

St. Michael's Parish Newsletter

A welcoming Eucharistic community, sharing Faith and reaching out to all...



*For a child has been born for us,
A son given to us;
Authority rests upon his shoulders;
And he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

.....Isaiah 9:6



Dear Brothers and Sisters

These words quoted above will be heard this Christmas once again. I wonder at these words which remind me why this season is so important to us as Christians. God becomes human and lives with us taking on our human nature. As I ponder this reality of the Incarnation, God becoming one of us, it is of such magnitude that we cannot begin to comprehend it.

continued on page 2...

Our Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Celebrations:

Tuesday, December 24th: 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm and 12:00 midnight

Christmas Day Celebrations:

Wednesday, December 25th: 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm

.....

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 31st: 5:00pm

Wednesday, January 1st: 10:30am & 12:30pm

.....

Christmas Reconciliation Schedule

Friday, December 13th: 8:30am – 7:30pm

Tuesday, December 17th & Wednesday, December 18th:

10:00 – 11:00am, 3:00 – 4:00pm, 7:00 – 8:00pm



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Father Murray continued...

The twelfth century Abbot Gueric of Igny, sums up the dilemma well: "Do you wish to see God emptied of himself? See him lying in the manger? 'Behold our God' says Isaiah (25:9) Where? In that manger, he says. It is an infant I find there. I see a child wrapped in swaddling clothes. Do you mean to say this is he who is clad in the glory and the beauty of unapproachable light? I hear him crying. Is this the one who thunders in the heavens? This is our God, but he has emptied himself in order to restore you." Yes, it is something so extraordinary we can hardly comprehend it, yet it appears so ordinary that it is easy to overlook. The scriptures of the Christmas season invite us to sharpen our focus, to see with the eyes of the heart who this child really is and what he means for our lives.

Come and join the family of God at Christmas to celebrate. ***Immanuel, God-is-with-us!***

On behalf of the Pastoral Team, we look forward to seeing you and celebrating the Eucharist. Please consider coming at midnight, the traditional hour for the church to gather; the darkest part of the night when the one who is the "Light of the World," comes to us.

Rev. Murray Sample
Pastor



To Our Readers

by the Editors
Keith Rodrigues and Paul Tremblay



The Year of Faith 2012-2013 is over but this is one event that does not really need to end. Surely Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI would encourage us all to continue to live in faith and also in the other two theological virtues of hope and love. As members of our newsletter committee, we are blessed with a bird's eye view of all the activities in the parish. We are privileged to bring you some examples of the good work being done by the many dedicated people who treat our parish like a second home: for example, the members of St. Vincent de Paul, the youth who reflect on the Year of Faith, and Paul Kim who writes to future seminarians and his vocational discernment.

There is work to be done and every one of us is needed as Pope Francis reminds us with his poignant image of the Church as a field hospital. We are inspired by the articles in this issue and are confident that you will be too.



We are reminded of Sister Kathy's farewell message in the Fall issue that it is a great blessing to walk with our sisters and brothers in our day-to-day activities as well as in very significant times of great joy and intense sorrow. For Christians, Christmas should be the happiest day of the year, as we celebrate the day when God became flesh. In this special season, we also recognize that many people at St. Michael's have lost members of their family and friends this year; we pray for them and hope that they will find comfort knowing that we love them.

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Bene Merenti Medal Honoree Mary Linaric



On November 9, 2013 at the 5:00pm mass, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, in the name of Pope Francis, honoured Mary Linaric with the Bene Merenti Medal.

Mary has served the church for over forty years as a housekeeper and a gentle but ardent witness of Gospel Joy and Hope. Bishop Fabbro nominated Mary to our Holy Father because of his experience of this exceptional woman of faith.

The Beni Merenti Medal is a medal given to those who exhibit long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their family and the community. The word benemerenti means "to a well deserving person." The medal was first given by Pope Pius VI (1775-1799) to recognize military valour.

Under Pope Gregory XVI the medal was instituted in 1832 and given to lay women and lay men who served the church with great love and devotion.

The medal has an image of Christ the King on the front and the word "benemerenti" surrounded by oak leaves on the back. There is a ribbon attached to it with the Papal Colours of yellow and gold.

