JOY TO THE WORLD...YEAR ROUND
By Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J.

We soon begin a year of “great joy for all the people” (Luke 2.10).

Canadians will celebrate joyfully the Sesquicentennial of Confederation in 2017. Catholics have another reason to rejoice. Founded on June 25, 1847, the Archdiocese of Ottawa will mark its 170th anniversary.

In world history, 150 and 170 years are not many, but for Canada, these are big numbers and causes for rejoicing.

We rejoice at the foundations laid by our forebears—our clergy, religious, and lay people—who have built our wonderful Catholic legacy of churches, institutions of learning, health care, and social service.

We rejoice that, from earliest days, the Church of Ottawa has cared for the orphan, the widow, and the stranger.

In joy, we must heal the wounds of the Indigenous Peoples on whose ancestral lands we dwell, and receive graciously migrants. In joy, we must see Christ in the poor, the marginalized, the captive, and the elderly.

Pope Francis advocates joy, notably in his encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel” (Evangelii gaudium) and his exhortation “The Gladness of Love” (Amoris laetitia). Following his lead, we highlight joy in our Pastoral Year theme. We commit to help families become increasingly “homes of love, mercy, and joy,” knowing as St Paul says that, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace…” (Galatians 5.22).

The pope calls us to renew our encounter with Jesus. Joy will then flow into our encounters with others at home, at work, in leisure activities, and in society generally. We are to be “missionary disciples” to the lost, suffering, and broken people in our diocese.

To carry out this mission to pass on the faith joyfully, we pray that generous men and women will serve in consecrated religious life, in loving marriages, in parishes, and in schools. We will ensure a safe ministry environment so our faith community may flourish.

As Jesus left this world, he commanded us to “love one another as I have loved you.” He gave this teaching so that “my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (John 15.11–12).
On Good Friday, I joined John Corston’s friends around his bed in his last hours of earthly life. We prayed, sang hymns, and reminisced. Jesus had healed him of alcoholism and given him abundant life in Christian faith. Obeying God’s call, John, an Ojibwa, founded Kateri xNative Ministry. Now, God called him home, bathed in human and divine love. It was a beautiful passage into the next life.

I contrast this with another kind of death, legal in Canada since June 17. Euphemistically called “medical aid in dying,” it is in fact assisted suicide or euthanasia. However, legal permission to take one’s life or to collaborate in terminating a life does not change God’s moral law, which forbids them.

Here is an important distinction. A patient may request not to have treatment when the burdens it brings outweigh benefits. A doctor may honour this. Also, medication may be administered to relieve suffering, even when it might shorten the patient’s life. This is on the condition that this medication is given solely to relieve pain, and not to end life. These decisions are morally permissible.

Many will say that euthanasia and assisted suicide are “compassionate” responses to suffering. Such faulty language must not hide the fact that they are the deliberate killing of a person.

True compassion calls us to stand with our suffering loved ones and affirm that they are always a gift and never a burden. As life nears its natural end, the compassionate response to any pain and hardship is good palliative care, not killing the patient.

The Catholic Church is committed to honouring and protecting human life from conception to natural death. God alone is the author of life. We are but stewards.

From its earliest days, the Church has opposed the killing of innocents. The Scriptures led Justin Martyr, among others, to oppose suicide and the “mercy killing” of infants by exposure in the early second century, when the law had long permitted them. This kind of true progressive thinking led to the legal protection of the lives of innocents across the Roman Empire. The Catechism is clear on euthanasia and assisted suicide about “the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded” (CCC 2277).

For Christians, death is not the end, but rather the beginning of a resurrected life with God almighty. Our fate after death ultimately hinges on the state of our souls when we die.

The care of the Church for her children does not end with death. She continues to intercede for the deceased person and minister to the departed soul’s loved ones. Our funeral liturgies do both.

