



# This Month in the Diocese

An E-Publication of the Diocese of Antigonish

Vol. 5 Issue 1

September 2019



## 175th Anniversary Holy Land Pilgrimage

Led by Bishop Brian Dunn

September 1-12, 2019

### Prayers, Photos and Pilgrims' Progress

Bishop Brian Dunn will lead a group of 35 pilgrims from our diocese and the Diocese of London, Ontario on 11 days of discovery in Tel Aviv, Tiberius, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. We invite pilgrims on the homefront to join us in our journey: visit Our Blog on [www.antigonishdiocese.com](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com) to pray for pilgrims from your parish and our group at large, submit prayer intentions, and follow our daily progress through maps and posts. Our pilgrims in the Holy Land will pray for a daily intention for our diocese as well as any personal intentions submitted. Stay in touch:

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/index.php/news-to-you/our-blog/161-holylandpilgrimage2019>



#### Five Questions

With Fr Bedford Doucette on what the diaconate means for candidates and our diocese **See Pg 2**

#### Living the Call

Our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary closing weekend Sept. 13-15 offers inspiration and time with friends and special guests. **See the 175<sup>th</sup> section on Pages 5 and 6.**

#### Spirit Award Winners

Congratulations to the communities of Potlotek and Glace Bay, recipients of the 2019 Lieutenant Governor's Spirit Awards. **See Pg 4**



**Five questions:** with Fr. Bedford Doucette, Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Antigonish. On **Sept. 20, 4 pm at St. Ninian Cathedral**, eight new deacons will be ordained, joining the 10 deacons currently in our diocese.

## 1. What is a deacon and what does he do?

A deacon is, first of all, one who experiences a call, a “nudge” from God through the Church to be in a certain relationship with God, the Church, the world, as well as his wife and family. A deacon is ordained into the Order of Deacons to be the sacramental sign of Christ the Servant. The deacon IS the effective sign of Christ’s care and love for the poor, the marginalized, the sick and dying, all those in need of any kind. From this identity his ministry is three-fold:

- 1) Ministry of Service: encouraged to spend 2/3 of their time in service to those in need.
- 2) Ministry of the Word: to live the Good News through the proclamation of the Gospel, religious formation of all ages, preaching on designated Sundays and events.
- 3) Ministry of the Altar: to assist the Community of Faith at celebrations of Eucharist

In our tradition, the Bishop and the deacon share a unique relationship so that the deacon is seen as the eyes, ears and hands of the caring ministry of the Bishop. It is the Bishop who appoints a deacon to a ministry of Service and to a liturgical base (parish).

## 2. What is involved in becoming a deacon?

A deacon’s process of discernment begins at Baptism in the context of his family and religious upbringing. At a certain point in his relationship with the Church, he inquires about Diaconate, has interviews for information and discernment towards a decision to apply. After acceptance as an “aspirant”, (one who aspires to diaconate), he is admitted to candidacy which is a continued discernment process wherein he studies theology, pastoral practice, spiritual direction and a mentored service ministry. With his spouse he continues for four years of one weekend a month with the group of candidates discerning their vocation.

## 3. What role does the deacon serve in our diocese, and will that change?

Deacons minister in nursing homes, hospitals, correctional centers, home visitation, palliative care, with seniors, catechetics, youth work, social justice issues, justice system, and whatever the bishop asks of him. Some deacons act on diocesan commissions. Roles could vary as the needs of people and the diocese change. Deacons are seen baptizing, marrying, burying, preaching, instructing, and part of a pastoral team Ministry.

## 4. Is the Ordination of Deacons on Sept. 20 something we can all celebrate?

By all means and enthusiastically, as this is a genuine diocesan celebration. These eight men will be ordained in the midst of the priests, deacons, religious, and parishioners of the Diocese who are most welcome and invited to see new life in the Church.

## 5. Are you accepting new candidates to the Diaconate?

We have no class for next year but are hoping that interested men will contact Fr. Bedford Doucette, Director of Deacons at [bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:bedford@dioceseofantigonish.ca) and 902-578-4375. If enough come forward we will form a class again. Please pray for our deacons!



