

Resurrection

BULLETIN



RESURRECTION BULLETIN • SPRING 2021

Message from the Provincial

The Season of Easter, a truly great and glorious period in our liturgical calendar when, for fifty days, the power of the Resurrection is proclaimed in all its glory! The promise made to countless generations has been fulfilled by God whose love for us is beyond measure. Those who have waited in hope have been rewarded for their patience. The darkness of sin and death has been replaced by the powerful light of new and everlasting life. There can be no other news of greater importance than the Resurrection, and its power to transform and change the world.



*Father Tim Uniac, C.R.
Provincial Superior*

The Gospel writers knew full well that the news of the Resurrection was so important that it needed to be re-told; it could not be contained. For the Gospel Evangelists, failure to proclaim the Resurrection would be seen as a selfish act – it is not a message to be kept selfishly to one's self, it must be shared, it must be re-told over and over again. The question for the Gospel Evangelists was how best to make the Resurrection known in a written format. How were they to “grab” the readers’ attention in such a way that they would read and reflect upon the story of the Resurrection?

The Evangelist John (John 20:1-18) took a rather unique approach in the re-telling of the Resurrection story. John decided to make the main character in the re-telling of the Resurrection story someone whom society at that time would least suspect, all in the hope that this would draw people into the story.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Provincial	Pg 1
In Memoriam Fr. John Lesousky, C.R.	Pg 2
My Pastoral Year at St. Mary's	Pg 3
Teaching During a Pandemic	Pg 4
Apostles of the Resurrection A Covid Year	Pg 6
New Gymnasium for Buhemba	Pg 7
Tiny Home Takeout	Pg 8
Barnraiser Award	Pg 11
How You Can Help the Missions	Pg 12



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“If the faithful help even one candidate for the priesthood, they will fully share in all the future masses and in all the fruits of sanctity and apostolic works that will be his.” Pope Pius XII.

Contributions to the Congregation may be sent to:

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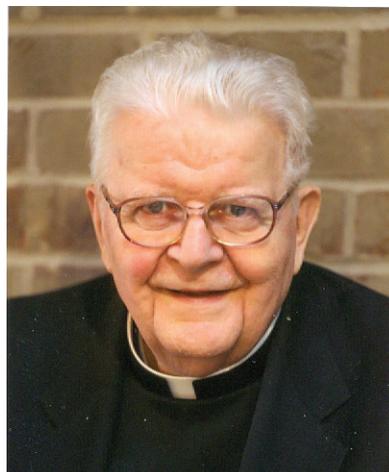
Charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued to all donors.

For John, the first to hear the Good News of the Resurrection, the first to proclaim the Resurrection to others, was none other than Mary Magdalene. While Matthew, Luke and Mark had a group of people at the tomb Easter morning, John has Mary Magdalene alone at the tomb. For her to be alone, out in public, was in violation of the societal norms of the day which required women to be accompanied in public. This detail in John’s Resurrection account would be enough to cause many people to continue to read the story, recognizing that it must be important if societal norms are violated in order to make the message known. If not for the courage of Mary Magdalene to “break the rules”, the Resurrection story, as we know it today, might in fact be very different. The important place Mary Magdalene holds in the proclamation of the Resurrection cannot be denied.

Mary Magdalene’s status as someone central to the proclamation of the Resurrection is given yet even greater importance by the Evangelist John. Not only is Mary Magdalene the first to encounter the Risen Lord; Mary Magdalene is the first to receive the news that the Ascension was to take place; Mary Magdalene is the first to be called by name by the Risen Lord; Mary Magdalene is the first to converse with the Risen Lord; Mary Magdalene is the first to receive a commission, a ministry, from the Risen Lord to make the news known; Mary Magdalene is the first to tell the disciples the Good News of the Resurrection. And that is not all! Mary Magdalene, as a premiere witness of the Resurrection, goes forth proclaiming the Good News as a model for us. Mary Magdalene says to us: **Go forth and proclaim the Resurrection!** Let us dare to model our proclamation of the Resurrection after that of one of the greatest women in salvation history, Mary Magdalene.

Fr. Tim Uniac, CR
Provincial Superior

In Memoriam - Fr. John Lesousky, CR



Fr. John Lesousky, CR

Fr. John Lesousky, CR, a member of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection for over 70 years, died on March 9th at the age of 90. He would have turned 91 on March 30th. Fr. John had been residing at Nazareth Home in Louisville, Kentucky since 2017.

