

Basilica Parish good news

Vol 7, No. 3, Autumn, 2004

THE OPENING EUCHARIST



Father Earle presents a picture of the Basilica-Cathedral to one of the Parish Representatives.

Archbishop O'Brien urged his flock to forge a greater "sense of solidarity" with their church and people from other parishes. That was one of his key messages during a special Mass held at the historic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on September 9th past.

The Mass inaugurated a year of celebrations, with the motto, "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Go Forth." These celebrations will lead up to the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica, which was officially consecrated on September 9, 1855. The full text of Archbishop's homily is included in this issue.

The church was packed for the opening. Music Ministers came from all over the Archdioceses, with about

120 in the Massed Choir, and trumpets, flutes, clarinets, and saxophones added to the magnificent organ. During the celebration, Archbishop O'Brien presented representatives from the parishes in the Archdiocese with materials for the next year. He's hoping as many people as possible can get involved in the year-long event. He said there needs to be a greater awareness among parishioners that they have a duty for the Church's mission. "Not all the responsibility, not all the same responsibility, but a responsibility and privilege arising from baptism," he said.

A number of events are slated for the next year. The current information is in the Calendar of Cultural Events.



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Proclamation of Praise

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Rise up, Jerusalem, and come forth; the glory of God dawns upon you; over you God's splendour is revealed.

Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.

Today we honour those who brought the Gospel to our land: our mothers and fathers, apostles to their children – who kept alive in family a love of Christ and Church. Today we call to mind the hardship and toil that our ancestors accepted so freely, to raise on this Ground a wondrous house of God. Today we praise their steadfast faith that overcame the many trials and frustrations that blocked their path and caused them pain.

Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.

How good it is to praise the God who builds Jerusalem, who heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

Today we offer thanks for our fishers, farmers, and sealers, and all those valiant men and women who freely gave of their poverty to endow this building with riches. Today we honour their leaders, our

bishops, especially Bishop Fleming, who vision inspired this Church, and Bishop Mullock who completed it.

Today we voice praise for all who built this holy temple: architects and engineers, artists and construction workers; men, women, and children who toiled without wages; whose hands created a monument to God's glory.

Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.

Exult, Jerusalem, look about you and see; sons and daughters come from afar to nourish themselves at your altar, and spread your word throughout this land.

Today we recall the countless priests from our own island and throughout the world who served you in this temple, and who tended to your people night and day. Today we recognize the many religious orders who brought the light of Christ to these shores, and fanned it into a flame in the hearts of your people. Today we acknowledge the zealous missionaries who went forth from these shores, to bring the knowledge of Christ to far-off lands and so to share with others the blessings of this place.

Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.

Glad was I when they said to me:
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
And now, Jerusalem, our feet stand
within your gates.

Today we honour parishioners of times past, whose devoted efforts kept this house a noble building, and whose faithful worship made it sacred. Today we celebrate the parishioners of the present day, who gather within these walls as the Body of Christ, to voice to God their constant prayer of praise. Today we pray for parishioners yet to come, that they may ever discover in this hallowed space, the dwelling of God and the home of the Church.

In your midst, Jerusalem, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in the presence of God's people, we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.

Amen.

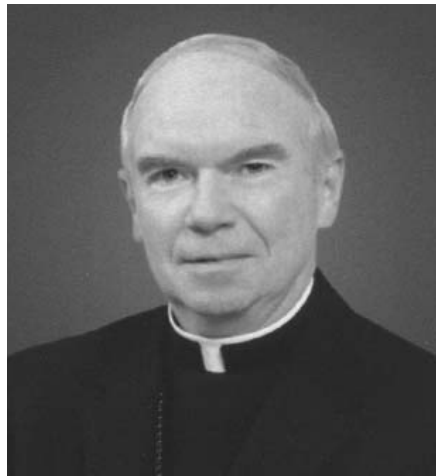
From the Archbishop

Homily delivered by Archbishop Brendan O'Brien at the Eucharist opening the year of celebration for the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

First of all, I would like to say how pleased I am to see so many gathered here for this Archdiocesan celebration. Your presence truly makes it a celebration of the local Church, that portion of the universal Church which has been entrusted to my pastoral care. Fortunately for you and for me, this is a responsibility which I share with many others: priests, religious, and laity, and for that, I am most thankful.

Today, we begin a year long celebration of the 150th anniversary of our Cathedral which was the great work of Bishop Fleming and completed during the episcopacy of Bishop Mullock. At the dedication of this Church in 1855, the sermon was preached by the Archbishop of New York, Archbishop John Hughes. He began by saying that "This is a Cathedral of which any city in Europe or of the world would be proud.....For richness of material and perfection of design, its altar is unrivaled on the Western side of the Atlantic Ocean." "Even as a public edifice - as a specimen of architecture, there is no city in the world which might not be proud of such a building as the Cathedral of St. John's."

But Archbishop Hughes recognized that the Cathedral was not only a fine architectural specimen; it was more than that. It was a monument to the faith of the people. Archbishop Hughes expressed it thus: "And by whom has this noble Cathedral been erected? By the fishermen of Newfoundland – by the hardy sons of toil, possessing little of this world's substance, but unspeakably rich in the



divine inheritance of the Catholic faith. It was they who cheered on the work from its commencement; it was they who, year after year, contributed liberally from their scanty earnings during its progress; and it is they who have the best right to exult in the triumphant completion of a great work begun and sustained throughout by the unwavering impulse which is derived from the spirit of faith."

A monument of beauty, a monument of faith, the Archbishop continued in this vein for some time (like another 12 pages). And then he said "And yet even this grand edifice, solid as it is, will perish. "But you", he said, dearly beloved brethren, are to be living stones in the everlasting temple which is not reared by human hands."



These excerpts from Archbishop Hughes' sermon I think serve as some reference points for our 150th anniversary celebrations.

This year will afford many opportunities for us to appreciate the rich architectural and artistic treasure which this Cathedral-Basilica truly is. We hope to be able to make some significant progress on its restoration by replacing the roof on the ambulatories and by completing the west tower. As well, a number of historical and cultural events are planned throughout the year to highlight this aspect of our celebration.

But no matter how grand or noble or historic a church building is, it does not exist for itself. It exists in relationship to the faith community for it is a gathering place for the assembly, a place of encounter with God and a point of departure on the Church's unfinished journey toward the reign of God.