Not only was this a truly great moment for Mary Linaric and her family, but also for our Parish Community.

Congratulations, Mary!



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A Letter to Future Seminarians

Dear brothers in Christ,

I write this letter with the intention of fostering your discernment of God's will for you in this life. I wish to do so by sharing with you my own personal faith journey that has led me to Seminary. In our culture today, it is not often that we hear of words like vocation, discernment and priesthood.

In this letter, I would like to touch upon a few points on discernment and share with you my own discernment of God's call. Before I begin, allow me to briefly introduce myself. I am 26 years old and was born and raised in London, Ontario. My educational background is in French, History and Education. I am in my second year at St. Peter's Seminary in what is called Theology I.

So far my time there has been a life-giving and challenging experience. As I continue to discern my vocation for our Lord, I am beginning to live the joy of our Catholic faith and embrace my call to holiness.

Discernment is about choices. Discernment is about prayerfully determining where God is calling us in our lives. Whether it is a call to priesthood, marriage or the celibate life, we are all called to a vocation.

Understanding God's will is not easy, in fact it can be quite challenging. In this busy and noisy culture, it can be difficult to hear the voice of God especially with all the distractions that surround us. Unfortunately, there is no secret equation to know our vocation. This is truly

a process of discernment that requires much prayer, spiritual direction and courage.



Looking back at my life, I realize that there were many instances that attracted me to the Catholic priesthood. My first interest in priestly ministry came early in my childhood when I was an altar server at the Korean Catholic Church. I remember "playing priest" with Asian rice cakes and fruit punch when no one was around. In grade 11, I remember that it was in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that I felt Christ's presence in my life, calling me to live a life entirely for Jesus Christ.

I decided to go to World Youth Day - Germany in 2005 and also attend my first Come and See weekend at St. Peter's Seminary, which is an opportunity for men to spend a weekend with seminarians and to discern more closely God's call for them. After an 8 year detour in life, filled with much happiness and success, I knew my heart was still yearning for something more.

While pursuing a teaching career, I met with a Catholic priest, my spiritual director, on a weekly basis for several months. I had so many questions about the Catholic faith, spiritual growth and vocation. With much prayer and my spiritual director's guidance and support, I hesitantly decided to attend a second Come and See weekend.

My experience at St. Peter's Seminary was tremendous. Reflecting back on my experience I remember praying directly in front of our Lord during Eucharistic Adoration.



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Discernment Of Priesthood continued...



It was then in my heart that I knew He was calling me to discern priesthood. After months of prayer, talking with family and friends, meeting with holy priests, the vocations director and some seminarians, I decided to apply to St. Peter's Seminary.

I realized that my discernment could no longer proceed any further outside of Seminary. Despite all my fears and anxieties, I chose to put my complete trust in Jesus Christ and to follow Him.

Future seminarians, I cannot tell you how much joy there is in serving God and carrying out His will. In Seminary you are surrounded by people who will help foster your priestly discernment and you will form strong life-giving friendships with your brother seminarians.

Now nearing the halfway mark of my second year, I know there is peace in my heart and an eagerness to cultivate my call to holiness. I desire to serve the Lord according to His will, and I am inspired to bring people closer to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

Pursuing my vocation to priesthood in Seminary has challenged me in many ways to grow in faith and to grow as a man.

I would now like to share with you four tips for discernment that were crucial aids for me:

- ✚ First, prayer. Prioritize prayer to ensure you are in constant relationship with God.
- ✚ Second, if possible, attend daily Mass. In receiving Holy Communion we become "living tabernacles" of Christ which allows us to discern more clearly in union with Him.
- ✚ Thirdly, see a spiritual director/ regular confessor. Often we cannot see the Holy Spirit working in our lives and need a holy priest to journey with us.
- ✚ And last but not least, our Blessed Mother; Mary's humble obedience to carry out God's will is a model for all seminarians and priests.

In my own life, praying the Holy Rosary daily and asking for Mary's intercession has been very important. Mother Mary will always lead you to Jesus.

For anyone who is discerning a call to priesthood, please do not hesitate to contact me: 519-432-1824 or **paulkim14@hotmail.com**. I will be more than happy to speak with you!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Jean Marie Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests,
Pray for us!

