experiencing hunger and thirst, those living on the streets, those forced to be soldiers or to flee as refugees, separated from their parents, those prevented from going to school, and those who fall prey to criminal gangs, drugs or other forms of slavery and abuse. Let us listen to their voices. We need to hear those voices, for amid their sufferings they remind us of reality, with their tearful eyes and with that tenacious yearning for goodness that endures in the hearts of those who have truly seen the horror of evil.

Dear young friends, in order for us and our world to grow and flourish, it is not enough to be united with one another; we need, above all else, to be united with Jesus. From him we receive a great deal of courage. He is always close to us, his Spirit goes before us and accompanies us on all the world's pathways. Jesus told us: "Behold, I make all things



new” (Rev 21:5); this is the theme I have chosen for your first World’s Day. These words invite us to become as clever as children in grasping the new realities stirred up by the Spirit, both within us and around us. With Jesus, we can dream of the renewal of our human family and work for a more fraternal society that cares for our common home. This starts with little things, like saying hello to others, asking permission, begging pardon, and saying thank you. Our world will change if we all begin with these little things, without being ashamed to take small steps, one at a time. The fact that we are small reminds us that we are also frail and need one another as members of one body (cf. Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:26).

That is not all. The fact is that we cannot be happy all by ourselves, because our joy increases to the extent that we share it. Joy is born of gratitude for the gifts we have received and which we share in turn and it grows in our relationships with others. When we keep the blessings we have received to ourselves, or throw tantrums to get this or that gift, we forget that the greatest gift that we possess is ourselves, one another: all of us, together, are “God’s gift.” Other gifts are nice, but only if they help us to be together. If we don’t use them for that purpose, we will always end up being unhappy; they will never be enough.

Instead, when we are all together, everything is different! Think of your friends, and how great it is to spend time with them: at home, at school, in the parish and the playground, everywhere. Playing, singing, discovering new things, having fun, everyone being together and excluding no one. Friendship is wonderful and it grows only in this way: through sharing and forgiving, with patience, courage, creativity and imagination, without fear and without prejudice.

Instead, when we are all together, everything is different! Think of your friends, and how great it is to spend time with them: at home, at school, in the parish and the playground, everywhere. Playing, singing, discovering new things, having fun, everyone being together and excluding no one. Friendship is wonderful and it grows only in this way: through sharing and forgiving, with patience, courage, creativity and imagination, without fear and without prejudice.

Now, I am going to share a special secret with you. If we really want to be happy, we need to

pray, to pray a lot, to pray every day, because prayer connects us directly to God. Prayer fills our hearts with light and warmth; it helps us to do everything with confidence and peace of mind. Jesus constantly prayed to the Father. Do you know what Jesus called him? In his language, he simply called him “Abba”, which means “Daddy” (cf. Mk 14:36). Let’s do the same thing! We will always feel that Jesus is close to us. He himself promised us that, when he said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20).

Dear children, you may know that in May, many of us will be together in Rome, to be together with children from all over the world. To prepare well for this, I would ask all of you to pray the same prayer that Jesus taught us – the Our Father. Recite it every morning and every evening, in your families too, together with your parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents. But not just by saying the words! Think about those words that Jesus taught us. He is calling us and he wants us to join actively with him, on this World Children’s Day, to become builders of a new, more humane, just and peaceful world. Jesus, who offered himself on the Cross to gather all of us together in love, who conquered death and reconciled us with the Father, wants to continue his work in the Church through us. Think about this, especially those of you who are preparing to receive First Communion.

God has loved us from all eternity (cf. Jer 1:5). He looks upon us with the eyes of a loving father and a gentle mother. He never forgets us (cf. Is 49:15) and every day he accompanies us and renews us with his Spirit.

Together with the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, let us pray in these words:

Come, Holy Spirit,
show us your beauty,
reflected in the faces
of children all over the world.

Come, Jesus,
you who make all things new,
who are the way that leads us to the Father,
come and remain with us always.

Amen.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 2 March 2024
FRANCIS

What is the Religious Article Ministry? Why is it necessary?