This is what St. Paul emphasizes in this evening's reading from Ephesians. Just as a church building is fashioned out of many stones which have to be brought together and assembled, so the Church, God's people, are living stones which form a living temple that is animated by God's life-giving Spirit, and built upon the apostles and prophets with Christ as the cornerstone.

This passage is a very beautiful one and deserves further reflection, but in its eloquence it also conceals a difficult task. Building a church out of people is much more difficult than building a church out of stone. Stones

have nothing to say about how they are shaped or where they will be set. Nothing to say about which stone each will support or by which it will be supported. Building stones simply fulfill the design of the architect and placement of the worker.

A living temple is harder to build. Living stones have everything to say about how they will commit themselves to being church, about where they want to be placed, and who they will support. A church made of people can be quite fragile; it may not succumb to earthquake or fire but it can know the ravages of sin, scandal, abuse and division.

For this reason, building a living temple cannot simply be a human endeavour; it will only be successful if it is a work of the Spirit, one that is solidly anchored in the faith of the apostles and prophets, and is being joined together in Christ.

The occasion of this significant anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral is an opportunity for all of us throughout the Archdiocese, to reflect on how we make up that living temple. For in celebrating the dedication of the cathedral church we are celebrating more than a parish event. The cathedral, as the seat of the bishop, is a sign of that unity of faith to which believers are called and which the bishop proclaims as the chief shepherd of the flock. To give expression to this oneness in faith to which we are called, this evening, representatives from each parish will receive banners similar to those you see, which I hope will be displayed in each parish and mission church of the Archdiocese as a reminder not only of the historical but the spiritual connection which Catholics in the Archdiocese have with the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

Symbols, however, can only be meaningful if they express something that is real and that is felt. A flag without

patriotism or love for one's country is an empty symbol. So too will be these banners if certain convictions and sentiments are absent.

It would be my hope that during this anniversary year we will find ways to think and act upon three things.

The first is to put into our own words the mission of the Church. Why does the Church exist? Who are we? Like many institutions of our society, the Church's frailty and weaknesses have been exposed, but as real and painful as this is, we know there is more to the Church than that. The Church is called to be Christ's Spirit-filled body, a priestly people, who bring the world into contact with God and bring God's love and care to the world. What can we do this year to reinforce this understanding in our parish communities and identify some signs of how we are cooperating with the great work of God to bring about a Kingdom of justice, peace, truth and love?

The second thing I would like to see happen during this anniversary year would be a greater awareness by all members of the church that each of us has a vocation, a call to take some responsibility for the church's mission. Not all the responsibility, not all the same responsibility, but a responsibility and a privilege arising from baptism. For some, this may mean taking an active role in the functioning of their parish but certainly for all there is the work of witness-to witness to Christian values in our families, our communities, and our places of work. In the first days of October, we will be having a weekend devoted to this topic, to which each parish has been invited to send representatives.

The final and last thing which I would like to see happen during this anniversary year is a greater sense of solidarity or communion. We must learn how to share ministry better between clergy and laity; also, while

being proud of our own parish, to be open to working with other parishes, to see ourselves as part of the bigger mission of the Church which requires communication at the local, regional, and archdiocesan level. We are awaiting the final report of the Archdiocesan Planning Committee. Whatever will be recommended will only succeed if there is a spirit of communion among the parishioners and the communities in the Archdiocese.

So mission, vocation, communion – these are some goals which I want to pursue and celebrate during this anniversary year. May God bless you in all that you are doing to be living stones in that Temple whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.



Archbishop of St. John's
September 9, 2004

good news is published four times a year by the Basilica Parish of St. John the Baptist, 200 Military Road, St. John's, NL A1C 2E8, and is distributed free of charge. The cost of production is covered by the generosity of sponsors.

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Note: Please include your name and a telephone number where you can be reached. Anonymous submissions will be discarded, but when requested and appropriate, we will allow a pseudonym to be used, if the letter, comment, or article, is published.



Description of the Basilica 150th Anniversary Logo

Colours - The colours of white, red, blue, and gold are taken from the colours on the shield of the Archdiocese.

White - represents resurrection and eternal life.

Red - represents the Passion and Death of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Pentecost, and the Martyrdom of John the Baptist.

Blue - represents the importance of the sea to our history and our way of life, and our devotion to Mary, the Mother of God.

Gold - represents the hope of a bright future.

The Basilica - stands in the center of our logo, representing 150 years of God's people gathered in worship.

The Lily - symbolic of Easter and Resurrection - reminds us of the healing redemptive power of Christ, and of new life.

The Circular Design - reminds us of God, who had no beginning and no end, and of the call to live as a Gospel community.

The Theme for the Anniversary - We Remember, We Celebrate, We Go Forth

Photo - Courtesy of Frank Kennedy.

The Logo banners are located near the First and Fourteenth Stations.

Copies have been given to all the parishes of the Archdiocese.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

on the 150th Anniversary of the Basilica-Cathedral Dedication

God of all ages,
we praise and thank you for the gift of your Spirit,
who guided our ancestors in the way of faith
and sustained them in time of hardship.
May the same Spirit lead and direct us,
as we prepare to meet the challenges before us.

Renew the grace of our Baptism and fan into a flame
the spark of faith in our hearts
so that we may live out our Baptismal call,
and serve the needs of the people of our Archdiocese
today and tomorrow.

May our parishes grow as communities of prayer
and as signs of the justice and love of your
Kingdom.

Creator of all, we praise You,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

for Two Preservation Projects with Roman Catholic Historical Connections

The Newfoundland Historic Trust presented Southcott Awards to two architectural heritage restoration projects that have a significant historical connection to the Roman Catholic Church in the province. The two projects are Beaconsfield and the Mullock Hall Chapel.

Beaconsfield – now known as Bishop's Gate Condominiums – St. John's, is in the gothic cottage style and sits charmingly in its Topsail Road, Waterford Valley location. The property on which

it sits was the country estate of Prime Minister of Newfoundland (1861-1865) Hugh Hoyles.

It was later purchased by the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Edward Morris, and then the Roman Catholic Church. It was home to Archbishop Edward Patrick Roche, Archbishop Patrick J. Skinner, Archbishop Alphonsus L. Penney and Archbishop James H. MacDonald.

Gerard and Doris Edwards purchased Beaconsfield in 2001 and sensitively

developed it as a planned unit, in a manner befitting an important historic property.

The Mullock Hall Chapel, St.

