

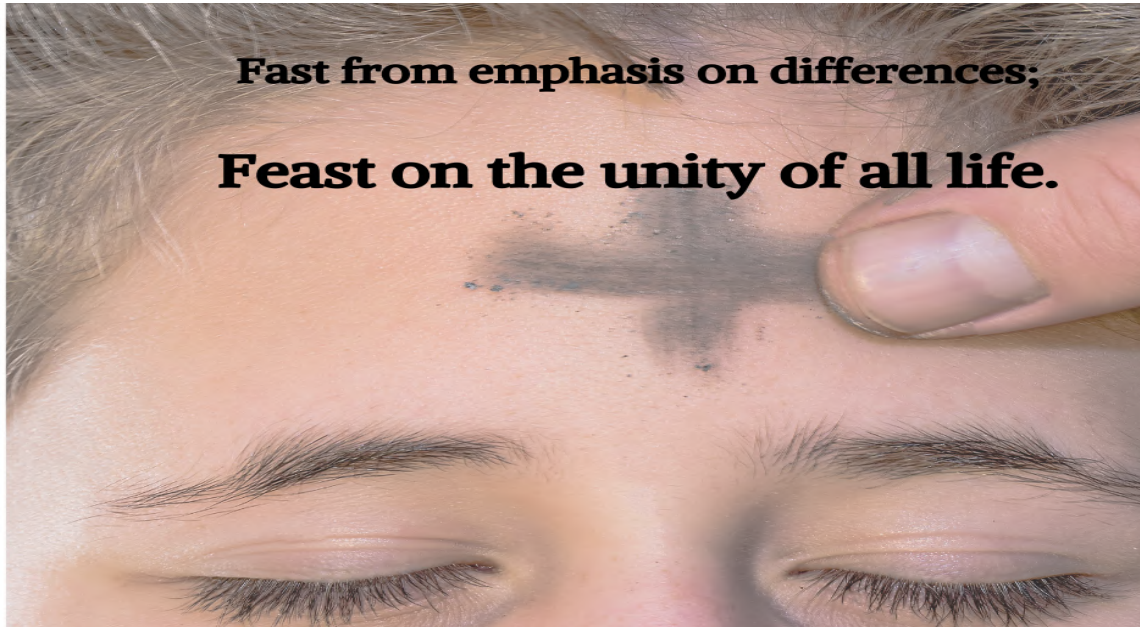


This Month in the Diocese

An E-Publication of the Diocese of Antigonish

Vol. 5 Issue 7

March 2020



**Fast from emphasis on differences;
Feast on the unity of all life.**

Fasting and Feasting this Season of Lent

A Lenten Litany being shared on our Facebook page and MyParish App is among the invitations for reflection and action this Lent. See more on Page 3.



Five Questions ...

On Corporal Works of Mercy and sharing stories from your parishes and communities:

See Pg 2



Warm Welcome

Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick was literally wrapped in the hospitality of the Island recently. **See Pg 4**



'Life as an inalienable right'

Canadian Bishops and Cardinal Collins express concerns and a call to action about the review of Bill C-7. **See Pg 4**



Five questions:

on Corporal Works of Mercy and how they bring us closer to God.

Our diocesan Year of Eucharist Committee is looking to **share the stories of those in our parishes and communities offering Corporal Works of Mercy in their daily lives.**

Do you have a story or suggestion for us? Read on, and submit by April 1:

1. What exactly are Corporal Works of Mercy?

The Corporal Works of Mercy are ways Jesus taught us to meet and support the basic needs of humanity, “and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise.” (USCCB). There are seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Give alms to the poor, Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, Visit the imprisoned, Bury the dead.

2. What do Corporal Works of Mercy look like in daily life?

Here are some examples.

Feed the hungry: volunteering at a soup kitchen or fundraising for the food bank

Give drink to the thirsty: conserve water in your home, buy a well for a developing village

Give alms to the poor: donate to Coats for Kids or Dress for Success or set up an exchange

Shelter the homeless: collect supplies for a local shelter, support programs for refugees

Visit the sick: Spend time with a neighbour, give blood, visit a homebound parishioner

Visit the imprisoned: Volunteer or fundraise for prison outreach or family charities

Bury the dead: Pray for the dead and their loved ones, volunteer with parish or community bereavement services

3. Where could I find someone who demonstrates Corporal Works of Mercy?

Our diocese and parishes have many ministries for sharing Corporal Works of Mercy: Youth Ministry, Mass for Shut-Ins, and sacramental preparation, to name a few. There are also the daily tasks often taken for granted: office administration, maintenance, snow shovelling (so important these past few months!), fundraising, home visiting. A small routine task offered frequently with devotion is as important as a long-standing volunteer commitment.

4. Why does the Year of Eucharist Committee want these stories?

We would like to share these stories in our diocesan newsletters, Facebook page and website to inspire us all in this Year of Eucharist and encourage our participation in the Eucharistic Congress on June 12-14, 2020 in Membertou, NS.

