

CATHOLIC

ISSUE: FALL 2025

MOUNTAIN STAR

BISHOP'S

FALL REFLECTION



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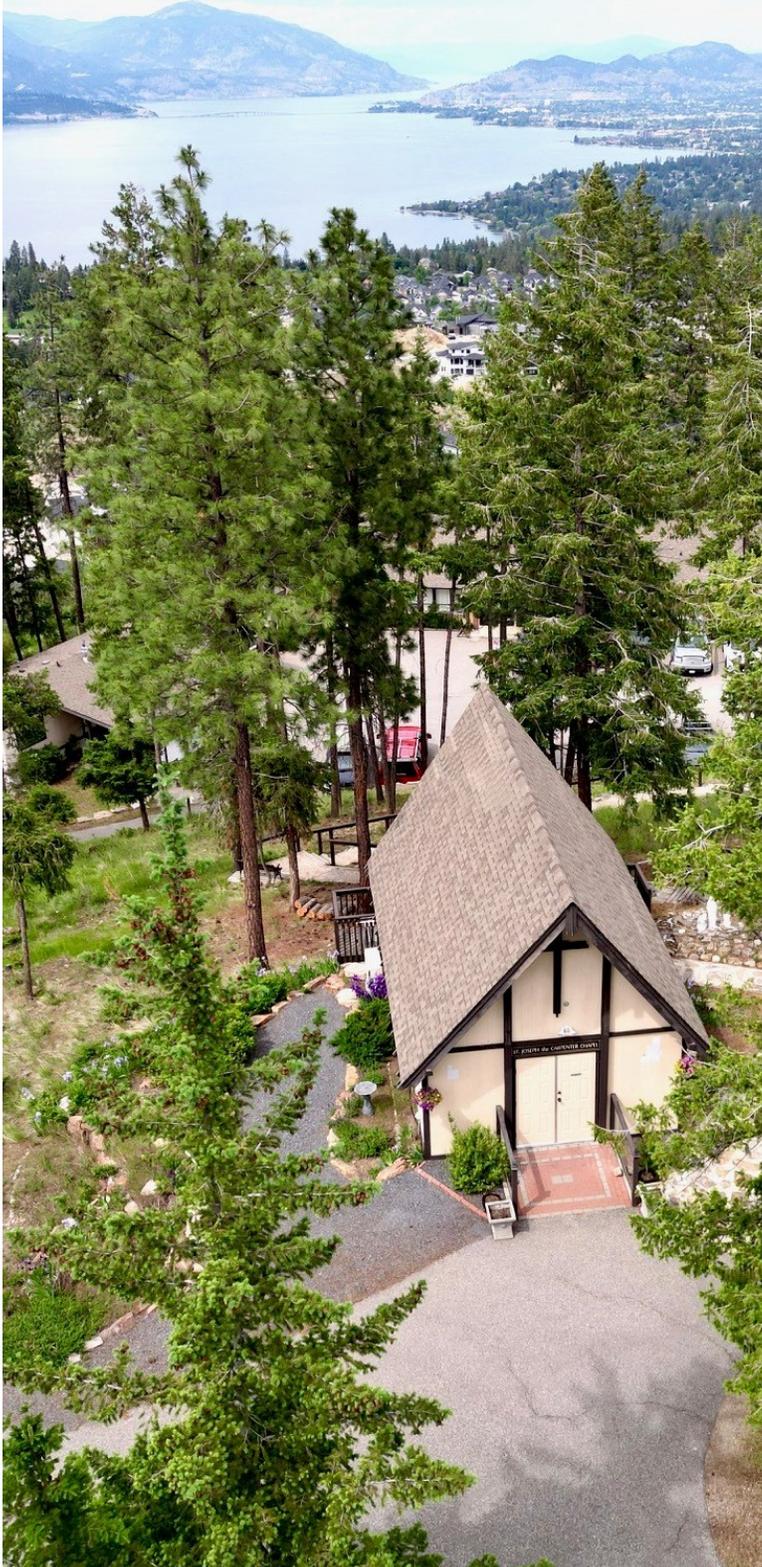
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BISHOP'S FALL REFLECTION



*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”
Heb 10:23)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and peace in the Lord!

When we think about hope, we can see that it was present at the very beginning of creation, when God endowed everything with His creative Spirit, giving us the universe, the world, human beings, and everything in it. Although His plans were frustrated by the devil and sin, that hope remained undimmed because God gave us the gift of His Son, “Christ Jesus our Hope,” who rescued us from sin and death, and gave us the hope of eternal life.

Accordingly, when we talk about hope, we are really talking about a person—Jesus Christ. He is the source and the reason for our hope.

This is why we say that hope is not optimism. While both involve a positive expectation for the future, optimism is more a belief that things will turn out well, that everything will be OK. Hope on the other hand, is grounded in the person of Christ, on whom we place our trust and confidence “for nothing will be impossible with God,” (Lk 1.37) and for whom “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom 8.28)

Therefore, hope isn’t something as we say, “you can take it or leave it.” No, we have hope because we have Christ. As Emeritus Pope Benedict reminded us in his Encyclical

Letter, *Spe Salvi*, “before their encounter with Christ they were without hope and without God in the world.” (Eph 2.12). Our hope then is deeply rooted in Faith as well. I have hope because I have faith in God and faith in Christ Jesus, whose life was full of expectation and promise. Jesus’ life and ministry gave hope to everyone who encountered Him because, when He poured out His love and mercy, forgiveness and healing, He also gave people hope.

When our late Pope Francis announced Jubilee 2025, he called us as “Pilgrims of Hope.” Pope Francis wanted to emphasize that each of us is a pilgrim on this earth. But not just pilgrims, but Christian pilgrims on a pilgrimage of Hope. Hope for the future. Hope for eternal life. “We desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC, 1817)

May “Christ Jesus our Hope” continue to inspire us, sustain us and lead us to the Heavenly Kingdom where all of our hopes will be fulfilled in Hope Himself.

God bless you.
Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR OUR PRIESTS

Canadian Martyrs Parish, Invermere
 St. Joseph Church, Radium Hot Springs
 Mission Akisq'Nuk Native Reserve/Band,
 Windermere (Formerly Columbia Lake
 Shuswap Band/Reserve (Shuswap Nation
 (Secwe'pemc) (Kinbasket/Kenpesq't people)
Fr. Francis dela Cruz, Pastor

St. Rita Parish, Castlegar
 St. Anthony Mission, New Denver
 St. Mary's Mission, Slocan City
Fr. Aaron de Dios, Pastor

Holy Cross Parish, Creston
 Most Holy Redeemer Mission, Riondel
 Lower Kootenay Band/Reserve (Yaqa Nu'kiy),
 Creston
Fr. Lawrence Kanickaisamy, Pastor

Sacred Heart Parish, Rossland
 St. Rita Parish, Fruitvale
 Sacred Heart Mission, Salmo
Fr. Paul Joseph Thymootil, CMI, Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Revelstoke
 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Nakusp
 St. John the Baptist Mission, Fauquier
Fr. James McHugh, Pastor

St. Anne Parish, Osoyoos
 Christ the King Parish, Oliver
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church/Mission,
 Chopaka Native Reserve
 (Lower Similkameen Band) (semelk'mexw)
 St. Gregory Mission, Inkameep/Nk'Mip Native
 Band
Fr. Peter Tompkins, Pastor

St. Edward's Parish, Winfield/Lake Country
 Winfield Okanagan Band/Reserve
 (S-Ooknanhkchinx)
Fr. Shaiju Payyappilly Kunjuvareed, Pastor

Sacred Heart Parish, Grand Forks
 Sacred Heart Parish, Greenwood
 Our Lady of the Lake Mission,
 Christina Lake served from Grand Forks
Fr. Ruben Buela, Pastor

Holy Family Parish, Fernie
 St. Bernard Mission, Elkford
 St. Michael Parish, Sparwood
Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil, MST, Pastor

Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Nelson
**Most Rev. Gregory Bittman, Bishop of Nelson,
 Pastor**
Fr. Jojo Augustine, MST Rector
 Sacred Heart Mission, Kaslo
 Sacred Heart Mission, Procter
Fr. Jojo Augustine, MST, Pastor

St. Charles Garnier Parish, Kelowna
Fr. Gerald Sekanga, Pastor
Fr. Ferdinand Bayarong Associate Pastor

Sacred Heart Parish, Golden
Fr. Paul Irumba, Pastor
**Fr. Ferdinand, Temporary
 Administrator** (until Fr. Paul returns)

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Kelowna
 St. Patrick Mission, Westbank First Nation
 (Tsinstikeptum) Westbank Native Reserve
Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez, Pastor

St. Pius X Parish, Kelowna
Fr. Biju Antony, CMI, Pastor

Fr. Sylvester Ibekwe
 Director of Evangelization
 and Missionary Discipleship

Fr. Marcel Cote
 Seton House

Sacred Heart Parish, Kimberley
 St. Anthony Mission, Canal Flats
 St. Joseph Mission, Jaffray
Fr. Manoj Pathiyil George, Pastor

Christ the Servant Parish,
 Cranbrook
 St. Mary's Parish, Cranbrook
 St. Mary's Native Reserve/Band
 (?Aq'am) St. Eugene's Mission,
 Cranbrook
Fr. Rex Velmonte, Pastor

St. Peter Parish, Princeton
 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Keremos
 St. Ann Church/Mission, Hedley Native
 Reserve (Upper Siimilkameen Band)
 (semelk'mexw)
Fr. Dominique Trinh Do, Pastor

Corpus Christi Parish, Kelowna
Fr. Pat Monette, Pastor

Holy Trinity Parish, Trail
**Fr. Xaviour Mulakkampilli Chakku,
 CMI, Pastor**

Immaculate Conception Parish,
 Kelowna
Fr. Maurice Okolie, Pastor

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission,
 Okanagan Falls
 Holy Child Parish, Summerland
Fr. Gabriel Chinnaperiannan, Pastor

St. Ann Parish, Penticton
 St. John Vianney Parish, Penticton
 Penticton Okanagan Band/Reserve
 (Sn Pin'Ktn) Sacred Heart Mission,
 Penticton Native Reserve
Fr. Neil Lustado, Pastor