Bonaventure's College, St. John's, was a project completed by the staff and volunteers of the school. The extensive restoration project on the circa 1907 chapel was completed in 2002 with excellent results. Assisted by archival photographs, their work was complete with creative reproduction of the original stained glass windows. Artist Gerald Squires donated a series of sculptures of the Canadian Jesuit Martyrs, and drafting and electrical design services were donated by Sean Kavanagh and Don Finch, respectively. The recipient of the award is the St. Bonaventure's College/the Catholic Jesuit School Trust Inc.

The Newfoundland Historic Trust is a volunteer-driven, charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of all forms of architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador, linking social and preservation concerns. The Trust developed the Southcott Awards program in 1984 to commend the good work of individuals, organizations, corporations and governments in the province.

The Southcott Awards are named for one of the most important nineteenth century Newfoundland building firms: J. and J.T. Southcott. J.T.'s architect son John (1853-1939) made his mark with the Second Empire design style of the Southcott properties at Park Place on Rennie's Mill Road, St. John's. This "Southcott style" was prominent in the rebuilding that followed the Great Fire of 1892 and spread throughout the colony.

The awards were presented during a ceremony on Friday, June 25th at St. John's City Hall's E.B. Foran Room.

Book Review

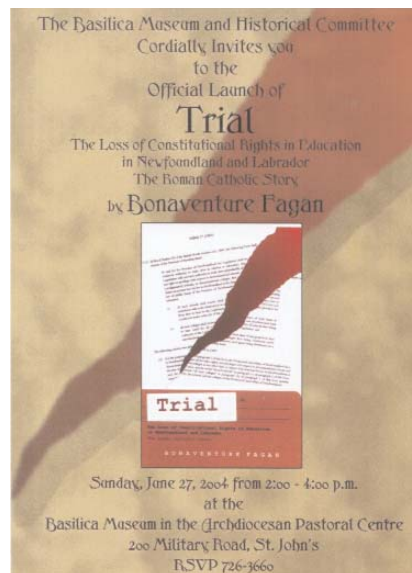
Trial: The Loss of Constitutional Rights in Education in Newfoundland and Labrador

Sunday, June 27 at the Basilica Museum, was the launch for Bonaventure Fagan's book, "Trial: The Loss of Constitutional Rights in Education in Newfoundland and Labrador." Subtitled, "The Roman Catholic Story," it documents the turbulent and divisive process of educational reform which took place throughout the nineties in Newfoundland and Labrador; resulting in the loss of denominational minority rights in education.

As the subtitle indicates, this is a chronicle of the Roman Catholic's participation within the educational reform process; particularly documenting their position with government and the subsequent legal battles. As stated by the author in the Forward, "(This is the story) from the perspective of the Catholic Education Council and Roman Catholic Education Committee.

Others will no doubt tell their story and indeed some will attempt to tell "the whole story" with varying degrees of accuracy."

But as the author goes on to say, "this is not a story of bitterness or despair. It is a story that contains many lessons for those who hold and cherish minority rights, whether in education or anything else. It is a story that should not be forgotten nor ever repeated again."



SANCTUARY

By Art Babych

OTTAWA (CCN) - Eight Canadian church leaders including Archbishop Brendan O'Brien, the president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, agree with Immigration Minister Judy Sgro that the practice of providing sanctuary in churches is not a solution to people threatened with deportation.

But the leaders - who represent about 18 million Canadians - say the solution is in having a refugee determination system that is "just, open, expeditious, and treats people equally."

They asked to meet with Sgro in September to discuss the issue. The minister recently said the churches must stop providing sanctuary to people in Canada illegally because they could be harboring criminals and terrorists.

In a letter to Sgro, organized by Kairos, a Canadian ecumenical justice coalition, the church leaders noted that the United Church of Canada had received a call from Sgro's office offering a meeting with church leaders.

"All of us, as members of Kairos, would be pleased to work with you to find a date in the coming weeks, and to clarify an agenda that reflects our shared commitment to refugee protection," stated the letter, sent August 13.

Several church and refugee rights leaders said at a news conference in Toronto August 4 that they won't close their doors to refugees threatened with deportation until the appeal process is reformed.

But Sgro prefers to review cases brought to her attention by church leaders on a case by case basis. "I will

look at the case to make sure that it was completely reviewed properly and effectively and if I think that there is a need for an intervention, I will intervene as the minister," she recently said.

In their letter, the church leaders encouraged Sgro to implement the refugee appeal process that was included in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act passed by our Parliament in 2001.

They also urged her to reassure Canadians that the Canadian government does not consider refugees to be a security threat. "In fact, Canada's efforts to embrace refugees are in the interests of both Canadian and global human security. Canada enhances human security by abiding by its international commitment to accept all asylum-seekers who have a well-founded fear of persecution."

The letter called on Sgro to bolster the overseas sponsorship system so that applications can be processed "in a more reasonable time."

Of about six churches across Canada currently providing sanctuary to refugees, only one involves a Catholic parish. Three Palestinians have been holed up in Notre-Dame-de Grace Church in Montreal since Jan. 30, fearing for their safety if deported to a refugee camp in Lebanon.

In Ottawa, a rally set for August 19 in support of refugee Samsu Mia was cancelled after Sgro agreed to review his file. Mia has been in sanctuary at the Unitarian Church in Ottawa since July 3, 2003.

History of the Picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel



At the third National Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada in June 1923, Our Lady of Good Counsel was chosen as its Patroness. Before Vatican II, the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated on April 26. When this and many other special feasts were deleted from the Liturgical Calendar, Saturdays were set aside for Votive Masses in honour of the Blessed Mother.

Councils that make up the League are also encouraged to honour our Patroness on or near April 26. The picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel is to be prominently displayed at all meetings of the Catholic Women's League.

The picture was unveiled at the opening of the Augustinian Church in the small village of Gennazzano, near Rome, on April 26, 1467. It was probably painted by Antonio Viviani, an illustrious painter of the Veronese school of art, in the early 15th century.

The original picture of the Mother and Child is painted on light plaster 18" x 15". It was brilliant and brightly coloured, the faces simple, pure, compassionate, and devotional.

In the five centuries since it was unveiled in 1467, it has seen miracles, pilgrimages of Popes and saints, and visits of the faithful all over the world.

