

GRATITUDE NEWS



11th Annual Parish Picnic a Great Success!

By Mark Sammut

On Sunday, September 10th, we had 270 parishioners attend our 11th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day at the St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre. The picnic was very much a multi-generational event, and it was so nice to see so many children in attendance.

The day started at 1pm with an open-air Mass, followed by an afternoon of fun and activities for everyone which included: great music from *The Music Makers*, children's games, face-painting, raffles, bocce, euchre tournaments, and a delicious BBQ dinner. Father Paul surprised us all by sharing his wonderful musical talent!

A very special thanks to all the volunteers, groups, business sponsors and supporters for making the event such a success. It's because of all this support, that we were able to donate \$570 to the Church Building Fund - all while keeping our cost for the BBQ dinner at only \$5.00 per person!!

Mark your calendar for next year's picnic - Sunday, September 9, 2018!



In This Issue

- ◆ 11th Annual Parish Picnic
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation Night
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Golf Tournament
- ◆ Profile—Father Paul
- ◆ St. Paul First Communion
- ◆ Multicultural Food Fiesta
- ◆ Annual Cupcake Sunday
- ◆ Knights of Columbus
- ◆ Upcoming Events

Volunteer Appreciation Night

By: *Madeleine Hughes*

On April 25, 2017 the Parish held a Volunteer Appreciation Evening hosted by Father Noon.

This annual event is held in appreciation for the good and faithful service of all Parish volunteers who give so generously of their time and gifts. The evening included a Parish Community Prayer, a guest speaker and a social with refreshments and party foods.

This year, our guest speaker was Ted Laxton, Chairperson of the Parish Refugee Committee. Ted's presentation on the process and resettlement of a refugee family, sponsored jointly by the Guelph Parishes of Holy Rosary and Basilica of our Lady, was informative and awe-inspiring. Some individuals in attendance that evening were involved in supporting the refugees by serving on the various committees.

Highlights of the Presentation by Ted included the following:

Volunteering: A Journey of Encounter and Acceptance

'Dear brothers and sisters, migrants and refugees! At the heart of the Gospel of Mercy the encounter and acceptance of others are intertwined with the encounter and acceptance of God Himself. Welcoming others means welcoming God in person' Pope Francis-2013.

Sponsorship: A Covenant of Partnership

Holy Rosary Parish and Our Lady's Parish partnered with the Diocese to sponsor a refugee family from Iraq. The Diocese also partnered with the United Nations Refugee Agency and the Government of Canada to identify a family for sponsorship. The Government of Canada provided six months of income support through the Resettlement Assistance Program. Our parishioners and parish organizations provided the rest of the on-going support for the family's first year of settlement.

Council, Committees and Commitment

The Refugee Council coordinated the structure and activities of the Committees at the Parish level to assist the family for one year. The Committees included: Fundraising, Housing, Finances, Furnishing, Education, Employment, Orientation, Settlement, Transportation, and Event Coordination.

Responsibilities of the Settlement Committee

These included such things as: 1) providing assistance by linking the refugee family with community services, 2) applying for Government services, 3) healthcare. 4) providing translators

Responsibilities of the Orientation Committee

These included such activities as introducing the family to shopping, schools, libraries, religious institutions, and recreation activities.

Responsibilities of the Transportation Committee

These included: police checks and insurance for drivers, providing transportation to settlement, orientation and healthcare activities, as well as familiarity with bus transportation.

A Message from the family

"In the name of God—Firstly my family and I would like to thank the Canadian Government who helped and supported us to start a new life here. In Canada we can live without fear, killing and human persecution. I would like to thank our Church sponsors and also tell them that they saved my family's life. I am thankful for your support and generosity. I pray that God will keep this nice country safe and prosperous' Saeed Saa- doon (Translated from Arabic.)

Finally, **special thanks** to the Volunteer Planning Committee, Parish Secretaries, Parish Kitchen Coordinator, and Vice Chair of Stewardship for organizing and providing refreshments for a most enjoyable evening.



St. Paul School First Communion—2017

Teacher Reflections:

Julie Malone- I really love teaching the Sacraments to the students! We really dig deep into the meaning and the students understand how special it is to receive these sacraments. They are very reverent and love to reflect on them afterwards. We love the books that Father Noon provides for us as they are simple to follow and very kid-friendly!

Nicole Furfaro- I am grateful to be part of preparing the children for the Sacraments. The kids are so reverent and respectful and curious. It also brings us closer as a class. They apply the lessons they learn to everyday situations which proves that they have internalized the meaning and importance of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. I love watching the kids receive Jesus for the first time and to sing and celebrate with them. It is a highlight for me in my teaching career to be able to be a part of Sacramental preparation!

Peggy Varney- I really enjoyed being part of the Sacramental preparation this year. It was great to see the students make the connection between the Sacraments and real life situations and teachings.

Student Reflections:

Chase- I went to church and I was seated as a gift bearer. I was nervous. I wore a suit and I was wearing some fancy shoes. My Mom, my Dad, my brother, my Grandparents and my Uncle were there. It was awesome! It was the best day of my life!

Student Reflections, Cont'd

Meike- I got to bring up the gifts. I was a little shy at first. All of my cousins came for my Communion. The body of Christ tastes like papery cardboard. We had a party afterwards and it was fun! I was so excited about my First Communion. I loved it! I love Jesus!



