WORSHIP P7
Reflection by John Rae

MINISTRY P5
Two Generations of NET Missionaries

July 2017

BENE DICTUS

Meg Currie sharing at The Steubenville Atlantic Youth Conference, 2016

PHOTO: JOHN RAE

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45 Radcliffe Drive
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Pastor
Fr. Simon Lobo, CC

Pastor Emeritus
Fr. James Mallon

Sunday Mass
Saturday: 4pm
Sunday: 9am, 11:15am, 6pm

Weekday Mass
Monday to Friday 9am

Confessions
Saturday: 3 - 3:45pm
Wednesday: 9:45 - 10:30am

Bene Dictus is your monthly newsletter available in print or in your email inbox.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
Please stop by the Welcome Booth and Introduce yourself.

@SaintBP livestream.com/SaintBenedictParish

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CONTENTS

July 2017

NEW! Father Simon Says

2 Transition | Funerals | Kids Ministry ("SBP Kids") and Youth Ministry | Feast of St. Benedict

MINISTRY

4 PACT (Preparing and Celebrating Together)

Two Generations of NET Missionaries Pg 5

WORSHIP

7 Reflection by John Rae

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for BENE DICTUS

Please speak to Chris Yetman
chrisyetman@saintbenedict.ca

Father Simon Says...

On Friday, June 23, Fr. James celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for his last seven years of leadership @SaintBP. During his "extended" and powerful homily, he quoted Paul who referred to the phases of growth in a church community, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:16). As it turns out, Fr. Bernie O'Neill, was also present for this Mass. Fr. Bernie was the priest who originally brought the three parishes together, laying the physical and spiritual foundation for what is now Saint Benedict. Fr. James continued with his own version of the passage, "Bernie planted, James watered, but God gave the growth.and Simon is going to bring in the harvest!" I have honestly never been part of such an intentional transition, and I am so grateful to Fr. James for the way he has set us all up for an amazing future and, God-willing, an abundant harvest. Thanks to all who have supported Fr. James and me over these last few months with your love and prayers.

I guess this is my first time writing to you from the pastor's chair. For a period of time, it was unclear if I was going to get an assistant priest. I am excited to announce that we currently have not one but two priests who will be joining us! As many of you know, Fr. Jim O'Connor (Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth) will begin as the Associate Pastor as of August 15. God is also blessing us with Fr. Matthew Keshwah (Archdiocese of Ottawa) who will be joining us for an 11-month internship starting September 1.

Workshop on Funerals & Mass Intentions

If you have been reading along, Fr. James has written about developments around funerals and Mass intentions in the May and June editions of the Bene Dictus. I know that Fr. James tried hard to explain

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

the "why" behind these changes. That being said, it is easy to misunderstand and jump to incorrect conclusions when we are just reading text. With this in mind, I'd like to invite anyone who is interested to join us for a short presentation followed by a Q&A session in the parish hall on Tuesday, July 18, at 10 am. I would ask that you come with sincere questions and an open heart so that we can discuss and better understand these important topics.

Dear Young People (and, more so, your parents and grandparents)...

As children and teenagers have come to the end of another school year, the opportunities for growing in faith are ever increasing. Laura desires to help our SBP Kids to encounter Jesus and grow in relationship with Him each week, and so she will continue to run SHINE (Seeking Him IN Everything) all summer long. To continue to serve in this way, she will need the help of parishioners who have a heart for kids and who can commit to joining her team. If you might be interested in this kind of ministry, please reach out to Laura to begin the conversation about how you can best serve (laurao@saintbenedict.ca).

I'd also ask that you pray for our upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS), taking place the week of July 10–14. Several adults and teens have been working hard to prepare for this big week for kids. Please be patient as there will be a lot of excitement around the parish during the mornings that week. The 9am Mass on Friday, July 14 will have a special VBS focus.

