



This Month in the Diocese

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“You Want Me To Do What?!”

On April 13, Bishop Brian Dunn announced his new appointments:

on July 5, he will become Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and Apostolic Administrator of our diocese until a new bishop is installed.

On April 15 at the Mass of Chrism, Bishop Dunn offered up his experience of discerning his new appointment in a homily encouraging each of us to discern ‘the notion of call.’

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 12.

See more of Bishop Dunn’s homily on Page 3 and a Vocations Prayer from Pope Francis on Page 2.



Five Questions

With Fr Macdonald Ibeh, who shares his vocation journey from Nigeria to Margaree. **See Page 2**

Honorary Degree

The CND will be recognized for its work in the value of liberating education to create a more just society with an honorary degree conferred by St. FX. **See Page 4.**

Milestone Shared

Fr. Barrett Clare-Johnson marks the silver anniversary of his ordination this month with a Mass and celebration for vocations. **See Page 3.**



Five questions: with Fr Macdonald Ibeh, Pastor of the Margaree Family of Catholic Churches (St. Michael, East Margaree; St. Patrick, North East Margaree and St. Joseph, South West Margaree), on his journey of faith and vocation that has led him from his birthplace in Nigeria to Cape Breton.

1. How and where did your faith journey begin?

My Faith Journey began as a little kid at home. My parents always took me to Church on Sundays. We prayed together at home as a family and they taught me Christian and Catholic Values.

2. When did you hear your call to the priesthood?

I received my call to the priesthood as an Alter Server back home. I liked the attitude of the priests that served in my community. I liked their vestments at mass. And they were always joyful in their encounters with people. They simply radiated joy.

3. When you answered the call, did you expect to be living in Nova Scotia?

When I answered the call, it never occurred to me that I will one day do ministry in Nova Scotia.

4. What challenges you sometimes in your vocation, and what enriches you?

Staying away from home and family is my greatest challenge. I'm also challenged by the freezing weather of Nova Scotia.

5. What would you say to those discerning their vocation?

My advice to those discerning their vocation is to open themselves to the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit and to develop a personal relationship with Christ- the eternal priest.



Pope Francis' Prayer for Vocations – LORD of the Harvest, BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things. INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving – for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people. INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you. UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.



“Jesus experienced courage that flowed from the grace that came from his Father. He had a certain freedom of being true to himself. He was not paralyzed by a feeling that he had to please others. He received his call and he responded.” Bishop Brian Dunn

It was the Feast of the Annunciation when Bishop Brian Dunn received word of his new appointments from the nuncio in

Rome. His response - “You want me to do what?!” – offers for many in our diocese a moment of laughter through tears. While we remain grateful for Bishop Dunn’s presence, leadership and steadfast support throughout our time of darkness and transition and wish him well in his new position, we fear the space and uncertainty his reassignment will bring. The answer, he offers in his homily, is to discern our own calling this promised new chapter brings to light. “The Lord makes use of various vehicles to touch our hearts with his intimate and personal call and to renew us for ministry. It can be shocking when we realize that the Lord wants to use us in new ways and he invites openness so that he can use us effectively. But we need to be aware that the mystery of God is at the heart of each call and we need to be ready to encounter this God who calls.”

Offering up a Mass and a Milestone for Vocations:

May is the month in which many of our priests celebrate the anniversary of their ordinations. This is an invitation to us to celebrate with our priests their vocation and the joy that ‘hearing the call’ can bring to all of us.

The anniversaries of priests attached to the parish provide an occasion for the people of God to grow in their understanding of priesthood and of the role of the clergy in the servant Church (Ordo, p. 50). For example:

The ordination of Fr. Barrett Clare-Johnson on May 21, 1994 was the answer of a call not easy to hear, for some. For Fr. Barrett, born with profound hearing loss that went undiagnosed for six years, his early life was a challenge that with the support of his family enabled him to grow into a love of reading, study and service to God. His calling was clear to him. However, for others there was doubt he could be a priest with his deafness. The doubts of others has only strengthened his call; life with limited hearing has strengthened his gratitude for all of God’s creations. “I never for a second take for granted the chirp of a bird,” he says.

