



ST. PIUS X PARISH

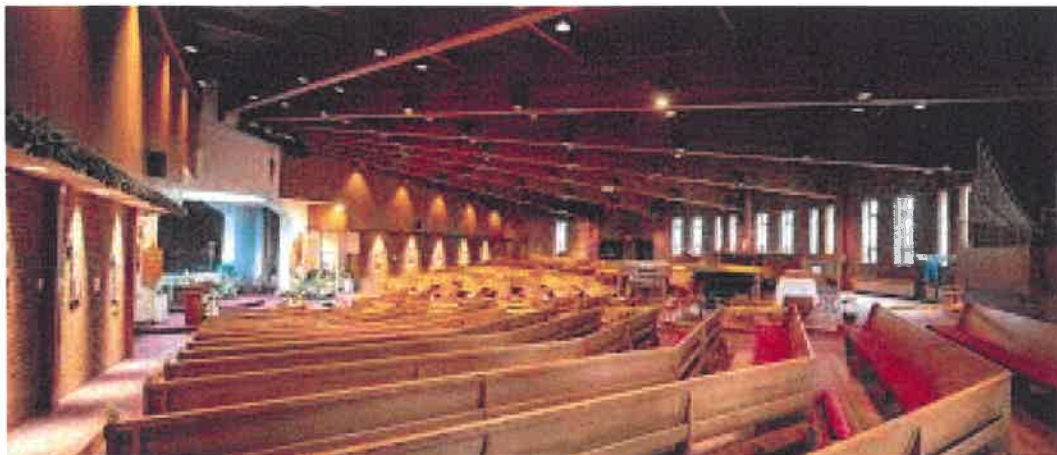
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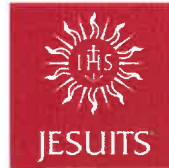


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OUR PIUS UPDATE
June 21, 2022





On Sunday, June 19, 2022, we celebrated the **60th Anniversary** of the founding of our Parish in 1962. Our celebration began at our 10:00 am Mass with **Fr. John Sullivan, SJ** as presider and **Fr. Bill Browne, SJ** and **Fr. Joe Schuck, SJ** as con-celebrants.

The celebration continued in the Parish Hall with a BBQ, cake and treats. **Nina Beresford**, the **Chair of the Organizing Committee** read two letters from former Pastors - **Fr. Wayne Bolton, SJ** and **Fr. Earl Smith, SJ** (*included in this update*). Nina then called several speakers who shared with us their experiences with our Parish.

The speakers included **Fr. Bill Browne, SJ** who spoke about our commitment to the **MacMorran Community Centre**, giving special mention to **Br. Jim McSheffrey, SJ** and the Parish **ATTN Committee**.

David Mallam highlighted the parish **response** to the **COVID-19** lockdown, especially the dedication and commitment of the **Hospitality Ministry** who implemented the safety protocols. He also thanked and complemented the parishioners on their cooperation.

Fr. Joe Shuck, SJ recounted the experiences of the **Jesuits' commitment to the education of youth**, especially in **relationship to our Parish and the efforts who have consistently made**. This speech is included in this update.

Dr. Michael Bautista, Chair of the Parish Council reminded us that the Jesuits have been part of our Parish since the very beginning. He mentioned some particular values, that the Jesuits shared with us throughout our sixty years history.

Fr. John Sullivan, SJ, our **new Pastor**, was the final speaker. He spoke of his previous experience as Pastor. When he was Pastor of **St. Anne's Parish**, in **Kingston, Jamaica**, he particularly noted their sense of **hope**. When serving as **Pastor** at **Our Lady of Lourdes** in **Toronto, Ontario**, he noted their sense of **joy**. He reminded us that although he has only here for ten months, he has noted **faith**. He reminded us of the Gospel of June 19 when Jesus fed the 5000. Jesus gave the bread and the fish to the disciples to share with the people. They did this. He invited us to do the same, to go out and share our faith with others. **They ate and were satisfied**.

Thank you to Nina Beresford and her team for all their work on planning and implementing our special event on Sunday, June 19. It was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone in attendance.