Fr. John was a proud Kentuckian, born in St. Mary, Kentucky in 1930. After completing high school at St. Mary’s College in St.





Fr. John Lesousky, CR with Fr. John Miles, CR, on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary of Ordination.

He retired to Villa Pacis, Louisville in 1999 but continued to minister at St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Francis of Rome Parish, Cathedral of the Assumption and St. Joseph's Children's Home for many years. He moved to Twinbrook Nursing Home in 2013 and then to Nazareth Home.

Fr. John served as a Provincial Councillor and House Superior for Bermuda and St. Cecilia Religious Houses. During Fr. John's 65 years of priesthood, he touched the lives of his parishioners, students, brother religious, and family. He had a great sense of humour and was loved by his students at St. Mary's College. He taught many students who later became priests and bishops.

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz presided and Fr. Gary Young, CR, preached the homily at Fr. John's funeral Mass at St. Charles Parish in Lebanon, Kentucky on March 15th. He was buried in St. Charles Cemetery in Lebanon.

May Fr. John rest in peace.



My Pastoral Year at St. Mary's

By Ed Sikora, CR

During my pastoral year of formation, I have experienced many new challenges that have taken me out of my comfort zone. I have given reflections in front of the parish community and I have enjoyed the experience of leading the Liturgy of the Word and some devotions such as praying the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. I feel truly blessed being able to expose the Blessed Sacrament to the parish on Thursdays for adoration.

Ed Sikora, CR

Despite the pandemic I have also been able to participate in funeral services and some weddings. There were times when I had the opportunity to visit the sick at hospitals and in nursing homes. The pastoral year has created for me an opportunity to engage with a diverse group of people. The parishioners at St. Mary's have welcomed me since I have been here and they continue to encourage me to follow God's will and serve Him. Over the year I have received much feedback on how I am growing in certain areas of formation such as engagement and leading prayer services. I am grateful for the honest feedback I have received; it is helping me focus on certain areas of formation where I need to grow more. It has been quite the experience visiting a Better Tent City at Lot 42 where many people who were once living on the streets now have a place to call their own. I have enjoyed getting to know some of the people living there and they are appreciative

Mary, he entered the seminary in Dundas Ontario. He professed his religious vows in the Congregation on September 8, 1949 in Dundas, Ontario. He studied Philosophy at St. Peter's Seminary in London and then continued his studies at the Gregorian University in Rome. Fr. John was ordained to the ministerial priesthood in Rome on July 1, 1956. He began his ministry as a Catholic educator at St. Mary's College and was named Rector of St. Mary's in 1970. Fr. John then served at Resurrection Parish and St. Cecilia Parish in Louisville. In 1976, he moved to Bermuda, where he served at St. Theresa's Cathedral and St. Patrick's Parish. In 1983 he returned to Kentucky, where he was Pastor of Annunciation Parish and St. Cecilia Parish. He



Ed Sikora, CR in front of the Tiny Home Takeout.

of me taking the time to listen to them and care for them. Being able to participate in the Tiny Home Takeout outreach (www.tinyhometakeout.com) has been fruitful for me as well. In addition to assembling pizza boxes, I have been able to engage with many people who come by the Tiny Home each day for a hot pizza and the Bite of the Day (either soup or stew) with some delicious warm bread. They are truly grateful for this initiative and I am thankful that I am able to help out in any way that I can.

In the next few months, I will be attending a Clinical Pastoral Education program (CPE) which is a three-month program where I will experience practicing spiritual care in a clinical health care setting. I ask for your prayers while I am taking part in this program and I thank you for your prayers as I continue this journey to discover where God is calling me. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Teaching During a Pandemic

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR

Arriving back to North America was a bit of a shock for me. I was anticipating the “normal” adjustments back to North American culture, but I also needed to adjust to the reality of COVID, which was far different here in North America than it was in Tanzania. I arrived in Washington, D.C. on August 1st and our school year was set to begin on August 15th. I had just enough time to quarantine for 14 days before school started. But I also had to unpack, go through a year’s mail, check in with a few people, try to reconnect different services that I had suspended while away, and prepare my classes. In addition—and this caused me the most stress—I had to learn how the new classroom technology works for our return to teaching.

