

Resurrection

BULLETIN



RESURRECTION BULLETIN • WINTER 2020

In Memoriam

Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R.



Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R. celebrating his 85th birthday in 2019.

On October 9th, Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R., a priest of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection for over 58 years, died after a brief illness. He was 86 years old and in his 66th year of religious life. Fr. Ernie had been a resident of Columbia Forest Long Term Care residence in Waterloo for the past two years.

Father Ernie was predeceased by his parents Adam and Anna (nee Horvath) Varosi, and his brother John. He is survived by his great nieces, great nephew and many friends.

Born and raised in Brantford, Ontario, Fr. Ernie entered the Congregation of the Resurrection in Dundas, Ontario and professed first vows on September 8, 1954. He professed perpetual vows in London in 1957 and was ordained to the ministerial priesthood in St. Louis, Missouri on June 3, 1961.

Fr. Ernie loved history and loved to teach. He spent most of his priesthood teaching at various educational institutions, including St. Jerome's High School, Kitchener, St. Mary's Seminary, Kentucky, St. Catharine Junior College, Kentucky, St. John's College, Brantford, St. Jerome's College, Waterloo and St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto. He earned an M.A. in History from St. Louis University and an M.A. in Theology from Villanova University. After retiring from teaching, he served as administrator for St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener from 1999-2004. In 2004, Father Varosi retired to Resurrection Manor in Waterloo. In 2018 he moved to Columbia Forest Long Term Care in Waterloo.

The Mass of the Resurrection for Fr. Ernie was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Church on October 16th. Interment was at Mount Hope Cemetery, Kitchener. May Fr. Ernie rest in peace.

IN THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam	
Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R.	Pg 1
Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R.	Pg 2
Personnel News	Pg 3
The Diamond Award!	Pg 3
St. Mary's Kitchen	Pg 3
Update on the Tiny Homes Project	Pg 4
New Gymnasium for Buhemba	Pg 6
News from Morogoro	Pg 7
Care in the Time of COVID-19	Pg 8
How You Can Help the Missions	Pg 8



*The blessings of peace,
The beauty of hope,
The spirit of love,
The comfort of faith.*

*May these be your gifts
this Christmas season.*

Spiritual BENEFITS



Donors to the Congregation share in the following Spiritual Benefits:

1. Daily prayers said in all the houses of the Congregation of the Resurrection for living and deceased benefactors.
2. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the living benefactors.
3. One Mass said each month in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.
4. One Mass said annually in November in each house of the Congregation of the Resurrection for the deceased benefactors.

“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:

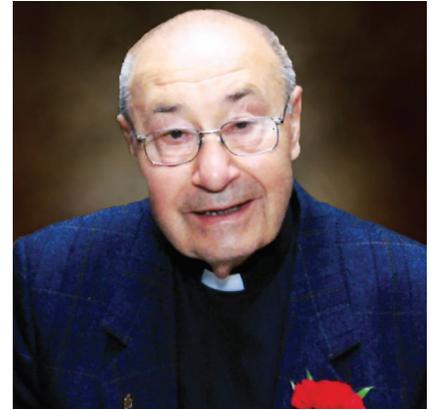
Congregation of the Resurrection
Provincial Office, Treasurer
Resurrection College
265 Westmount Road North
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G7

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

Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R. -- A Man of Few but Meaningful Words!

By Fr. Joseph deViveiros, C.R.

Fr. Ernie was a learned and dedicated Resurrectionist. He could be often seen in his cap and shorts smoking his infamous Toscano cigars. While I was the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Kitchener, I had the good fortune to have Fr. Ernie provide us with priestly ministry on a regular basis. He always came with a well-prepared homily and was always very careful to “When in Rome, do as the Romans do” as he put it with whatever plans the pastoral team had developed for the liturgy for which he was serving. The parishioners of St. Francis benefited a great deal from Fr. Ernie’s ministry and presence among us.



Fr. Ernie Varosi, C.R.

I recall one Holy Thursday when Fr. Ernie was presiding and preaching and how he was able to make “the bottom fall out” of the Holy Thursday scriptures and in fact of the whole Sacred Triduum liturgies. Fr. Ernie preached about the fact that many of us listen to the Gospel reading of Holy Thursday (John 13:1-15) and stay on the level of service, i.e., the fact that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. What we miss is the first line of the reading: “Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

To think that Holy Thursday is only about service is to stay on the surface, it is to miss the deeper significance of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The foot-washing is a “sacrament” of the love Jesus had for his disciples and by extension to us as he loves us to the end! In true Resurrectionist fashion, Fr. Ernie was able to understand that the Holy Thursday foot-washing is about Jesus’ love for us. In fact, love for us is the common theme which holds together all of the Triduum liturgies because, after all, it is one liturgy over a three-day period. Good Friday is not about glorifying torture and capital punishment. The passion and crucifixion of Jesus is a “sacrament” of how he loved his own who were in the world and he loved them to the end. His passion and death are witnesses to the depth of Christ’s love for us. The same is true for the Easter Vigil which is not simply about initiation and new life but it is about Salvation History and the Father’s great love for Jesus to raise him from the dead so that we could be lifted up with him to forgiveness of sins and new life. The Resurrection is a “sacrament” of the Father’s love not only for Jesus but by extension God’s love for all of God’s children. Each of the three Triduum liturgies is about God’s gratuitous and infinite love for us. According to Resurrectionist spirituality we have not earned or merited this love – it is simply God’s gratuitous gift!