Now parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes in Stellarton, **Fr Barrett will celebrate a Mass for Vocations on May 27, 6:30 pm in the church followed by a reception hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council in the Sr Catherine Steele Centre.** All are invited to join in the celebration and offer prayers for vocations.



Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

Our clergy:

Who will be on retreat
May 19-24

Our clergy and families

Including:

Fr. Paul Abbass, who continues with Immunotherapy

Fr. George MacInnis, who is dealing with health issues

Imelda Terry of our Business Office who is recuperating from surgery

Jimmie Murphy, brother of Fr. Paul Murphy, who died April 10

Fr. Leo Cameron, brother of Fr. Frances Cameron, who died Mar. 29 and was buried Apr. 8 in Boisdale

Mildred Farrow, mother-in-law of Cathy Farrow, managing director of our diocese, who died Apr. 4 and whose funeral was Apr. 9 in Bridgeport

Our graduates:

From universities and colleges this month and students preparing for prom and graduation in June

Our Youth preparing for Confirmation in the coming weeks and months

For weekly inspiration on Youth Ministry see Youth Ministry under Events:

www.antigonishdiocese.com

and subscribe to our newsletter.



‘The Value of Liberating Education to Create a More Just Society’

CNDs receive Honorary Degree at St. FX Spring Convocation

The Congrégation de Notre-Dame’s “convent school” founded in 1883 at Mount St. Bernard was affiliated with Saint Francis Xavier College as early as 1897 when arts degrees were conferred upon four women. Over the next decade, there would be 23 graduates; by 1930, over 200. In the 1920s, courses designed specifically for women were established: pedagogy; domestic science (a program introduced by the CND); social work; advanced work in music, art and elocution; and language. As more women, including sisters, gained access to higher education, their vocational/professional possibilities expanded. Sister St. Veronica (MacDonald) joined St FX as a history professor in 1937, the first CND and first woman to be a St FX faculty member. By 1971, 20 sisters were full-time staff. They taught in many departments—home economics, music, art, education, theology, English, business, classics, French and Celtic studies, where Sister Margaret MacDonell became chair in 1977. More than 900 graduates were set to receive degrees and diplomas from St FX at Spring Convocation on May 5.

Recognition of Deacon weekend: May 18-19



Bishop Dunn has designated the fifth Sunday of Easter as “Recognition of Deacon Sunday.” This year, May 19 is an opportunity to acknowledge the gift of diaconate to the church, diocese and parish ministry of Altar, Word and

Charity. “I am very grateful to our deacons for their faith commitment, their tremendous ministry to the poor, sick and dying , their contribution to the liturgical life of the parish and their good will towards their pastors and priests,” said Fr. Bedford Doucette, Director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate program.

Eight candidates are currently preparing for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate in September 2019.

A celebration May 18 for graduates of the diocesan Lay Formation program will also honour the wives of the Candidates for their role and support of the Permanent Diaconate.

Please join the Church in expressing our gratitude for our deacons whose ministry is given a hint in the second reading: “God will wipe every tear from the people’s eyes.”

Items of Note:

Five explore their call after Come and See

A Come and See weekend in Antigonish in February drew five young men discerning their calls. This was followed by a weekend March 1-3 at St. Peter’s Seminary in London, ON, to experience the routines and rituals of seminary life. “They met seminarians who are currently studying for the priesthood and took part in the prayer life of the community,” said Fr. Dan MacDonald, diocesan Director of Vocations. Following this experience the young men – two from our diocese - are continuing their discernment and academics. To learn more of vocations or to discern your call, contact Fr. Dan at 1-902-258-2462 or See Antigonish Vocations on Facebook

Saint Pio relics in Sydney May 30

10:30 am - 6:30 pm

St. Theresa Church

The visit of the relics of Saint Pio is an invitation for diocesan celebration. In addition to the veneration at St. Theresa’s, all other parishes are invited to offer a Mass or prayer to honour the life and legacy of Padre Pio. **For details of the veneration on May 30:**

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