Like many schools, Mount St. Mary’s University sent students home in March, 2020. But for the Fall semester, the Mount decided to go to a hybrid model of in-class and online classes. The composition of students included three groups: students in residence, students who decided to stay home and learn in a completely remote setting, and commuter students. Students in residence and commuter students were divided into two groups for each class, so that we

would have slightly less than half capacity for each classroom on a given day. Students were required to wear masks and to be socially distanced from each other.

We have new technology to assist us in teaching and learning, but it has been quite the learning curve for “veterans” like me! Learning how to set up a ZOOM meeting for each class is relatively easy, but learning how to manipulate the classroom technology is a bigger challenge. As you can see below, I am giving it my best shot, while trying to inject some “personality” into the situation! With some practice and assistance from other teachers, I was able to learn how to adjust cameras and sound, how to share documents, organize chats, and create virtual breakout rooms.

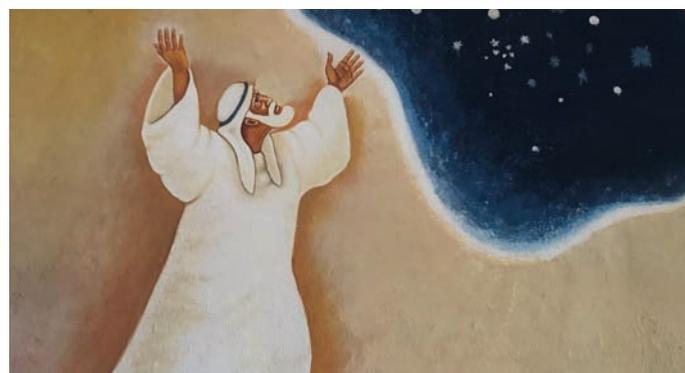


Fr. Jim Donohue, CR, injecting some “personality” into his Zoom class.

The biggest challenge in the Fall semester was that many students on ZOOM did not turn their cameras on while attending remotely. The result was endless frustration when I asked a question of a student who did not turn on his/her camera: “I am sorry, where are we now?” or “I am sorry, could you repeat that please?” or “What number are we on now?” Indeed, people often did not join a breakout room or continued to be “present” when the class was over. It seems that all of us suffer from the temptation of doing “something else” while we are on ZOOM! We quickly learned that as a tool for learning, ZOOM needs personal discipline to be engaged in the learning process. Consequently, in the Spring semester, all students are required to have their cameras on in order to be part of the class. If technical problems exist, we deal with them on an individual basis, but having the camera on is the default position for classroom learning now.

For the Fall semester I taught a first-year symposium class that all our first-year students are required to take. The focus of the course is to explore the question of what it is to be human. I also taught several sections of our second core theology course to students who are in their third year. The course is entitled “Encountering Christ.” For this course, I used Gerhard Lohfink’s *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2012) and Brendan Bryne’s *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke’s Gospel*, revised edition (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2015).

In the Spring semester I am teaching several sections of our first core theology course to second-year students. This course is called “Foundations



The covenant with Abraham (depicted in the sanctuary of Jordan University College chapel in Morogoro, Tanzania).

of Theology: Faith and Revelation.” The course provides an introduction to understanding the Bible, including concepts such as inspiration, inerrancy, interpretation, revelation, and faith. But, the main part of the course is about salvation history as it is revealed through the Old Testament’s key stories of creation, the fall, the covenant, the exodus, the kingship, and the exile. Besides the Bible, the main texts that I use are Gerhard Lohfink’s *Does God Need the Church? Toward a Theology of the People of God* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1999) and Sr. Mary Kate Birge’s “Genesis” in *Genesis: Evolution and the Search for a Reasoned Faith* (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2011).

As you can see from these photos, my time in Tanzania has provided me with a new perspective in teaching these courses. My horizons were broadened in Tanzania, and my hope is that I will convey some of these new and challenging perspectives to my students—even in the midst of a pandemic!



“What would Jesus Christ look like?”