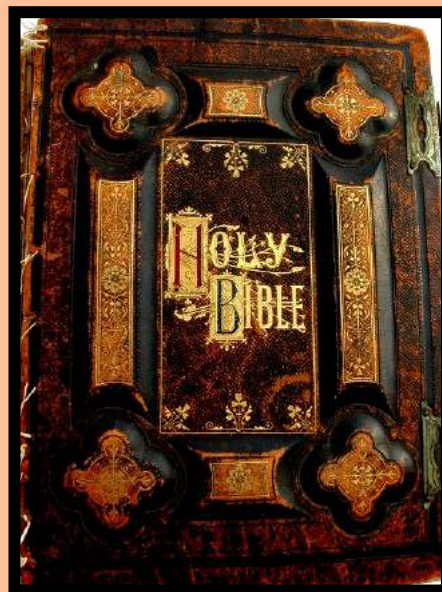
By Monique Sutherland

Religious articles have been important to Christians for a very long time. All religions have their items with which they pray. Our ministry is to provide our parishioners with items that help them pray and also help them to evangelize by providing these items to family and friends. We have a very good selection of articles and, if we don't have it we will attempt to find it. We have two providers with an extensive catalogue. Unfortunately it is impossible to carry all these articles in the space we have. But we try to have a variety of choices. Mary and I are always available to answer your requests or questions.

At this time, we have two sales each year, one in the spring and the other in the late fall. We also have my favourite, the Holy Garage Sale in August. This sale features used items that have been cleaned and repaired so that new stories can be created by the new owners. Used articles can be dropped off at the office or in the special collection box which will be in the foyer in June and July. We welcome all kinds of religious articles.

See you at the sale!

Monique and Mary



Agape Bible Study Group Update

By Lucille Surette

Since the last publication of the Divine Messenger, our group has been continuing its study of the Epistles of St. Paul, specifically the Letter to the Hebrews. We will conclude this study very soon. Sometime in the fall, we will begin our study of the last letter of St Paul, this one to the Romans.

Prayers, Peace, and Blessings



*Be thankful for dirty dishes.
They have a tale to tell.*

*While other folks are starving,
we're eating very well.*



KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7873

By Paul Bourke, Grand Knight

I am deeply honored to have served as Grand Knight over the past five years. Reflecting on our journey, I am filled with pride at what we have accomplished together. Even throughout the COVID era, our Council demonstrated remarkable resilience, ensuring vital communication and support for those who were shut in. We adapted to unprecedented circumstances and continued our charitable fundraising, providing much-needed assistance to numerous charities during these trying times.

Our Council continues to host many successful events, both religious and social, strengthening our community bonds. Our membership has seen a significant increase, a testament to our collective dedication and hard work. However, we have also bid farewell to several long-time senior members who served the Council with distinction. Their contributions will always be remembered and honoured.

Thank you to all members and parishioners for your unwavering dedication, support and commitment to our mission. It is a privilege to lead such a remarkable group of individuals who support our parish and community through our K of C principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Some of the many aspects and accomplishments we have made together during this last term:

- Grocery Card sales, provide funds to support Parish and Charities
- Cans and Bottle collections providing funds to Miriam Centre
- Adoration Vigils
- November Memorial Rosary at St. Joseph Cemetery
- Deceased Members Mass to honour past

Knights

- Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Silver Rose Rosary
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Monthly Pancake Breakfasts
- Christmas with Santa Breakfast, the most successful to date - 300+ breakfasts served; 106 children's gifts
- Lenten Pancake Supper, together with the CWL
- Hosted a free, excellent Legal Wills and Estates Seminar by our Worthy Advocate
- Bursaries to two Catholic High Schools
- Miriam Centre Donations \$3000+ and an additional \$400 ASAP
- Hosting Youville Pasta Dinner
- Co-hosted a Steak Dinner at St. Joseph's with 3 other Councils
- Donated more than 50% of the cost of the new dishwasher
- Hosted K of C Exemplification Ceremony for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees
- First Annual BBQ Breakfast - which was very positively received
- Second annual Movie Night, Mother Teresa, No Greater Love.
- Ongoing "Chow with our Chaplain" monthly get together.





