



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 7, 2022*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

A Word from the Pastor...

Recently the friars of our region of the Franciscan Order gathered to pray together. During our time together we looked back over the last four years, assessing our life and ministry and we looked forward to the next four years. Our way of life is a unique combination. We have a solid, unchanging foundation on the rock of God, and we have an on-the-road spirit of pilgrims who seek to follow the promptings of God's Spirit. The every-four-year meeting is always a time of change. This time that change affects me.

I will be moving from Ontario to Ellicott City, Maryland, outside of Baltimore. I've been asked to serve as guardian- leader- of a friary there. My ministry will also change. I will take up the ministry of full-time preaching- leading parish missions, weekend retreats and week-long retreats for lay people, friars, priests, seminarians, and religious sisters. My reporting date is the middle of August.

These years with you have been extraordinary. They have been rich in faith and relationships. You have deepened my faith through your example. The years have also been very lean with two years of pandemic. I can't tell you how proud I am of our community and the way in which we have been navigating the virus situation in hope and good cheer. I am grateful for the ways we have walked together through four years in faith and hope and charity. I am especially grateful for the way you have made me feel at home with you. I will miss you.

Another friar will be coming with the privilege of serving you as your new pastor. He is not a stranger. Fr. Thomas Reist will be arriving in the middle of August. Fr. Tom was with you for a while several years ago and is grateful to be returning. He is a friend I've known for over fifty years. Fr. Tom is a man of deep spirituality, very fine organizational skills, and plain old common sense. I know you will welcome him and appreciate him.

I didn't want to disappear in the middle of the night, but neither do I want to make farewell a long, drawn-out affair. I ask simply that in the next days we pray with one another and pray for one another. God is good and you are too. Thank you for sharing your goodness with me.

With love and a prayer,

Fr. Dennis

*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*

*1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
Tel: 416.447.5571 Fax: 416.447.4082*

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

FEAST DAY OF ST. CLARE - AUGUST 11

"Love God and Jesus, His Son who was crucified for us sinners, from the depths of your heart and never let the thought of Him leave your mind." ~ *Fifth Letter of St. Clare*, 11

"So that you too may feel what His friends feel as they taste the hidden sweetness that God Himself has reserved from the beginning for those who love Him...totally love Him who gave Himself totally for your love." ~ *Third Letter of St. Clare*, 14.

"Let yourself be inflamed more strongly with the fervor of charity. As you further contemplate His ineffable delights, eternal riches and honours..." ~ *Fourth Letter of St. Clare*, 27.



From the Poor Clares:

"We were all called to love and grow in love, in the Spirit who inspired us, in the Father who formed us and in the Son who showed us the way. The only way to really learn the ways of love is to practice them on our sisters, and this is where we begin to learn to appreciate our imperfections, for the imperfections we see in our sisters, we also find in ourselves if we are really honest about it. The authenticity of our love is measured by our honest efforts to accept one another, to build up and support each other at times even to the point of forgetting ourselves, to strengthen and help one another for God's sake. After all, we are all called by the same Lord and are all of the same Spirit, in mind and heart. We are a unity. We were meant to live, to work, to worship, to love, and to sing it all in one voice." ~ from Sr. Maria Isabel of the Holy Spirit, OSC, *Praise God by Your Life: An Anthology of the Maxims and Counsels of St. Clare of Assisi* (Tayud: Poor Clare Monastery, 1994), p. 5

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN PRAYER

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 Haverty, + Gordon Owens, + Paul O'Connor, + Terrance Wolff,
+ Frances MacDonald, + Lili Draws, + Frank Polansky, + Ralph Stukator, + Nimfa Chua, + Antoine Bonello,
+ Karl Kremer, + Rosemarie Perkins, and + Marie Turnbull

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

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



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 8	9 AM	+ Gloria Odette
Tuesday, August 9	9 AM	+ David Sullivan
Wednesday, August 10	9 AM	+ Paz Ungab
Thursday, August 11	9 AM	+ Michael Vincent Chua
Friday, August 12	9 AM	+ Jennifer Khayat
Saturday, August 13	5 PM	+ Dolores & Benjamin Ubalde
Sunday, August 14	8 AM	Intentions of Parishioners
	10 AM	+ Mary Veronica Kolesar
	12 PM	+ Nimfa Chua

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit... ~ Luke 12:35

"But the real meaning of the parable is perfectly clear: a person girded with temperance lives in the light of a clear conscience before God. And so, with the light of truth shining, the soul stays awake and is not deceived.

It does not dally with illusive dreams."

~ St. Gregory of Nyssa

(from Gregory of Nyssa, "On the Song of Songs", 11: Jaeger VI, 317-318)