SPEECH BY DR. MICHAEL BAUTISTA *Chair of Parish Council*

On behalf of your Parish Council, I would like to bring congratulations and well wishes to all our parishioners and friends of St. Pius X in this year of our 60th anniversary as a Parish.

On September 2, 1962, Archbishop Skinner officially opened the Parish at 10:30 am Mass. This Parish has always been privileged to be a Jesuit Parish, one imbued with the Jesuits' unique spirituality, their sense of being contemplatives in action, their strong commitment to social justice, and their openness to everyone called, and to other denominations and faiths. On your behalf, I would like to thank the Society of Jesus for the continuing commitment to our Parish over the years, and for the future commitment to our city's Catholic community.

Our Jesuit partners in our Parish have made a firm commitment to stay in St. John's, so they will be here in the city. That is a certainty. You don't have to worry about that. If you want to stay in a Jesuit parish, there is going to be one. As announced, our church building has been sold. Just because it has been sold does not necessarily mean we are closed. Your Parish Council has been in discussion with other parishes in our region, and we have been contacted by the successful bidder, indeed as soon as they have been informed, and I can only tell you that nothing yet is certain, but also that all is not lost. This is not just wishful thinking on the part of your Parish Council, but a realistic hopeful possibility in a complex, uncertain time.

So look back upon the past with feelings of nostalgia and regale, cherish and savour your memories of the past sixty years. But look to the future with faith and hope. I ask you to please continue to support St. Pius X, to pray that we can follow the path we believe the Spirit laid out for us. ***Hang in there, hang tough and hang together.*** Do not despair, for all is not lost. Believe that it will all work out in the end because it always does. You and I, we are not sent to be saints, and we are not sent to be martyrs. We are sent to be apostles, to spread the Good News, and dare I say to be prophets, for we are here to say and show how God wants His Church to be from now on. What better place to start anew but right here?



LETTER FROM FR. EARL SMITH, SJ *(Former Pastor of St. Pius X Parish)*

Dearest Parishioners of St. Pius X Parish:

Congratulations on this your 60th Anniversary. It is a wondrous living memory of God's ongoing story of you, His people who continue to be molded and shaped into God's own. Indeed, this anniversary is one of celebration and is rich with reminders about how you continue to live your motto as a way of life: ***Restore All Things in Christ.***

This letter testifies to my loving knowledge of you who belong to God in Christ, and who now defiantly live through life's adversities. I am in awe and respect of God who speaks so eloquently in your loving service to family, neighbour and fellow parishioners.

Believe in God and believe in yourselves. Can you hear me say:

"You are God's beloved, each of you are members of God's eternal family?"

No doubt, your faith community is stronger and more complete by the blessed goodness you each continue to offer your parish. God promises to live on in you as present pressing circumstances transforms you in a new creation. While this remains a 'tough love' kind of gift, it is no less God's response to your holy desires to fully live for God alone, and therefore for/with others. In short, be encouraged to live for Christ as everything else is as rubbish in comparison.

Consider this quote of St. Ignatius Loyola. It is no 'pius' platitude.

"God's love calls us to move beyond fear. We ask God for the courage to abandon ourselves unreservedly, so that we might be molded by God's grace, even as we cannot see where that path may lead us."

Enough from me except to conclude...

I do miss you and am, at odd times, with homesickness for your company. Indeed, my memories of the parish, you her people, are as a colourful mosaic, alive and which continues to inspire me in two ways, namely; towards a life of integrity as you live life, and to do good works in the God's service.

May you accept my truth of you; namely, that you are among God's best-est persons who live on God's green earth. What a gift you are to me and to one another. Thanks be to God without end!

You are dear to God's heart and my heart no less! While it is not realistic for me to see you in person anytime soon, I live in joyful hope to one day visit St. John's to be among you, my friends.