Retired Priests

Bishop Emeritus Eugene
 Cooney
 Bishop Emeritus John
 Corriveau, OFM Capuchin

Fr. John Kellogg
 Fr. Wayne Pfliger
 Fr. Sebastian Puthenpura

Fr. Harry Clarke
 Fr. Dave DeSouza
 Fr. Jim Ratcliffe
 Fr. Jack de Verteuil

Fr. Edwin Neufeld
 Latin Mass

Please continue to pray for all our Priests

“We are promised the protection of the Good Shepherd and the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, who abides with us until the end of time. Finally, we are told in Scripture, that we are provided with a Vision of a New Heaven and a New Earth where every tear will be wiped away and death will be no more. It is a beautiful response to the human predicament.” by Fr. Walter Krewski

DIOCESAN NEWS

SPES NON CONFUNDIT
(HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT)
JUBILEE 2025

SEMINARIANS & ASPIRANTS



**OUR PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH
APPEAL 2025**



**THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
LOCAL WESTERN FRATERNITY:
CELEBRATES THEIR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL**



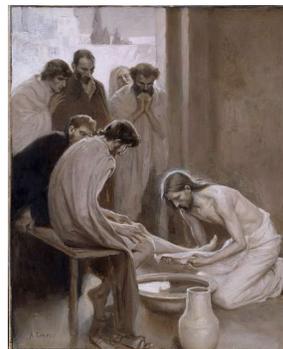
**SETON HOUSE OF PRAYER
RETREAT CENTRE
51 YEARS OF SERVING
SPIRITUAL NEEDS**



EVANGELIZATION AND MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP



UPCOMING EVENTS



**“FOR THE SON OF MAN
DID NOT COME TO BE
SERVED BUT TO SERVE
AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE
AS A RANSOM FOR
MANY”**

MARK 10:45

SPES NON CONFUNDIT

(HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT)

JUBILEE 2025

*Fr. Cerlouie Jimenez, Chancellor
July 30, 2025*

From December 24, 2024, to January 6, 2026, the Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating another Jubilee Year.

Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ. declares the Holy Father Pope Francis, as he proclaims the celebration in the Papal Bull titled, *Spes non confundit*, which means “Hope does not disappoint.” Let us therefore discover what this Jubilee is all about and what it means in the context of our Christian life.



In the Sacred scriptures, a Jubilee is a special year that is considered “sacred,” that is, set apart or reserved for the Lord. Its celebration is described in the Old Testament, specifically in the Book of Leviticus: just as the Sabbath is celebrated every seven days and a sabbatical is marked every seven years, so a Jubilee concludes every period of seven times seven, or forty-nine years, and is observed on the 50th year. This year is set apart as a whole-sabbath year, a year sacred to the Lord, devoted to rest, renewal, and sanctification.

According to the Book of Leviticus: “then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the day of Atonement, you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.

And you shall consecrate the 50th year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. That 50th year shall be a jubilee for you. In it, you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself, nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines, for it is a Jubilee. It shall be holy to you. (25:9-12)

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word YOBEL, which refers to the horn of the male goat used as a trumpet to signal the beginning of the Holy year. In the account of Leviticus, apart from the aspect of rest, liberation is also prominent. In this year, debts are forgiven, and foreclosed lands are returned to their original owners. Thus, restoring social order and reducing the extreme inequality between the poor and the rich. The aspect of celebration is also emphasized, such that the word Jubilee has become synonymous with JOY and HAPPINESS.

The very first Jubilee in the church was set by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 to celebrate the beginning of that century. At the same time, he also decreed that the Jubilee year be celebrated every 100 years. In 1470, Pope Paul II lowered the number of years before the next Jubilee to 50. And in 1475, Pope Sixtus IV reduced it to 25 years, a practice still followed today. This is why a Jubilee is celebrated every 25 years, commonly called an ordinary Jubilee. However, there are special years in which the Pope summons an extraordinary Jubilee for very special reasons.

The last one was the extraordinary Jubilee of mercy called by Pope Francis in 2015-2016 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of

the Second Vatican Council, while the next one will be held in 2033 as a commemoration and celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – indeed a celebration of our redemption.

To signal the start of the Jubilee, it has become tradition to open the Holy Doors in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and in the other major Papal Basilicas in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul outside the walls. The Holy Doors symbolize Jesus Christ Himself as the Door of our salvation. It is in this context that the Holy See instructed bishops around the world to designate pilgrimage sites in their local churches so that the faithful who may not have the chance to go on pilgrimage to Rome may participate and receive the graces this Holy Year offers.



person. Hope dwells as a desire and expectation of good things to come despite our not knowing what the future may bring.” Despite the uncertainties of life and the problems that we bear each day. Hope pushes us to move forward, trusting in the Father’s love that will never let us down. One with the Holy Father and the entire Catholic Church throughout the world, may we celebrate this Jubilee with hearts full of Joy and be filled with the Hope that only our Lord Jesus Christ can bring and fulfill in our lives. A blessed Jubilee year to you all.



Every Jubilee year presents the opportunity of gaining plenary indulgences or the total remission of temporal punishment due to sin. We can apply these indulgences to ourselves. But we can also offer it for the souls in purgatory. The different ways of obtaining the Indulgence during this Jubilee are described in detail in the Decree.

On the granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025: the Latin motto or theme chosen for this Jubilee is “Peregrinantes in Spem” or Pilgrims of Hope; it reminds us that our life here on earth is a journey home to our Father in heaven and focuses our eyes on the hope that we are holding onto.

As the Holy Father tells us: “Everyone knows what it is to hope, in the heart of each

SEMINARIANS & ASPIRANTS

**Seminarian
Br. Jeffrey Loma**



**Seminarian
Br. Brylle Buenaventura**



**Aspirant
Jon Rowe**



**Aspirant
Luc Lavigne**



**Aspirant
Elisio Cunha**



**Aspirant
Romeo Medrano**



**AT ONCE (JESUS) SPOKE TO THEM, "TAKE COURAGE,
IT IS I; DO NOT BE AFRAID."**

MATTHEW 14:27



*Image courtesy of Havenlight, 'King of Glory'
by artist: Yongsung-Kim.@havenlight*

SEMINARIAN

Br. Jeffrey Loma



“LIKE A SHEPHERD HE FEEDS HIS FLOCK; IN HIS ARMS HE GATHERS THE LAMBS, CARRYING THEM IN HIS BOSOM, AND LEADING THE EWES WITH CARE.”

ISAIAH 40:11

Br. Jeffrey Loma, May, 2025

I am Br. Jeffrey Loma, 34, originally from the Philippines, I am a seminarian intern of the Diocese of Nelson. Before answering the call to the diocesan priesthood, I was a Business Administration and Theology educator at a university, imparting knowledge about faith, doctrine, and moral teachings. However, despite my love for teaching, I felt that something was missing in my life. There was a deep longing in my heart that could not be fulfilled by academic work alone.

Over time, I realized that God was calling me to something greater—to serve His people in a more personal and pastoral way. This realization led me to leave my career in education and fully embrace my vocation.

My greatest joy comes from caring for others, especially the poor and marginalized. I believe that the priesthood is not just about preaching and celebrating the sacraments but also about being present for those in need, offering them compassion, guidance and hope.

My internship in the Diocese of Nelson is an opportunity to deepen my pastoral skills, connect with the community, and learn to serve with humility and love. As I continue this journey, I pray that I may become a shepherd who listens, understands, and walks with the people entrusted to my care. With God’s grace, I hope to dedicate my life to serving others and sharing His love with everyone I encounter.

SEMINARIAN

Br. Brylle Buenaventura



Br. Brylle Buenaventura, May, 2025

My name is Brylle Buenaventura, and I am a seminarian of the Diocese of Nelson.

Becoming a priest has always been a childhood dream of mine. Our family regularly attended Sunday Eucharist, and I was inspired by what the priest did at the altar. After each liturgy, I would try to imitate the priest by using blankets as my vestments and “playing” Mass at home. My mom encouraged me to become an altar server in our parish, which further strengthened my desire. Indeed, I agree with what Saint Pope Pius X said: “A vocation to the priesthood comes from the heart of God but goes through the heart of the mother.”

At the age of sixteen, I decided to enter the seminary. I pursued studies in theology, and after many years of

“EVERY HIGH PRIEST IS TAKEN FROM AMONG MEN AND MADE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE GOD, TO OFFER GIFTS AND SACRIFICES FOR SINS. HE IS ABLE TO DEAL PATIENTLY WITH THE IGNORANT AND ERRING, FOR HE HIMSELF IS BESET BY WEAKNESS AND SO, FOR THIS REASON, MUST MAKE SIN OFFERINGS FOR HIMSELF AS WELL AS FOR THE PEOPLE. NO ONE TAKES THIS HONOR UPON HIMSELF BUT ONLY WHEN CALLED BY GOD, JUST AS AARON WAS.”

HEBREWS 5:1-4

spiritual and pastoral immersion and exercises, I completed my formation in the summer of 2022.

Looking back, I realized that becoming a priest is not easy. There were times when I felt unworthy of the sublime gift of the call to the priesthood, as I faced my own shortcomings and limitations. My only consolation is that our Lord, in His boundless love, grace and mercy, knows how to work with insufficient tools. The innermost desire of my heart is to serve the Lord and His people wherever I am needed the most.

ASPIRANT Jon Rowe



Jon Rowe, May 2025

My name is Jon Rowe. I was born and raised in Kelowna until I moved away for university and work. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Lindsay, for 20 years, and we have four children: Felix (13), Theresa/Tess (11), Beatrice (9), and Theodore/Teddy (3).

After living in Germany for a year, we decided to move back to Canada. We decided to come back to Kelowna in 2010. During our year in Germany, Lindsay and I used that time to discern if we wanted to join the Catholic Church, as we had both grown up Protestant. We joined the RCIA at Our Lady of Lourdes and were officially received into the Catholic Church during Easter 2011.

Since then, all of our children have grown up in the Catholic Faith. We have been attending St. Charles Garnier since 2012. I am currently the Altar Server coordinator, sing once a month at the 10:30 Mass, and serve on the Okanagan Catholic Family Camp committee.