Above: The Divine Infant Knights of Columbus Council, 7873 Below: :
presenting cheque to the Miriam Center



Divine Infant Knights of Columbus Council 7873 Rally to Support the Miriam Centre

By Paul Bourke

In a heart-warming display of community spirit and philanthropy, Divine Infant Council 7873 of the Knights of Columbus in Orleans, Ontario, Canada, has once again come together to support the local community. This time, their generous efforts were directed towards aiding mothers in need through the Miriam Centre, presenting a significant donation of \$3000.00. This marks the third time this year that they have provided much needed financial assistance. In total, the Council has contributed an impressive combined total of \$6400.00 in 2023.

Photographed (on page 6) are Council 7873 Grand Knight Paul Bourke with Bros. Jim Paquette and Paul Duford, together with Sister Rita and staff of the Miriam Centre.

The funds were raised through a creative and dedicated fundraising campaign, spearheaded by Bros. Jim Paquette and Paul Duford. They have unwaveringly given up many hours that involved collecting wine/beer bottles and cans throughout the entire year. This demonstrates ongoing commitment of the Knights, but also their innovative approach to supporting their community in an eco-friendly initiative started many years ago by Bros. Dick Charette, David Ballman and Guy Savard.

The Miriam Centre, a vital organization in Orleans, Ontario, is dedicated to helping mothers and their children who are facing challenges. It provides essential resources, support and a safe space for them to rebuild their lives. These funds, provided by the Knights, will undoubtedly go a long way in assisting the Miriam Centre in its noble mission.

As we've witnessed over the years, the Knights of Columbus are no strangers to philanthropy and community engagement. Their core

principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism guide them in their efforts to make a positive impact in their local community and beyond.

This inspiring initiative sets an example for all of us to follow, reminding us that we can all make a difference in the lives of others through small, everyday actions. The Divine Infant Knights of Columbus, with their dedication and creativity, have demonstrated that positive change is possible when a community rallies together with a common purpose. Let us remember that kindness and compassion can truly change lives and make the world a better place for everyone.



Everyone is welcome at the Knights of Coumbus breakfasts



Communion Ministers

By Diane LeBlanc

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist serve communion with dignity and humility, impressing upon others the true living presence of our Saviour. They assist the priest in serving communion at regular weekend Masses, at daily Masses, and on special occasions.

The number of active Eucharistic Ministers fluctuates for a variety of reasons, such as personal and family circumstances and health issues. Covid was a major factor in a significant reduction of volunteers. However, since resuming normal practices in the distribution of the Eucharist, we are blessed with devoted ministers who are always prepared to assist.

Currently there are dedicated coordinators for the 5:00 p.m Saturday and 9:30 a.m Sunday Masses. They are responsible for scheduling the ministers in their respective groups. The other Masses rely on ministers who regularly attend Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m, 11:00 a.m and 5 p.m. The sacristan requests their assistance at Mass time. It would be reassuring to have coordinators in place for these Masses (as in pre-Covid days).

A strong core of Eucharistic Ministers is needed to provide support throughout the year and on special occasions, such as Christmas and the Easter Triduum. New volunteers are always welcome. This is truly a ministry of love and is a blessing for all who are part of it.

I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY

*I said a prayer for you today
and know God must have heard.*

*I felt the answer in my heart
although He spoke no word!*

*I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)*

*I asked Him to send treasures
of a far more lasting kind!*

*I asked that he be near you
at the start of each new day*

*To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!*

*I asked for happiness for you
in all things great and small -*

*But it was for His loving care
I prayed for most of all!*



A Photo Essay of the Marian Consecration on the Feast of St. Joseph



Father Waldemar celebrated Mass before the Marian Consecration .



Shown here are the Knights leading the Recessional followed by Diana L, and the clergy, along with the parishioners. It was well attended by parishioners.



Two Parishioners enjoying a moment while while one of them kisses a relic.



Parishioners lining up to venerate the relics, taking part in this special occasion after spending the Lenten season preparing for the Act of Consecration. Father Michael used one of the relics during the closing blessing, a most tender, touching, moment.