Apostles of the Resurrection – A COVID Year

By Dee Sproule, Apostle of the Resurrection

It is certainly difficult to believe that an entire year has passed since our “landmark” communal discernment took place at St. Francis Parish in Kitchener last March, pre-COVID, (would that be March 7, 2020 P.C.?!?) during which we elected our delegates to attend the Conference for Lay Apostles in Rome! That was our last in-person gathering of the Lay Apostolate; in fact, it was the last in-person gathering for most everything in the province of Ontario, the rest of Canada, and most of the rest of the world as we were placed in quarantine “forever”. What an experience it has been to live through a pandemic, wherein many of our daily freedoms were restricted, and life was measured in months, rather than in moments. Attention to the cycle of the natural seasons took a back seat to restrictions laid down by the Provincial Chief Medical Officer, as our liturgical seasons were marked by whether our churches were open, or closed.

The Steering Committee of the Lay Apostles enjoyed an invigorating renaissance, with the addition of two more lay apostles, and Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, CR. We have held five virtual meetings since November, 2020 and have been busy coordinating activities such as: Advent reflections; a virtual celebration on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; a Survey of all Apostles, conducted by phone, to hear of the hopes, expectations, gifts and ministry preferences of each; a virtual Ash Wednesday service; collation and distribution of the survey results; and at the time of publication planning is underway for a virtual Lenten Retreat on March 27th.

Yes, friends, we have been busy talking, listening, planning and exploring ways to bring structure, dimension and purpose to the Apostles of the Resurrection of the Ontario-Kentucky Province.



Dee Sproule, Apostle of the Resurrection

We all have been influenced by beloved CR's, whose examples we strive to emulate, and to whom we are eager to demonstrate our gratitude in answering the call to minister with and to them through commitment to lives of service as Apostles of the Resurrection. “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people – the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven ...” (Col.1.3)



Looking forward to seeing all of the Apostles on March 27th for our Palm Sunday Triduum Primer! God bless you.



Gymnasium nearing completion.



Progress made on the gymnasium seating.



New Gymnasium for Buhemba

Much progress has been made on the new gymnasium in Buhemba, Tanzania over the last few months. It is nearing completion, thanks to the generous support of many benefactors. Sports equipment is still needed: basketball hoops, nets, goals and balls, and donations are always appreciated. Thank you to all who have made the construction of this gymnasium a reality.

Above: Fr. Maciej Braun, CR in front of the new Wenanty Gym for Sports and Games

Below: The new gym is part of a growing complex in Buhemba.





Tony D'Amato Stortz with two volunteers in front of the Tiny Home Takeout



Tiny Home Takeout

By Tony D'Amato Stortz, Outreach Coordinator

In front of St Mary's Parish in Downtown Kitchener, a bright, white tiny home is serving over a thousand meals per week.

Tiny Home Takeout is a project that originated with Fr. Toby Collins last year, and has successfully launched in 2021. Through this project, the parish offers a meal five nights a week to anyone, whether they have the ability to pay or not. All meals are served from a Tiny Home in front of the church. During the service hours of 5:00-7:00 p.m. a bright open sign, upbeat music, and cheerful volunteers tell anyone in the downtown Kitchener neighbourhood that dinner is ready.

Below the church, in a newly renovated kitchen space, Chef Amy Cyr and her team have been working for hours to prepare anywhere from 150-200 pizzas and 150 soups for the day.

The first crew of volunteers comes in at 10:00am to begin preparing vegetables, mixing the dough, and folding the laundry of the previous day. The pizza dough is made and portioned out in the fridge, the veggies for the pizza toppings are prepped, and ingredients for the 'Daily Bite' are sauteed in the large tilting skillet. Finally, the oven is set for bread making and starts producing pans of fresh focaccia for the evening to come.

Between 1:00 and 2:00, the afternoon shift of volunteers arrives, relieving the morning crew and continuing the prep work. One hundred and fifty soup bags are laid out and filled with spoons, napkins, and squares of the bread that has just come out of the oven. The soup is seasoned and finished, and the final pizza prep gets completed.

By the time 4:00 hits, the kitchen is a blur of activity. The two or three prep volunteers have been replaced by around nine new volunteers for service. Five in the kitchen, three in the tiny home, and one running food up and empty containers back down.

The laid-back energy of the morning and afternoon has shifted into the full hum of a commercial kitchen at mealtime. In one corner, dough is being rolled out. Another volunteer is dressing the pizzas as cheese, pepperoni, margaritas and deluxe options. A few are held back to be turned into vegan pizzas as required. Chef Amy or an experienced volunteer works the oven, sliding in the dressed dough then pulling out a perfectly cooked pizza just three minutes later. Finally, the pizzas are cut, put into an appropriately labelled box, and stacked into insulated carts on wheels called Cambros. When the Cambros are filled, a Runner comes down from the TinyHome and brings them out, filled with hot pizza and fresh soup.