Lindsay has also been responsible for decorating our parish for several years during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons, and she has recently taken on the role of Head Sacristan. We organize parish family events such as the All-Saints Day party, Saint Nicolas Day party, and a family-oriented Stations of the Cross called Soup and Stations.

Since High school, I have enjoyed studying theology and philosophy, both personally and through our diaconate studies at Newman Theological College. I became aware of the Permanent Diaconate when our diocese first opened for applications, but I knew it was not the right time for me or my family. Over the last number of years, I have continued to pray about this calling, whether it is something I want or something the Lord is calling me to. I have continually kept the words of St. Thomas on my lips when praying, “non nisi te Domine”: nothing but you, Lord. Please continue to pray for me, that I might know and do the Father’s will.

**“IT WILL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, GOD SAYS
‘THAT I WILL POUR OUT A PORTION OF MY SPIRIT
UPON ALL FLESH. YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS
SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE
VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS.”
ACTS 2:17**

ASPIRANT

Luc Lavigne



My path to the diaconate first began with promptings from Kelli, who suggested I apply to the formation program. Since the start of my formation, our children and siblings have been fully supportive and encouraging. I have always loved my Church, and I see the diaconal ministry as a way to serve others more profoundly.

Kelli and I feel blessed to be companions on the journey with the other men in formation and their wives. I ask that you pray for me and my brothers as we continue to discern our calling to the Permanent Diaconate.

Luc Lavigne, May 2025

My name is Luc Lavigne. I was born and raised in Beaumont, Alberta, a small French-Canadian Hamlet south of Edmonton that has since become Alberta's newest city. I am the third of seven children. I married Kelli in 2017, and between us, we have seven adult children and five grandchildren.

I retired in 2019 following a thirty-year career as a teacher and principal. Kelli and I moved from Edmonton to Nelson in 2021 and are currently building our house. The Cathedral of Mary Immaculate in Nelson is our home parish, although we occasionally attend Sacred Heart Mission in Proctor and Sacred Heart Church in Kaslo.

"IF WE ARE BEING EXAMINED TODAY ABOUT A GOOD DEED DONE TO A CRIPPLE, NAMELY, BY WHAT MEANS HE WAS SAVED, THEN ALL OF YOU AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SHOULD KNOW THAT IT WAS IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THE NAZAREAN WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD, IN HIS NAME THIS MAN STANDS BEFORE YOU HEALED."

ACTS: 4:9-10

ASPIRANT

Elisio Cunha



Elisio Cunha, May 2025

My name is Elisio Cunha. I was born and raised in Brazil as the third of five children. I am blessed to have been married for 18 years to my beautiful and loving wife, Antonia. We have one stepdaughter, Louise, and a daughter, Laura Elisa. Our first granddaughter, Louise's daughter, was born in April 2025.

I was fortunate to grow up in a Catholic family, where I began dedicating my time and life to serving the Catholic Church in various ways. I worked with youth, served as a catechist, visited hospitals and prisons, read during the Holy Mass, and offered supportive guidance to individuals with diverse needs.

My family and I moved directly from Brazil to Castlegar, BC, Canada, where I had the privilege of volunteering at St. Rita's Parish for six years as a Eucharist Minister, Lector, and Usher. In May 2022 we moved from Castlegar to West

Kelowna. I now serve as a Sacristan and my daughter, Laura Elsi, serves as an Altar Server at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, my wife is our unwavering support.

Through Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, I began my Diaconate Formation in September 2024, answering God's call. A song that deeply resonates with my journey is "Te Amarei, Senhor," which expresses profound devotion and commitment to following the Lord. In English it translates to: "You called me to walk through life with You/I decided to follow You forever, not to turn back/You placed a fire in my chest and an arrow in my soul/ It's now difficult to love you, Lord, I will love You, Lord/I only find peace and joy close to You.

I humbly ask for your prayers, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the other men and me, as we discern our call to Permanent Diaconate. I will also be praying for those yearning to know God, fostering a deep love for Our Lady. Rest assured that I will be keeping each of you in my prayers as well.

"AND GOD, WHO KNOWS THE HEART, BORE WITNESS BY GRANTING THEM THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST AS HE DID US. HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN US AND THEM, FOR BY FAITH HE PURIFIED THEIR HEARTS."

ACTS: 15:8-9

ASPIRANT

Romeo Medrano



Romeo (Maribelle) Medrano, May 2025

My name is Romeo Medrano. My wife, Maribelle, and I were in Kuwait in the Middle East before we moved to Canada in November of 2008, we now live in Penticton, BC. Our life in Kuwait was very blessed, although it was during of the second Gulf invasion of Iraq into Kuwait. We were in great danger, but we knew that our God was always protecting us. I held onto my daily prayer, "Psalm 91".

I was born in Manila, the Philippines, and grew up in the Catholic Faith. I was married to my beautiful wife, Maribelle. We have been together for 22 years, sharing our love and faith in our God who is the center of our marriage. We do not have children, but we are very blessed to have two loving dogs, Jokoy and Luna.

My parish is St. Ann's (Penticton). I started serving as an Altar Server and Sacristan, during the Covid period, when we had Mass in the parking lot. Later I led the Unity Choir singing and praising in our parish when full Masses were offered and opened.

In September of 2020, I was touched by the Holy Spirit, and I envisioned serving Communion and felt a blaze enkindle in my heart, The very same day I was commissioned to become an Extra Ordinary

Minister of Holy Communion. Another vision came when I witnessed the ordination of the first three Deacons in our Diocese; the Holy Spirit inspired me to apply to serve permanently as a Deacon.

My discernment started at that time, and I felt the images flashing through my mind and felt the desire in every beat of my heart. Year after year, waiting for the moment that I could bring the desire, prayer and discernment from my innermost heart the fire in my soul to hear the voice of His call to serve God and our Church.

Our first formation began in the Fall of 2024. We are now in our Propaedeutic year of prayers, study, and formation as Aspirants in the Diaconate program. As our vocation continues, please bring your prayers to our God. Kindly help me to seek and ask mercy to our Lord Jesus Christ, to give me the wisdom, perseverance, enlightenment, and strong faith to surpass all of the challenges that we may encounter on this journey.

May the Good Lord Jesus continue to bless us, form us year after year, and give us the strong faith and will to understand the plans ahead through our spiritual and human formation.

"ON THE VERY NIGHT BEFORE HEROD WAS TO BRING HIM TO TRIAL, PETER, SECURED BY DOUBLE CHAINS, WAS SLEEPING BETWEEN TWO SOLDIERS, WHILE OUTSIDE THE DOOR GUARDS KEPT WATCH ON THE PRISON. SUDDENLY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD BY HIM AND A LIGHT SHONE IN THE CELL. HE TAPPED PETER ON THE SIDE AND AWAKENED HIM, SAYING, "GET UP QUICKLY." THE CHAINS FELL FROM HIS WRISTS."

ACTS: 12:6-7

EVANGELIZATION AND MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Fr. Obi Ibekwe, Diocesan Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship, Nov. 1, 2025, Feast of All Saints

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Diocese of Nelson has a new office solely dedicated to Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship. This is something that the Holy Spirit has put on the heart of our Bishop—to engage everyone in our diocese in this great mission of the Church as Jesus asked us to: “Go make disciples of all nations.” Jesus wants every Catholic in the diocese of Nelson to be a disciple.

The Bishop said in his letter to me, “Fr. Sylvester, I am entrusting you with an important role in the diocese, because I know that you have the God given skills and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to fulfill this ministry. In this new role, you will provide leadership and advocacy for the development and implementation of evangelization strategies and initiatives to spread the Gospel, build up the Faith, create missionary disciples and provide consistent healing ministry to the sick.” I am grateful for the Bishop’s words to me. I do recognize that all of us, by virtue of our baptism, have been called and gifted. The Holy Spirit lives in each one of us, and He makes every life beautiful with special gifts.

People often ask me, Father what programs do you have for the diocese? All we will do is make Jesus the center of everything we do in the diocese and put His love in the world every day in an intentional way. Our evangelization motto for the diocese is:

LIVE CHRIST, SHARE LOVE.

We have chosen this from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians: ‘For me, to live is Christ’ (Philippians 1:21)

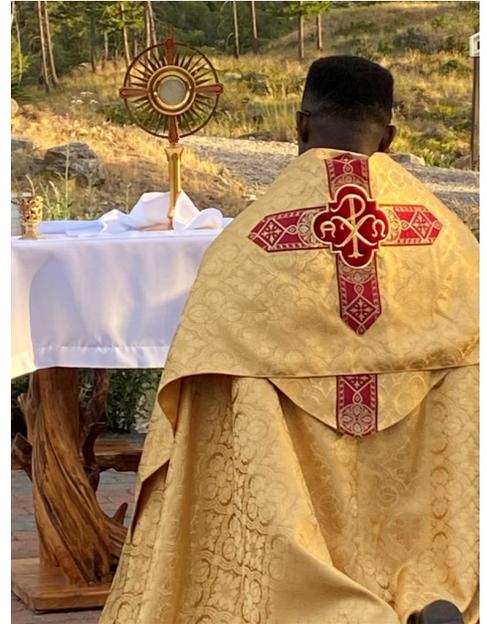
I see this as a new springtime for the Church, as many of our young people are

embracing faith in Jesus and searching for that which will last. Our Holy Father Pope Leo, in his first message after his election, proclaims to the world, “God cares for us, God loves all of us, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God’s hands.

Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and among ourselves, let us move forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as

the bridge to reach God and His love. Help us, Lord, to help each other to build bridges—with dialogue, with encounter, uniting all of us to be one people always in peace. We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, always open to receive (people), like this square (St. Peter’s), with open arms—everyone, all those who need our charity, our presence, dialogue and love.

To all of you, brothers and sisters of Rome, of Italy, of the whole world, we want to be a synodal Church, a Church that walks, a Church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer.”



Jubilee Year 2025: December 24, 2024, to January 6, 2026

As the Holy Year draws to a close, the Office of Evangelization encourages everyone to take advantage of this grace-filled year. It happens once in 25 years. We do not want anyone to miss out. We invite you to visit any of the four Pilgrimage Sites:

1. Seton House of Prayer, Kelowna
 2. Christ the King Parish, Oliver
 3. The Stations of the Cross, Radium
 4. Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Nelson
- in our diocese for special prayers to renew our faith in Jesus, to strengthen our commitment to discipleship, and to receive a plenary indulgence.