The ever faithful Knights of Columbus on guard throughout the Liturgy.



In the hall, Grand Knight Paul Bourke exchanged his sword for a knife to cut the cake provided by the Knights.



When the Marian Consecration Mass ended, God's work just really began again in us. Grace abounds, not limited by time and space.

Thank you Father Waldemar for your blessing. Thank you all for participating.

Revisiting 1997 and Beyond

By Diane Jemus

It was in 1997 that Sandra Foran started the Bereavement Ministry at the request of the Pastor. It started with a telephone call to all those who had experienced a death in the parish. Sandra recognized the need for more service and started the group sessions with little resoures. She then embarked on researching and writing presentations. Margaret, at Kelly’s Funeral Home provided advice, .handout materials and referred her to a valuable resource person, Dr. Bill Webster, a grief specialist.

Fast forward to May 28, 2024. Sandra and three other members of the Bereavement Team attend a Facilitators Workshop sponsored by the Archbishop of Ottawa and Cornwall

Like the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry guided by God, so too, facilitators choosing the stuffed animals from the bag of donations were guided by God, whose care of us reflects His personal love for each one of us. The little angel bookmark shown was a hand made gift made by Linda, a participant. These were given to each member.



Vicky wrote “This stuffy looks like a caricature of my foxhound who died in November. It was a very welcome gift as that time.” God’s care for us is so generous, specific to the needs that he even guided the facilitator who plucked the stuffy from the donated collection that would most speak to Vickey and others.

Celebrating Memories

By Diane Jemus

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, we gathered to remember and to celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. We recalled the memories of our dearly beloved who left this life to join Jesus, our Saviour. Father Waldemar celebrated Mass. During the Offertory, he blessed the memory stones that were painted by parishioners or by an artist who was available in the hall. Some people put significant messages on the stones. After Mass and the blessing of the garden, a reception was held in the hall.

In past years, we focused on our immediate families and friends. This year we added another dimension to our most personal, intimate and valued moments when we included some of those in ministry who served the parish community. We remembered and honoured Angela Lavictoire and all the musicians/volunteers, living and deceased, who have touched our lives, including: Marilyn Geis, Gerard Gruber, Mary Jo Armstrong.

Honouring Angela

Angela Lavictoire served the parish long before we even had a building to house our worship services, or a place to meet together. She was a dedicated musician, a member of the baptism and pro-life teams and a CWL team member. She was a recognized leader in our parish community. Many parishioners will remember her participation as she sang at Mass, at sacrament celebrations, at weddings and funerals. This year in the hall, there was a table with some memorabilia, including a memory box/book. People were invited to bring photos, to provide stories or reflections, to share a special moment, a thank you, a favourite song - just as you would for personal family members and friends. If anyone had a video/audio with Angela's voice recorded, they were invited to share it as well. Those tributes/memories will be treasured by Robert (Angela's husband) and the parish community, adding to our archival history.

This tribute was in keeping with Angela's humility. She never sought the spotlight but wished to serve in Jesus' light. Like Jesus, who told the apostles that they would do works greater than His, Angela was always ready to step up, step back if necessary, and then step up again. One parishioner made the following comment: "Angela was the heart and soul of the parish community." I can hear

Angela suggesting the names of others. That too, is in keeping with her humility,

God bless. May the Holy Spirit grace you with His intimate presence.



Father Waldemar and Rev. Mike of the Orleans United Church led the prayers for the Dedication of the Memorial Garden at the end of the Opening Mass. A very poignant meaningful moment for all. Heartfelt words meant to comfort and inspire. This blessing is provided in its entirety, a prayer well worth revisiting. It captures the intended grace for the garden area.

DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN DIVINE INFANT CHURCH, JUNE 2024

Antiphon:

As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in the garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord make righteousness and praise blossom before all nations.

Let us pray:

God, our Father, at the dawn of creation you placed your children in a garden and walked with them in the cool of the day.

All: Be present with us as we walk in this garden, and open our eyes to the beauty and love of your creation.

Jesus, our good companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends to a garden for quiet and refreshment.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. Amen.