Christian chaplains in palliative care tell of the beauty and dignity in the unhastened passing of a soul. There are family reconciliations, deep expressions of love, and, yes, conversions to Christ. These experiences cannot compare with the distressing, guilt-inducing taking of a life that is euthanasia.

The Church is discerning the compassionate response to someone who has made the difficult and unfortunate decision to have their life terminated. We will do our best for the patient and their family, but we cannot pretend that euthanasia is an approved choice. The Sacrament of the Sick is intended for people who repent of past sins, not for people who are planning the sin of taking their life.

I invite you to affirm life. Accompany your loved ones in their old age and final illnesses, and the temptation to seek suicide and euthanasia will vanish. Bless them with your presence, affection, and prayers as they make the journey to their Creator and Saviour.
This pastoral year has seen Pope Francis release a beautiful, powerful document to the world about the “Joy of Love” which is available in print and on-line (vatica.va). He writes: “few human joys are as deep and thrilling as those experienced by two people who love one another and have achieved something as the result of a great, shared effort” (n.130).

In this post-synodal exhortation, the Holy Father reflects on the challenges facing families today as well as the joys and blessings that are found in marriage and family life. Acknowledging the many struggles that couples and families face, he provides sound advice and wise spiritual insights into the human vocation to love one another just as God loves us.

Pope Francis combines a frank assessment of the struggles of families with Christian faith, hope and love in a unique document: “I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod’s reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems” (n.57).

One good suggestion to get a sense of this document is for couples to read together Chapter Four - “Love in Marriage”. In this chapter, Pope Francis uses the popular passage for weddings from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, “love is patient; love is kind…,” to reflect on the beauty, blessings and real challenges of married and family life and love (1 Cor 12.31-13.8a).

“The Joy of Love” is written in an accessible, affirming and thought provoking style that also offers very practical advice. I encourage every married couple, every young person thinking about marriage and all families across the archdiocese to read and reflect on this beautiful, powerful and relevant teaching.

On September 1 of this year, Pope Francis once again called us to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. We do this by thanking God for the gift of our common home, by asking God for his help as we undertake our responsibilities as stewards of creation, and by asking for forgiveness for the sins we have committed against creation. Let us ask ourselves, “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (Laudato Si’, 160).
World Youth Day - This July, 51 French and English pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Ottawa journeyed to Poland for World Youth Day. The experience included a week in Wroclaw for Days in the Diocese, a day trip to Auschwitz, a week in Krakow for the World Youth Day events, and an optional three days in Rome to pray and relax.

New Website - The Family & Youth Ministry Office launched a new website on October 2nd designed to help connect Catholics in Ottawa with others who can bring them closer to Christ. In addition to contact information for local youth, young adult, and family ministries, the site also features upcoming events and resources. Visit fymottawa.com and see for yourself!

Diocesan Youth Events - Several of the Youth Coordinators have teamed up and are running a monthly youth event open to teens from any parish in the Diocese. These gatherings will take place on the first Sunday afternoon of each month at the Diocesan Centre. For more information contact thurley@archottawa.ca.

Stebenville Toronto - The Holy Spirit moved each of the 67 people who attended Steubenville Toronto, Canada’s largest Catholic youth conference. “The Lord filled me with hope and increased my trust in Him abundantly through the talks, sacraments, and community of Steubenville Toronto, and I will always be thankful for this retreat.” - Kate, Grade 12

Hope and Healing for Separated and Divorced Catholics: The Journey of Hope program offered is an intensive, six-week program designed to promote healing and recovery from divorce through the support of the Catholic Church. The program is based on the book “Divorced. Catholic. Now What?” by Vince Frese and Lisa Duffy. The weekly sessions are led by lay facilitators and incorporate video interviews, case studies, group discussion, and prayer. For more information or to register for an upcoming session, see “Separated and Divorced Catholics” on the “Marriage” page of the Archdiocese of Ottawa website, www.CatholicOttawa.ca. You can also contact the course facilitators directly (call Mary Jane at 613-294-1308 or Elaine at 613-290-1577).
**MAY OUR JOY REMAIN FOREVER...**

By Serge Cazelais

An exuberant and pleasant feeling, an amazement that is felt in both body and soul: such is the nature of joy! Our thoughts change for the better, our body wants to share in the moment. We want that feeling to last forever.