Jubilee Year Events: Making a Pilgrimage to one of the Pilgrimage Sites

Before the closing of the Jubilee year, the office of Evangelization would like to invite individuals, families, organizations, Knights of Columbus, CWL, ethnic communities, and parishes to avail themselves of the opportunities of the Jubilee Year. Many people, groups, and organizations have already made visits. It isn't too late, to come and make your pilgrimage.

Spiritual Benefits of Making a Pilgrimage

1. Renew our faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the only One who can satisfy the great desire of the human heart.
2. Renounce Satan and all his empty promises and show.
3. Deepen our relationship and friendship with Jesus.
4. Forgiveness of sins and complete cancellation of any spiritual debt.
5. Receive the grace for a new beginning.
6. Families and couples will have the

opportunity for reconciliation, especially where there has been strife, animosity, injury and woundedness. The visit to a holy site will offer a chance to receive forgiveness and to speak a word of blessing to each other. 'Blessing' in this sense means to speak a good word to each other, words coming from a place of love, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

7. To leave the Pilgrimage Site with a new enthusiasm to put love in the world every day, beginning with our family.

Spiritual Items you may Receive upon your Visit to a Pilgrim Site

1. Jubilee Year Holy Water—for your home.
2. Bookmark containing a 'Pledge to Jesus' (dear Lord, I thank you for your love for me, for dying for me on the Cross of Calvary, I repent of all my sins. Today, I pledge to follow you as your disciple, to put your love in the world every day, to strive for holiness, to live for you alone and never to forget all that you did for me on the Cross.)
3. Prayer of Consecration for individuals and families.

Come as you are! Contact us so we can assist you in planning a pilgrimage to Seton House, tailored to fit your needs.

Call: 250-764-4333 or
Email: setonhouse@nelsondiocese.org

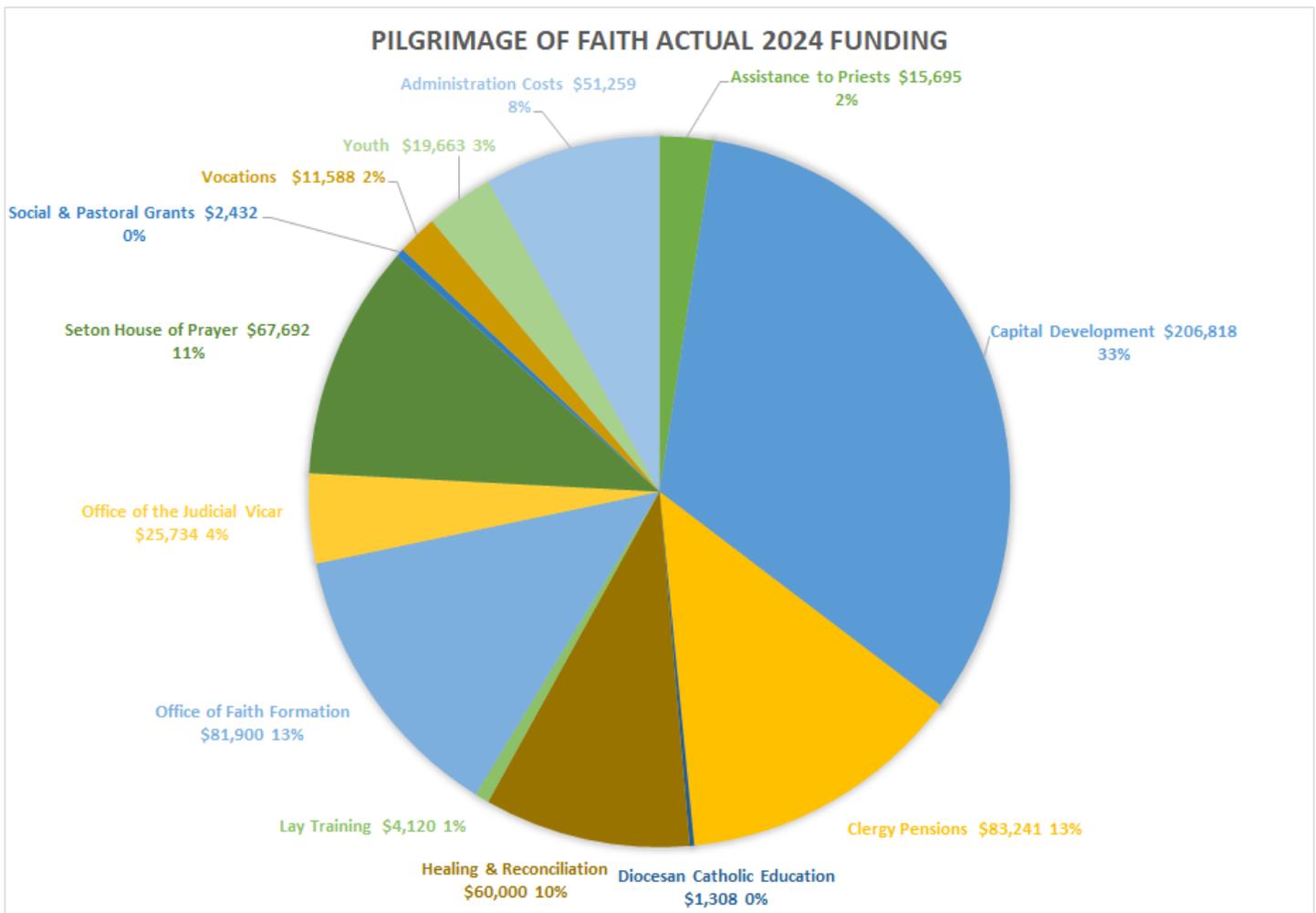


OUR PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH APPEAL 2025

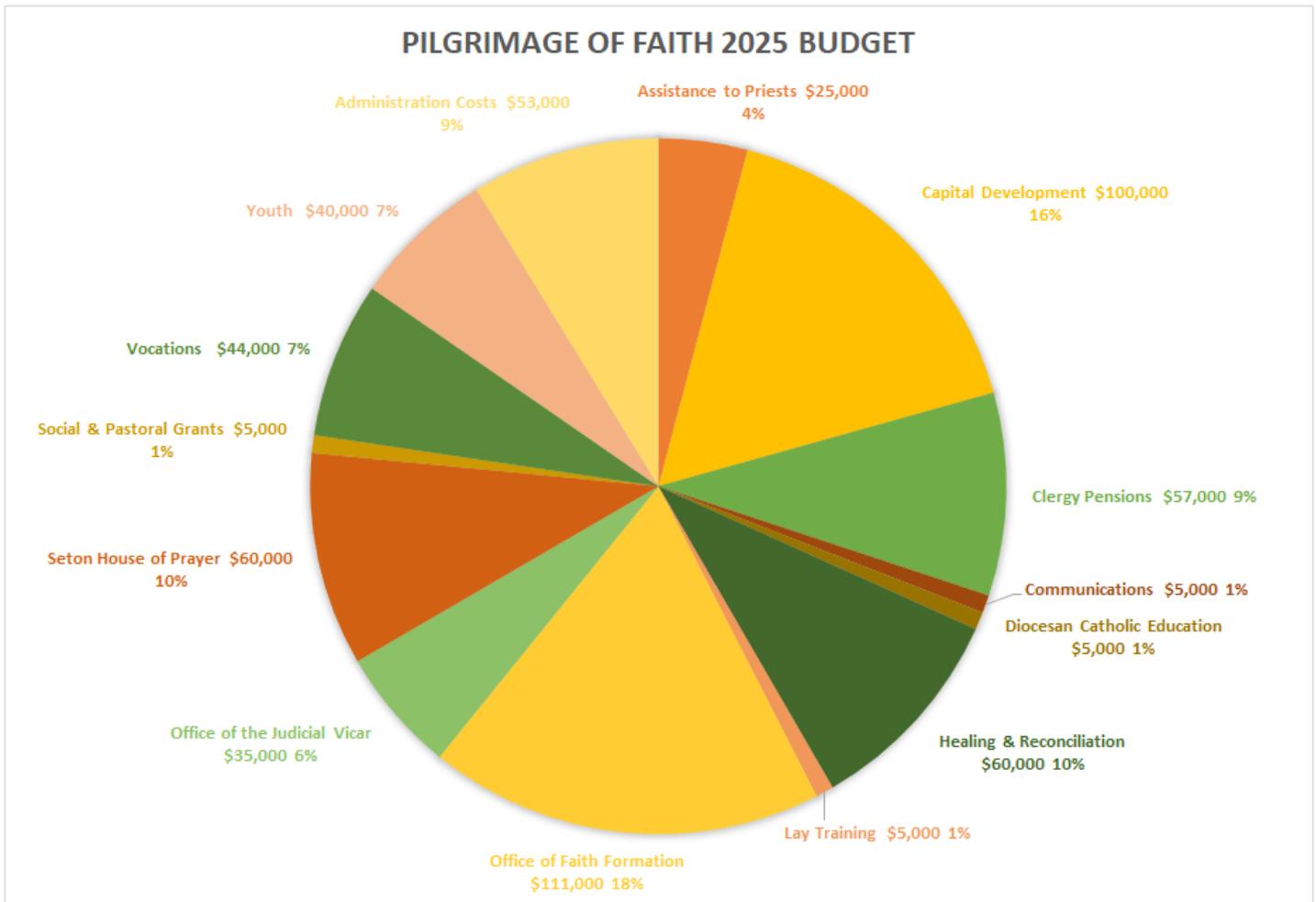


We are excited to share the results of our annual Pilgrimage of Faith for 2024! The generous contributions from the people of our Diocese have enabled us to support vital projects that extend beyond the scope of parish collection donations. Our Appeal supports Pastoral Programs, where the funding plays a crucial role in enhancing our pastoral initiatives across the Diocese. These programs often face funding gaps or are only partially supported by other income streams.

The chart below illustrates the allocation of the Pilgrimage of Faith (POF) fund spending in 2024. The 2024 budget was \$565,000, and an additional \$66,450 was spent, bringing the total to \$631,450. The extra funding came from the POF reserve set aside during the COVID pandemic, when government policies restricted outside programs. The balance of the reserve fund for future program costs is currently \$198,870.