5. Who do I contact with questions and suggestions?

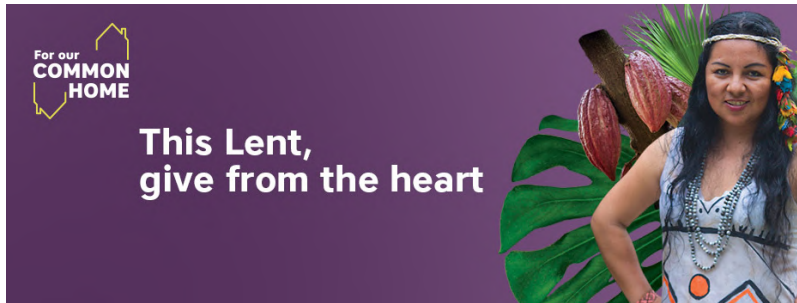
Contact Jennifer Hatt, Communications Officer, Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca



“What a refreshing Lent it would be if we would give up our early morning or nighttime grumpiness, our irritability and make Lent a journey of joy.”

See Bishop Kirkpatrick’s Lenten Letter:

<http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/index.php/news-to-you/upcoming-events/91-lent-2020>

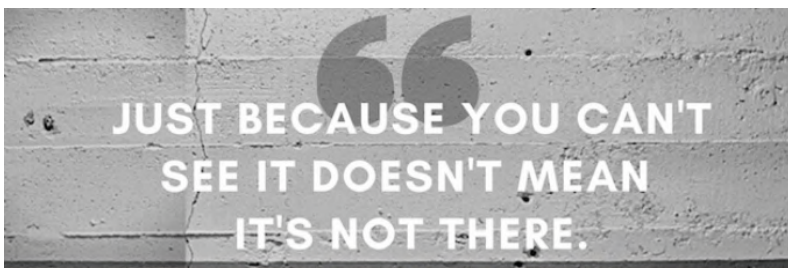


This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is encouraging us to support all those in the Amazon and the Global South who are caring for God’s creation. The Amazon is not ‘someone else’s concern’; the region is responsible for much of the world’s fresh air and water supplies, which makes it an essential concern for all of us.

All are invited to a Share Lent workshop and potluck March 21, 10 am- noon in St. Leonard Pastoral Centre, New Waterford.

RSVP to Winnie Odo, twinnieodo@seaside.ns.ca 902-862-2330. For Lenten resources in English and French, including an Amazon River board game:

<https://www.devp.org/en/lent/resources>



Do you have someone close to you with a mental health problem or illness? Families Matter in Mental Health is an 11-week education and support program for family and friends supporting someone with a mental illness or combined mental illness and addiction. Topics include information, problem solving, crisis management, coping strategies, self care and resources. Program is free of charge and runs until May 13, 5:30-7:30 pm in the Medical Arts Building. 336 Kings Rd., Sydney NS. Contact Dani@ssns.ca or call 1-844-948-0539

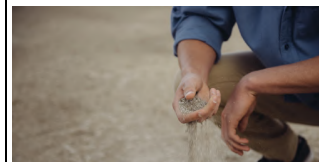


Loving and gracious God, source of all life, thank you for the Eucharist,

*the gift of the Body and Blood of your Son. As we receive and honour this gift, may we recognize and respond to you in word and deed. Through acts of mercy and service with everyone we encounter, may we be transformed as we prepare for our **Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on June 12-14, 2020.***

In communion with the Holy Spirit, may our love for the Eucharist grow as we respond to the spiritual renewal of our diocesan family.

*We ask this through Christ our Lord **Amen.***



PAUSE For Lent

Leader Guide
Participant Handout
Materials Checklist

Available on our website, including: **Bishop Barron on Catholics Misunderstanding the Eucharist**

Also available:

- Eucharistic Cross and 175th Anniversary Quilt schedule
- An introduction to **Babette’s Feast**, Pope Francis’ favourite movie



www.antigonishdiocese.com



Warm Welcome for Bishop Kirkpatrick:

Members of Holy Cross, Glace Bay brought gifts (including the Cape Breton Tartan scarf seen on Pg. 1) and greetings to our new bishop during his first visit to the Pastoral Centre following his installation Feb. 3. From left: Cathy MacInnis, Paul McPhee, Jacqueline Brake, Bishop Kirkpatrick, Father Norman MacPhee, Juliette Robello, Theresa Babstock, Gordon Baxter, and Helen Ann Burrows.



National Youth Conference:

Norma Blinkhorn and Anne Stubbart from our diocesan Youth Ministry networked with other youth directors at the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Director Days in Hamilton, ON in February. **Hope Comes Home** offered discussions and resources to engage and serve our youth. Young people are "Holy Ground": each young person's heart should be considered a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must "take off our shoes" in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the mystery".(CV.67) Participants were reminded of Jesus on the road of Emmaus: he asked questions, listened, taught and stayed with them and their hearts were on fire. Young people have many gifts and talents: invite them to use their gifts of music, mentoring, and advocacy.

Items of Note:



Chrism Mass: April 6, 4 pm
Holy Cross Church, Glace Bay
All are welcome to attend

Latin America Housing Project Back on Track

In late January, Wanda Fedora and Father Norman MacPhee traveled to Honduras and the new housing project for homeless families is back on track after a major delay due to difficulty with the contractor. Fifty houses are finished and ready for families and the church is about 50 % complete with administration offices and an entrepreneur area. The Latin America Committee also supports two projects for the Fatima House School for girls. See more on **Our Blog:** www.antigonishdiocese.com

Reaction to Bill C-7: Amendments to MAiD

"Canada has cast aside restrictions at a far quicker pace than any other jurisdiction in the world that has legalized euthanasia," said Cardinal Thomas Collins. In contrast, only 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative care. See his letter and the CCCB response on **Our Blog:** www.antigonishdiocese.com