Jesus, our Redeemer, suffered anguish and betrayal in a garden, and there you submitted to your Father's will.

All: Be present with all who come in sorrow and pain to this place, and give them the grace of your redeeming love.

Jesus, our Saviour, after your crucifixion your body was laid in a tomb in a garden, and there you first revealed yourself to all your friends after you rose from the dead:

Holy Spirit of Truth and Power, our Advocate and friend.

All: Be present with all who come to this place when it seems that all is lost, and awaken them to new life by your resurrection power. We now dedicate this Memorial Garden to the glory of God and the memory of all those lives that are honoured here in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy Spirit of Truth and Power, our Advocate and friend:



Above is the angel and some of the decorations for the occasion.

Below is a photo of the reception after Mass and the blessing of the Memorial Garden.



We now dedicate this Memorial Garden to the Glory of God and the memory of all those lives are honoured here in the name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all evermore. Amen.

Jesus, our Redeemer, you suffered anguish and betrayal in a garden, and there you submitted to your Father's will:

All: Be present with all who come in sorrow and pain to this place, and give them the grace of your redeeming love.

Jesus, our Saviour, after your crucifixion your body was laid in a tomb in a garden, and there you first revealed yourself to your friends after you rose from the dead:

All: Be present with all who come to this place when it seems that all is lost, and awaken them to new life by your resurrection power.

Holy Spirit of Truth and Power, our Advocate and Friend:

All: Be present with all who came to this place seeking direction and strength, fill their hearts with love of God,



The Reception. after Mass and the blessing of the Memorial Garden, was well attended..





The 2023 participants wear their blessed prayer shawls and hold their stuffed animals along with the fascilitators. It was a fruitful experience that continues through the various social activities and personal friendships developed at the exercise.



The 2024 winter participants joined us from as far away as Barrhaven and Rockland and everywhere in between, some returning for a second time. Bonds were forged through a common experience, peer support, mutual compassion and faith in each other, themselves and God.

The current Bereavement Committee facilitators



Divine Infant Parish Library

By Nina Regimbald

Thank you for your generous donations at the recent used books sale that raised \$230.00 in support of the parish Cupboard Restoration Campaign.

You are invited to stop by the parish library and browse the wonderful collection of faith-filled books and resources for the entire family.

You can also view our online Library Catalogue at the parish website:

<http://divine.infant.on.ca/library.html>

Borrowed items are signed out and returned into the drop box placed near the library in the foyer.

Offer a helping hand. We are currently seeking volunteers to spare a few minutes after Mass so that we can reach our goal of opening the Lending Library following all weekend Masses. Easy signup. Interested individuals are invited to drop by the desk for a chat or email for information

dilibraryservices@gmail.com.

Meet your next favourite book. Choose a saint biography, children's book or prayer book and enjoy the blessings of a wonderful summer as you relax and read.

DIVINE INFANT PARISH LIBRARY

BECOME A LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR ALL WEEKEND MASSES

SEEKING ASSISTANCE TO OPEN THE LENDING LIBRARY AFTER EACH WEEKEND MASS FROM SEPTEMBER TO JUNE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
E-MAIL: [DILIBRARYSERVICES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:dilibraryservices@gmail.com)



Moms Morning Out

By Michelle Gallagher

Moms Morning Out meets every Tuesday in the parish hall. Moms and their pre-school aged children come together to share coffee, snacks, and pray together, all while their kids play.

Striving for more than just any other mothers' group, we seek to really take time in fellowship to deepen our relationship with God. We take time to pray, read scripture, share reflections, and encourage one another in ways to personally respond to Jesus each week.

It's a gift to be able to come together throughout the week and truly bond over both our discipleship with Jesus and our motherhood. What a gift it is also to our kids to have this be something they witness and enjoy as well.

We have seen many new faces this year, many within the parish and others from around the city. We welcome any moms who want to join us anytime! We meet every Tuesday 10am-12pm during the school year.



News from St. Francis of Assisi School

By Jennifer Conway

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end, we extend our thanks to everyone in the St. Francis community who supported and encouraged us throughout this year – our principal, our office administrator, our custodians, our teachers and education assistants, our families and our classmates. We give thanks for all the blessings we have received, the friendships we renewed and created, the academic skills and knowledge that we have acquired. Here are some of the activities we took part in during the third term.

