

Gratitude News

Church of Our Lady
Immaculate

UPDATE ON INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

Renovations of the interior of our church are well under way and on track, and will continue throughout 2014. Much has already been accomplished! Currently, interior walls are being repainted and the paintings and murals throughout the church are being cleaned and restored. As part of this process, halos will be added to two of the portraits, since the subjects have been canonized since the paintings were created. Marguerite d'Youville was a French-Canadian from the 18th century who founded a home for the poor and a hospital. She was canonized in 1990. Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th century Mohawk woman, was recognized by the Church as one of North America's first aboriginal saints in 2012. These two portraits are directly across from one another at the top of pillars near the front of the church.



Fr. Noon is involved in all aspects of the renovation process. Here, he helps prepare the new concrete floor in the church basement.

GRATITUDE NEWS

is published three times per year by the Stewardship Committee at Church of Our Lady. The Mass is the centre of parish life, but the spirit of the Mass is being expressed in dozens of different ways every day of the week. Gratitude News is designed to highlight the many activities occurring in our parish and keep parishioners informed.

The Church of Our Lady Stewardship Committee includes parishioners from various Parish ministries. The committee meets monthly, and its purpose is to find ways to advance the Stewardship mission within the Parish. It has initiated events like the annual picnic, donut Sundays, and the golf tournament. The committee meets regularly with leaders of other parish ministries in order to support their work.

THE QUESTIONS OF JESUS

A Book Review by Robin Fishburn

Interesting Renovation Facts

Three Jesuit priests and one nun were buried in the basement of the church in 1885, during construction. Their remains were preserved in their original locations during renovations, and a new memorial plaque will be created.

As part of the renovations, a portrait of Pope John Paul II is to be added near the top of the wall by the North side entrance.

Fundraising for the renovations is still underway. Please contact the Parish office to donate.

I believe that the two most important concerns in my life are to know WHAT Jesus is asking ME and also MY response to those questions. This book does EXACTLY that ! John McLaughlin is on the Faculty of Theology at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. He is a regular contributor to "Living with Christ" also published by Novalis. He writes clearly, directly and simply and it is very easy to understand his work, even though the subject may be complicated.

McLaughlin takes 30 questions from Sacred Scripture that Jesus asked; for example, "Do you also wish to go away?" (John 6:67), "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29) and "Has no one condemned you?" (John 8:10). He then sets the scripture in the context in which it is found in the Gospel and discusses what was going on at that time. Dr. McLaughlin describes the history and habits of the time and his expertise allows him to explain what Jesus' audience would have understood. In particular he is very good at translating words that have a different meaning now or that would have had a special meaning then. He then discusses what was the reaction to His question and what happened next. Finally, Dr. McLaughlin brings Jesus' question into OUR time – our society. Why is it important today? What would OUR reaction be to His question today?

This book is quite small (I LOVE small books!) and it should not be read as a novel. It should be savored in small quantities. Each chapter (or question) is only 3 or 4 pages long. It would be profitable to read and re-read one chapter each week and reflect on it.

At the end of the book one would truly be able to say, "Jesus, I know what you are asking me and I will follow you."

THE QUESTIONS OF JESUS

John L. McLaughlin

published by
NOVALIS

WHAT DOES STEWARDSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Reflections from some members of the Stewardship Committee

STEWARDSHIP MISSION

As a Eucharistic family of Our Lady Immaculate, we believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We foster a welcoming and active faith community by sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure. We continue to grow in the Spirit, loving and serving God and each other.

PERSONAL MEANING

Stewardship begins with acknowledgment and gratitude for all that we have in our Parish. Then, as good stewards we are called to support, enhance, and clarify Parish life and Parish activities in a way that is

meaningful and welcoming to others both within and outside of our Parish community. Good Stewardship is positive in approach, eager to include, and always ready to support for the common good of our Parish.

Kathy Gemin

Stewardship is a way of life. It is thanking God for what you have, what you've been given and blessed with and wanting the same for all God's people. It is **responsibility in action** for your family, your church, your community, your environment, your country, and your world. It is a lifetime journey of change and development of a person's moral fibre and the discovery of knowing who you are in Christ and living out that truth.

Angie Hunt

Stewardship means working together as a Catholic community to share and inspire our shared belief in God and Jesus. Being a steward means sharing in the ministry of our Catholic Faith and recognizing that

together we walk with Jesus and are called to proclaim Gospel teachings and values.

Cathy Doucette

EVENTS AT CHURCH OF OUR LADY

RECENT

CONFIRMATION

My confirmation was an interesting experience learning about how God is important to me. I liked learning about how God and Jesus help us through life. For me the day was full of excitement with my friends and family and I enjoyed the experience of participating in taking the gifts up. I also enjoyed having the chrism put on me by the Bishop. Confirmation is a time for rejoicing and I certainly did. After the ceremony my family and I came home and ate a delicious meal made by my mum. I will continue to grow in my spiritual life.

-Elliot Morgan, Gr. 7
St. Michael's

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Since September, four events have been held at the Albion Hotel in downtown Guelph. Each event featured an engaging speaker presenting on a topic related to theology, and informal discussion. Events were very well attended and more sessions are planned.

UPCOMING

GOLF TOURNAMENT • SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Attention all golfers of the parish - and those who like good food - mark Sunday, June 1 on your calendars as that is the date for the annual COOL Parish golf tournament. All levels of playing ability are welcome, of course, and everyone is welcome to join the golfers for dinner after. The event has always been a lot of fun. More information about ticket prices and sales will be coming soon.

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