Bishop Mullock and the Building of the Basilica

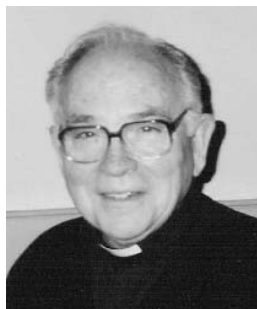
By Brother J.B. Darcy



Most Catholic people in St. John's are aware of the dominant role which Bishop Fleming played in the building of the Basilica, but fewer probably know of the crucial part which Bishop Mullock also played in its completion. When Bishop Fleming said the first Mass in the Cathedral in January, 1850, the building was but an empty shell, the interior incomplete, barren of any ornamentation. It was the task of Bishop Mullock in the following five years, not only to complete it, but to adorn it with the magnificent works of art in which it now glories.

Almost as soon as he arrived in Newfoundland in 1848 as Bishop Fleming's coadjutor, Bishop Mullock took over the main responsibility for the structure. Bishop Fleming, indeed, made one abortive attempt to meet the sculptors in England and Ireland but illness forced him to return prematurely. To pacify him, for he was now in the terminal stages of his final illness, Bishop Mullock immediately set off for England to make the needed arrangements.

As soon as Bishop Fleming died in July 1850, Bishop Mullock closed the Cathedral again. He had discovered that the entire roof needed to be



replaced - Bishop

Fleming's impatience had forced the builders to provide inadequate supports. While the new roof was being completed, Bishop Mullock engaged in a whirl-wind of activities.

Returning to Europe, he ordered magnificent statuary: the life-size figures of the four evangelists high up on the corners of the apse, the statues of various saints at each angle of the ambulatories, the beautiful stations of the cross, the larger-than-life-size statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Francis for the side altars. (The statue of St. Francis has since been placed in front of the Cathedral and replaced by a statue of the Sacred Heart.) All these but provide a background for the prized masterpieces: the main altar, which he claimed to be the most magnificent in the New World, and which housed The Baptism of Christ by Carew, now unfortunately destroyed, and the Dead Christ by Hogan. Together with these he purchased a mighty organ, again the best to be found in North America, and brought over his brother, Thomas, from Ireland to act as organist.

As if this were not enough, he was engaged, at the same time, in building the convent and school for the Presentation Sisters in Cathedral Square, a new residence for himself and his priests next to the Cathedral, and St. Bonaventure's College for which also he had to obtain a suitable staff.

To the Presentation Sisters, through his own sister, Sr. M. Magdalen de Pazzi, he presented that wonderful work of art, the Veiled Virgin. For all these institutions, he provided large paintings, copies of the greatest masters.

All this, of course, had to be paid for, and he devised ingenious means of

doing so, chief among which was the fishermen's catch on major feastsdays.

The result of all this effort was that when the Consecration of the Cathedral took place on September 9, 1855, not only was all completed and in place but all was paid for. No wonder that when he consulted his doctors in Ireland, complaining of ill health, he was told that there was nothing physically wrong with him but that he was simply suffering from exhaustion.

Many Supporters

Our Newsletter is made possible by the generous financial support of our sponsors – one per issue. See the back cover to find out who is helping with this issue. In addition, our Sunday Bulletin is supported by advertisements. They support us . . . we suggest that you support them.

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Note from the Pastor

Ongoing Projects

1. The flooring of the Basilica is now finished. Donations to date range in the \$35,000 range. The total for the project is \$65,000. Thank you for your continued support in contributing to its payment. If you are able to make a donation, place it in an ordinary envelope marked 'Carpeting,' and drop your offering in the Sunday Collection. Again thanks for your generosity.
2. The kneelers continue to be refurbished. The padding and vinyl are being replaced. We hope to finish the project by November.
3. The broken marble in the porch of the Basilica is being replaced.
4. We have a new Religious Article Store at the entrance to the Basilica. We hope to increase the hours of operation as time goes on. The Store is located in the west front entrance.



5. Some plastering work has been completed in the Ambulatories and around the windows. There is still some further work to be done.

6. Photos of the five Bishops buried in the Crypt have been placed on the wall with a short description of each

Bishop. This will help visitors to the Crypt identify these former leaders of our local church.

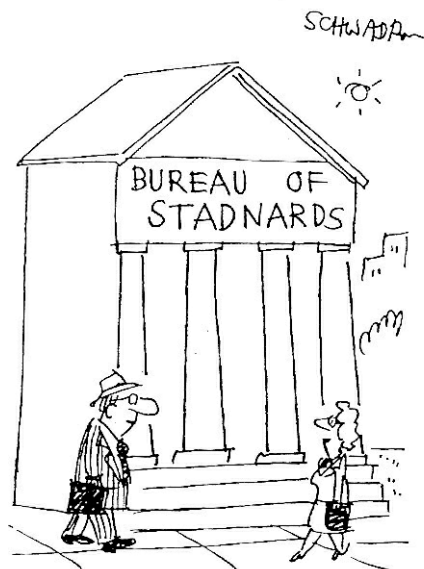
7. A group of volunteers are planning to give a facelift to the Parish Room. We hope to put in a small kitchenette, put down laminate flooring, and paint the room. Thanks to the volunteers!

Sacristan Coordinator

I am still working on getting a Sacristan coordinator. Traditionally this position has been held by one of the Presentation Sisters. Frank Doyle continues to be the interim coordinator and a special word of gratitude is expressed to Frank and all the Sacristans for your patience.

"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we will engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity."

— Noah Webster
(1758-1843),
American lexicographer



LATE BREAKING NEWS

Youth Ministry

The Archdiocese has a new Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

Linda Maher has been working at St. Teresa's Parish for the past three and a half years, doing family catechesis, sacramental preparation, and youth ministry.

The Archdiocesan Coordinator of Youth Ministry is a part-time appointment, and she will be dividing her time between the Pastoral Centre and St. Teresa's. You can usually reach Linda at the Pastoral Centre on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and all day Friday. The phone number is 726-3660, or you can contact her by e-mail at youth.centre@nf.aibn.com

Up-coming youth activities:

Christian Vocation Conference. October 1 to 3, 2004 - St. Peter's Parish, Mount Pearl. One of Archbishop O'Brien's special objectives for the 150th Anniversary Year.

YC 2004. October 8 to 10, 2004 - Gander. Approximately 3000 youths age 11 and up, from all over the province. Ecumenical.

CHALLENGE YOUTH. October 22 and 23, 2004 - Mercy Centre for Ecology & Justice. Youth discussing and dialoguing on ecology and justice issues. Planning strategies . . . planning action!

WYD 2005. August 10 to 22, 2005 - Cologne, Germany. It's time to register now. Parish Representatives will be contacted shortly about a meeting to begin spiritual preparation for this pilgrimage.