As this Bene Dictus is coming hot off the press, 53 of our teenagers (and 11 adult chaperones) are participating in the Steubenville Atlantic Conference (July 7–9). This conference is one of the places where teens consistently have powerful, life-changing experiences of God, which pay dividends in their own personal lives and for our parish as a whole. Please lift this whole conference up in prayer. On the cover of this issue is Meg Currie, one of the young people from our parish who attended and shared a rich testimony at Steubenville last summer (and is attending again this year).

Saint Benedict - Pray for us!

Finally, I just want to remind you of the Feast of Saint Benedict on Tuesday, July 11. For those who are able, please join us for 9am Mass. Others are encouraged to pray on your own for the intercession of our patron saint. Whatever you do, please be sure to celebrate!

MINISTRY

PACT (Preparing and Celebrating Together)

Gabbie Ricafort
Bene Dictus Team

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion at Saint Benedict Parish is family-centred and done in a small group of about 8-10 families. We call our program, PACT : Preparing And Celebrating Together.

Children who completed a year of Faith Formation in our Parish can take part in the program. In PACT, we prepare as a family. The families attend the 9am Mass every Sunday during the preparation process. Together, they attend 4 First Reconciliation sessions and 4 First Communion sessions. Parents are the most important teachers of the faith to their children. Our parish community is there to support them in this role.

Liam and Anna Lichodzijewski celebrated First Reconciliation and First Communion @SaintBP. Their parents, Michael and Katie, reflects on the family's experience:

"Hi! My name is Michael Lichodzijewski and my wife Katie are I are proud parents of three beautiful children: Liam, Anna, and Emilie. Over the past two years we had the great privilege of participating in PACT. Our children's experiences on their way to First Reconciliation and First Communion were wonderful. The combination of at-home readings and family activities and group activities with other children and families taking the same journey as us were definitely a great way to explore and learn about our faith. The leaders went out of their way to make the children and the adults comfortable. Singing, dancing, praying, playing - and baking - Liam and Anna learned about God's loving forgiveness and mercy, while we, the parents, had the benefit of refreshing our own knowledge and gained new perspectives on what it is to be followers of Jesus by reading articles, watching videos, taking part in wonderfully fun quizzes, and sharing our own experiences from the days when we were the ones getting ready for the sacraments. The church tour was very educational and it was quite interesting to see what things look like 'behind the scenes'. We are very grateful to Dinah, Fr. James, and everyone else who made the anxious times a little less anxious and to all who made us feel welcome and made the process so special. Three or four more years, and we'll be back at PACT with our youngest Emilie. God bless. Michael"

The next session of PACT will begin in September. Please Contact Dinah (see back page) for more details.

Two Generations of NET Missionaries

Meet Heather & Cameron Orlando

Jenna LeBlanc
Bene Dictus Team

The Orlando family has a unique shared experience, in that both mom Heather and daughter Cameron have said yes to God's call to work as missionaries with the National Evangelization Team (NET). NET missionaries spend a year as a member of a team that travels across their assigned country serving parishes through retreats and training sessions, with a particular focus on bringing the joy of the gospel to young people. I spoke with both mother and daughter about their passion for bringing Christ to young people.

What led you to apply for NET?

Heather: I served with NET in the early 90s when I was about 20 years old. I was dealing with some struggles in my personal life and I felt God calling me to step away and immerse myself in ministry. I was relying on a deep faith and my desire to serve God when I applied. Once accepted, the weight of the mission fell quite heavily on me, but I knew I was where God wanted me to be.

Cameron: It all happened very quickly. I was applying for college one week and signing up for a NET recruitment retreat the next. I didn't go in intending to apply for NET, but the retreat opened my heart. It was such a blessing to hear from other missionaries about their experiences – they universally spoke about it as the best year of their lives, and a time that profoundly changed them for the better. I have a real passion for youth ministry and it was so exciting for me to be in a room with many other people who felt the same way! I got excited and decided to apply – within two weeks I got the news that I'd been accepted. So my life plans changed very quickly!

Heather, what was it like to serve on NET?