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Pastoral Ministry Update

by Anne Hanley

Since the first days of my arrival at St. Michael's in August of this year, I feel I have been very warmly received as the new Pastoral Minister. I thank you for your kindness.

My 'job description' includes the bereavement and funeral ministry, coordinating our Sunday morning children's programmes, coordinating Eucharistic ministers who go to Nursing Homes and visit the homebound, teaching the baptismal preparation course and coordinating baptisms and the baptismal team.

My responsibilities also include coordinating the prayer-line, preparing children to receive the sacraments, spiritual direction, working with Greg Windsor-Smith, a fourth year seminarian who is with us during his year of field education and finally, coordinating police checks, interviews and screening for those in the above ministries.

I am a member of the CWL and I am most often seen on my bicycle enjoying the beauty of the Forest City.

My family is of Irish descent and one of the greatest things I learned from my parents was their genuine witness, and their deep respect for God and reverence for the Catholic faith. My mom made sure we all went to Mass each day during Lent, and my dad took us children to Confession on the first Saturday of each month.

Just after Grade 13 my own faith took me to Calcutta where I joined Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. I saw many more witnesses of faith there. One day in the slums I saw a very very skinny woman struggling with two huge sacks of rice on her head. As she passed by a holy tree, in the Hindu tradition, she dropped both bags and, joining her hands in prayer, spent a few moments in respectful conversation with God. She laboured with the two sacks and juggled them back to balance them on her head before she set off again. And sometimes I feel embarrassed just making the sign of the cross in public!

My years with the Missionaries of Charity took me to various countries. In 2003, I left the Missionaries

of Charity and returned to Canada. I was grateful to be able to use my experience in various positions within the Church, schools and school boards, in evangelization initiatives, in parishes, in spiritual direction and adult faith formation.



As I continue on doing my best to follow God's will, I see how I have been greatly blessed and surrounded by a 'cloud of witnesses' and I have been meeting more and more of these at St. Michael's. I hope to be able to continue to use what I have been given over the years to contribute with Father Murray and all of you to the building up of our parish family.

Thank you for inviting me to contribute to this Christmas newsletter, I wish all of you the richness of the blessings of this Holy Season of Advent and Christmas. May the New Year bring a renewal of your deepest convictions and a closer following of Jesus our Lord and Master.



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The Parish Pastoral Council advises the pastor and the pastoral team on all matters related to achieving our parish vision: "A Welcoming Eucharistic Community, Sharing Faith and Reaching Out to All." We serve the parish community through our principal role of pastoral planning: identifying, assessing and prioritizing pastoral needs.

We are privileged to work with Father Murray and the pastoral team. He ensures that a significant amount of time at each monthly meeting is set aside for prayer and reflection. Any discernment carried out by the Council is done in the context of prayer. We receive reports from each member of the pastoral team as well as from Howie Wright, a member of Council who attends meetings of the parish Finance Committee. Angela Townend takes minutes of each meeting. All of this information is vital to our ability to carry out our responsibilities.

This year, we continue to focus on reviewing and reporting on the Parish's Strategic Priorities. A status report on the remaining goals (IV and VI) was completed and inserted into the bulletin in the fall.

In preparation for the third cycle of planning that will start in the spring of 2014, five Parish Pastoral Council members participated in a workshop on September 21st presented by the Diocese. We learned about the components of the Pastoral Planning process that will assist us to prepare for this important undertaking. We engaged in discussions about the Mission entrusted to the Church and a vision of where our parish can be in 3-5 years.

On November 21, members participated in the Diocese of London Parish Workshop, which covered the following topics:

- the relationship between the Parish Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council
- Parish Technology Services and replacement of Parish Family Software
- Financial updates, the new Diocesan Financial Plan and audits of our parishes and cemeteries

In the spring of 2014, at the direction of the Diocese, we will prepare for the third cycle of pastoral planning and spiritual renewal with a focus on Goal II, the call to evangelize.

At the blessing of the Parish Pastoral Council October 27, 2013, Father Murray called each member of the Council to:

- foster the pastoral activity of St. Michael's Parish
- share insights with him and the pastoral team
- work together, with openness, honesty, courage and respect, for the well-being of the entire parish

We pledged to do so, serving in word, worship and work that benefits St. Michael's Parish.