Please contact Linda to register, or for details of any of these events.

The Patrons of the Basilica

On September 9, 1855, the Cathedral and Mother Church of Newfoundland was Consecrated in honour of the Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, and St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis of Assisi

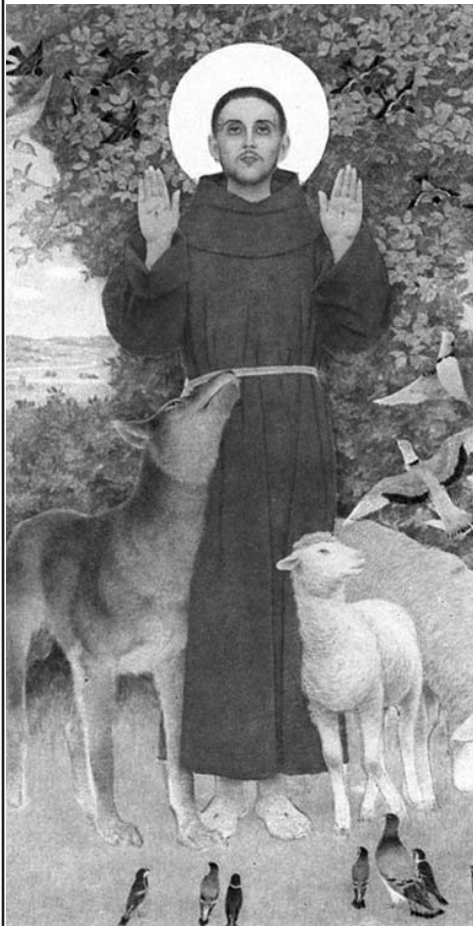
The choice of St. Francis of Assisi as one of the Patrons of the Cathedral would seem a necessity from the early connection of the Catholic Church in Newfoundland with the Franciscan Order. The first five Bishops of Newfoundland were all members of the Franciscan Minors of Ireland. Even long before Bishop James Louis O'Donel, O.F.M., became first Vicar-Apostolic and Bishop in 1796, in 1689 the Franciscans had introduced the practice of the Catholic Faith into Newfoundland by their foundation at Placentia. In 1857 a Franciscan Friar became the first President of St. Bonaventure's College. He subsequently was appointed as the second Bishop of Harbour Grace – Bishop Henry Carfagnini – 1870-1880.

The primitive simplicity, the poverty of material resources, the humility, charity and apostolic zeal of the early Franciscan pioneers of the Catholic Church in Newfoundland maintained the spirit of St. Francis.

In his first rule given to his followers in 1207, he merely inculcated the Gospel precepts and counsels in all their literal unworldliness.

The sacred remains of the Franciscan prelates interred in the Sanctuary of the Basilica are part of the foundation of this great edifice.

In our next issue . . . **Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception**



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Parents who requested the Sacrament of First Eucharist and Confirmation for their children this past year received sacramental preparation through the Home Based Catechesis Program using the Born of the Spirit Series (BOSS). Twenty-nine children received First Eucharist, fifty-eight received Confirmation, and about twenty made First Reconciliation. They began preparation in Advent and received the Sacraments during the Easter Season.

Baptism preparation is offered about five times throughout the year - January, March, May, September and November. Each preparation consists of three sessions which take place on three consecutive Wednesday evenings. Parents are given a booklet **Your Child's Baptism**, published by Novalis. Most of our group work is based on questions from this booklet. The Baptism team is comprised of Father Ray and six team members. We ask parents to register for preparation through the parish office. We encourage expectant parents to register early in their pregnancy. Early registration gives them the opportunity to have the baptism soon after the birth of their child.

When we receive a baptism request, we make arrangements for a home visit with the parents at their convenience. During the visit, we explain our parish policy and fill out the baptism form. We also bring them a pamphlet on Baptism, a census form, and a parish bulletin. Beginning this September, parents requesting baptism for their children are asked to give a stipend of \$20.00 to the parish. This request came from the Archbishop's Office and applies to all the parishes in the Archdiocese.

Over the past year we have celebrated about twenty-five baptisms. Parents have remarked to us how they have a better understanding of baptism since they did the preparation, and they feel more prepared for the responsibility of bringing up their child in the Catholic faith.

The Basilica Scaffolding

Hallelujah! The scaffolding is coming down! And it must be true because the Archbishop said so.

News from Archbishop O'Brien's Desk: "The Basilica Restoration Committee have informed me that they are planning to commence work on the West Tower. Final details are being worked out and some Occupational Health and Safety concerns have to be addressed, however the committee members are very confident that this work can be com-

pleted by August 2005, and the scaffolding will finally be removed."

Our Bishop has never seen the Basilica without the West Tower covered in scaffolding. None of our children has seen the Basilica scaffolding-free. Many people can't remember what the place looks like without the 'web of steel.' It has even been suggested that we have 'heritage' scaffolding!

It was in 1987 that it first went up. If it actually comes down in 2005, that will be eighteen years. It was only fourteen years from the time construction started on the great new cathedral, until the dedication! Maybe we should have had the farmers, fishers, and sealers back from 150 years ago.

To finish the Archbishop's News: "I'm sure you will agree that this is very good news, especially as we begin the celebrations for the 150th anniversary year." And yes, we do agree. For sure!



CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

Did you know . . .

About one out of every sixteen people in Newfoundland and Labrador is an active blood donor – the highest donation rate in Canada.

In addition, the Canadian Blood Service has about 500 volunteers in the province, as well as a variety of community groups and businesses that help with clinics.

But the need for blood continues to rise quickly. If you are a donor, consider inviting a non-donor to join you. Offer to take that person along the next time you visit a donor clinic. You'll be helping to make sure there's enough blood for patients, while making your own donation experience a little friendlier.

If you're not a donor yet, it's time to get with the programme!

Canadian Blood Services Permanent Clinic at 7 Wicklow Street is open Monday to Thursday 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Several convenient mobile clinics are also held in the St. John's area, please visit a clinic near you soon. Appointments are available but you are welcome to walk-in to any clinic at your convenience. For further information or to book an appointment call 1 888 2 DONATE (1 888 236-6283).