God truly made me NEW during our several weeks of training. I grew in my own personal faith, and also in my ability to share that faith with others, and I discovered a renewed zeal for helping others to encounter Christ. I found myself on a team of individuals I never would have chosen for myself, but my teammates and I learned how to work together for our shared goal – bringing the hearts of teens to Christ. In the 20-plus years since, I've always found myself working in youth ministry, and I regularly find myself leaning on the skills and techniques I learned through my time at NET. My former teammates and I stay in touch and they have been a source of abundant grace in my life.

Cameron, what was it like growing up with a mom who'd been a missionary?

Faith was always an important and integrated part of our life. We went to Mass on Sundays and prayed together, but it was so much more than that – we talked about God at the dinner table and in the car, and our faith was truly part of everything we did. At my old parish, this left me feeling a bit lonely – there weren't many other young people with a faith life like mine. Once we became parishioners at Saint Benedict, this all changed – The Experience (Monday night youth group) helped me to really grow in my faith in a community of friends and peers who shared my beliefs. I attended Steubenville conferences and the LEAD leadership retreat, which really helped me grow even closer in my relationship with God. That was what led me to want to share that relationship with others – and NET is an amazing opportunity to do that.

> "The Experience (Monday night Youth group) helped me to really grow in my faith in a community of friends and peers who shared my beliefs."
>
> – Cameron Orlando

Heather, how does it feel to see your daughter serving as a missionary just like you did?

One of the reasons I've stayed so involved in youth ministry was because I knew my own kids would one day grow up to be teenagers themselves! It's a time in life when too many people turn away from their faith, and I wanted things to be different for my own children. In the past years, I've been blessed to be able to watch Cameron make so many mature decisions that showed me how deep her faith is. God has been preparing her for this role long before any of us considered it! My husband and I aren't truly ready to let our daughter leave home for a year, and we know that fundraising the costs for her service will be a challenge. But God has always blessed us, with strength and with the treasure we need, and we know that if God has called her to NET, He will help us all make it happen. We are filled with joy that God has called Cameron to this journey, and I am so excited for all the lives God will impact through her service.

Cameron is fundraising for her missionary service. She will be serving with NET USA and needs $6000 USD ($8000 CAD) to cover the costs of her time with NET and flights to and from Minnesota. If you feel called to help her bring Christ's love to young people through NET, donate online at netusa.org/donate (There's a place to add Cameron's name), or drop off a Canadian cheque made out to Cameron Orlando at the parish office.

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Worship

Reflection

John Rae
Bene Dictus Team

In 1962, when I was 10 years old, the Reverend Jimmy Snow (son of country singer Hank Snow) had a tent meeting on the Halifax Commons. At the altar call, I walked down the aisle, and bowed my head to receive Jesus 'in my heart'. Fast forward 50 years to 2012, and I had just walked down the aisle at the Easter Vigil here at Saint Benedict Parish, bowed my head and was about to receive Jesus 'in the Eucharist'.

Through those 50 years I had gained heart knowledge of Jesus and head knowledge of Jesus but now Jesus was about to be placed into my hands. My faith was about to become three dimensional. It had had width and breadth and it was now going to be given the gift of depth.

The physicality and sensuousness of the sacraments highlight the reality of the Incarnation. Our temptation is to let go of the spirit of the incarnation, either by being so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good or being so shackled to the materiality of our lives that the mystical is just seen as a species of the nonsensical. But, here in the Eucharist, Spirit and matter were about to be congealed together in the Host and the Chalice.

Starting from that initial twinge of the Holy Spirit, in that 'country and western' tent of meeting, the fullness of time had arrived for me to, "... taste and see that the LORD is good" – Psalm 34:8.

ALPHA @SAINTBP WILL LAUNCH ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND. REGISTER NOW AT SAINTBENEDICT.CA/ALPHA

ALPHA IS...

Alpha is based on a pattern you find in the New Testament of people bringing their friends, family and work colleagues to meet Jesus.

Andrew brought his brother Peter; Philip brought Nathaniel; Matthew had a party and invited all his work colleagues – he said, 'Come and meet Jesus!' Alpha is an easy way of saying to friends, 'Come and see, come and explore your questions, come and hear about Jesus, come and see for yourself.'