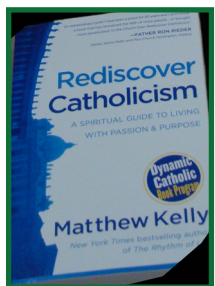
We welcome all parishioners' thoughts as we move forward so that those we serve benefit from our commitment to the Parish Pastoral Council.





Youth Reflections on the Year of Faith

The year of faith has meant a lot to us because it symbolizes a community coming together to rejoice and praise God and to learn about our faith and its deeper meaning. The year of faith is something the entire community can take part in because we all share the same faith and are proud of it.



Last spring we took part in wrapping the 2,500 copies of the Rediscover Catholicism book by Matthew Kelly. It was a great experience that we were able to give a gift to our community and, at the same time, to meet friends and have a bit of fun. Every book included a bit of love from the youth because wrapping the books was our little way of saying thanks to our church community for supporting the youth. Handing out the books at the Easter Masses was a great honour for us, to see people smile as they received that small gift. The book itself gives us many insights to our faith and who we are as a Catholic community.

We also attended the Catholicism video series. We decided to come because it sounded very interesting, and it was a way for us to learn about our faith in a different way. We also believed it would help us deepen our faith so that we could be stronger spiritually. After viewing each episode, we had the chance to get together in groups and discuss the video. This was wonderful; we exchanged some amazing answers and were able to share what we, as youth, do and how we apply some of the things we learn. We had the chance to look at the many gifts God gave us.

Some ideas to help our parish grow in faith are to continue having youth activities encouraging involvement in events for all ages and activities such as the video series to help open our eyes to the gifts that God gave us. We will all continue to grow in faith. We don't need a year dedicated to faith for us to try and make our faith stronger; we just need a strong, open, loving community to show what our faith is all about.

Ryan Barker and Christina Safar

Youth Reflections on Pope Francis



I believe that Pope Francis is and will be one of the most influential persons in history. He teaches us to be humble, to remember that everyone is equal in every way and to put others before ourselves. I also believe that Pope Francis is very brave because he is not afraid to make changes in the Catholic Church, and he fiercely supports what he believes is right. This gives me hope that maybe we can also change our ways for the better.

Alyssa Pascual

When Pope Francis was declared the head of our church, many people were waiting eagerly to see him in his new role. One of the persons who witnessed the announcement of the new pope on television was my friend who is from a different religion. I was surprised when she told me about this, and there is one particular statement that made a mark on me: "He is very humble." His humility got my friend's attention and it is what endears him to us the most. He has become a role model to the youth because he teaches us how to live simply, like disciples of Jesus. Pope Francis says that the youth of today are the future of our faith, so we should continue to practice what he teaches us, just as God wants us to do.

Aurene Pascual

It was during March Break when I heard the news that Pope Francis had been elected as the next pope of the Catholic Church. I was on vacation and had just returned to my hotel room when I decided to turn on the television, knowing that the papal elections were currently being held. I was greeted with live footage showing Pope Francis, on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, addressing the thousands of people who were gathered in the square. I was speechless. Maybe it was because I wasn't able to fully comprehend the situation, but I remember being rooted to the ground, staring at the television for several minutes before going off to share the news with my parents and sister. It was such a surreal moment, knowing that I was watching history being made.

Stephanie Li

Social Justice Committee Report

by Mary Ann Colihan



North East London Community Engagement (NELCE)

Each member of the Social Justice Committee supports a variety of justice actions within our parish. For Theresa Johnston, social justice is about strengthening the fabric of her lower-income neighbourhood. Theresa, a long-time member of the Social Justice Committee, and her husband Gordon, pictured below, are two of the six founding members of a group called NELCE –North East London Community Engagement.

Each month at committee meetings she describes a vast array of NELCE initiatives for at-risk youth, seniors, immigrants and the poor. NELCE, with 60 volunteers from all walks of life, has started healthy eating programs, community gardens, built parks and playgrounds and lobbied for safer sidewalks.

The Social Justice Committee looks to the NELCE model as a fine example of community building. And they are not alone in their admiration. NELCE is one of the three semi-finalists vying for Pillar Non-profit Network's prestigious 2013 Impact award. Several committee members have attended NELCE events for the past year to learn how to collaborate in future social justice initiatives.