It is often said that the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings joy to the world but, what is this Good News? It rests in the belief that Christ, the Risen, calls us to form a community, a ‘brotherhood’ of men and women (1 Peter 2.17) who acknowledge their common bond and endeavour to live accordingly. This good news fills our hearts and renews itself constantly to produce the good fruit of love, mercy, and perfection (Luke 6.36 and Matthew 5.48) at each period of our life.

Let us share these gifts amongst all God’s family and especially, each day, in our own homes by the tenderness of an embrace towards our spouse and children; and at work by an honest greeting, by rendering a service or making a simple invitation to share a conversation over coffee! Aren’t good deeds much more within our reach than we think? (2 Corinthians 1. 11-13). We are all winners when we share in this our common relationship with the living Christ who makes himself present among us (Matthew 18.20). I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete (John 15.11).

**A NEW MINISTRY FOR SENIORS AND SHUT-INS**

By Fr. Geoffrey Kerslake

A pilot program is under development in Ottawa called the “Friendly Visitor Ministry”. This ministry is not medical support or a social service program but rather an opportunity for people to connect with and support seniors, caregivers and others who are socially isolated due to circumstances within the context of faith and human relationships. Teams of two volunteers will visit senior citizens, or other people who are shut-in, and who would benefit from a visit from friendly parishioners. In designing and pioneering a model of appropriate Christian caring we have chosen to focus on the basic needs of the fulfilled life; we recognize that meaning and purpose in life are located in the context of our connectedness, that is, in meaningful relationships of faith and trust in God and each other. The goal is to provide regular contact, friendly conversations in person and to be able to direct people to local resources that are available to support those who are shut-in at home and their caregivers. The pilot program is being launched at Holy Cross parish which is providing training and formation for the initial team of “Friendly Visitors” this Fall. As our population continues to age, the need for support and fellowship for seniors and caregivers is an important ministry and a rewarding experience for parishioners of all ages to offer support and friendship to people at risk of social isolation and loneliness. For further information please contact Patricia Marsden-Dole (pmarsdendole@archottawa.ca) or Fran Hadley (fran.hadleyl@gmail.com).

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Save the Date!

**EWTN’s Free Family Celebration**

- an EWTN Canada Event

**Centrepointe Theatre in Ottawa, ON**

**Saturday, April 1st 2017**

- Featuring talks by your favourite EWTN personalities
- Be part of a TV audience
- Opportunities for Confession
- Holy Mass with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, SJ
- It’s a day that you will never forget and, best of all, it’s FREE!

For more information, contact Sarah Escobar at sescobar@ewtn.com or call 613-915-0972
In January 2016, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace launched a new version of its logo, which includes the addition of the name Caritas Canada, in order to give greater visibility to Development and Peace’s membership in Caritas Internationalis.

October 20th, 2017, Development and Peace will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The slogan At the Heart of Justice is at the forefront of this celebration. “In moving towards our jubilee, we have chosen, during our next three campaigns, to underline our accomplishments from an historical perspective, while looking toward the future and toward spreading our movement and our actions, here and elsewhere,” states Josianne Gauthier, the organization’s In-Canada programs Director.

Our 50th anniversary celebrations are underway across Canada, from one ocean to the other, since the beginning of this year. The At the Heart of the Action campaign will provide all diocesans with an opportunity to participate in our actions for justice and human dignity in the world, particularly in Paraguay and in Indonesia. This fall, parishioners will be invited to sign and send a card addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada urging him to take into account the essential role of small family farms in fighting climate change.