The chart below shows the 2025 budget of \$605,000 and the amounts allocated to each program supported by the Pilgrimage of Faith Appeal.



There are several ways to donate: Please click Below:
[Donate Now - The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nelson](#)



“IF WE HAVE SOWN SPIRITUAL SEED FOR YOU, IS IT A GREAT THING THAT WE REAP A MATERIAL HARVEST FROM YOU?”

1 CORINTHIANS 9.11





THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER LOCAL WESTERN FRATERNITY CELEBRATES THEIR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL

by Christine Reeves, OFS

The Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity in Kelowna, British Columbia had our Day of Reflection and Election at Seton House of Prayer on September 13, 2025.

Fr. Obi (Sylvester) celebrated Mass in St. Joseph Chapel, then gave the Secular Franciscans and friends a talk about love and service. He shared the second Joyful mystery, the Visitation. It was Mary's love that moved her to go to her cousin Elizabeth, who was going to give birth in her old age. He reinforced for us, the Little Flowers Fraternity, how difficult her journey was and the sacrifices she made, but it was her great love that moved her. Then he read the Gospel of John, 21:15-17, explaining the reason why he chose that passage to talk about. Fr. Obi said that at the end of our lives, there are two things that we will account for:

Love and Service.

He shared with us that in this passage, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Then, Jesus asked Peter to: "Feed my sheep." The beauty of Fr. Obi's talk affirmed in us that love is not just a sentimental kind of love but a very practical, 'show Jesus' that we love Him. We needed to be reminded that Jesus wants to be sure of our **LOVE**. Fr. Obi clearly shared, "In the evening of our lives, we will be judged on how much we loved." His talk shifted to leadership. He told us that there are two qualities we must possess as a leader:

- 1. Love for the Lord**
- 2. The ability to Proclaim Christ, the Son of the Living God**

And to remember that we, like Peter, are

imperfect and reflect on this message during the Election process to choose someone imperfect, one who fails but gets up and who professes faith in Christ, the Son of the Living God. After the talk, lunch, and a deeper reflection on the message, we went back up to the meeting room to vote!

After the ballots were voted and counted, I am pleased to announce The Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity's new council is:

Minister: Maria Levko, OFS

Vice Minister: Paulette Wolfe, OFS

Treasurer: Anne Engel, OFS

Secretary: Lindael Rolstone, OFS

Formation Director: Linda Adams, OFS.

Let us pray for them and congratulate them!

If you are moved and would like to explore more of the Franciscan Order Secular, you are welcome to join our gathering as a guest.

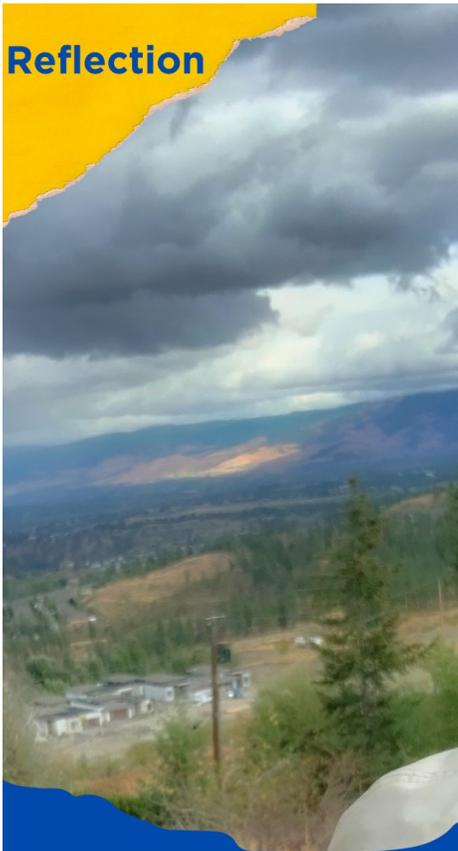
The Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity meet every third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in West Kelowna, British Columbia.

The Franciscan way of life is *living the Gospel to life and life to the Gospel*. If you are curious and you want to **LOVE** and **SERVE** uniquely following the Charism of St. Francis of Assisi phone:

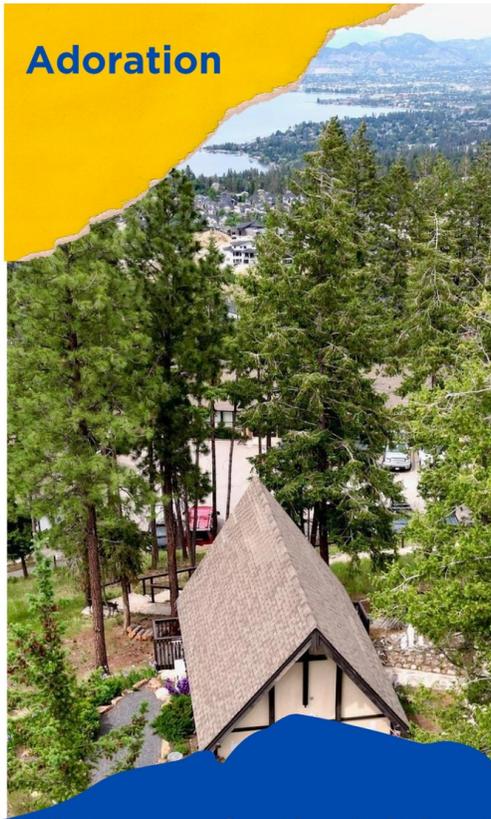
**Maria Levko, our new Minister at:
778-214-2705**



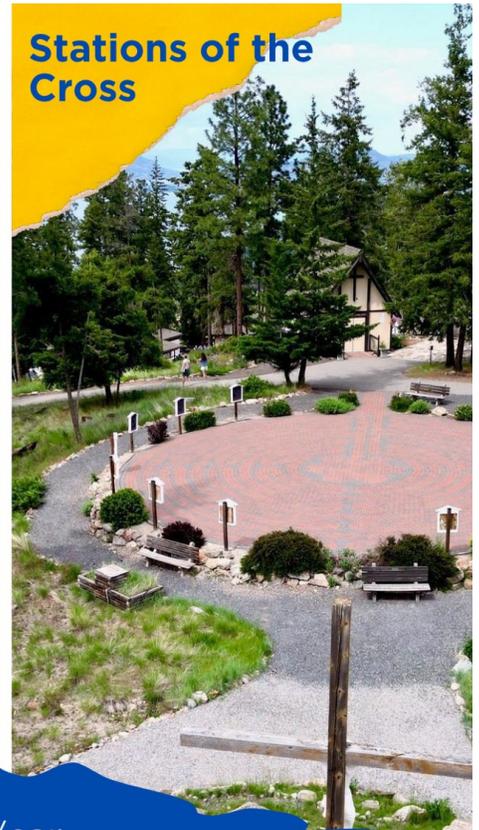
Reflection



Adoration



Stations of the Cross



Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year
Seton House of Prayer

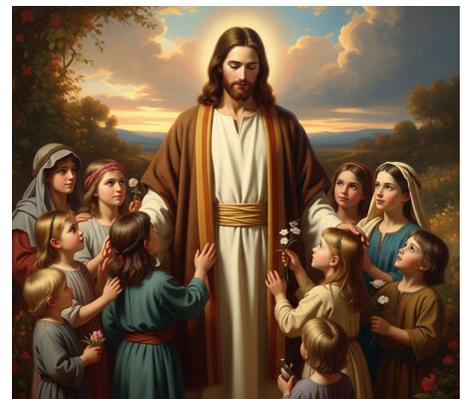
www.nelsondiocese.org

To arrange your visit please call 250-764-4333 or email setonhouse@nelsondiocese.org

“TODAY, WE TOO ARE INVITED TO BECOME CHILDLIKE. WHETHER WE ARE PARENTS, STUDENTS OR CATECHISTS; BUSINESS PEOPLE, PRIESTS OR RELIGIOUS,, WE ARE ALL CALLED TO LIVE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AUTHENTICALLY BY HUMBLY FOLLOWING THE LORD’S INSPIRATIONS. MAY THIS SPIRIT OF SIMPLICITY GUIDE US AS WE LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE TO THE ONGOING RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH AND OF THE WORLD.”

CATECHESIS BY HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

*St Peter's Square
Saturday, 27 September 2025*



SETON HOUSE OF PRAYER RETREAT CENTRE: 51 YEARS OF SERVING SPIRITUAL NEEDS



by Fr Marcel Cote, October 2025

St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer was originally founded in 1974 in Summerland, BC, by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, and was named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the foundress of the order. In 1986, Bishop Emmett Doyle acquired the land for its present location in Kettle Valley in Kelowna, off Upper Mission Drive, known as "Seton House," we offer a peaceful retreat for individuals seeking a getaway, whether for a day, a weekend, or a week-long stay. Many visitors express feelings of peacefulness while walking our grounds. The spiritual renewal experienced by retreatants encourages them to return year after year.

We are open year-round and can accommodate 33 guests at one time. Our dining room can seat 50 people. Seton House features a conference area in Emmett Hall, a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph the Carpenter, an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor Mass area known as Mary's Grove, a labyrinth, and two outdoor Stations of the Cross. Walking paths connect the Stations to the Chapel and Main Building.

Additionally, we offer a single-person hermitage called a "Poustinia," a Russian term meaning 'The Desert,' which serves as a space for prayer and contemplation, reminiscent of the time Jesus spent in the desert, strong in prayer.

Your continued support for Seton House through participation in retreats, donations to the Pilgrimage of Faith Appeal, the Annual Fundraiser, and the Parish collection is vital. Your contributions ensure that this place of spiritual nourishment continues to thrive within our Diocese. Thank you!

To book a visit or learn more about the retreats we offer, please visit the Nelson Diocese website at nelsondiocese.org.



“COME TO HIM, A LIVING STONE, REJECTED BY HUMAN BEINGS BUT CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, AND, LIKE LIVING STONES, LET YOURSELVES BE BUILT INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE TO BE A HOLY PRIESTHOOD TO OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.”