Celebrating our Faith

As we come to the end of this school year, we also come to the end of our board theme (2021-2024) – Gratitude, Rooted in Joy, Fills us with Hope.

Father Michael joined us to celebrate our Easter Mass on May 8. We are looking forward to our End of the Year Mass on June 20.

Father Michael also spent time with our Grade 2 and Grade 6 students guiding them as they continued on their faith journey. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all students who received their First Communion on April 27 and to all students who will receive their Confirmation on June 15. May their faith continue to bring them peace and joy in the years ahead.

The St. Francis school community has two new angels in heaven - Hosam and Myra. Students and staff took time to remember them in prayer and to ask God to support their families during this difficult time.



Celbrating Special Days

Students enjoyed special presentations this term, including: Manie Musicale Champion Reveal, Junk Yard Symphonie, Story Telling and Water Song and the Ned Show.

During Education Week (May 6-10), students and staff had many opportunities to learn and to share. One special event was Open House when the students welcomed their families into their classrooms and invited them to check out the Eco Fair.

Students enjoyed participating in a variety of activities this term, including: International Day of Pink, World Autism Day, Earth Day, Jump Rope for Heart, Buddy Build Music Instruments, PJ Day/Movie Day; Spring Walk Day; Water Pillar

Blessing. The special one that they got to experience at home was the total solar eclipse!

On Office Administrator Day and Principal Day, staff and students wrote notes, created cards and made trips to the office to share their gratitude for all that Mrs. Steeves and Mme Belanger do to support our school community.

On June 25, our Grade 6 students will hold their Leave Taking Ceremony. The staff, students and parents at St. Francis thank all these students for their efforts to help make St. Francis a caring, supporting community. We hope that, as they leave St. Francis of Assiss School, they take with them many treasured memories of time spent with their teachers and classmates. We wish them much success as they continue their educational journey at St. Peter High School. *“Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can*



Celebrating our Community

We extend our thanks to the students in the Eco Club who worked so hard to create a worm farm and a community garden at St. Francis. They have now planted all the vegetables that they grew in their classroom.

Many junior students practiced their skills and participated in sports tournaments this term: handball, basketball and touch football. We are proud of how well they represented our school.

Thanks to all students who worked hard to prepare for the dance performance during Education Week. Their creative skills were all on display during that time.

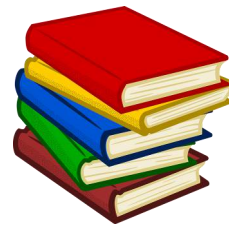
We extend our thanks to Mme Cote and Mme Amelie, and all members of the St. Francis Choir who gave up many lunch hours to practice for our school Masses and other special performances. We appreciate all they have done to support our school.

We also thank the St. Peter's Equity Club who spent time with our junior students.

Staff and students were thrilled to welcome a special guest to our school during Education Week - Ottawa Catholic School Board Director of Education, Mr. Tom D'Amico.

We extend our thanks to our Grade 5/6 students (Mme Diane's class) and our Grade 3 students (Ms. Conway's class) who participated in the SEP program. The Grade 5/6 students raised cans for the Orleans Food Bank and money for World Vision. The Grade 3 students raised money for the SLAY Society.

We are all looking forward to our year end Fun Fair and Barbeque which will be held on June 6. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a school community one last time before the end of the year. And all staff and students are looking forward to June 26 when they will gather for a K-6 Play Day.





Everyone met the demands of this school year with a positive outlook, an optimistic spirit and a willingness to do their best in spite of the challenges they faced throughout the year. As we prepare to leave school at the

end of June, we hope everyone has a restful and happy summer. We look forward to many days filled with sunshine and fun activities, special moments and time for calm reflection. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.