Connor- First, I got dressed in a nice suit. I went to the Basilica of Our Lady! Then, we all received the body Christ! Then, after we got the body of Christ, we went to our pew and knelt. Finally, we went home and had a party. What a wonderful day I had!

Welcome Father Paul!

By: Ian Macpherson and Laurie Vescio

In June, we welcomed Father Paul Hryncyszyn to the Basilica of our Lady Parish Community. We took the opportunity to ask him to share some information about himself for this newsletter, and here's what we learned:



Born in Glogow, Poland, he and his family immigrated to Canada in 1989 and settled in Kitchener, Ontario. He entered the seminary in 2003 and began his Philosophical studies at St. Philip's Seminary in Toronto, and in 2005, was accepted to St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough where he began his Theology studies. In 2007, he spent one year in Guelph for his pastoral year as a seminarian at St. Joseph's Parish. The following year, he travelled to Poland and spent a year as a seminarian working with university students in the city of Wroclaw. After coming home to Canada, he was ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 18th, 2010. After one year of serving as a deacon, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Hamilton at the Cathedral of Christ the King on May 7th, 2011. Since then, he has served as a Parish Priest in Milton, Burlington, Waterloo, and now in Guelph.

When asked who has inspired him in his life, he said, "The person who has been my biggest inspiration and role model was St. John Paul II." In terms of hobbies and interests, "I have many interests and hobbies, but one of the things I enjoy doing most is to sing and play the guitar. (I was also part of a Christian rock band from 2001-2003)." His favourite sport is basketball and he's a big supporter of the Toronto Raptors. He loves to travel to Europe on his vacations, and his most memorable trip was walking the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella in 2016.

"Based on my first three months here at the Basilica, I am very happy to be here and I am enjoying the energy of the parish and the warm welcome I have received from all the parishioners."

Cupcake Sunday-Sweet Success

By: Tony Furfaro and Monique Porcellato

Our third annual Cupcake Sunday was enjoyed by all on Sunday May 28th. It was an impressive assortment of colourful icing, sprinkles and wonderful decorations.



Many thanks to all the children and their families of our parish for baking such delicious treats. Looking forward to our fourth annual Cupcake Sunday coming in May 2018!

Multicultural Food Fiesta

By: Gavin Morgan

"Hola" (Venezuela), "Bore da" (Wales), "Ayobowan" (Sri Lanka), and 'Ciao' (Italy) were a few of the greetings heard at the 3rd Annual Basilica of our Lady 'Multicultural Food Fiesta' held on September 24th. An estimated total of 250 people gathered, after both Sunday masses to sample culinary delights from around the world. The food and the cultures represented are representative of our growing diverse parish community.

In the words of some who attended, "Great Food", "Great Experience" and "Great meeting new people".

Thank you to all who contributed to help make this another successful Food Fiesta!



Habitat for Humanity— Cityview Village

By: Denis DePratto

On September 16th, ten members of our Knights of Columbus Council 1507 donated a full day to Habitat for Humanity by both sponsoring the day and assisting at Guelph's new build site - Cityview Village.

Our responsibilities consisted of digging holes, clearing buckhorn shrubs, and framing wooden props for their upcoming fundraiser this fall. At the end of our day, all our hard work and sweat left us feeling incredibly humbled knowing that we took part in a life-changing experience in our community.



To learn more about the project visit the website at: www.cityviewvillage.ca

Knights of Columbus supports St. Joseph's Health Centre

By: Mark Sammut

On September 20, 2017, members of The Knights of Columbus Council 1507 presented St. Joseph's Health Care Centre with a \$10,000 cheque to purchase a new patient lift.

Pictured from left to right:

Kayla Bancroft, Assistant Director Long Term Care; Lesley Borth, Director, Long Term Care; Jennifer Hall, VP Development; Mark Sammut and Peter Barrett, Knights of Columbus Council 1507.



Did you know...

We recently launched a newly refreshed Basilica of our Lady website. The website is a convenient way to access information about the Basilica: historical information about the parish, mass times, contact information, Parish news and registration forms for Baptism, Marriage, RCIA, Volunteer, and Parish Registration. The site also offers the option to subscribe to have the weekly bulletin, news and events happening in the parish sent in a weekly update email. How to subscribe? On the Homepage, enter your email address in the section "Join our Mailing List".



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Gratitude News is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee, and published three times a year to keep Parishioners informed and connected.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Donut Sunday—**October 29th**
- ◆ Memorial Mass—**November 2nd**
- ◆ CWL Christmas Bazaar—**November 5th**
- ◆ Sacrament of Confirmation—**November 11th**
- ◆ Prime Rib Dinner—**November 19th**
- ◆ Michael Higgins Presentation—**November 25th**
- ◆ John Miller Advent Concert—**December 3rd**
- ◆ KofC Breakfast - **December 10th**

For more details about upcoming events, visit the Events section of our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com



Golf Tournament

By: Steve Nagy

June 4 dawned with rain in the air, but Father Noon said, "Let there be sun", and the sun indeed did break through so that the Parish Golf Tournament participants could enjoy a beautiful day at Victoria Park Valley.

The Golf Committee wishes to thank the staff at Victoria Park Valley for their help in making the tournament run so smoothly and for the delicious dinner to cap the day. Thanks also to the donors for the many terrific prizes, and all the participants for their wonderful spirit, making the day such a success.

So, mark June 3, 2018 on your calendars now for next year's tournament - and remember, it's never too early to begin practicing.