1 Peter 2:4-5



BC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL



Richard Dunstan, B.C. Renewal
newsletter, Fall 2025

Do not be Conformed to this World

Are you a thermometer, or a thermostat? Think carefully. There's a right and a wrong answer. A thermometer is passive. If you have a fever, it will cause your body temperature to rise. If your furnace isn't working in the winter, it will cause your house to drop in temperature. It reflects its environment, and that's all it does.

For a Christian, that's the wrong answer. We aren't supposed to be reflecting our environment, Pauline Dumas McGrath told the annual Gathering in the Spirit (GIS) in Kelowna August 12-16, "Do not be conformed to this world," St. Paul warns us, "but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2).

A thermostat, Dumas McGrath said, is *active*. If your house is too cold, you can turn up the thermostat, and bingo! Up goes the temperature. A thermostat determines its

environment, not the other way around. That's what Christians are supposed to do.

"We align ourselves with God's will and allow ourselves to become His thermostats. We allow our minds to be transformed; then we can be like Jesus and create a kingdom atmosphere." It's right there in the Our Father: "hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." "Once we bow before God, our job is to bring His kingdom on earth," Dumas McGrath said.

Jesus Hope of the World

The 17th Gathering in the Spirit (GIS) welcomed 32 participants to St. Elizabeth Seton House of Prayer for weekday sessions, while approximately 60 attendees joined the weekend sessions at St. Pius X Parish.

Organized by the Nelson Diocese Catholic Renewal Services, this year's theme was "Jesus, Hope of the World." Dumas McGrath served as the featured speaker for the third consecutive year. A resident of Ottawa, she is actively involved in her parish of St. Maurice, where she serves as co-team lead for discipleship, evangelization, and outreach.

Dumas is also a graduate of Encounter School of Ministry and volunteers at Encounter's Ottawa campus. As she did last year, she sent those attending the weekday sessions out into the streets and malls of Kelowna for an afternoon to offer to pray for passersby. Bringing God's kingdom to earth sounds like it might be above our pay grade, but it isn't, Dumas McGrath said. As baptized Christians, we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7) because God "has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12 RSV). "You've already got your qualifications," she said. "Now you're ready to get to work."

The Power of the Holy Spirit is for Mission

This Saturday session focused on the source of our qualifications: the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Dumas McGrath noted that the Spirit is imparted in the sacrament of confirmation (as also at baptism). The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1302) says the effect of confirmation is the same as the experience of the apostles at Pentecost, but most recipients don't feel anything in particular during the sacrament,

and aren't taught to exercise the gifts. "I wasn't taught to expect that," she said.

What's more, she said, any teaching about the gifts of the Spirit in preparation for confirmation is usually limited to the seven gifts mentioned in Isaiah 11: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. These are real and important, Dumas McGrath said, but they aren't the whole story.

The Isaiah gifts are for our own holiness and edification, she said. But holiness and mission are two sides of the same coin. Jesus promises that the disciples will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and will be His witnesses "to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8). "The power of the Holy Spirit is for mission," she said. And for mission, we need the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12: prophecy, discernment of spirits, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, extraordinary faith, healing and miracles. These are gifts not for our own benefit, but for our ministry to other people. We have all these gifts by our baptism, but we need to ask the Holy Spirit to activate them in us. And ask again tomorrow, and every day after that. Then, we need to use them, to minister to other people.

Angel Gabriel's first words to Mary, "Do not be afraid"

Dumas McGrath's idea of ministering to others isn't limited to those who come to us or whom we meet in our prayer groups, or even in church. Friday's hour of prayer with strangers in Kelowna was a pale shadow of what she does most days in her own life, but she says we can do the same. If we meet a person or see a situation that calls for prayer, we should offer to pray. Not only that—we should be *actively looking* for prayer needs, as a routine part of our lives as Christians. "Scan the environment. Look for people," she said. God will "highlight" those who need prayer by bringing them to our attention through circumstances or through a sense in our spirits.

God will often give us a prophetic word about the person, spontaneously or when we ask for it. What comes instantly is more likely to be from God than what we take time to figure out for ourselves. If what we see or hear isn't clear, we can "press in" by asking God for more detail.

And yes, we can do this, Dumas McGrath said. "Every baptized Christian is a prophet." We need to be careful in sharing our prophetic words. "We don't always hear God 100 percent, so we need to ask the person if any of what we said resonated with them." We should tell people "I sense God

saying..." rather than "God says..." We should not prophesy births, deaths, dates, or vocations. And most of us are called only to prophesy words that are uplifting, encouraging, or consoling. It's a particular vocation to call people on their sins or lay down their duties to them, and most of us do not have that vocation.

But though we must be careful, we must also be bold. It isn't easy for most of us to speak about spiritual matters to strangers. As human beings, "your first go-to is to be afraid." Dumas McGrath said. But the angel Gabriel's first words to the Virgin Mary were, "Do not be afraid," and that's the message for us too, found throughout the Bible. God can make that happen. "Courage is fear that has said its prayers," Dumas McGrath said.

The Book of Acts is the continuation of the Apostles today.

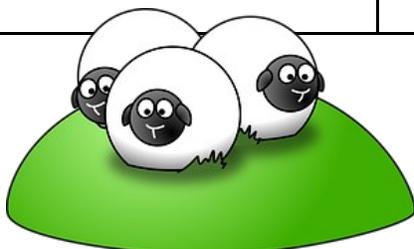
In the first verse of the Acts of the Apostles, the author, Luke, describes the gospel he had already written as "all that Jesus *began* to do and teach." (RSV). Acts is about the continuation of that ministry through the apostles, and Dumas McGrath said that process stretches down to the present day.

"You are Spirit-filled and Spirit-led," she said. "Go out and continue Jesus' work of advancing God's Kingdom wherever you are!"

UPCOMING EVENTS



November		
Knights of Columbus breakfasts (both Masses) Our Lady of Lourdes Parish , West Kelowna for The Immaculata Mission Trip Team	16-Nov-25	Net proceeds from the Knights of Columbus breakfasts after both Masses to support 21 young people, along with their teachers and priest, will travel to Manila, Philippines to serve the poor January 26-February 7, 2026.
Christmas Fair Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Kelowna	22-Nov-25	Fresh baked goods, and many contributions from local organizations! Raffle tickets, Silent Auction and so much more! Located at: Our Lady of Lourdes School Gym. 9am-2pm 2547 Hebert Rd., West Kelowna, BC.
Jubilee Year Celebration South Okanagan Deanery Celebration, Seton House, Kelowna	22-Nov-25 Saturday at Seton House from 9am-1pm	5819 Chute Lake Rd, Kelowna) Bring a bagged lunch. We plan to take a bus to Seton House. If you are interested in joining us please contact the Parish Office at 250-492-3169 or sa.sj.parishes@gmail.com in advance.
Christmas Bazaar St. Ann's Parish, Penticton	29-Nov-25	Saturday, 9am-3pm, and Sunday 10am-3pm 1296 Main St., Penticton, BC.
December		
Christmas Fair Corpus Christi Parish, Kelowna	6-Dec-25	Featuring Santa's café. Home-made soups, baking, crafts and much more. Tables to rent are \$20 ea. Reserve yours today.
February 2026		
Christ the King vocation Live-In Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC	7-Feb to 8-Feb-26	High School Grades 6-11 Vocation Live-In those far can come Friday evening. Live in begins Saturday 9:30 AM to Sunday. More details contact Fr. Anthony Nguyen, osb : Email: rector. Minors@sck.ca www.sck.ca .



“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I IN THE MIDST OF THEM.”

Matthew 18:20

PARISH NEWS

A SPECIAL VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

Jesus, the Way,
the Truth and
the Life



HEROIC MEN'S
CONFERENCE

DRAWS TOGETHER
MEN OF FAITH



“EVERY DAY THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO MEETING TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE AREA AND TO BREAKING BREAD IN THEIR HOMES. THEY ATE THEIR MEALS WITH EXULTATION AND SINCERITY OF HEART, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING FAVOR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE. AND EVERY DAY THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.”

ACTS 2:46-47

A SPECIAL VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION



*Updates from the Holy Cross CWL Council, Penticton
April 2025*

A special Valentine's celebration recently took place at Crestview Village to honour our parish's senior residents. The event featured a delicious cake social, followed by Mass, to foster fellowship and prayer.

Our CWL bulletin board in the church foyer has received a beautiful refresh. It now prominently showcases our logo, mission statement, and theme, along with photos from recent conventions, monthly events, and birthdays.



The CWL Service Committee has been revitalized, thanks to the enthusiasm of three newer, younger members. We celebrate their success in hosting a St. Patrick's Day potluck, complete with festive decorations, Irish trivia, and a limerick-writing competition. The festivities brought members together on a Saturday afternoon and filled the room with joyful spirit.



Our new Vice President took the lead in organizing an excellent Spring Craft Fair & Tea, which featured 13 vendors, both local and from out of town. The event was a great success, with parishioners enjoying shopping, delicious homemade cakes and craft activities

In celebration of CWL Sundays, we recognize Mother-Daughter duos who serve as greeters and lectors. Our Parish has six Mother-Daughter duos who share in these Ministries.



Rosa Maria Rocca and Annette Rocca Morse



Alexandra Ringheim and Patricia Hayes

**“WE DO NOT GO TO MISSION LANDS TO
‘BRING JESUS CHRIST’ AS MUCH AS TO UN-
COVER HIM WHERE HE ALREADY IS.”**

CATHERINE DOHERTY

League Prayer



*We humbly pray You,
O God our Father,
to bless The Catholic
Women's League of
Canada.*

*Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.
Send Your Holy Spirit upon
us to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills that
we may know and fulfill Your
great law of charity.*

*Teach us to share with
others, at home and abroad,
the good things you have
given us.*

*This we ask through Our
Lord Jesus Christ and the
intercession of our
patroness, Our Lady of
Good Council.*

Amen

“As a member of the Catholic Women’s League, I have witnessed love and service in the hearts of women who devote long hours and time to ensure many organizations receive the financial help that so many in our community need.

Being a CWL member I witness not only the results of what the donations have accomplished within the Parish Community but also contributions given on a wider scale that CWL Nationally and provincially have helped all over the world. Being a member helps me grow to be a better woman of God, a better mother to my son and a better daughter and sister to my family. The laughter and the bonds women share in the League creating a sense of unity among its members and blesses our Parish.”