Catholic Women's League of Canada

By Laura Kiraly

May 25th was an amazing day for the CWL and all the volunteers. The Spring Tea was the first big event that the Divine Infant CWL organized since COVID. They were a little apprehensive as a Spring Tea had not been organized in a very long time. Would there be enough participation from the CWL members, the parishioners and the community at large? Raising funds for the Divine Infant 2024 Renovation Appeal is a challenge felt by all the parishioners, therefore, the CWL goal was to organize something fun while raising the needed funds. For the first attempt the goal was to make a profit between \$800 and \$1000.

A few weeks before the event a couple of CWL members canvassed the local businesses for donations. Several businesses stepped up to the plate and donated food items required or gave the CWL gift cards. Thanks goes out to CWL members Lorna Baier & Julie Smulski. Ticket sales went on sale at the same time, and both efforts brought encouragement that the event would be a success.

It was amazing how everything came together the last week or so before the event. Everyone involved was so generous with their time, tea items such as tea pots, tiered trays, décor for the tables, sweets as well as financial support.

The last couple of days volunteers showed up and did all the food prep to ensure all the food items were prepared and ready to go on the day of the Spring Tea.

The morning of the Spring Tea tables were set up by the Knights of Columbus. The Spring Tea committee designed the table décor, led by Victoria Pusiak and Linda Epton. Linda, along with her daughter Victoria and CWL members, decorated and set the tables. The menus on the tables were designed by Sarah Epton.

In the kitchen many more were putting together the different sandwiches and lining up the trays to be filled. Victoria Pusiak was guiding the CWL ladies in the kitchen and annex, while Linda took care of the hall.

Just before all the guests arrived to enjoy the afternoon, the young volunteers arrived from St Matthew's High School. The wonderful eight volunteers came to help seat and serve the guests attending the event. The CWL is so thankful for their assistance.





Once the 70 guests had arrived, Father Waldemar opened the event with a beautiful prayer and grace.

The guests were pleased at how the hall was transformed into a Spring Tea with a flower theme. Even some of the guests wore fascinators which brought up the joyful mood of the event.



It was so pleasing to see everyone enjoying the tea and the elegant food trays. Some of the comments were that the trays presented were nicer than the high tea at the Chateau Laurier. Comments like that just boosted the confidence of all the volunteers, letting us know that as a ministry/church organization we were more than capable of successfully creating an event enjoyed by many.

In addition to the ticket sales, we had a 50/50 draw, raffles, and door prizes. It is important to note that the raffle items were donated by the CWL, Lynn Miller, Marie Zahlah (from St. Faustina parish), Victoria Pusiak and Martine Barney.





Many people gave of their time, talents and funds. One example is Rosanne De Luca playing her beautiful pieces to create an additional and beautiful ambiance for the event. Everything that was witnessed while organizing the event just reinforces how wonderful a community we have at Divine Infant.



The donations and ticket sales surpassed our goal with a profit of approximately \$1,300.00. Seeing the Divine Infant community come together and enjoy themselves for an afternoon was priceless. The CWL prayed to Our Lady of Good Counsel for guidance to make the 2024 Divine Infant Spring Tea a success and, as usual, she answered.

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Patron of the Catholic Womens
League



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Saint Faustina's CWL and Parishioners

**We look forward to seeing you
at our 2025 Spring Tea!**

Note to all Divine Messenger Readers and Contributors

By Joan Scott

I am sorry to say that this is the last issue of the Divine Messenger that I will be producing, although I hope that someone in the parish will be able to take over this enjoyable and rewarding task.. Since 2005 I have been privileged to put together the articles received from the clergy, heads of ministries and other parishioners. Now, with deteriorating eyesight and advancing old age, I feel I must pass this labour of love on to someone else.

Just as a matter of interest, the Divine Messenger came into being when I answered a request in the bulletin for someone to take on this new endeavour. At the same parishioners were asked to submit names for the new publication. My submission of 'Divine Messenger' was accepted and it has been known as that ever since.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of those who contributed articles, photos and cartoons over the years, especially Fr. Waldemar In particular, I want to thank Anne Conway who has worked with me from the beginning by making sure that grammar, spelling, use of commas and capitalization are correct, so that we can give the parish a newsletter that is not only accurate and informative but also eye appealing. She also is very adept at catching any errors or mistakes which I make during the process. Anne's help has been invaluable and we made a good team.