NELCE also likes to host events - from a pumpkin retirement party to conversations about international cultures. "We want to foster community spirit and pride," says Theresa Johnston. "And we want to light the fire under residents to take ownership for their surroundings and give back by being involved."

NELCE was founded by the London Intercommunity Health Centre (LIHC) in 2006 to build community one block at a time. The LIHC goes into neighbourhoods where they see the greatest need and work with groups to strengthen partnerships for well-being. NELCE is the result of fact-finding that intrigued Theresa and

Gord Johnston after a chance meeting in the Beacock Library. "We went out and knocked on doors and did a survey about needs and capacity to build a healthy community," she says. From this research, the LIHC Health Centre opened at 1355 Huron next to Shoppers with community meeting space.

Theresa credits Jacqueline Fraser as the skilled leader that makes NELCE a powerful champion for the community. Originally from Singapore, Fraser brings a background in executive administration and event planning including a stint at Huron College. A chronic illness forced her to take early retirement but her energy is now devoted to NELCE's outreach.

Fraser says their approach is holistic. "The social determinants of health in a community are not just medical. Newcomers in the community tell us - I'm depressed or I'm in isolation or on welfare living alone and I don't have a lot of support because there are all these barriers. So everything we offer, like child-minding, is free of cost to remove any barriers."



NELCE's current priorities are to increase programming for men and youth ages 13 to 17. They also support LIHC's successful Women Creating Community program and launched the North East Community Conservation - a forum for residents to voice concerns about issues separate from the mission of the LIHC.

NELCE also runs a busy community kitchen at the LIHC centre. Jacqueline Fraser appreciates their talented Kings's University College student volunteer who cooks nutritious meals for \$3 per person.

The healthy personal benefits of NELCE are varied. "With NELCE, it's all about the group," says Johnston. "I have met many friends and it has made my husband and me closer because we have been involved together and with other couples."

Parish Photos





You may have noticed me, or preferably, may not have noticed me, taking pictures around the church and its facilities. This all started a few years ago when the Parish implemented a newsletter and website. Both mediums demanded that we record and report parish life in words and pictures.

Since joining the Communications Committee several years ago I've been taking photographs and videos to use in these publications. In addition to meeting this immediate need we are also creating a visual library that can be archived and retrieved for future reference.

This library already proved to be a good source of material for the picture boards and videos we displayed when we celebrated the Parish's 100th anniversary in 2011. Hopefully, this visual history will continue to be very useful when St. Michael's celebrates its milestone anniversaries in the future.

So what is it like taking pictures in and around the church? Well, that usually depends on the time, place and event. Often it is easy and a great opportunity for me to meet people that I otherwise may not get to know. This includes parishioners, visitors and clergy, and it is a gift available to all those who routinely perform ministry in our church.

However, there are occasions when I feel like I may be intruding on the sacredness of celebrations in the church and/or disturbing people praying and participating in events. On such occasions I attempt to be as invisible as possible while maintaining the ability to snap a good picture.



For me the art of photography is in a picture that reflects the spirit, the joy, the mystery and/or the awesomeness of a point in time. That's why it is necessary to take several pictures of an event with the hope that just one will be "perfect" for the occasion. Most often this is accomplished and, I sincerely hope, with the least amount of undesirable disturbance to the participants in the celebrations.

The Communications team wishes and works to share the full extent of our joyful and busy parish life with as many people as possible.

Hopefully, you are all in the picture at St. Michael's Parish and our communications will encourage many more of you to share in our joy! Please smile and say Hi if you see me, especially if I have a camera in hand.



Knights of Columbus Message

by Bud Jardine
Grand Knight

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH, COUNCIL 12820



Once again it is that time of the year when we all get excited about the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. What a wonderful time for each and everyone of us to plan and celebrate this magnificent gift to the world.

Let us all rejoice and remember the true meaning of Christmas. This is the season where we all get together as family and friends to thank God for all the blessings we have received over the past year.

Count your blessings and be thankful to God

for being with you in the good times and the hard times.

This past year has been an outstanding one for our Council. We have gathered new members and provided a lot of charity to the less fortunate in our parish community and beyond.