*Christine Reeves, Member of the CWL at Our
Lady of Lourdes Parish, West Kelowna*

Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life

Bernadette Parrott, RCIA Co-ordinator Catholic Parishes
of Penticton, April, 21, 2025

The 2024-2025 RCIA Journey at the Catholic Parishes of Penticton focused on our every step, every word, and every action centred on Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Eleven candidates, eleven sponsors, guest presenters, one lead catechist, and one very dedicated pastor met weekly, discovering, encountering, and building an intimate, personal relationship with our loving God. Of course, all this culminated at our beautiful Easter Vigil with six Baptisms, three Receptions into Full Communion, nine Confirmations and nine First Holy Communions. One of our Candidates received their Sacraments in Summerland, and one other received Confirmation before the Easter vigil.

Our small group united on this most Holy Night with all those throughout the world on the same journey of discovery and relationship. Truly a journey of faith that marks only the beginning of the rest of their journey on the road we all travel upon to our eternal home. Intermingled with our regular sessions were the Rites so crucial to the RCIA process.

For our Inquirers, those seeking Full Communion into the Catholic Faith through the Sacraments of Initiation —Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist —their first step was the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, as they expressed their intention to respond to God's call and to follow



the Way. Our second step, the Rite of Election, took place on the First Sunday of Lent, when those Elect called by God, placed their names in the Book of Elect, spending time in deep spiritual preparation, looking forward.

We celebrated the Scrutinize during Lent— to help our Elect rely on God, to see their weakness in the light of how sin enters our lives, and to help them combat temptation with God's grace. The presentations of the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer enhanced their faith in what they are called to.

For our Candidates, those seeking to come to the Catholic Church through their Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and Eucharist, the Rite of Welcoming Candidates formally introduced them to the congregations of the Catholic Parishes of Penticton, St. John Vianney, and St. Ann. The Rite of Calling Candidates to Lenten Renewal called them to continued conversion in preparation for their sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Just before the beauty and joy of the Easter Vigil, we gathered for a prayerful mini-retreat, with Father Neil Lustado and Deacon Peter d'Aoust as integral parts of the presentations. Now we turn to the Period of Mystagogy, our post-baptismal

...

catechesis period to allow them to reflect on their personal experience of the Easter Vigil and beyond through their Neophyte year.

Truly, Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life has called them, and they have heard his call and have answered. May our Loving God, Jesus, our Way, Truth, and Life, and the Holy Spirit, walk with each of them

Congratulations Malou, Tyler, Jacob, Michael, Paige, Emily, Mark, Laura, Tyler, Chris and Alonso. May God bless you today and every day. Welcome home.



“THIS SAYING IS TRUSTWORTHY: IF WE HAVE DIED WITH HIM WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM; IF WE PERSEVERE WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM.”

2 TIMOTHY 11-12

HEROIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

DRAWS TOGETHER MEN OF FAITH

David Ziebart, ICC Youth & Religious Ed
April 22, 2025

Ninety men from across the interior of British Columbia came together at Immaculate Conception Parish in Kelowna on April 4-5 for a spiritually enriching Catholic Men's Conference.

The weekend featured inspiring talks from Fr. Troy Nguyen, David Paul, and Sean Lynn, who spoke on the theological virtues and how these virtues provide meaning and direction in an ever-changing world. The purpose was to unite all ages in prayer, fellowship, and mutual encouragement in their faith journeys and vocations. Bishop Gregory graciously welcomed participants on Friday evening and celebrated the closing Mass on Saturday night. We are deeply grateful to our generous sponsors: Heroic Men, God Squad Canada, Springfield Funeral Home, Loaves and Fishes Catholic Bookstore, and the District 9 Knights of Columbus.

Be sure to watch your parish bulletins next spring for details about the 2026 Catholic Men's Conference.



**“BE ON YOUR GUARD,
STAND FIRM IN FAITH, BE
COURAGEOUS, BE
STRONG. YOUR EVERY
ACT SHOULD BE DONE
WITH LOVE”**

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

“It is not possible to live and grow in the faith without the support of a group, of a Christian community. IT IS HERE THAT YOU will learn together to BUILD A BETTER WORLD.” St. John Paul II
News | Heroic Brotherhood. Visit Heroic Men here: [Heroic Men](#)



Knights of Columbus®

Knights of Columbus (BC) Charity Foundation Annual Charity Appeal

Win a 2025 Ford Maverick + \$40,000 in Grand Prizes!

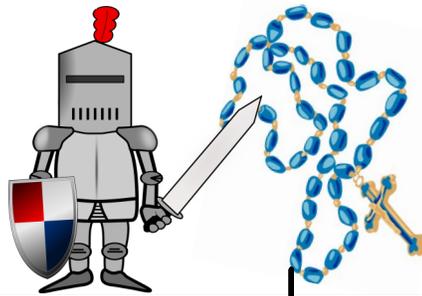
Multiple \$1,000 Early bird Draws!

Grand Prize Deadline is December 13th, 2025 at 12:01 AM

Buy Tickets Now!

[Support KOFC 50/50](#)

**Thinking about
Joining the Knights
of Columbus?
Contact your
local Parish.**



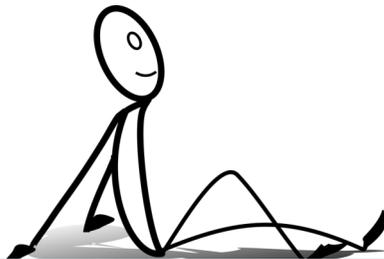
"Your founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, understood this well. He saw the many needs of immigrant Catholics and sought to bring relief to the poor and suffering through his faithful celebration of the sacraments as well as through fraternal assistance, fraternal assistance which continues on to this day.

This year's Convention has the timely theme of "Heralds of Hope," reminding all Knights of Columbus of the invitation to be signs of hope in your local communities, parishes, and families. In this regard, I commend your efforts to bring together men in your communities for prayer, formation, and fraternity, as well as the many charitable efforts of your local Councils throughout the world. In particular, your generous service to vulnerable populations, including the unborn, pregnant mother, children, those who are less fortunate, and those affected by the scourge of war, brings hope and healing to many and continues the noble legacy of your founder." [Pope Leo XIV](#)

PARISHIONERS' INSPIRATIONS



**NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR GOD**



“Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.”

2 Timothy 4:2

Next Issue

SUBMISSIONS

catholicmountainstar@nelsondiocese.org



Diocesan Newspaper: The Catholic Mountain Star – Our Diocese
– Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson





Sharon and Doug Deyotte, Holy Cross Parish,
Creston, April 9, 2025

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

details of leaving our house, pets, and home for six weeks were being taken care of.

March 25, 2021, the Feast Day of the Annunciation, I wrote part of a reading in my journal. After my morning prayers, I went on with my day. Later that morning, my husband, Doug, came upstairs and called my name urgently. He told me that St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver had called to see if he would come for tests because a donor kidney might be available for him.

After 7.5 years on dialysis, we were eager to accept the opportunity. We quickly packed our bags and left, enjoying the beautiful spring day, and arrived at the hospital in no time.

This felt like a miracle from God. After several tests, the hospital confirmed that the kidney was a perfect match! We are very grateful to the family who donated the kidney and to the staff at St. Paul's Hospital. The crucifix in each room and the hospital's history were comforting.

We want to share God's amazing Providence through our story. The doctors said the chances of finding a kidney match were one in 20,000! Throughout this journey, we felt God guiding us and taking care of every detail.

Our nurse's name was Emmanuella, and of course it was! We booked a beautiful one-bedroom hotel room in downtown Vancouver, just one block from St. Paul's Hospital, for only \$71 a night—no tax and free parking, which is absolutely unheard of!

Thanks to our generous friends, family members, and neighbours, all the logistical

Doug's kidney started working immediately and very efficiently, leading to his discharge two weeks early because he was doing so well. Hallelujah!

On our drive to Vancouver, we saw so many eagles.

All of this happened on a day filled with good news—the Feast of the Annunciation, which provided us with the perfect example of trusting in God's will. Thank you, Mother Mary, for your powerful, fervent, and generous intercessions! You, who are the health of the sick!

Isaiah 40:31 states, "*but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*"

Praise and glory to God! We experienced a tremendous miracle and are very humbled and grateful for it. We all receive many miracles, some larger than others. In this Jubilee year of Hope, may all our hopes soar like the wings of eagles, and may we trust that nothing is impossible with God!

If you are interested in giving the gift of life and ultimately help your neighbour, register with BC Transplant to be an organ donor .

[BC Transplant](#)

If you are interested in the Catholic Church's position on organ and tissue donations and transplantations please follow the links below:

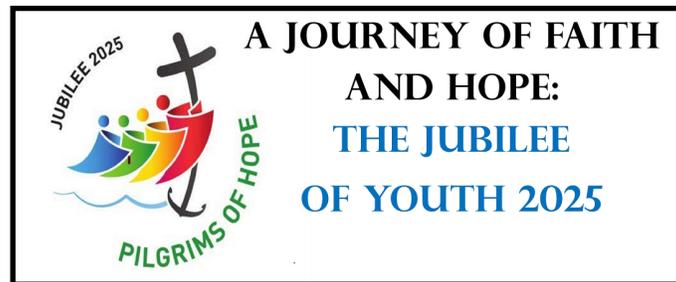
Links for further readings	
The Holy See Benedict XVI-Speeches-2008- November	<u>Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Participants at an International Congress organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life</u>
The Holy See Francis-Speeches-2024-November	<u>Address of the Holy Father Francis to the Members of the Italian Federation of Blood donors Association (FIDAS)</u>
The Holy See-Pope Francis	<u>Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Italian Association for the Donation of Organs, Tissues and cells (AIDO)</u>
The Holy See John Paul II Speeches, 2000	<u>Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the 18th International Congress of the Transplantation Society</u>
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops	<u>Faith & Moral Issues</u>
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada	<u>Ethics Catholic Health Alliance of Canada</u>



**“MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE
GREATNESS OF THE LORD.”
LUKE 1:46**



YOUTH INSPIRATIONS



We want to hear from you!

Next Issue

SUBMISSIONS

catholicmountainstar@nelsondiocese.org



Diocesan Newspaper: The Catholic Mountain Star – Our Diocese
– Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson

"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity."

