



# This Month in the Diocese

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## Remembering All Souls

November is the Month of Remembrance. We take time the first weekend and this month to pray for the souls of those who have died. These candles in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the City of Jerusalem, remind us that as the nights grow longer the glow of God's love and memories of our departed loved ones remain strong and bright.



### Five Questions

With Fr Douglas MacDonald on chaplaincy and building community: **See Pg 2**



### Development and Peace

The Fall Campaign brings global issues home for our awareness and action: **See Pg 3**



### Dates of Note

Remembrance Day, Music Workshop, Year of Eucharist and more: **See Pg 4**



**Five questions:** with Fr. Douglas MacDonald, Cape Breton University chaplain and parish priest of St. Joseph, North Sydney, on building community and faith connections

**1. How does a university compare to a parish and how does that impact both of your roles?**

Ministry is similar in that all people are spiritual - we long to be in communion with God and others. We seek community, acceptance and desire for someone to care, we need hope, and we long for justice and mercy. Grounded in my identity as a priest, I bring who I am to this ministry, yet I put my multi-faith hat on at CBU as I minister to students and faculty from a variety of faith backgrounds and some of no faith.

**2. What was the first thing you did as chaplain, and does that serve you in your second year?**

The first thing was to listen, learn and discern. Seek to understand the CBU culture and the context of ministry. Speaking with Sr. Catherine MacFarlane CSM and previous chaplains like Fr Martin, Fr Conrad, Fr Bedford, Fr Leblanc and Fr Jake was informative. I also listened to numerous protestant clergy, Imans and people of other faiths that I work with. The second, was to paint a vision for future ministry at CBU; essentially a dream of what ministry could be. In a nutshell the vision is: to *Encounter, to Accompany and Serve*. Most things in life happen through relationship, thus we seek to foster a culture of encounter at Chaplaincy. In my second year we established a Student Newman Society, after Blessed John Henry Newman who was canonized on Oct. 13th. Fr Greg MacLeod wanted a Newman Society to guide CBU and the Newman Society will have an exciting announcement in the New Year.

**3. On Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, you and your dog Honey hosted a Blessing of Animals: what led you to do this, and what was the response?**

We host events to engage people and foster integration. While the turnout was low, Honey and the others loved it. It is not about the numbers because even though people may not come, they notice these events and are satisfied they are happening.

St Francis of Assisi is universally loved. One story describes Francis' experience with a hungry old wolf who had been terrifying the people of Gubbio. Francis went out to meet the wolf armed only with love. The townspeople were sure the wolf would eat Francis. But Francis simply considered the needs of both the wolf and the community.

Recently an assault took place on a CBU student who is also a Sikh. He was attacked for simply looking different. Last year after the attack in New Zealand, some Muslim students were scared to go to their Mosque for Friday prayers. As chaplain I arranged a police presence at their Mosque and joined them for Friday prayers. Chaplaincy seeks to create encounters that remove fear, so we can establish trust, and have peace.

**4. You are also an Antigonish Highland Society Hall of Fame inductee as a Highland games athlete: does your ability to toss a caber come in handy these days?**

Everything we have done creates who we are. My experience as a Highland games thrower has led to an invitation to coach the CBU throwing events: shot putt, disc, hammer and weight throw. We also lift weights together and the students are surprised when a priest is the strongest person in the gym. With each passing year, it is harder to bench press three plates (315 lbs), but that feat seems to touch people in a way regular ministry does not.

**5. These can be challenging times to grow a faith community: what do you see in the future?**

The early church was known by "*the way*" they loved - we will be known by our love and then one day grow again. There is great faith in this diocese, a faith that built CBU, StFX, most of the hospitals, schools and numerous other programs like Family Services etc. If the small faith of a mustard seed can do great things, imagine the potential of our people who have the faith in their DNA.



## Development and Peace: For our Common Home Campaign 2019



Did you know that the Amazon rainforest produces 20% of the oxygen we breathe? It is called “the lungs of the planet.” Yet, the Amazon and its vital role for humanity are threatened by deforestation, industrial agriculture, mining and oil extraction, and hydroelectric dams. This is devastating not only for the 30 million people, including 3 million indigenous people, who live there, but for all of us.

### What can we do?

In 2015, Pope Francis alerted us to the importance of protecting our common home in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*,

inviting us to greater responsibility and urgent action. At his request, a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region was held this past autumn at the Vatican. This is why Development and Peace – Caritas Canada has chosen to name its campaign for the next two years *For our Common Home*.

### To learn more and take action:

<https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2019/materials>

or

<https://www.devp.org/fr/education/fall2019/materials>

### From the prayer card available for download:

#### *A prayer for our earth*

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

**Prayer by Pope Francis, from the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.**



## Prayer Corner

### Please pray for:

#### Our clergy and families, especially:

**Fr. Paul Abbass**, who continues to have medical tests and is grateful for all who remember him in prayer

**Fr. George MacInnis**, who is dealing with health issues that affect his mobility

**Fr. Martin MacDougall**, who will be living at the glebe at St. Mary Polish Parish

**Deacon Leo Penny**, as he continues to deal with the diagnosis of prostate cancer

**Deacon Roy Smith**, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and who awaits further tests

**Margaret Elizabeth MacLennan**, sister of Fr. Danny MacLennan, who died Oct. 9 in Halifax. She was buried Oct. 14 at St. Margaret of Scotland church, Broad Cove.

**For Michael McCarville** whose Celebration of Candidacy for the Permanent Diaconate is Nov. 3 at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys church, Sydney

**For All the Saints**, as we observe All Saints Day on November 1

**For All of our Departed Brothers and Sisters**, as we remember them on the Feast of All Souls, November 2.



### First Altar Server takes part in Holy Cross celebration

Gerard McNeil, with his sister Theresa (Curnew) McNeil on the left and wife Audrey McNeil, were among the 200 people celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross, Glace Bay on Oct. 26. Gerard was the first altar server at Holy Cross Church in 1939. The anniversary was celebrated with Mass followed by supper and social time.



### Season of Advent begins December 1st

Setting up a wreath in your home to mark the weeks of waiting offers a pause for reflection in this busy time and a warm glow to the darkness of impending winter. Furry friends are optional (and, of course, not recommended when the candles are lit!)

For resources and inspiration:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/>

### Items of Note:

**Nov. 8, 7 pm**

#### Remembrance Concert St. Ninian Cathedral

Featuring St. Ninian's Choir and Clan Thompson Pipe Band. Admission by goodwill offering, all proceeds toward restoration of the saint murals in the cathedral

**Nov. 11:**

#### Remembrance Day Feast of St. Martin of Tours

For those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and for those who have served or continue to serve our country in military service, we pray for and thank you. *St. Martin of Tours, patron of the Canadian Armed Forces, pray for us.*

**Nov. 17:**

#### Third World Day of the Poor

Poverty is a serious issue in developing countries and in Canada as well. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released *Poverty in Canada: Ensuring Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing* calling for collaboration of communities, parishes and governments to support those in need. For a copy of the statement:

[www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

**Nov.23, 10 am – 2 pm**

#### Singing the Liturgy St. Joseph, Port Hawkesbury

Choir and Cantor workshop with Rosemary McGhee on Liturgical Best Practices, Psalms, Mass Settings and more.