Fr. Ernie’s work about the 1st principle of Resurrectionist spirituality, the unconditional love of God for us, is in an essay he wrote for March 26,



2007, the 200th anniversary of the birth of our founder Bogdan Jański, entitled: *The Spiritual Legacy of Bogdan Jański*. He writes: *“The fundamental truth which shaped Jański’s search for meaning was the insight that the cornerstone of genuine conversion was to embrace fully and surrender oneself to the merciful and unconditional love of God; and at the same time to acknowledge our nothingness, misery, and corruption. These are the two indispensable pillars for a personal relationship with God for Jański; from this awareness arises the gift of hope”*. May we carry on Jański’s legacy and the teaching of Fr. Ernie and live each day as God’s beloved children who are then called to be agents of Hope in a world of despair!

WATERLOO REGION RECORD

READERS’ CHOICE  AWARDS 2020

Best Church/Temple

St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church
Diamond



Creekside Church
Platinum



Westminster United Church
Gold



Winners of the Readers’ Choice Awards posted in the Waterloo Region Record

Personnel News

Congratulations to **Fr. Paul Szymanowski, C.R.**, who was awarded a two-year scholarship for his studies in Rome. Fr. Paul has begun doctoral studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Lateran University. We wish Fr. Paul great success in his studies.

Fr. Krzysztof Szkubera, C.R., a member of the Polish Province, completed his COVID-19 quarantine period upon arrival in Canada, and is working with Fr. Michal Kruszewski, C.R. and Fr. Henryk Krajewski, C.R. at St. Stanislaus Parish in Hamilton. Fr. Krzysztof will spend the next three years in Canada as a temporary member of the Ontario-Kentucky Province.

The Diamond Award!

Congratulations to Father Toby Collins, C.R., Fr. Joseph deViveiros, C.R., Ed Sikora, C.R. and all the staff, volunteers and parishioners of St. Mary’s Parish in Kitchener. The parish is the “Diamond Winner” (the top winner!) in the annual Waterloo Region Record’s Readers’ Choice Awards for 2020 for the best Church/Temple in Waterloo Region.

The great social outreach that St. Mary’s Parish has done in the downtown core, including the tiny homes project, the community garden and the sandwich project, has been duly recognized by the people of Kitchener Waterloo. Well done.

St. Mary’s Kitchen

By Tony D’Amato Stortz,
Outreach Coordinator

The St. Mary’s Kitchen is coming together, and its potential to help people in downtown Kitchener will soon be a reality.

The large commercial kitchen is being constructed in the lower church of St. Mary’s Parish. The drywall has been painted and appliances are being installed, including a large pizza oven, plenty of prep space, and a tilting kettle for sauces and soups. Soon this facility will be up and running, ready to meet the needs of individuals and families who are struggling.



Tony D’Amato Stortz,
Outreach Coordinator for
St. Mary’s Parish



Above: The pizza oven that will be the centrepiece of the St. Mary's Kitchen

Below: St. Mary's High School students helping pick a pizza oven for the new kitchen



Beyond the impressive cooking facilities, the St. Mary's Kitchen will have accessible washrooms, showers, laundry facilities, and a large hall to welcome people from all walks of life for whatever they need. Hopefully it will grow from a community kitchen into a space where diverse groups of people can come together, learning, growing and eating in community with each other.

None of this work could be done without the tremendous support we have received every step along the way. Thank you to the Diocese of Hamilton, The Congregation of the Resurrection, and the parishioners of St Mary's for making it possible. Their work, prayers, and financial support have brought this kitchen to life and will have a positive impact on vulnerable folks living in downtown Kitchener for many years to come.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the St. Mary's Outreach Coordinator, Tony D'Amato Stortz at tonys.stmarys@gmail.com to get involved.



Update on the Tiny Homes Project

In our last edition of the Resurrection Bulletin, we highlighted an exciting project undertaken by St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener. This past summer, students and other volunteers built ten tiny homes for the homeless on the property of St. Mary's Church. The project was part of "A Better Tent City" initiated by Jeff Willmer, a former chief administrative officer with the City of Kitchener, and Ron Doyle, a local businessman with a strong desire to help the homeless. The men had been looking for a way to provide more stable housing for the area's homeless population, a step up from the tents that were set up in various parks, parking lots, etc. in the region. Willmer and Doyle teamed up and developed "A Better Tent City" as a way to bridge the gap to affordable housing for the region's homeless.