The 7th Book of Remembrance

Veterans Affairs Canada is asking Canadians to help create a seventh Book of Remembrance that will recognize members of the Canadian Forces who have died since October 1, 1947. The book will honour members who have died as a result of service to their country but whose names are not already included in the Book of Remembrance that pays tribute to those who died as a result of service in the Korean War. In the Service of Canada — the Seventh Book of Remembrance will be located in the Peace Tower in Ottawa where Canada's six other Books of Remembrance are located. If you know someone who should be included in the new Book of Remembrance, please let us know the name of the member, the member's service number, and when the member died. You can e-mail this information to commemoration@vac-acc.gc.ca or write to us at:

Veterans Affairs Canada
Canada Remembers, Seventh Book of Remembrance Project
12th Floor, Room 1208
66 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P4

Q & A

Submit your questions

Drop them off at the Basilica Office or email them
basilicanewsletter@nf.aibn.com

Q Some of my friends genuflect when they come into the church, others bow, and others do nothing. Are there any guidelines on this?

A The following is taken from an article in *Ministry and Liturgy*, November 2003, by Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo. Fr. Turner holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says very little about how Catholics should enter the church. However, many Catholics typically perform a series of rituals. They may greet people. They may dip their hand in holy water and make the sign of the cross. They may approach the pew where they will sit and genuflect. They may kneel for a few moments. In fact, many Catholics do all this even when they arrive late for the liturgy. Most of these particular rituals have derived from custom rather than from law.

Of all these gestures, the Instruction makes only some brief comments about the respect shown the altar and the tabernacle. If the tabernacle is in the sanctuary, the ministers genuflect to it at the beginning and the end of Mass, but not during it. "Otherwise, all who pass before the Most Blessed Sacrament genuflect, unless they are moving in procession: (274) "A bow

of the body, that is to say a profound bow, is made to the altar." (275)

Therefore, to answer the above question, on entering the church, Catholics should either genuflect or bow. They genuflect to the tabernacle if it is in the sanctuary. If it is not, they make a bow of the body toward the altar before taking their place.

Q Why does it take so long between readings at Mass. It seems to lengthen the mass unnecessarily, and we sometimes wonder if the reader or cantor has forgotten what to do.

A The Constitution on Sacred Liturgy states: Sacred silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its purpose, however, depends on the time it occurs in each part of the celebration. At the conclusion of a reading or the homily, all meditate briefly on what has been heard. After the conclusion of the Communion procession, silence is observed so that the people may give thanks and praise while praying to God in their hearts. (#45) Lawrence Mick, a theologian reflecting on the new General Instruction to the Roman Missal says " taking these directives seriously and allowing enough time for real silence to take hold would do much to help the assembly experience a deeper sense of prayer and a greater awareness of the divine mystery."

Q We wanted to use recorded music at a family wedding. Why was this not allowed?

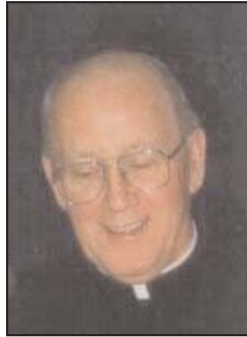
A Music at Catholic worship is meant to be the lived music of the gathered assembly. Recorded music is inappropriate because it impedes the active participation of that assembly. In 1958, the Congregation of Rites excluded from worship musical instruments "operated mechanically or automatically." It absolutely forbade recorded music "to replace or support the singing at a liturgy." (Instruction 60,71)

The Instruction stressed the importance of the holy people of God praying, singing, and playing their own music in faith. Our liturgical celebrations – including marriage liturgies – are community celebrations. The music to support these communal celebrations is meant to come from the community itself. The use of live instruments and parish music ministers is always preferred. The community's sung prayer, as experienced Sunday after Sunday, and lead by the parish music ministers, will always better express the emotion of the human heart and soul. Music ministry is meant to help the gathered assembly to experience their God. What we are about is prayer – not performance.

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

A Brief Reflection on the Importance of Church Archives

In recent years the work of conserving and caring for the patrimony of the Church has taken on a new importance. I would attribute this to Pope John Paul II, who has spoken on several occasions about



the different projects that may be brought forward for action.

Conserving and caring for the Church's historical documents and artifacts is a responsibility that exists at all levels in the

duty that is ours to conserve the cultural goods of the Church for future generations. His crowning interest in this respect came March 25, 1993, in his *Motu Proprio*, : *Inde a Pontificatus Nostri initio*, when he established the Pontifical Council for the Cultural Goods of the Church, with a President, Secretary and permanent staff. Assisting in the work of the Pontifical Commission are two groups: one consists of Cardinals and Bishops, called members; the other chosen from the clergy, religious and laity from around the world, called consultants. All are appointed by the Holy Father.

Church, at the parish level, at the national level, and at the level of the Vatican. I urge all entrusted with the care of archival materials to take their responsibility seriously. Those things which we carefully conserve are for the use of future generations. Whatever we neglect to conserve, we lose, never to be recovered.

Historical documents and artifacts have a story to tell that may become very useful information for those entrusted with the mission of the Church in the 21st century. First hand knowledge acquired from researching such materials will inform them on how the Church has carried out her mandate in the past. In that history we will discover both successes and failures. With this knowledge future generations will be able to build on the successes, and avoid repeating earlier mistakes, particularly in the Church's worship, in catechesis, and in her works of charity.

Monsignor Francis A. Coady, P.H. Archivist

In June 2002, I was appointed by Pope John Paul II as a consultant to the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church for a term of five years. In the area of competency, it belongs to the Pontifical Commission for the safeguarding and development of the Church's patrimony. The work of the *members* and the *consultants* is to offer advice to the President of the Commission on

Sister Elizabeth Davis named to Order of Canada



July 29, 2004 – OTTAWA - Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, announced the appointment to the Order of Canada, of Sister Elizabeth Davis, R.S.M. Recipients will be invited to accept their insignia at a ceremony to be held at a later date.

On the recommendation of the Order of Canada Advisory Council, the Governor General said that "Sister Elizabeth is an inspiring leader and conciliator whose contributions speak to her dedication and determination."

Elizabeth Davis is the former executive director of St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and former chief executive officer of the Health Care Corporation of St. John's, where she deftly and compassionately led the amalgamation of six institutions into one. She shared her skills and emphasized values and ethics as a lecturer at Dalhousie and Memorial universities. In addition, she has a long history as a committed and active volunteer.

Ministry Sign-Up weekend

Once again this year, we will have a Ministry Sign-Up, for all who minister at out liturgies or on parish committees.

The Church teaches us that it is preferable that we serve in only one Ministry at any given celebration. This means, of course, that we need many more people than we have now.

