



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

*Mass Times
Sunday Eucharist
Saturday Vigil: 5 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am,
12 Noon*

*Weekday Eucharist
9 am: Monday to
Friday*

*Ministry Centre Hours
By Appointment*

*www.st-bonaventure.ca
www.franciscans.org*

*Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 14, 2022*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

A FINAL WORD FROM THE PASTOR...

Two weeks ago, I offered my thanks to you for sharing your goodness with me over these 4 years. I am very grateful to have walked together with you in the ways of the Gospel.

Before I depart. I want to publicly thank some others too. When Moses was leading the people in the desert, he was having a rough time of it. Heat, snakes, not enough food. And he said to God: What should I do? The Bible says the Lord told Moses to gather some people he knew to be wise. God promised to share the Spirit with them when they gathered.

These years of regular parish life and especially life during the pandemic would have been absolutely impossible without the in-Spirted wisdom of the pastoral staff of St. Bonaventure: Fr. Peter, our associate pastor; Connie Durante, our parish manager; Greg Beath, our lay pastoral associate; Luigi Gabriele, Tony De Melo and Paola Gabriele, our custodians; Edward Fernando, our admin assistant; and dear + Nimfa Chua, our secretary. They consistently went above and beyond to hold our community together and move us forward. You have no idea the debt of gratitude we owe them all, every day.

We formed a wonderful team in the normal days and in the "virus" days. I thank them for their spirit, their generous labors, their wisdom, and their laughter. May God's goodness to them be as rich as their goodness to us.

Once more, my thanks and prayers go out to all of you at St. Bonaventure. Wonderful years, wonderful people. I offer you all a prayer composed by John Rutter:

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the quiet night to you
Deep peace of Christ, the Light of the World, to you
Amen

With love and prayer and thanks,
Fr. Dennis

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UPDATE ON THE COURTYARD CROSS TOWER

Jesus often used everyday things to get His message across. He talked about sheep to people who were shepherds and sowing seed to farmers. Once Jesus used an event that everyone in Jerusalem knew about. It happened in the southern section of the city, a neighborhood called Siloam. And the event was most unfortunate. Jesus asked the crowd: Do you remember what happened recently in Siloam? The tower there collapsed in a cloud of bricks and dust.

Several years ago, major repairs and renovations in the parish were accomplished according to a plan. Some of those projects were a new metal roof on the church, as well as a new roof on the parish centre, some washroom work. One of the projects was the cross tower in front. Although a preliminary study was conducted on the cross tower, several transfers in parish leadership (4 pastors) as well as the pandemic shutdown did not make it possible to address fully--until now.

Several advisors from the parish and I reviewed the preliminary study done several years ago, and the proposals that arose from it. Together we agreed that we needed to address the cross tower and that an up-to-date study was needed.

I formed a committee: 2 from Parish Pastoral Council, 2 from Parish Finance Council, 2 from a past Building Committee, Fr. Peter, Fr Tom Purcell (representing the Franciscan Order), and two members of the parish pastoral staff to address the cross tower and commissioned a study.

That study was extensive and was completed in April of last year. It noted that: The tower structure is original to the church. It was constructed in 1959. 62 years of wind, rain, snow and age have seriously affected it. Repairs have been done on the tower over the years but have proved to be ineffective. Sealed cracks continue to reopen. Up and down cracks continue to reappear. The major problems are cracks and corrosion.

All four faces of the tower have significant cracking going on. The gaps caused by the cracks are twice as large as they were a year ago. The up and down cracks are three times as long as they were a year ago.

There are two steel columns imbedded in the brick masonry- one on each side. The corrosion on these two columns is significant with some sections completely eaten away. This corrosion and loss is the cause of the cracking. Interior tie bars between the columns also show deterioration and corrosion. The cross relies on the tower for support. The entire structure is subject to torquing (it twists in the wind). The cross itself has also been significantly deteriorating. A fair number of years ago, a plastic casing was placed around the original cross. Unfortunately, it did not protect the structure as hoped. The degeneration has continued unabated.

Since previous repair work has proved ineffective in halting the deterioration, the committee considered two options: rebuild the existing structure or deconstruct the existing structure.

1. To fix the tower- that means to do some deconstruction, purchase new materials, do reconstruction with replacement of major parts. The estimated cost would be \$485,000- almost one half a million dollars.
2. To deconstruct would cost about \$280,000. Given the deteriorated and continuing deteriorating state of the existing structure, the cost involved, the need to address it sooner rather than later, *the committee recommended that we proceed to deconstruct the tower and cross.*

The reasons are:

- First and foremost- safety. The consulting engineers express concern in this area. The committee and I share that concern. The structure needs to come down sooner than later. We don't want to have a Siloam situation.
- Cost- the estimates are, of course, higher now than they were several years ago. Costs will only increase as time goes on.