The reason that we were able to do this was because of the wonderful parishioners and staff of St. Michael's Parish. Your kindness and generosity has shown us the way and provided us with the means to look after others.



On behalf of our Knights it is my pleasure to wish each and everyone in our Parish and their families

A Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

May God bless and protect you and make all your wishes come true for the festive season.

*WE ARE HERE TO SERVE
Vivat Jesus*



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Knights of Columbus St. Michael's Parish



This summer I was fortunate to attend World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Along with 23 other pilgrims from all over the Diocese of London, we set out for two weeks on our spiritual pilgrimage. Being a seminarian who had just completed my first year of Seminary formation, I saw this as a tremendous opportunity for me to grow in my discernment of the call to diocesan priesthood.

My experiences at World Youth Day were filled with much prayer, joy, excitement, and spontaneity! There is a large list of experiences I could write about but in this short piece I will touch only on a few of the events.

First I would like to share with you my time in Sao Jose do Rio Preto where we spent our first week for the Days in the Diocese. St. Jude, the host parish, was attached to a community centre that focused on feeding and educating over 200 youth in the city. All of the pilgrims had the opportunity to meet with some of the children and to witness the type of ministry they carry out.

One thing that must be mentioned, aside from the delicious food and culture, is the joy of the Brazilian people. They are truly moved by the Holy Spirit and they are authentic models of charity. I was extremely fortunate to have resided at the rectory with Rev. Fr. Louis Caputo, who exposed me to much of what he does pastorally at the parish. He is unquestionably a priest who loves his flock.

One of the highlights at WYD in Rio was celebrating Mass at Christ the Redeemer. Seeing the massive monument of Jesus with His arms spread wide to embrace the entire world was a dream come true.



Another high point of the pilgrimage was the 3.5 million pilgrims from all over the world gathered on Copacabana



Beach for the Papal Mass. The sea of youth came to this foreign place for a simple purpose - to know Jesus Christ and to celebrate their Catholic faith!

I was inspired by the number of young people present. I truly witnessed the yearning and desire to know God among the youth. Five of the youth in my own group approached me with numerous questions about faith, vocation and discernment.

The hunger of the youth to deepen their faith was contagious and very uplifting. I was profoundly touched and convinced that these youth were ready to live out the Catholic faith and truly "go and make disciples of all nations."

And finally there was our Holy Father Pope Francis. Although I only saw a glimpse of him, hearing him speak and being only some distance away evoked tremendous inspiration.

I was particularly moved by his humility and his simplicity. He told us "I, Pope Francis, need you." He asked us to have fortitude and courage as we live out the faith, and to do so with joy always at the service of our brothers and sisters. World Youth Day - Brazil was truly uplifting.

I left the pilgrimage with zeal to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, and I was filled with great hope for our Church.

Our Lady of Aparecida, Patroness of Brazil, Pray for us!

Saint Vincent de Paul



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
London Particular Council



When was the last time you remember being really hungry? Do you ever recall having no food left in your house, no milk for your children, no beds for them to sleep on, or no warm clothes for winter? For many of us in St. Michael's Parish these situations never arise; however for many people within a stone's throw of our doors, such conditions are far too frequent a reality. The St. Michael's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul visits those in situations like these each and every week.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an independent international organization whose mission is to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. The Society was founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam in 1833 when Frederic and some university students in Paris, France were challenged to prove their faith through action, and not just words. Developing a simple system, they went in teams to help the poor in their homes, on the streets, in hospitals, and in asylums. They chose to name their new efforts after St. Vincent de Paul - a Catholic Priest - who, for his work with the poor in the 16th Century, became known as the "Great Apostle of Charity."

As a grass roots organization we provide food, clothing and furniture directly to those in need within our own Parish boundaries. The "Loose Change" collection - that takes place at Mass every second Sunday of the month - helps pay for these supplies.

Our conference is run strictly on a volunteer basis, so ninety four percent of all of the donations go directly to the poor within our parish boundaries. Six percent of the collection is diverted to the maintenance of the St. Vincent de Paul stores here in London. We would like to thank you for your generous support and to remind you that there are special envelopes available for those who require a donation receipt.