Share Lent 2017 will highlight the vital role of women who struggle to attain more justice in the world as they face the daily challenges of making significant and lasting contributions to their communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

On the 4th of March, Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J. will preside the celebration marking the beginning of Share Lent 2017 and the arrival of the 50th anniversary solidarity quilt which will have travelled through several dioceses in Canada.

Diocesan parishioners will be invited during Lent 2017 to become members of Development and Peace by contributing to the current campaign or by participating in Share Year Round program, by making a monthly donation towards Development and Peace partners.

For further information on the current campaign and on the preparation of the jubilee, please consult the Development and Peace web site at www.devp.org/50 yrs.

**WORLD YOUTH DAYS: WHAT FOR?**

By Manon Chevalier

A few months after the World Youth Days in Krakow, I am writing these words for the many who could not attend. One question comes back constantly: Did you like the experience? Yes, really? Why? Because it is an experience that touches the heart, an experience that has a deep and lasting influence on all those who participate.

These were my 5th World Youth Days. I witnessed again the will of God in the coming together of young adults from all over the world in the name of Love, Peace and Hope - millions of faces bound together to form one Body in Christ. I noticed that faith - although it may be very personal and intimate - crosses all boundaries. In an instant, I felt that all those who had gathered together and participated in this unique event were my brothers and sisters, formed a great brotherhood that was sometimes physically very demanding but always so authentic.

I listened, I cried, I screamed, I sang, I danced, I hugged, with joy, my brothers and sisters of my extended family, the family of Christ. I prayed with Germans, Poles, Congolese, Iranians, Brazilians… For two weeks, In Krakow, Poland, I was touched by people from all over the world and I was deeply moved by what had happened at Auschwitz…

In the last days, I was ready, despite feeling a bit tired, to welcome a period of silence…as I lay there, in a big wet field, with more than 2.5 million young people who chose to put aside their regular activities to be with Christ. I am happy to say that I was witness to so many good young people, a group in whom many adults have ceased to believe in these days.

To participate in World Youth Days encourages one to want to take a different road from the one we are generally used to and to do it with enthusiasm and hope, hand in hand with Christ.

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**MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

By Gilles Marleau

Marriage preparation is an occasion for the engaged to become more conscious of who they are; of who they are engaged to marry; of the greatness of the love they share and which was given to them by God; of the deeper meaning and value of the vocation they are about to embrace; of the unique mission that marriage entails; of the challenges they will most surely have to overcome; of the efforts that will be required of them; and of the great number of resources available to them.

‘It is important that people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that fills hearts and lives. Engaged couples should be strongly encouraged to discuss what each expects from marriage, what they understand by love and commitment, what each wants from the other and what kind of life they would like to build together. This consists not merely in presenting a set of rules, but in proposing values that are clearly needed today, even in the most secularized countries.’ (Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia*)
MARRIAGE & OUR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
By Fr. Vincent Pereira, JCD, JV

No one is born in a vacuum, but into a particular culture. That culture forms the human mind, especially in its thought process and language. Thus culture influences how we interact with others. An intact culture protects good traditions and valuable customs that have been around for centuries, handed down from generation to generation. It is said according to a common adage that “people die, not the culture”. Our post-modern culture, however, clearly shows signs of fragmentation. Nothing now seems to be stable. Institutions seem incapable of “holding it together” for any prolonged duration. Long-held beliefs are shattered or, at best, seem to be only relative to their situation, revealing a mentality that “whatever suits is fine”. This is complex issue, clustered with secular humanism, hedonism or, to coin a term, a “Godexit” that undervalues marriage. The dignity of families in general, to say nothing of the sacrament of marriage specifically, is thus threatened. Such a fragmented culture is marked by, but also itself, inculcates, varied mentalities: egotism, narcissism, individualism, cohabitation and a divorce mentality. Indeed, persons with a divorce mentality would say: ‘if marriage does not fit, let us quit and split’. Hence, even before the wedding, a couple may set a condition leading to breakdown. This can reveal a defective consent, whereby an attitude of impermanence of marriage can render consent invalid. Such an attitude can exclude one of the essentials for a valid marriage. These elements must be proven in the Marriage Tribunal.

