This Month in the Diocese

A Publication of the Diocese of Antigonish

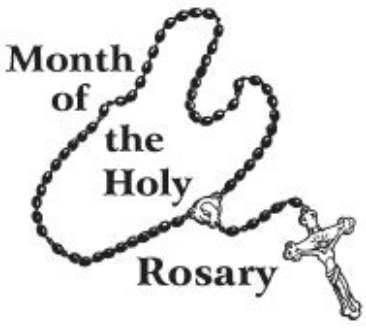
Vol. 7 Issue 2 **October 2021**

"Not Only On One Day, But Throughout The Year"

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick celebrated Mass on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pictou Landing.
In back, from left: Louise Sapier, Chief Andrea Paul, seminarian David Rankin, Anne Francis Muise, Katri Francis, Tonya Francis
In front, from left: Deacon Sander Burke, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, pastor Fr Tom MacNeil, Linda Francis, Martin Sapier, Shirley Francis and Bella Francis
For more on Truth and Reconciliation and M'ikmaq History Month, **see Page 3.**

5 Questions …

With Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick on the 26th Synod, that will be opened in our diocese on Oct. 17: **See Page 2**



October is Rosary Month

See more on **Page 3.**
Our diocese on behalf of Canada received an award from WorldPriest for the 2021 Global Rosary Relay: **See page 4**

Mass for Shut-Ins Resumes

New season begins Oct. 17, available to view on CTV and our diocesan YouTube channel.
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5 Questions: with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick on the 26th Synod.

On Oct. 10, Pope Francis will officially inaugurate the synod, and on Oct. 17, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will open the Synod in our diocese.
The Synod calls upon each diocese in the church around the world to engage its faithful in conversations about faith and our church past, present and future, culminating in the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome on October 2023.

1. What is a Synod?

Synod is a Greek word meaning assembly or meeting. Since the end of Second Vatican Council in 1965, there have been twenty-five synods. A synod is not a parliament, and the synodal process is not simply a matter of counting votes. In a synod, the point is listening and discerning the will of the Holy Spirit through the people who participate.

2. What is the purpose of a synod?

St. John XXIII speaking at Vatican II urged the participants to open the windows of the church. This lets in fresh air, but also allows you to hear what people outside and around you are saying. This is the point of a synod and the word synodality means the process of journeying together.

3. Why did Pope Francis call for a synod now?

Synodality – this process of journeying together - is a recurring theme for Pope Francis. He has stated many times that synodality is part of the very nature of the church and it is to be experienced at all levels of the church. We have had congresses in our diocese and we have various advisory councils in our diocese and parishes. This is all part of synodality, journeying together in faith.

4. What happens during the synod?

The theme of this upcoming Synod is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." There are three phases for this synod: diocesan, national and international. In our diocese we will open the synod with **Mass on Oct. 17, 3 pm at St. Ninian Cathedral**. The synod team will be commissioned at that time. During the diocesan phase, from October 2021 through January 2022, we will be consulting with as many people as possible from all parts of our diocese including the marginalized. We will be inviting people to respond to a questionnaire provided by the Vatican, via in-person conversations, virtual conversations and online survey. Those responses are then compiled into a report that goes to the Canadian Bishops for inclusion in the national report. The national report will become part of the continental report (Canada and US), then submitted to the Vatican for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

5. This seems like a lot of work … what will be gained?

The COVID pandemic has made us realize and appreciate the solidarity that we share with each other. Our actions have profound and real implications on one another. The synod is an opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through our people, and a way to ensure voices throughout the church are welcomed and heard. This is good for the church and for all of us.