Out at the tiny home, patrons begin arriving and lining up between 4:45 and 5:00pm. There is coffee, water, and good music for them as they wait.

The people coming for food come from all different walks of life. Older parishioners are in line beside individuals who live on the street. Tech workers



Tony D'Amato Stortz enjoying a sample.

come with their families, and single moms on fixed incomes take enough for themselves and their kids for dinner.

Those who have the means pay for their meal - often paying double or triple the cost in order to subsidize the meals of others. Some will give hundreds of dollars in exchange for a single pizza or soup. Others contribute a few dimes they earned panhandling or nothing at all. All are equally welcomed and treated with the same dignity, respect, and care.

Everyone must wear a mask and keep physically distanced while in line and no one is allowed to start eating in the parking lot. Some people eat in their cars. Others leave for nearby parks or bus stops. Many pack the food on bikes or into carts and take it to deliver to friends or neighbours who are homebound and not able to get out.

This secondary distribution network is one of the many beautiful things about the Tiny Home Takeout. Individuals who are able-bodied and not at a high-risk for covid-19 will come daily and bring the food



Volunteers adding the toppings for the pizzas.



A volunteer stirring a big pot of chili for the "Daily Bite"



Chef Amy Cyr checking the pizzas.



Fr. Toby hard at work in the kitchen

from St Mary's to those who cannot come on their own. Through this, the project reaches far more people than we ever see directly.

As the sun sets and the line quiets down, the volunteers have a chance to chat. Discussions about their lives, their faith, and plans for the future are common in these last few minutes of the evening. It has been a hard year and these quiet moments of togetherness are valuable.

Finally, as 7:00 rolls around and the final stragglers have gotten their dinner, the open sign is unplugged, the kitchen cleaned, and any leftover food gets packaged up and sent to a local shelter.

After the teardown and cleanup is done, the volunteers slowly tickle out, the floors are mopped, and all the locks are checked one last time.

By 8:30pm the kitchen is dark, ready to do it all again tomorrow.

Check out: tinyhometakeout.com



Patrons line up for pizza and soup.



Barnraiser Award

Congratulations to Fr. Toby Collins, C.R. for being one of the 2021 Waterloo Region Record's Barnraiser Award recipients. The Barnraiser Award recognizes the community's tradition of working collaboratively to accomplish what an individual cannot. It honours a practice and spirit that is deep-rooted in our community, one that sees individuals and groups work together to benefit everyone, without regard to personal gain. The award was inspired by former Governor General David Johnston. In 2006, when he was president of the University of Waterloo, he called on Waterloo Region to strive to be Canada's knowledge capital. He suggested 10 goals, including celebrating community leaders who contribute to the region's tradition of inspiring collaborative achievement.



Fr. Toby Collins, CR

This year's award went to Front Line Workers. Throughout the difficult and challenging months of this past year, countless essential workers have sacrificed their own safety and well-being in service to others, while also coping with the COVID-19 pandemic themselves. Fr. Toby and many other invaluable volunteers were instrumental in the recent launching of the Tiny Homes Takeout Project at St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener and participated in and supported the Tiny Homes Project this past summer.

The Congregation of the Resurrection is proud of Fr. Toby, and the staff and volunteers at St. Mary's Parish.





How You Can Help the Missions

Donations in aid of Resurrectionists working in the missions (Brazil, Bulgaria and Tanzania) will be gratefully received. It would be helpful if funds were not designated for a particular project or area; this would give the Congregation flexibility to use the money where it is most needed. Thank you for your ongoing support. Because of you, our Congregation is able to continue to serve the missions in Brazil, Bulgaria and Tanzania and all of the people in our care.

Please make cheques payable to Resurrectionist Missions and forward to:

**Congregation of the Resurrection,
265 Westmount Road North,
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G7**

Thank you for your ongoing support.



CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION

265 Westmount Road North, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G7

Editorial team for The Resurrection Bulletin:

Fr. Jim Donohue, CR
Fr. Sudie MacDonald, CR
Fr. Phil Reilly, CR
Ms. Patti Tusch
Fr. Paul Voisin, CR

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