On Alpha we try to be:

REAL – Alpha presents the reality of who Jesus is. Those that run Alpha are real and authentic and this allows the guests to be real themselves. People are welcome to ask questions and look for answers, with no pressure to contribute and no follow up if they don't come back.

RELATIONAL – Alpha is based on genuine friendships that are built up over a few weeks and often last for years afterwards.

RELIANT – On Alpha we are reliant on the Holy Spirit because we realize that it is only God who changes people's lives; we just introduce Him.

No one can force anyone to believe anything. What we've found over the years is that if we allow people to be themselves and ask their questions, focus on building relationships and rely on the Holy Spirit, lives are changed.

PRAY THE DIVINE OFFICE

MORNING PRAYER

WEEKDAYS @8:30AM IN THE CHAPEL

Saint Benedict Parish is...

VISION

...a healthy and growing faith community that brings people to Christ, forms disciples and sends them out to transform the world. Our members commit to worship, to grow, to serve, to connect and to give.

THE GAME PLAN

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 SBP Kids	10 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	11 Feast of St. Benedict Anointing of the Sick VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	12 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	13 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	14 Men's Leadership Gym VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	15 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
16 SBP Kids	17	18 Workshop on Funerals	19 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	20	21 Men's Leadership Gym	22
23 SBP Kids	24	25 SBP Podcast Released	26 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	27	28 Men's Leadership Gym	29
30 SBP Kids	31	1 August	2 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	3	4 Men's Leadership Gym	5

PARISH STAFF TEAM (OFFICE: 902-443-0725; EMAIL: @SAINTBENEDICT.CA)

DARLENE BONANG (EX 0)
Office Manager
DarleneB@

CHERYL BOUDREAU
Administrative Assistant
CherylB@

JEN FERRIER (EX 30)
Evangelization Coordinator
JenniferF@

CATHERINE GOULD (EX 27)
Discipleship Group Coordinator
CatherineG@

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Director of Pastoral Ministries
RonH@

PAUL LANG (EX 41)
AV & Music Coordinator
PaulL@

RONNIE LUNN (EX 37)
Youth Ministry Coordinator
RonnieL@

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RobM@

RYAN ORLANDO (EX 40)
Facilities & Custodial Manager
RyanO@

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LauraO@

KATE ROBINSON (EX 29)
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DINAH SIMMONS (EX 24)
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DinahS@

JOANNE THIBEAU (EX 28)
Manager of Finance
JoanneT@

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Permanent Deacon
DavidV@

CHRIS YETMAN (EX 21)
Director of Engagement
ChrisYetman@

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE - MAY 2017

PARISH DEBT REDUCTION	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	145	$3,501	$24
PAR Pre-authorized Remittance	67	$3,347	See Note

MORTGAGE BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2017	$698,648
INTEREST PAID (ON MORTGAGE) IN MAY 2017	$1,923
PRINCIPAL PAID (ON MORTGAGE) IN MAY 2017	$9,514

Principal payments include principal portion of monthly mortgage payment plus additional principal payments made from Parish Debt funds recieved.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	REC'D	TOTAL	AVG/
ENVELOPES	1,337	$35,314	$26
PAR Pre-authorized Remittance	380	$44,970	See Note

*Note: PAR options include weekly, bi-weekly and monthly withdrawals; therefore a 'weekly' average is unavailable.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM OR MATRIMONY AT SAINT BENEDICT PARISH, PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO PREPARATION, WE REQUIRE THAT YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH US A MINIMUM OF 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR HOPED-FOR DATE FOR BAPTISM AND ONE YEAR PRIOR TO YOUR DESIRED WEDDING DATE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BAPTISMS, PLEASE CONTACT CAROL: BAPTISMS@SAINTBENEDICT.CA. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WEDDINGS, PLEASE CONTACT DEACON DAVID: WEDDINGS@SAINTBENEDICT.CA.

****

FOR FUNERALS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (AND LISTEN TO THE PROMPTS) TO BE CONNECTED WITH OUR FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM.

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