To learn more and stay in touch with the synod process:
www.antigonishdiocese.com/synod2021/

October is Mi'kmaq History Month

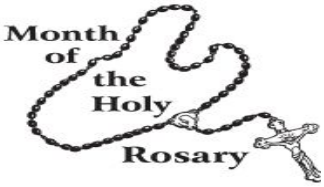
In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage. Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing the Mi'kmaw history takes place across Nova Scotia. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate. A list of events, as well as videos, posters and more are available here: https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/

Our diocese is located in M'ikmaki, stretching from the traditional districts of Piktuk: 'the explosive place' (Pictou County and its high-methane coal beds) to Unamakik: 'the foggy lands' (Cape Breton Island). Learn more of the history, culture and communities of M'ikmaki here: https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/mikmaq/

Our diocese has seven Mi'kmaw parishes and missions:
Holy Family, Eskasoni; **Our Lady of Perpetual Help,** Pictou Landing; **St. Anne**, Membertou; **St. Anne**, Paqtnkek; **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Chapel**, Potlotek; **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish,** Mary Queen of the World, Wagmatcook; Holy Trinity, Waycobah.
https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/mikmaw-parishes/

https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html

Truth and Reconciliation is not a single day but every day.
A new online resource on our diocesan website is part of an evolving plan to engage in and support individual and collective healing. Available now are resources for individual observance and learning, including free online courses and links to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final reports and recommended actions.
https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/truth-and-reconciliation/



Our Mi'kmaw Parishes page includes some prayers in both languages, and our Facebook page includes videos of the Rosary being prayed in Mi'kmaq and English (FB@antigonishdiocese, click on Videos)

Kuleyin Ma'li, sape'wuti'l waju'pinl, Kji-saqamaw tekweyask, e'pijik pajiji-wuleynik aq wele'k ta'n ktlamiluk weji-manit Se'sus. Pejili Sape'win Ma'li, wekwisin Westawu'lkw, nike'j alasutmelsewin, ejeleyek sa'q elue'wultiek aqq api's wikwia'tiek alasutmelsewitesnen.
(Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.)

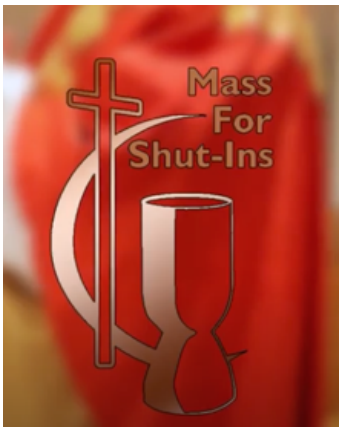
Kepmite'lmanej ta'n teluisit Wekwisit Niskam, aqq Ewujit Niskam, aqq Weji-wliNiskam.
Sa'q me'j tel-kepmite'lmus nantm wa'so'k tl-kepmite'lmanej.
(Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.)

Sept. 24: Hospice Cape Breton Officially Opens

Grand opening of the new hospice on Charles Herney Awti St., Sydney comes from years of dedicated community effort supporting the Hospice Palliative Care Society of Cape Breton Island. Hospice services are an important aspect of care for patients and their families facing end of life, and "is the compassionate and supportive response to suffering and dying." (https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide-Message-to-faithful-8-April-2021-EN.pdf)

To learn more: hospicecapebreton.org/, www.nshealth.ca/content/palliative-care

Canada was awarded the *Outstanding Participation and Promotion* award for the 2021 WorldPriest Global Rosary Relay (www.worldpriest.com) Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick accepted the award on behalf of Canada from Isabel Gillis, Worldpriest Representative for Canada and parishioner of St. NInian's, Antigonish. The presentation was made during a special Mass at the cathedral on the Feast of St. Ninian, Sept. 16.



Mass For Shut-Ins Resumes Oct. 17

Mass on Oct. 17 will air on CTV at **9:30 am for that week only.** The regular schedule of Sundays at 11:30 am resumes Oct. 24.

Mass can also be viewed on our diocesan YouTube Channel. Any group wanting to participate in taping is asked to contact Nick Vince, Mass for Shut-Ins Coordinator, 902-539-6188 or 1-800-656-5311 ext 222

Have photos or announcements to share? We want to hear from you!

We welcome your items and announcements for our monthly newsletter and Seven Ears of Grain that is emailed each Monday.

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