Sincerely,
Fr. Earl Smith, SJ



LETTER FROM FR. WAYNE BOLTON, SJ (Former Associate Pastor of St. Pius X Parish)

June 9, 2022
St. Ephrem

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In June of 2010, Bishop Fred Collie of Thunder Bay came to St. Peter's Parish to confirm some of the young parishioners. While there, he told the congregation that I was being transferred to St. Pius X Parish in St. John's, NL, and that he was sending them a newly ordained priest, Fr. Terry Sawchuk. He then invited the parishioners to help Fr. Terry become a good priest. I was very impressed by what Bishop Collie said, giving the people of St. Peter's a role to play in helping Fr. Terry get off to a good start.

Likewise, I would like to thank all the people of St. Pius X who took me under their wings back in 1974-76 when I arrived there newly ordained. And I am especially thankful to God for everyone when I was pastor from 1993-2003 for their generous outreach and wise leadership amidst challenging times.

One such event was September 11, 2001 and its aftermath. This was a pivotal moment in our parish history, coming together to respond to the manifold needs of our 120 stranded new friends. Even now, as I think of what we did for these people I am deeply consoled. As our gracious and merciful Saviour accompanied us then, may He continue His ever-faithful accompaniment, today on the feast of Corpus Christi, and, on into the future. I am grateful to all for the past decade at St. Pius X.

On June 19, 2022 I will have our 3:00 pm Mass here at the Martyrs' Shrine and will remember you then, but certainly not to limit fond remembrance and prayer to that one time.

An excellent image at this time is the storm at sea. Peter and disciples, desperately bailing water out of their boat, then they see Jesus walking on the water towards them. Once He is in the boat with them, the wind and waves subside, and they peacefully row ashore.

And then there is that hymn, much beloved by Atlantic Canadians, "*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*"

With much gratitude to God for the spiritual accompaniment we have shared over the years.

Fr. Wayne Bolton S.J.



SPEECH BY FR. JOE SCHUCK, SJ



As we celebrate our history together, Nina Beresford asked me to say a few words about our relationship with our Catholic schools.

The first thing I would say is that we have always been supportive of them. When they were Catholic, we provided the sacraments for them whenever they desired. My own closest connection was with **Gonzaga**. We would process down from the school for school Masses on holy days and days of special importance. The Parish priests would help with penance services. In latter years, we would also have our graduations in the Church.

I know that the Church was also used by both the Boys' and Girls' schools.

In the attempt to keep our Catholic Schools, the parish's schools were also the leaders. In the first referendum the votes by all the parents were almost unanimous and when we were about to lose the schools, the heroic fight was lead by parents from those schools. I will never forget Janet Henley's speech in Ottawa.

Once we lost, it was from this parish that leadership arose for the attempt to have a Catholic school in St. John's and so after a year St. Bon's was founded. It took much, much work and planning by a great number of parishioners and others, and individual members of this parish undertook substantial financial risk to make it happen.

After our worship of God in the sacraments, nothing is more important than teaching our children about God's love for us and about the happiness that only comes from a personal relationship with Him. St. Ignatius thought it so important that professed Jesuits take a vow of special care for the education of youth. We can only give thanks for the heroic efforts of so many to help us keep that vow. Although it is a long walk, St. Bon's tries to have at least one school Mass in the Church each year. Many of our parish young people have attended there.

It should also be mentioned, that we continue to cooperate with Gonzaga and Rennies River Elementary. As you know, the CWL has collections in the fall to provide school materials for those that need them at Rennies River Elementary, and often, Gonzaga has used the Church when there was need.

I have been thinking, lately, of the first canonized native born Canadian Saint, **Marguerite d'Youville**, a founder of the **Grey Nuns**. In 1747 when she was 45 years old, they we granted a charter to operate the General Hospital in Montreal which was in ruins and heavily in debt. She and her fellow workers managed to bring the hospital back to financial health but then, in 1765 (she would now be about 64), it was destroyed by fire. When one of the sisters asked her what they would do now, it is said that she answered, "**We start again.**"

*May God give us the grace to have the same trust in
His love and to persevere in his service.*

[cf https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=200 and **Novalis** , October 2021]

SUSCIPE

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
all I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

—*St. Ignatius Loyola*