**The new season of Mass for Shut-Ins will**

**begin Sunday, Oct. 20.** Priests, deacons, parishes, choirs and groups are needed to be part of the weekly televised Masses. Mass for Shut-ins first aired in 1963 and is now the longest running CTV television program in Canada. The program airs Sundays at 11:30 am, and is now available for on-demand viewing on the diocesan YouTube channel or via the Mass for Shut-Ins button on MyParish App. “ So many depend on this Mass for spiritual nourishment every week,” said producer Fr. Patrick O’Neill. “I receive so many letters thanking our diocese and volunteers for this Mass.”

Mass is broadcast live on Sundays or can be pre-taped the Tuesday before at 6:30pm at the CTV Studio on George Street, Sydney. For bookings please email or phone Mae Rowe at the Pastoral Centre (902-539-6188/1-800-656-5311 extension 222) [Mae@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:Mae@dioceseofantigonish.ca)

**Port Hood native elected Superior General in Ontario**

Sister Elizabeth Marie Cormier of the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate, formerly of Port Hood, was elected Superior General of the order in July 2019. The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate are a contemplative-active community founded in 1977 in the Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario. They were in Port Hood 1994-2010. Their charism in the church is to offer their lives, prayers and works to God for the growth and spread of the Catholic Faith through a Eucharistic and Marian spirituality. In response to the needs of the Church, the Sisters have as their apostolates the education of youth, particularly in the field of catechetics, and the care of the elderly and deprived.

<http://solisisters.ca>

News or photo to share? [Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca)



**Prayer Corner**

Please pray for:

**Our clergy and families**

- Including:
  - Fr. Paul Abbass**, who continues to have complications with his medications; he had a very positive report from an MRI, and has a good attitude.
  - Fr. George MacInnis**, who is dealing with health issues that affect his mobility
  - Fr. Martin MacDougall**, who has asked for our prayers
  - Darlene MacInnis**, sister-in-law of Fr. George MacInnis, who has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, stage 4
  - Elizabeth MacDougall** of Edgerton, niece of Deacon Art and Teresa Riley, who died at age 57 on August 23
  - Donald MacDougall**, brother-in-law of Fr. Dan J. MacDonald, who died Aug 24 in Ottawa

**Our Deacon Candidates**, who will be ordained Sept. 20:

- Shawn Bigley**, St. Anne, Glace Bay
- Fernand Boivin**, Stella Maris, Pictou
- Sander Burke**, St. Mary, Lismore
- David Lewis**, St. Joseph, North Sydney
- Duncan MacMaster**, Stella Maris, Inverness
- Barry Miller**, Stella Maris, Inverness
- Tom Sylliboy**, Holy Family, Eskasoni
- Henry vandeWiel**, St. Andrew, St. Andrews



## Community Spirit:

Glace Bay and Potlotek First Nation, Unama'ki/St. Peter's were among four Nova Scotia communities earning this year's Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

The award celebrates the power, strength and diversity of vibrant communities across the province.

"It is clear to me that there is a wonderful sense of pride and community cohesion that is reflected in this year's applications," said Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc.

For details on the winning applicants:

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/community-spirit-award>



## Celebrating Father Paul:

A Mass and reception honouring Fr Paul Abbass was held July 31 in St. Columba Church, Iona. Presider was Bishop Brian Dunn with St. Columba Pastor Fr. Varghese. Fr Paul was pastor of St. Columba and five other parishes in central Cape Breton prior to his retirement in June from pastoral ministry. He celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination this year.

## Items of Note:

### Job Opportunity Animator-Maritimes Development and Peace

The animator's mandate includes recruitment, animation (facilitation), training, and accompanying the members in his or her region.

**Application Deadline: Sept. 6**

For details and to apply:

<https://www.devp.org/en/jobs>

**Sept. 22, 3 pm**

**"Spread the Spirit on the Mira"**

**Camp Bretondean**

Ecumenical Worship Service

**Oct. 1**

**Treaty Day**

and start of

**Mi'kmaq History Month**

See history, events and more:

[mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/](http://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/)

**Oct. 2, 6:30 pm**

**Thanksgiving Dinner: Youth and Bishop Brian Dunn**

**Holy Family, Sydney Mines**

Youth and Young Adults are

invited to join us. **RSVP to**

[youthministry@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:youthministry@dioceseofantigonish.ca) by September 23

**Oct. 6**

**Farewell and Appreciation to Bishop Brian Dunn**

St. Ninian Cathedral,

Antigonish; Mass at 4 pm

followed by a reception in St.

Ninian Place.