In particular, some couples themselves come from broken families. When the unavoidable difficulties arise, such young couples cannot fall back on their parents or grandparents for support or guidance. If a marriage is not rooted in a solid, stable foundation, what is the fate of the families? This can be seen as an inevitable consequence of a decaying culture.

Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia [The Joy of Love] states that it “is important that marriage be seen as a matter of love, that only those who freely choose and love one another may marry.” [para. 217]. To choose marriage requires inner freedom. This love must be pure and sacrificial, exercised for the benefit of the other, and not selfishly. God-loving persons, who uphold the core value of marriage, constantly battle against cracks in the culture. Spouses must possess the will, and willingness, to solidify their marital relationship day by day, using all available means of spousal love, such as telling each other how much each loves the other; by making sacrifices; by not taking each other for granted; and by being the best examples to their children. It can also help them if they attend talks and seminars aimed at married people. One must not omit the benefit of family prayers and a serious effort at a sacramental life. Married people should not wait for difficulties to arise before looking for a remedy. Rather, let them proactively ponder the rich vows taken on their wedding day, in the presence of God. Christian morals, leading a good life, mingled with the “Joy of the Gospel” — all certainly pave the way for evangelizing our contemporary broken culture.

SACRED PLACES FOR SACRED MEMORIES...
IN THE TRADITION OF FAITH

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Ottawa

Hope Cemetery
4660 Bank Street
Ottawa ON K1T 3W7
613-822-1212
hopecemetery.ca

Notre-Dame Cemetery
455 Montreal Road
Ottawa ON K1K 0V2
613-746-4175
notredamecemetery.ca
**BISHOP RIESBECK RECEIVES THE DISTINGUISHED CATHOLIC ALUMNI AWARD FROM THE OCSB**

The Ottawa Catholic School Board recently awarded its Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award to Bishop Christian Riesbeck, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa. In its letter informing the bishop of his selection as this year’s recipient the board mentioned that: ‘Your nominators describe you as a kind and approachable leader who stands out as a young member of the Church and who has chosen to dedicate himself to religious life. Although your time is very much in demand, you have been available to assist with school and board functions. Your kind presence is welcomed by teachers and students.’

The recipient is afforded the opportunity to select one or two schools as beneficiaries of the $5,000 that come with the award. Bishop Riesbeck, on accepting the award said: ‘In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, I have chosen to support two schools that serve significant populations of economically disadvantaged children with this award: Dr. F.J. McDonald elementary school in the Britannia area and St. Pius X H.S., my alma mater, where, in the context of a grade 12 vocations retreat, I heard God’s still, small voice speaking into my heart inviting me to serve him as a priest.’ The faithful and clergy of the Archdiocese join Archbishop Prendergast in congratulating Bishop Riesbeck on a well-deserved accolade.

**THE ADVANTAGE OF A GIFT OF SECURITIES**

*By Ted Prowse*

This time of the year is an opportune time to review the many blessings we have received and to consider a donation to the Church to assist with its various pastoral activities.

The donation of publicly listed securities should be considered when making an immediate gift because of the following tax advantages to the donor:

1) a tax credit for the full value of the securities donated, and

2) an exemption from any capital gain tax related to the disposal of the donated securities.

If the choice is between making a donation of cash or securities, it is usually more advantageous to make the donation of securities which have appreciated in value. However, the security must be donated to the Church and not sold prior to making the donation.

