



Bloodlines

Newsletter of the Atlantic Province
Winter 2017-2018 (Extra Issue)

From the Provincial and Council

On Thursday, January 4, 2017, the Provincial Council met in Niagara Falls, Ontario, at the Provincial Centre at 10:20 a.m. All council members were present: Fr. Mario Cafarelli, Fr. John Colacino, Fr. Ronald Wiecek, and Fr. Michael Mateyk. Fr. Peter Nobili, the Treasurer, was also present for the financial report. The meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Michael.

The minutes of the previous Council Meeting were then accepted as written.

Fr. Peter then gave the treasurer's report. He mentioned that all have paid into the discretionary fund for retirement with one exception. He then gave an update about purchasing another property in Toronto. He is continuing to investigate the selling of our interest in the Bathurst property. He informed the Council that the first dormitory for the high school in Tanzania is finished and that the frame for the second dormitory is already in place. The money is slowly coming in and he is hoping that the second one can be finished in time for the next school year.

A discussion then took place about a variety of scenarios for our infirm and retired members.

Fr. Phil has been asked by the Archdiocese of Toronto to take in a priest who needs some medical issues dealt with for a period of six months.

Fr. Gary Luiz was then invited to the meeting to discuss a letter expressing concerns arising from the *ad hoc* committee formed to address the ongoing vitality of the Niagara mission house.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 in Niagara Falls.

The meeting was closed at 2:05 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. Michael.



Voice of the Founder

O how much do we owe to the Cross of Jesus Christ! It is the banner of our glory; it is the standard of our salvation, the mysterious tree of life. Blessed is the one who eats of the fruits of this plant! Let us glory in the Cross, therefore, the ladder of paradise, the armament of Christianity, the miraculous staff against the demon. (Fervorino on the Cross; 1824)



Provincial Retreat

June 11-15, 2018

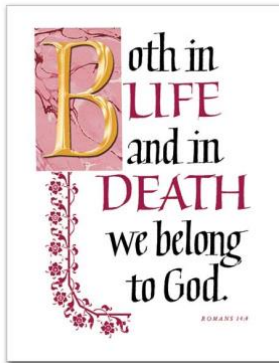
Mt. Carmel Centre; Niagara Falls, ON

Retreat Director: Fr. Scott Lewis SJ

Electoral Assembly

June 10-14, 2019

Mt. Carmel Centre; Niagara Falls, ON



In your charity, please remember in your prayers:

Lyda Abella Ramirez; aunt of Fr. Alarey

From Fr. Sam D'Angelo

500th Anniversary of the Reformation Commemoration

As part of the ministry of reconciliation and as a Missionary of the Precious Blood, I felt called to become one of twenty-five members of an ecumenical committee which met to plan and present a conference commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Sudbury. I was one of two priests who were on the committee. I was asked to become the chairperson of the Liturgy Committee during the one-year that it took to plan the conference. This event took place on September 20-21st at the Holiday Inn and included 175 participants, some of whom were leaders of several Christian denominations, including the Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran bishops of the area. The bishop of Sault Ste Marie also made it a part of Priest Study Days for the diocese and registered all the priests of the Diocese to attend.

The event had, as its aim, to see how far we have come and how far we have yet to go in bringing healing to the divisions which have marred and scarred Christian witness to unity through the centuries. It went even further, though, in showing the need for a continued reformation in Canada with respect to the damage caused by Christians to the Indigenous communities and the need to proactively work toward the realization of the goals which were set forth in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly as they relate to ecclesial response.

There were several keynote speakers and presenters: Elders Julie & Frank Ozawagosh who shared their experiences in residential schools, Dr. Allan Jorgensen, chair of the Ecclesiology & Church History department at Waterloo University, who spoke about the historical developments leading to the Reformation, Dr. Christopher Duncanson-Hales, instructor at the University of Sudbury and husband to a United Church minister, who spoke about being an Inter-church family that worships in United and Roman Catholic traditions, Rev. Karen Kuhnert pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and advocate for Indigenous cultures and healing, Sr. Priscilla Solomon, Sister of St Joseph and Ojibway woman who is leader in her congregation for faith and justice, and hwo spoke about her own journey to eliminate discrimination against First Nations Peoples.

The highlight of the conference was an evening ecumenical service held at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church which was inspired by the ecumenical service in Lund, Sweden where Pope Francis and leaders of the Lutheran World Federation came together to commit to five imperatives as they relate to Lutheran and Roman Catholic relations:

The first imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

The second imperative: Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.

The third imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.

The fourth imperative: Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

The fifth imperative: Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

Our ecumenical prayer service was adapted from the original, however, so as to include all other Protestant communities in the service, as well as Ojibway representatives and to allow them to join us in committing to these five imperatives as far as their consciences would allow.

The conference will have follow-up actions which will be mutually discerned and presented to leadership so that we can keep these five imperatives alive and active and witness to the world what the Precious Blood of Christ urges, namely, unity, healing, and reconciliation.