# WELCOME, PILGRIMS!

Join us in person and in prayer  
for our 175th Anniversary

We are all pilgrims, called to be missionary disciples.

Be part of the celebrations and conversations that will help us explore near and far, in our worlds and within ourselves, our call and how we live it

Sept. 14

## Echoing the Good News

with Dr. Anne Jamieson

**Are you sharing your faith (or want to)  
with your children, grandchildren,  
students, and each other?**

**Then join us: Sept. 14, 9:30 am - 3 pm**

**St. Joseph's, Port Hawkesbury**

Followed by Mass at 4 pm with Bishop Brian Dunn  
and Apostolic Nuncio Luigi Bonazzi

**Free registration, hot lunch included**

To register, contact Debbie Aker:

catecheticalconsultant@dioceseofantigonish.ca  
ph 902-539-6188/1-800-656-5311 ext 226

Sept. 15

## Living the Call

**2 pm Learning Together to Live the Call**

Session and Dialogue with Dr. Anne Jamieson  
St. Ninian Place, Antigonish

**4 pm 175th Anniversary Closing Mass**

Presider: Bishop Brian Dunn

St. Ninian Cathedral, Antigonish

Mass will open with a procession of individuals bearing symbols and witness to the rich history and culture of our diocese. The symbols will be assembled in an artistic display at the front of the cathedral

**Reception with hot/cold buffet to follow**  
in St. Ninian Place

Sept. 1-12

## Holy Land Pilgrimage

Led by Bishop Brian Dunn

35 parishioners will journey to  
holy and historic sites in Israel.

**Join our pilgrimage  
from home via Our Blog:  
[www.antigonishdiocese.com](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com)**

Pray for our Pilgrims

Submit a Prayer Intention

Follow their Daily Progress

1844-2019

## Our History

On **September 22, 1844** the Roman Curia created our diocese. Its first seat was in Arichat, where St Francis Xavier University was founded in 1853. Early parishioners were the Mi'kmaq who had welcomed Jesuit missionaries to their shores, Acadians who had endured the Grand Dérangement, Irish fishermen and Highland Scots.

In 1886, the seat was moved to Antigonish and our diocese continued to grow, ministering in Latin America as well as supporting schools, media, and social programs here at home.

**Saint Ninian, Patron of our  
Diocese, Pray For Us**

Sept. 13

## Clergy Day

with Dr. Anne Jamieson

**Pray for our priests  
and deacons**

as they explore the theme

**Agents of Evangelization:**

Living it Out

and Calling it Forward

"The gifts you bring and the challenges you experience ... What it means to affirm, encourage and allow the lay faithful to take on their baptismal responsibility."

- Dr. Anne Jamieson



## Keynote Speaker Dr. Anne Jamieson

"I think your faith life isn't separate from your real life. It IS your life. Real life is laundry, kids, dog, work, groceries, church, everything. And God is in it with me. That's what I want to remind people. It's not a separate or new or other thing – it's the ground we're walking on."

Dr. Anne Jamieson is the Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario. She is an author, speaker, teacher, wife and mother, and a sometimes competitive baker. Anne and her husband, David live on the family farm with their four children, ages 14 to 24 – the 7th generation of the Jamieson family to live and work on the farm.



Our 175th Anniversary banners are on display now through Sept. 15 in St. Ninian Cathedral.

*"He gave, through the Holy Spirit, His only begotten Son to us via Baptism, the Holy Eucharist, and the Word of Our Faith and the Cross, through the clergy and laity, in Discipleship"*

- Yvette de Souza Muise, creator of the anniversary banners



Our 175th Anniversary Quilt is taking shape! Each parish in our diocese is represented by a handcrafted square. The quilt will be displayed at our events Sept. 13-15.



## Special Guest Most Rev. Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada

An Apostolic Nuncio is the personal representative of the Pope. We are pleased to host Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, as part of our closing celebrations to bring to our diocese the personal greetings of Pope Francis.

Besides his native Italian language, he speaks English, Spanish and French. He will offer the reflection at Evening Prayer at the Clergy Day on Sept. 13, and will offer the homily at Mass concluding our day on Sept. 14. He will concelebrate our anniversary closing Mass on Sept. 15 with Bishop Brian Dunn.



Visit our Anniversary 175 page under EVENTS at [www.antigonishdiocese.com](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com) or the 175 button on MyParish App