The Archdiocese can facilitate this process. Here are the steps for a donation of securities to the Church (a parish, the Archdiocese or another Catholic entity):

- The donor completes the *Gift of Listed Securities* form with his/her broker;
- The broker informs the Archdiocese of the upcoming transfer and initiates the transfer;
- The Archdiocese sells the stocks upon receipt and issues a tax receipt to the donor for the value of the stocks on the day they were transferred to the brokerage account;
- If the donation is to a parish (or other Catholic entity), the Archdiocese issues a cheque to the parish for the net proceeds from the sale of the stocks (less minimal brokerage fees).

The *Gift of Listed Securities* form can be downloaded from the Archdiocese’s website www.catholicottawa.ca: under **Donate**.

For further details, please contact Mr. Jules Dagenais by phone at 613 738-5025, ext. 249, or by e-mail at jdagenais@archottawa.ca.
ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL CHARITY DINNER
- THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS -

GOLD

BRONZE

SILVER

Save The Date
Next year’s Archbishop’s Charity Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 18 2017.

Ottawa Catholic School Board
Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est
Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l’Est ontarien
Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario
BRUYÈRE CONTINUING CARE

Bruyère Continuing Care is a Catholic multi-site academic health care organization located in the Champlain region. It provides evidence-based health care and services for the vulnerable and medically complex within the diverse community it serves in French and English. The centre meets its goals through its commitment to excellence, education, research and innovation, regional partnerships and bringing care closer to home.

Bruyère was founded in 1845, by Mother Élisabeth Bruyère, a deeply committed woman who came to Bytown to help the poor, the sick and the elderly. Building on her legacy, it proudly continues her mission by providing seniors care, complex continuing care, stroke and geriatric rehabilitation, palliative care, long-term care, family medicine, affordable and supportive housing, and a wide range of outpatient services and clinics.

Respect, compassion, collaboration, accountability and learning are the fundamental values that guide how quality health care and services are provided.

In 2015, Bruyère received its accreditation from Accreditation Canada. The senior leadership team is guided by Daniel Levac, president and chief executive officer, who in turn reports to the Bruyère Board of Directors, led by John Riddle.

Enhancing Lives. Transforming Care.

ACTION LIFE

Action Life is a pro-life educational organization, which was established in 1971. After the liberalization of abortion in Canada in 1969, there was an apparent need to address the humanity of the child awaiting birth and society’s subsequent responsibility to protect this life.

As a non-denominational charitable organization, Action Life promotes respect for every human life, from conception until natural death, through education. The objectives of Action Life are: to uphold the dignity of human life, to protect the interests of persons who are unborn, chronically or terminally ill, elderly and physically or mentally challenged. Its goal is to create in the Ottawa community a love and respect for human life in all its forms.

Action Life subscribes to the following principles:
- The right to life is the basic human right on which all others depend.
- All human beings have an equal right to life before and after birth.
- Society has a duty to uphold and protect that right.

In meeting its educational mandate, Action Life attempts to employ every possible means. It maintains an extensive pro-life resource centre for use by students from high schools through university, members of the public and churches and Action Life’s Speakers’ Bureau provides speakers to schools, community and church groups. Action Life holds an annual public information meeting, bringing in experts from a variety of professions and walks of life to address particular life issues: abortion, euthanasia, palliative care or stem cell research. It also helps prepare the brochure for the Diocesan Week for Life to inform parishioners on life issues and publishes a newsletter three times a year.

Fostering respect for human life through education has challenged the directors of Action Life since 1971. Acutely aware of the tremendous influence of television and radio, Action Life attempts to air pro-life educational messages when possible. Publishing articles and educational advertisements in the print media has been used frequently over the years. All educational services are provided in both French and English.
- RECENT DIOCESAN EVENTS -

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Scott McCaig, CC May 31, 2016

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate September 10, 2016

Blessing of the Sacred Heart Mausoleum at Hope Cemetery May 6, 2016

March for Life May 12, 2016

Feast of the Assumption at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto August 15, 2016

Presbyteral ordination of Tavis Goski June 3, 2016

Wedding Anniversary Mass May 1, 2016

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