Thanks to your generosity in 2012, we were able to respond to 307 calls bringing help to 489 adults and 504 children. This support enabled us to provide gift cards so people could buy their food for themselves at local grocery stores, as well as providing much needed furniture through the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on York Street.

As part of our annual "Angel Tree" Christmas program, the very generous gifts provided by our parish family were distributed to 50 families in our area. It is a joy for us to see first-hand just how thankful those families are to be remembered by you at Christmas time.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is well represented at other Parishes throughout the city as well. Every year we pool our efforts to host a BBQ at the SVDP store on York Street where hundreds of people are fed and go home with bags of non-perishable food items. We also participate in the city-wide drive for donations of winter clothing and furniture.



Saint Vincent de Paul continued



We hear people say that they want to help the poor, but they are unsure of what they can do or how they can help. If you have ever had the feeling of wanting to make a positive difference, then this is your invitation to help the poor in your community.

You can volunteer as a Full Member with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul attending meetings and visiting those in need, or you can volunteer as an Auxiliary Member helping with special projects. We would like to do more, such as starting up a Youth Conference, or visiting the elderly, prisoners, or hospital patients, but we need more volunteers.

We meet every third Tuesday of the month at the Parish, or you can call the main office for more information. For even more details on the history and actions of the St. Vincent de Paul Society you can read further at the website: www.ssvp.ca.

We are called "Vincentians." Our primary goal and purpose is to serve and to minister to all the poor, making no distinctions of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions; to promote their dignity in accordance with Christian values. We seek to be friends to those who need a friend. We see Christ in others so they can see Christ in us.

"Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another . . ." Saint Vincent de Paul



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Parish Information

St. Michael's Parish, 511 Cheapside St., London, ON N5Y 3X5

Phone: 519-433-6689 • Fax: 519-433-2301

E-mail: stmichlon@dol.ca • www.stmichaels.dioceseoflondon.ca

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 noon

Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

African Caribbean Catholic Community Mass (St. Josephine Bakhita)

4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Free Bus Service to 10:30 a.m. Mass



The route . . .

9:50 a.m.

- 64 Wyndham
- Blackwater east of Adelaide - bus stop
- Grenfell just east of Blackwater
- Fanshawe/Trossacks - bus stop on corner
- 770 Fanshawe Park Rd east of Fremont - bus stop
- Fanshawe Park Road - west of Fremont
- Adelaide/Fanshawe - bus stop south of Fanshawe
- Kipps Lane/Adelaide - bus shelter just east of Adelaide
- Kipps Lane/Barker
- Kipps Lane - bus stop east of Barker
- Kipps Lane/Kenmore Place - bus stop
- 295 Briarhill
- Cheapside/Boullee
- Huron Street - bus stop east of Wedgewood Drive

10:15 a.m.

- Royal Oak Apartments - 3 stops
go to St. Michael's Church

The bus will stop at regular bus stops or wherever it is hailed along the route.

Pastoral Team

Father Murray Sample, Pastor

msample@dol.ca

ext. 202

Father Peter Amszej, Associate Pastor

pamszej@dol.ca

ext. 205

Father John Sharp, Weekend Ministry

jsharp@dol.ca

Deacon Gaston Mabaya, Deacon

gmapaya@dol.ca

Helen Green, Pastoral Minister

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ext. 215

Anne Hanley, Pastoral Minister

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ext. 203

Natalie MacKay, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

nmackay@dol.ca

ext. 206

Staff

Pat Estabrooks, Receptionist/Secretary

stmichlon@dol.ca

ext. 201

Jolanda Squire, Financial Secretary

jsquire@dol.ca

ext. 208

Sid Wocks, Hall Coordinator

swocks@dol.ca

ext. 210

Parish Council Chairperson

Corrie Gicante

Children's Ministries

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass

Liturgy of the Word: Grades 2, 3 and 4

Sunday School: Aged 3 to Grade 1

Babysitting: Infants to age 3

Calendar of Events

Christmas Day	December 25
Feast of Mary Mother of God	January 1
Parent Meeting - First Eucharist	February 11
Wedding Anniversary Celebration	February 16
Family Day	February 17
Marriage Prep Weekend	Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 2
Pancake Supper	March 4
Ash Wednesday	March 5
Family Skate	March 10
Easter Confession - All Day	April 4
Mass of Chrism	April 14