The Liturgical Ministries are those involved with any aspect of a single liturgy. For example, on **Sunday**, it is Altar Preparation; Audio Minister; Collectors; Communion Ministers; Cross & Candle Bearers (Sunday); Gift Bearers; Hospitality (Greeters); Liturgy of the Word with Children; Music Ministry; Readers; Sacristy Assistance; Servers. At a **Funeral** it would be Bereavement Ministry; Communion Ministers; Cross & Candle Bearers (Funerals); Music Ministry; Readers; Sacristy Assistance; Servers.

Weekday Masses are another combination, etc.

Even if you are active in Ministry now, please fill out a Ministry Sign-Up sheet on November 6/7, so that the Ministry Coordinator will know if you wish to continue. **IF YOU DO NOT FILL OUT A FORM, IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT YOU DON'T WISH TO CONTINUE.**

Those who are new to the Ministry will be contacted within a few days, and will have a familiarization session within two weeks. Only at the end of that session will you be asked to make a commitment – for **ONE YEAR**, running from the First Sunday of Advent, 2004, to the Friday before the First Sunday of Advent in 2005.

If you are interested in getting information about one of our Parish organizations, your request will be passed on to the appropriate people.

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here," she said, "He would say, 'let, my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you can be Jesus!"

Inner Strength

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,
If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with you troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,
If you can overlook people taking it out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can always sleep without the aid of drugs,
Then...
you're probably the family dog.

KIDS PAGE



Joke Time

Submitted by: Maria and Elizabeth Rideout

- Q: What do you call a man who likes drawing and painting?
Q: What says “now you see me, now you don’t?”
Q: What do you call a jogger in a safari park?
Q: What is a history teacher’s favourite fruit?
Q: Knock! Knock!>>> Who’s there?>>> Ali>>> Ali who?

Answers on page 18

The Mystery of the Missing Collection (Part II) By Kevin Maher

Detective Homes sat in the large armchair stroking his beard wondering how to find suspects. He asked Father Ray “Father, who was the last people you remember near this collection money?” Father Ray said “Well, the last people I remember seeing near this money was...actually one of my good friends, Willy Parksons, and talking to him was my other good friend Wilmer Fudd. The last person I remember locking the money up was Frank Maloney. They were the only people who were near this money detective.” So detective Homes sat and thought although it was extremely hard with the pigeons on the rafters that had gotten into the church. They were flapping everywhere and it was very hard to concentrate. Then detective Homes looked up into the rafters and started to wonder...

Find out in the next newsletter who was guilty of stealing the collection money and why Homes was looking up at the rafters so much.



Submitted by: Grace Moffatt, Age 5



A Year of Celebration

150th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist

Thursday, September 9, 2004.

The Eucharist that opened the year of celebration.

Archbishop Brendan O'Brien presided at this opening of the year. Everybody was invited. A Massed Choir drawn from parish choirs was be on hand. A Reception followed.

Friday to Sunday, October 1 to 3, 2004. Christian Vocation Cultural Conference.

St. Peter's Church, Mount Pearl

Friday & Saturday, October 15 & 16, 2004. Elaine Rendler Music Workshop.

Elaine Rendler, organist, choral director, composer, and clinician from the Oregon Catholic Press was back again. Almost 300 Music Ministers attended her last St. John's workshop in 1994, and everybody wanted her back. Friday evening from 7 to 9:00, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday to Thursday, October 23 to 28, 2004. Parish Mission.

Fr. Don MacLellan, C.Ss. R., presided at the weekend Masses, and Monday to Wednesday at 9:30. On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday he presided and preached at 7:30 p.m. Reconciliation was celebrated on Wednesday evening at 7:30. The Mission concluded with Eucharist on Thursday evening, followed by a Reception.

Sunday, November 14, 2004. St. Bonaventure's College Remembrance Night.

Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, November 19 to 21, 2004. Ritual of Healing and Brokenness.

(Date to be announced.)

Sunday, November 28, 2004. The 10th Annual Festival of Carols & Scripture.

We are invited to take a step back from the consumer hype that marks this season, and enter the riches of Advent. On this First Sunday of Advent, come and take part in the music and stories of our Jewish and Christian heritage.

Friday and Saturday, December 10 & 11, 2004. Handel's Messiah.

Once again the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Choir present this classic.

Sunday, January 2, 2005. Epiphany Family Christmas Carol Sing.

Come to the Basilica at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, to listen to and sing Christmas carols old and new, and to enjoy an old-fashioned wassail. Bring the whole family, and all your friends. There will be sugar and spice and everything nice, – light and dark Christmas cake, soft

drinks for the children and mulled wine for the adults.

Sunday, January 16, 2005. Cantus Vocum.

Founded in 1995 by their current conductor, Chad Stride, *Cantus Vocum* translates as "the musical sound of voices." This twenty voice chamber choir has quickly been recognized and praised for their musical artistry. While the choir performs mainly classical repertoire, they also include folk, spirituals, and light popular culture selections in their programming. This past summer they toured in Italy, including leading the music at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

Tuesday to Tuesday, January 18 to 25, 2005. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

One ecumenical celebration will be at the Basilica-Cathedral. (Date to be announced.)

Sunday, February 13, 2005. The Quintessential Vocal Ensemble.

Quintessence - *quinta essentia* - the fifth ancient element after earth, water, air and fire, composing the stars and heavens; the purest, most concentrated essence. QVE is directed by Susan Quinn. They have sung – and won awards – all over the world.

Sunday, March 6, 2005. The Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir.

The multiple award winning Newfoundland Symphony Youth Choir – Susan Knight, C.M, Founder and Artistic Director, Ki Adams, Associate Conductor and Accompanist. Fresh back from their Irish tour in 2004. The NSYC received Chorus America's Award for Choral Excellence. They were featured in 2004 Canada Day Celebrations

Sunday, March 13, 2005.

Lady Cove Choir.

This all female choir conducted by Kellie Walsh, was formed by her in 2003. This talented group is fast gaining recognition for its professional and beautiful sound.

Friday, April 8, 2005.

Mendelssohn's Elijah. The Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Choir.

Mendelssohn was inspired to compose this oratorio about the fiery Old Testament prophet after hearing Handel's Messiah. The choir figures prominently with choruses such as "He Watching Over Israel." Sung in English.

Sunday, May 1, 2005. Les Ms.

Dr. Valerie Long founded and conducts this choir. An all female group, they have performed extensively, successfully presenting music from a large and varied repertoire.

Friday, May 6, 2005. The Rosary.

Once again, the Knights of Columbus Councils and Assemblies invite everyone to take part in this celebration of the Rosary, with song and scripture.

