

# Gratitude News

**Basilica of Our Lady  
Immaculate**



## BECOMING A BASILICA



On Monday, June 29th, on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Bishop Crosby celebrated a Mass to officially declare and bless the symbols that designate our church as a Minor Basilica. These symbols, which signify our link with the Roman Church and the Pope, include the bright red and yellow Ombrellino and a special bell called a Tintinnabulum. Both feature the Basilica's new coat of arms. This joyful recognition of the history and spiritual significance of our church was attended by

many. A reception in the church hall included refreshments provided by the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus.

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Guelph, Ontario

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[churchofourlady.com](http://churchofourlady.com)

Masses  
M,T,W,F: 7:30 am  
Th: 7 pm  
Sat: 5:15 pm  
Sun: 9 am, 11 am

**Fall 2015**

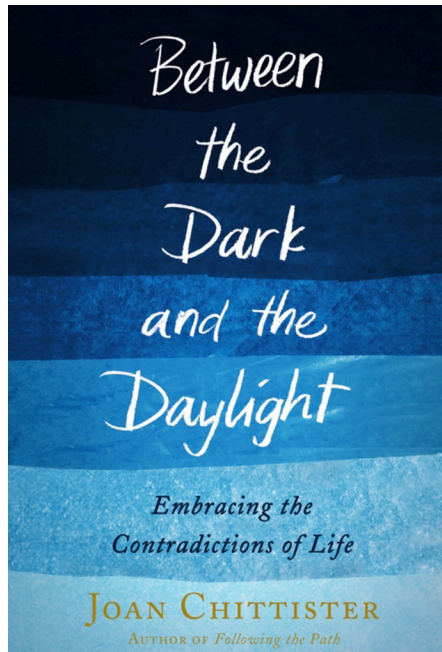


# Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life

by: Joan Chittister osb

A Book Review by Gertrud Jaron Lewis

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This latest book by Joan Chittister, whom some people call our “contemporary prophet,” is again a pearl of wisdom. In a bookstore you would find this volume under spirituality or self-help material. But while self-help books have become predictable, her book defies expectations; it is highly original and down-to-earth.

She assures her readers that she speaks for the average person, basing her thoughts mainly on her own experiences and how she learned from them. Throughout her book she keeps referring to worries and the questions that “torment us in the middle of the night” and that remain mostly unresolved. And yet, in usually unexpected ways, she does suggest possible solutions.

The material Chittister covers represents a kaleidoscope of the world we live in and of our everyday experiences. She writes about

The Insecurity of Certainty, The Courage of Cowardice, The Success of Failure, The Certitude of Doubt, and more. Her musings then make perfect sense of such apparent paradoxes. For instance, “The Poverty of Plenty is a state of mind where enough is never enough.... To have everything is to have nothing,” she explains with striking examples. While much has been written about the fundamental flaws of our consumer society, her approach takes the religious viewpoint: “We are bartering our souls for the sake of what will be tomorrow’s refuse.”

For anyone in a committed relationship, the chapter entitled “The Loneliness of Love” alone makes this book worth reading. And while we have heard and read many times before that love is basically unselfish, Chittister gives this notion a special twist. She explains that true love frees the partner to obtain independence and confidence so that he/she builds up the courage to be him/herself — all this on the solid basis of their mutual love. In our “man’s world,” as she writes, this may apply most — but not only — to women who still need to be uplifted.

Her discussions cover a vast range of topics: common challenges in life, ranging from the value of pets to coping with the loss of a loved one. In each of the chapters the author ends with one or more suitable but often surprising quotations from famous people like Julian of Norwich, Albert Einstein, and many others in between.

*Joan Chittister is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pennsylvania, USA. She is a prolific and internationally known author and lecturer. Her major works are listed at the beginning of this recent book, which I recommend highly.*

## RECENT EVENTS

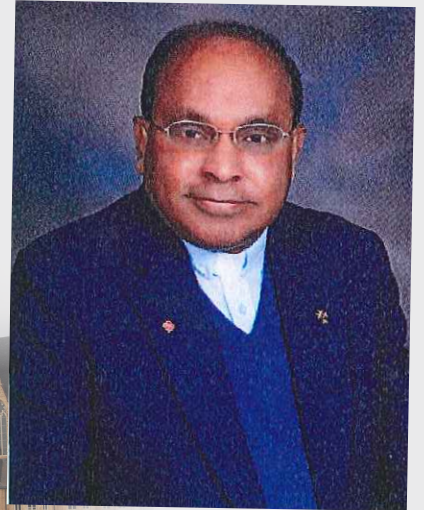
### FOOD FIESTA

In September, we held our first annual Food Fiesta. Parishioners volunteered to prepare snacks that reflected their cultural heritage. After each of the Sunday Masses, people came to the church hall to share stories about their family histories and sample food from all over the world! The event was very well attended, and we hope it will become a new tradition. Special thanks to everyone who helped!



## WELCOMING FR. MERVIN PERERA

Over the summer, the Basilica welcomed its new Associate Pastor, Fr. Mervin Perera. Fr. Perera comes to us from St. Andrew Parish in Oakville.



### AUTUMN ROAST BEEF DINNER

On Sunday, October 18th, plan to attend our annual Autumn Roast Beef Dinner! Doors open at 5 pm in the church hall, and tickets are available after Mass. The food is delicious, and it is a great way to meet people.

*Gratitude News is published three times per year by the Stewardship Committee at The Basilica of Our Lady. It is designed to highlight the many activities occurring in our parish and keep parishioners informed.*



## RECENT EVENTS

### GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Church held its 3rd annual golf tournament on June 7th at Victoria Valley Golf Club. For once, the weather cooperated as we had a sunny, warm day. The course was in great shape, the staff put on an excellent meal, the prizes were plentiful, and the golfers played superbly (at least, that's what everyone said!) and had lots of fun.

Thanks to the Golf Committee, the staff at the golf club, and the parishioners who came out and supported the event. We will see everyone next year hopefully, on the first Sunday in June.

### CHURCH PICNIC AND FAMILY FUN DAY



Our 9th Annual Church Picnic and Family Fun Day took place on Sunday September 13th at the magnificent grounds of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. The festivities began with an open air Mass at 1:00 pm, followed by games, music, food and fun for all ages. Despite the cool weather on Picnic Day, all 225+ attendees had a great time. Each year we have many fun and exciting activities, including the annual Bocce Ball and Euchre tournaments. The band “The Musicmakers” were back by popular demand, and played some lively, sing-a-long music all afternoon. Children had lots of fun, with several new games and activities. Our annual raffle draw was a great success, with many wonderful prizes!



Thank you to the Picnic Committee for their amazing work each year, and to all the volunteers, especially the Knight of Columbus, for all their help. A special thank you to all of the Picnic supporters – allowing us to keep the ticket cost to only \$5 per person and children under 5 are free. Please mark Sunday September 11th, 2016 for our 10th Annual Picnic!