1 Timothy 4:12



A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND HOPE: THE JUBILEE OF YOUTH 2025

By Fr. Ferdinand Bayarong
Youth Ministry Coordinator,
August 2025

Charismatic Renewal Ministry together with the
Diocese of Nelson Youth Ministry.

A living Faith in the Heart of the Church

“Dear young people, Jesus is our hope. It is He, as Saint John Paul II once said, ‘who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives [...] to commit to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.’ Let us remain united with Him, rooted in His friendship, and cultivate this relationship through prayer, adoration, Eucharistic Communion, frequent Confession, and generous charity. Follow the example of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Saint Carlo Acutis, who has been declared a Saint on, September 7, 2025. Aspire to greatness—to holiness—wherever you are. Do not settle for less. You will see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you.”

These were the moving words of Pope Leo during the Final Mass at Tor Vergata, the closing celebration of the Jubilee of Youth in Rome (July 28—August 3, 2025)

The Diocese of Nelson joyfully sent 48 delegates, youth, parents as chaperones, and spiritual leaders Fr. Obi (Sylvester) and myself Fr. Ferdinand, to this extraordinary pilgrimage, organized by the Nelson Diocese.

The pilgrimage was an unforgettable encounter with the living faith of the Catholic Church. The delegates were uplifted by witnessing millions of young people from every corner of the world gathered together in the very heart of the Church, joyfully proclaiming the name of Jesus. Truly, the youth are the hope of the Church!

Before the Jubilee of Youth, the group embarked on a spiritual journey across Italy, visiting holy sites, shrines of saints, and the Four Holy Doors to celebrate the Jubilee Year.

They prayed at the four papal Basilicas: St. Peter’s, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. These Holy Doors, opened only during Jubilee years, are profound symbols of God’s mercy and renewal. Passing through them is not only a sacred tradition but also a reminder of God’s infinite forgiveness and the call to begin anew.

The Group was also blessed to visit the Vatican Museums, the Vatican Gardens, and the shrines of St. Rita, Blessed Carlo Acutis,

St. Thomas, and the site of St. Paul's martyrdom at Tre Fontane (Three Fountains). Each visit touched hearts deeply, showing how the saints lived their lives fully for Christ. Their examples inspired the young pilgrims to follow in their footsteps with courage and joy.

The Jubilee of Youth: A Celebration of Hope

The highlight of the pilgrimage was, without question, the **Jubilee of Youth**. The days were filled with concerts, talks, testimonies, and powerful moments of prayer. The faith of young people was alive expressed through music, words, and witness.

One unforgettable moment was the **Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Circus Maximus**, where countless young people patiently lined up under the sun to receive God's mercy. The sight of priests journeying with them in confession was a moving testimony of the depth of God's love and forgiveness.

The **pilgrimage walk to Tor Vergata** was another life-changing experience. Though the journey was long and hot, the joy and faith of the young pilgrims never wavered. During the evening prayer vigil, Pope Leo listened to the heartfelt questions of the youth and then led them in **adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. Despite the presence of millions, a profound silence filled the field, a silence of reverence, unity, and love for Christ.

That night, the pilgrims camped under the stars, their hearts overflowing with faith.

The Final Mass: A New Beginning

The closing Mass was a moment of great joy and reverence. The youth welcomed Pope Leo with resounding shouts, yet when the Eucharist was celebrated, a deep spirit of worship embraced the crowd. They listened attentively to the Word of God and received the Body of Christ with renewed faith and hope.

As the celebration ended, the young people did not leave empty-handed. They returned home carrying treasures of faith, joy, and purpose to share with their families, parishes, and communities.

Takeaways from the Diocese of Nelson Delegates

Takeaways from the Diocese of Nelson Delegates

The pilgrimage left lasting lessons for our young people:

Let your light shine. You are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Build authentic friendships rooted in Christ. True solidarity is stronger than any virtual connection.

Serve with justice and love. Like Jesus, seek out the poor, the marginalized, and those most in need.

Carry hope back home. As Pope Leo reminded us, spread enthusiasm and faith throughout your communities and countries.



Jubilee of Youth 2025 Walking Forward in Joy



We walked together in faith.

We sang under the sun.

We prayed under the stars.

We celebrated the Eucharist with the
Universal Church.

We returned not tired, but transformed—ready to be
missionary disciples of Christ.

We have **seen the love, heard the message, and
lived the joy.** Now, we step boldly into
the next chapter.

The world awaits our witness.

To be the light.

To show how fellowship, prayer, and courage can
transform lives.

To go in peace, united with Christ.

With renewed purpose and joy, our journey of faith
continues.



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION



Living, Celebrating, and
PROCLAIMING Our Faith



FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR & CATECHIST NETWORKING 2025-26

GROW IN YOUR MINISTRY - SHARE CHALLENGES AND IDEAS
NETWORK WITH COORDINATORS AND CATECHISTS IN SIMILAR ROLES

RCIA • Adult Formation ~ Catechism K-8 • Children's Liturgy of the Word

clergy and laity responsible for parish catechetical ministries are welcome

**“SO AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, WALK IN HIM, ROOT-
ED IN HIM AND BUILT UPON HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH AS
YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING.”**

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOPS



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More information at
www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/pages/invitation



Discover God's call for your life

God is calling you to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. Discern your charisms (spiritual gifts) and begin to discern God's call. You have received gifts in Baptism and Confirmation through which God intends His love to reach others. Come and discover these charisms in you!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Visit the Faith Formation page at www.nelsondiocese.org or contact your local church for schedules and information. Additional workshops will be posted as they become available.

The Call of the Laity
Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory Explained
Role of the Holy Spirit
Charisms
Discernment Process
Role of Charisms in Parish, Community and World

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CALLED & GIFTED
AND HOW TO BRING THIS TO YOUR PARISH, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.nelsondiocese.org/apps/pages/invitation



An enriching learning experience for...

People wondering, “How can I follow Jesus’ plan for my life, in this time and place?”

Parents who want to help their children live their faith and recognize their charisms (spiritual gifts)

People in transition who might be changing jobs, adjusting to an empty nest, returning to the workplace, or facing retirement

New or returning Catholics who want to explore what it means to live their faith fully as an adult

Catholics discerning a call to religious life or ordination

Inquirers or Christians of other faiths curious about this Catholic approach to discernment of gifts

Parish staff and leaders who want to nurture and empower parishioners

What you will learn from the initial workshop

The ancient teachings of the Church on how the charisms of the Holy Spirit work in your life and in the life of your parish community

The five steps of discerning the charisms that God has given you

The signs and characteristics of 24 of the most common charisms of the Holy Spirit

How discerning your charisms can change your life

How discerning your charisms can change the world and help spread the Gospel

How discerning and using our charisms together can help transform and renew our parishes

What participants are saying...

“It is awesome to me that you have actually found a format to give expression to the process of discerning gifts! Presentation was great!”

For me, the idea that I stand in the place of Jesus in my life, in my encounters with my family, my friends, and my little daughter has been revolutionary. Until now, I’ve thought that I was not worthy to untie Jesus’ sandals. Now it seems I am to put them on and walk as though they fit.

The workshop clearly called out that all baptized people have been given the power, authority, and jurisdiction to stand in Jesus’ place to reach people who would not otherwise be reached. ”

The Called & Gifted Discernment process was developed by Sherry A. Weddell and brought to you by the Catherine of Siena Institute. To learn more about CSI, please call 719-219-0056 or visit our website: www.siena.org.



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Through a retreat program facilitated by mental health professionals and centered on Jesus Christ, Grief to Grace helps those who have endured neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and/or spiritual abuse in their family of origin, their community, from spouses/partners, and/or coworkers or supervisors, find healing and journey to wholeness. For more information please email griegtograncelowna@gmail.com or make a confidential call to 250-808-6403.



Post Abortion Trauma is Real

Getting the help you need is hard. Rachel's Vineyard retreats are available for any man, woman, or family member who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. We believe everyone deserves support and healing. Join us for a weekend of restoration, compassion and self-care. Confidentiality assured.

Inquire about our upcoming retreats. For more information call Vicki at 250-762-2273/e-mail rvokanagan@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com



Post Abortion Trauma is real.

Getting the help you need is hard.

But we believe everyone deserves support and healing when suffering from the trauma of an abortion experience.

Join us for a confidential, therapeutic weekend retreat where anyone impacted by abortion can find healing and peace.

Things only get better when healing becomes a priority.

Abortion doesn't have to keep a painful grip on your life. Make time for your wholeness by devoting a weekend to focus on yourself.

Start here:

1. Visit our Website

Learn more about how the Retreat has helped countless people suffering from post abortion trauma.

2. Attend the Retreat

The entire weekend is created to give you the opportunity to focus on yourself. You'll walk through expertly developed, leading-edge methods and scriptural promises to move your body, soul and mind toward healing and hope.

3. Live a Bigger Story

You are more than the experiences of the past. This weekend is just the beginning of life beyond your pain.

scan below or visit rachelsvineyardkelowna.com or call/text 250.762.2273



Here are some comments from participants who attended the October 2025 retreat:

"I had the opportunity to leave my grief and pain on the cross, and to take joy, love and peace from the cross. The retreat was transformational."

"This was the answer to my prayers to God, and I could feel His love. I have found a way to continue with my life."

"I shared my story...I've had it locked up for so long."



Volunteering

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TEAM

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CHURCH FAMILY.

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ENGAGE

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DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER: THE CATHOLIC MOUNTAIN STAR

HOPE

Tell us your Pilgrimage of Hope Experience

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JUBILEE 2025



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[Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson](http://www.roman-catholic-dioocese-of-nelson.ca)

Giving TO YOUR PARISH

You can donate to your parish in many ways:

- In the collection basket at Mass.
- Drop off your envelope to the parish office.
- Pre-authorized giving (PAG)
- E-transfer to:
etransfer.pof@nelsondiocese.org.
- Credit card via QR Code (Square)



- Online via canadahelps.org.
- [Visit the nelsondiocese.org website](http://nelsondiocese.org) and click “Donate Now”.
- [Contact POFAdmin@nelsondiocese.org](mailto:POFAdmin@nelsondiocese.org).

Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