GROWING IN *Spirit, Community, and Service*

- Deterioration will also continue- previous attempts to halt deterioration proved ineffective. Jesus once talked about not sewing a new patch onto an old cloak- they both get ruined. We do not want to expose the structure to continued weather.

Members of the Parish Finance Council agreed with this recommendation and noted that we have the funds to cover it without incurring debt. The cost will be shared equally by the Franciscan Order and the Parish. Some funds are still unused from the parish renewal project; the parish's balance will come from the maintenance fund. The committee's discussion to deconstruct the tower included ideas for re-designing the courtyard to make it more functional and to construct a new structure in some other place on the property. This would open the courtyard to provide more space and provide a new artistic piece on the property.

That is for the future, though. The first step is to attend to the cross tower in the quickest, most efficient and cost-effective manner. It will be the first major project we have undertaken in several years.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our parish. I have always appreciated your goodness. ~ Fr. Dennis

CONGRATULATIONS TONY DE MELO ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

In the second letter of Peter in the New Testament, the Scripture says. "In the sight of God one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. Not one day, not 1000 years but 50. 50??? Really? Yes really.

This year Tony DeMello marks 50 years of service here at St. Bonaventure Parish. For half a century Tony has labored to keep our campus clean, well-tended and beautiful. His work is a reflection of his heart. Congratulations and thank you, Tony, for 50 years of service to God and God's People at St. Bonaventure. We hold you high in our hearts.



SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN PRAYER

Prayer Network

Network members pray daily for intentions which are held in confidence. Let the Prayer Network know when a situation is resolved, and members will offer prayers of thanks.

New members are welcome! Call Julie Flood with your intentions, 416.391.0238.

Remembering Loved Ones

In our charity we remember those who are ill and all who have requested a remembrance in our prayers. We commend to the Lord the members of our parish who have died recently:

+ Geoffrey Allan Rochard, + Leslie Rolko, + Catherine Hogg, + David Sullivan, + Ann Hartford,
+ Evangeline Beltran, + Maria Evidente, + Frank Horgan Jr., + Marilyn Murphy, + Phia Hibbeln,
+ Douglas Peters, + Myrna Haverly, + Gordon Owens, + Paul O'Connor, + Terrance Wolff,
+ Frances MacDonald, + Lili Draws, + Frank Polansky, + Ralph Stukator, + Nimfa Chua, + Antoine Bonello,
+ Karl Kremer, + Rosemarie Perkins, + Marie Turnbull,
+ Wendy Azzarello and +Paul Lynch

May heaven be theirs and may peace belong to those who mourn their passing.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor

A Member of Parliament recently remarked, "Inflation is theft of the poor." In other words, inflation hurts the least affluent among us the most: for instance, those on low fixed incomes and those whose employment is casual and part time. As we all cope with the inconvenience and even hardship of the rising cost of just about everything, please remember the less fortunate who struggle to pay their rent and utilities, as well as buy nutritious food for themselves and their families.

Thank you to our loyal benefactors who have continued their donations throughout the pandemic; to those parishioners who contributed clothing and footwear during our recent Bundle Weekend; and to all who remember our **Poor Boxes**. Every donation allows Vincentians to assist our neighbours in need with grocery gift cards. Our confidential helpline is: [416-447-5571 ext. 570](tel:416-447-5571) for those who need assistance. Thank you!

Your donations to our poor box, cheques, and online donations through Canada Helps do make a difference and allow us to put compassion into action. Our confidential helpline is: 416-447-5571 ext. 570 for those who need assistance. Thank you! There are three ways to give:

At Mass by designating your donation in an envelope marked SSVP and indicating your name and address if you desire a receipt for income tax purposes.

By mailing your donation, clearly marked SSVP, to the church at:
1300 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9

Securely online through CanadaHelps live link @ <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-bonaventure-conference/>

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, August 15	9 AM	+ Steve Patience
Tuesday, August 16	9 AM	+ Rita Marquez
Wednesday, August 17	9 AM	+ Peter Glowczewski
Thursday, August 18	9 AM	Jaclyn Beca
Friday, August 19	9 AM	The Friars Intentions of Parishioners + Myrna Haverty + Gina Travers
Saturday, August 20	5 PM	+ Gerarda Palardan-Barrientos
Sunday, August 21	8 AM	+ Nimfa Chua
	10 AM	+ Joseph Maheandrin
	12 PM	+ Ricky Cherry