Friday to Sunday, May 13 to 15, 2005. Youth Retreat.

Details to be announced.

Sunday, May 15, 2005.

The First Sisters

The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary came to Newfoundland from Ireland over 170 years ago. Tonight they retell their story.

Monday to Friday, May 30 to June 3, 2005. Scripture Institute. Elizabeth Davis, R.S.M., O.C.

Sunday, June 12, 2005. Holy Heart Alumnae Choir.

Valerie Long is the Director for this group, made up of graduates of the many exceptional – and honoured – choirs of Holy Heart of Mary High School.

Friday, June 24, 2005. The Feast of St. John the Baptist.

Opening of Father Walsh's Park.

"A Miracle in Stone."

Brother J.B. Darcy wrote this musical tribute to the builders of the cathedral.

June / July / August., 2005. Travelling Museum.

Exhibits from the Basilica Museum will be travelling throughout the Archdiocese.

July - Youth Concert in a city park. (Details and date to be announced)

August 16 to 21, 2005. World Youth Day in St. John's.

This will be a local celebration in solidarity with World Youth Day in Germany.

Thursday to Saturday, September 8 to 10, 2005. Irish Symposium.

Friday, September 9, 2005. Closing Eucharist.

The culmination of the year, we conclude our year of celebration on the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist. Archbishop O'Brien will be our chief presider. There will be many visiting bishops and presbyters, and a Massed Choir and Orchestra.

Friday to Sunday, September 9 - 11, 2005. The Atlantic Episcopal Conference.

The annual meeting of the bishops of Atlantic Canada.

Other events are in the planning stage. E.G., several organ Recitals (Patrick Wedd, David Peters, David Drinkle, Patricia Young), and designation of Bishop Fleming as a Person of National Significance. Dates and details will be announced as they become available.

Weakness or Strength?

(Author Unknown)

Sometimes your biggest weakness can become your biggest strength. Take, for example, the story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident.

The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training the master had taught him only one move.

"Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?" "This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied.

Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy

was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened.

"No," the sensei insisted, "Let him continue." Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind.

"Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?" "You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defence for that move is for our opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.

Bereavement Ministry

Those of us involved in the Bereavement Ministry in this parish find it very rewarding to be helping those who are going through this difficult period in their lives. Many people, when faced with such a loss, are not prepared to deal with the issues concerning funerals. That is why we are there – to help them get through it, and assist in making the necessary arrangements to ensure funeral liturgies are the very best they can be.

The "Order of Christian Funerals" contains the Rites which guide us with the following:

- The Vigil – usually held the day before the Funeral,
- Prayers for the Closing of the Casket, and Transfer of the Body to the Church, or where cremation has taken place – just prior to leaving for the Church,
- Funeral Liturgy – where readings and music are selected, readers assigned (or provided by the parish), and suggestions in other areas where family/friends can participate.
- Rite of Committal at the Cemetery.

There is a great need for more people to become involved in this rewarding Ministry. If you are interested and have some time that you might give to this much needed ministry, please call the Basilica Office at 754-2170. We would be glad to talk to you about the Ministry and your interest. Your commitment would be to work as part of a team that rotates with four or five other teams.

A: Art

A: A zebra on a crosswalk

A: Fast food

A: Dates

A: Ali-luyah, you've opened the door

**Joke Time
answers**

The Arrival of the Presentation and Mercy Sisters to Newfoundland

September 21 marks the 171st anniversary of the arrival of the Presentation Sisters in St. John's.

"In 1830 Bishop Fleming visited Ireland in search of missionaries, and at length sixteen priests came to his aid. He returned in 1833 to seek a solution to the school problem. Dr. Fleming made a shrewd move when he placed the needs of the Irish fisherfolk of Newfoundland, so many of whom had ties with Waterford, before Mother John Power, superior of the Presentation convent in Galway. Four Sisters, Mother Bernard Kirwan, Mother Xavier Molony, Mother Magdalen O'Shaughnessey, and Mother Xavier Lynch volunteered at once."

(Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters by T.J. Walsh. Dublin: M.H.Gill and Son Ltd., 1959, p. 255)

Bishop Fleming was also responsible for bringing the Mercy Sisters to Newfoundland.

"Furthermore Bishop Fleming's dreams for his mission in Newfoundland were not confined to establishing schools. He felt the need of sisters whose role would permit them to visit the sick and the poor in their homes. Understandably then Bishop Fleming's choice of another order was that of the Sisters of Mercy whose traditions and spirituality gave them the freedom and

flexibility to serve a pioneer people through their service to the 'poor, the sick and the uneducated.' Newfoundland was to have its 'walking nuns,' as the people of Dublin called the newly organized Sisters of Mercy.

"In December 1841 Bishop Fleming set out for Ireland. The objects of his mission were in his own words:

". . . . to complete my contracts for the remainder of the cut stone for the cathedral, to procure additional priests for the mission and a community of nuns of the Order of Mercy who cooperating with the valuable Institution I have already established here, the Presentation Convent, will I am confident greatly contribute to extend the dominion of Christ in Newfoundland.

Three Mercy Sisters, Sister Mary Francis Creedon, Sister Ursula Frayne, and Sister Rose Lynch arrived in St. John's on May 21, 1842.

(Pathways of Mercy in Newfoundland 1842 - 1984 by Sister M. Williamina Hogan. St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada: Harry Cuff Publications Limited, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada: 1986, p. 21)

Basilica of St. Joseph's Oratory

Another anniversary

World famous Canadian shrine marks 100th anniversary

Founded 100 years ago as tiny chapel, the dome-shaped Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory overlooking much of the city of Montreal was formally dedicated to God at a consecration ceremony October 17.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, the Archbishop of Montreal, presided at the event at the basilica, the largest place of pilgrimage in the world dedicated to Saint Joseph and a destination for thousands of people seeking miraculous cures for their infirmities.

Officials say it is not uncommon for churches to be consecrated years or even centuries after their construction and point out that Notre Dame de Paris cathedral was consecrated in 1864, more than 700 years after its construction was started.

The consecration of Saint Joseph's Oratory marks the beginning of a year-long program celebrating the 100th anniversary of the basilica that is to include religious celebrations, cultural activities, and pilgrimages.

Congratulations.



This issue, primarily dedicated to
the 150th Anniversary of
the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
is sponsored by
The Archdiocese of St. John's
Archbishop Brendan Michael O'Brien, S.T.D.