The parish will now have to find someone to take on this exciting and rewarding task so that the parishioners can continue to be kept informed about what is going on in our active parish.

I also want to thank Deacon Jeff and Deacon Stephen who do such a great job of putting the finished newsletter on the Parish website for all to enjoy. Thanks to Fr. Waldemar and all the previous pastors for their support, encouragement and assistance I have enjoyed over the years.

May God bless all of you.

St. Francis Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

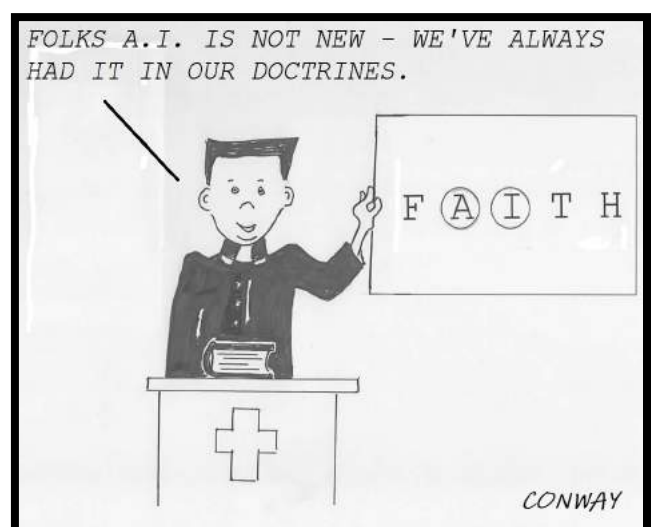
Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness joy;

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Divine Infant Church Schedules**Regular Mass Times:**

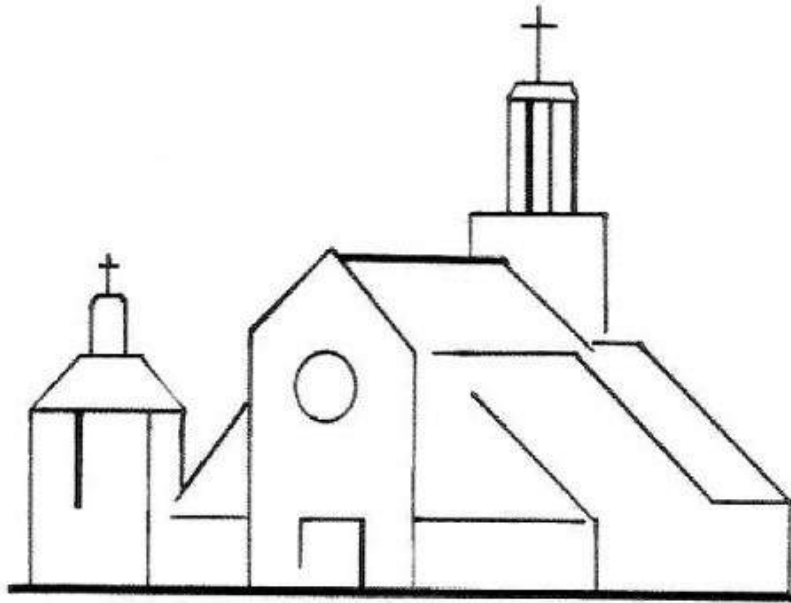
Monday 7:00 pm*
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am
Thursday 9:00 am
Friday 9:00 am
Saturday 5:00 pm*
Sunday 8:00 am
 9:30 am
 11:15 am
 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction: Every Wednesday after the 9:00 am Mass

***Note:** On **statutory or civic holidays** Mondays, Mass is at 9:00 am. There is no 7:00 pm Mass on that day.
On **First Saturdays** of the month, there is a Mass at 9:00 am

Please visit our parish website (www.divineinfant.on.ca) to read the latest updates and to read the parish bulletin for upcoming special events and information on ministries or associations.

“Know, O Christian, that the Mass is the holiest act of religion. You cannot do anything to glorify God more, nor profit your soul more, than by devoutly assisting at it, and assisting as often as possible.” ~ Saint Peter Julian Eymard



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