Willmer proposed to create tiny homes that would be inexpensive to build and would provide a safe and comfortable environment for the homeless. He needed a property to house them, and Doyle generously offered his property at 41 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, home of Lot 42.



A few of the cabins set up in A Better Tent City in Kitchener.

Lot 42 is a large event complex consisting of banquet halls, meeting rooms, etc. in an industrial area of Kitchener. It was a popular site for trade shows, weddings, concerts, etc. until COVID-19 shut all events down. Part of the property became home to 20 tiny cabins (8' x 10') outdoors, with about 15-20 tents set up in one of the indoor spaces of the complex.

With financial support from parishioners, neighbouring parishes, the Congregation of the Resurrection, the Catholic Community Foundation of Waterloo Region and the Motz Family Foundation, among others, ten of these tiny homes were completed at St. Mary's Church and moved to "A Better Tent City" this summer. It was a gratifying experience for the volunteers to be able to provide their neighbours with dignified housing, a place to call their own and a place to feel safe and unafraid.

Currently there are about 40 people living in either the tiny homes or in tents. There is access to toilets, showers

and laundry facilities, and a central dining area, run by dedicated volunteers. A mobile community health van makes regular visits.

Hopefully more homes can be built in order to accommodate the people who still live in tents. As well, volunteers are needed for food preparation, and monetary donations are always welcomed.

A Better Tent City is a step up for most of the people looking for shelter, and it also provides a sense of stability, as the residents can live on the property without fear of being uprooted and moved to another location. There is a sense of community, a feeling of hope for the future among the people living in A Better Tent City and a belief that tomorrow will be a better day.



Construction of the new gymnasium in Buhemba.

New Gymnasium for Buhemba

By Fr. Maciej Braun, C.R., Superior, Tanzanian Mission

Dear Friends!

I often wonder how I can help Africa, or to be more specific, how I can help those whom I meet every day. Certainly, the first thought that comes to my mind is to improve the quality of their lives, ordinary, everyday lives. It is not a simple task, however, because we have to ask how we can do it in a wise way. How can one help with a love that is full of wisdom and is not just about giving away material goods or making donations? The more I live in Tanzania, and it has already been a few years, the more I realize that the best way to help (apart from preaching the gospel, obviously, as it will always be my top priority) is to invest in education and intellectual growth. That means to develop the thinking skill of the people so it is deeper, and perhaps to teach the ability to perceive the world in a more abstract way. That is where my idea of creating and building a kindergarten and a school came from three years ago. Only through education and a strong, solid foundation of upbringing can these young people be able to change their society and themselves. It also falls perfectly into our Resurrection charism. And so, for three years we have been running the Buhembie Resurrection Pre & Primary School. The leading motto of our school is: "Love and Education". Here, kids learn to love God and to love people, each other. Because of that, they open up and are ready and willing to change through education.

Thanks to the goodness of our sponsors and benefactors, volunteers and people from Poland, Europe and from all over the world, the school is operating at full capacity. Currently in the whole educational system of the kindergarten and school there are 286 children. So far, we have three kindergarten classes and three primary school classes. Our target is to form seven classes. Each year there are more and more new kids and new classes. Our institution relies solely on the donations of our benefactors and on spiritual adoptions. As of today, there are employed: 9 teachers, 3 cooks, 2 drivers, 3 cleaners, 2 caretakers, 2 night-watchers, an accountant and a gardener. Of course, year by year the situation changes and will continue to develop.

In August this year, we started the construction and building of a sports area for our school. The construction continuing at a good pace thanks to the support of our sponsors. As a target, there will be one small school gym with an area for spectators and a large sports field on our property. It is indeed a huge investment. As long



A classroom in the Buhembie Resurrection Pre & Primary School.



The new gymnasium is taking shape.



A little girl poses for the camera on her way to school.

as we have enough financial resources, we will continue our work. I am writing to you, my dear benefactors, with a request for help so that we can continue our construction; however, I have one specific request of you. Our gym (which will be the second school gym in Tanzania!) will need sports equipment. These include: basketball hoops, nets, goals and balls. As you may know, such equipment is imported from outside Tanzania so the costs are high. I have attached a couple of photos where you can see the design of the gym and the work in progress. Thank you in advance for all the goodness that you show us. Please send any donations to the Provincial Office in Canada.

To help a man you have to do it in a wise way. Thus, let's add our bit to the bucket of changes, our little drop so that the world will be a better place to live in and our everyday lives will bring all of us joy and happiness. Let life be beautiful.

With prayer,

Fr. Maciej Braun, C.R.

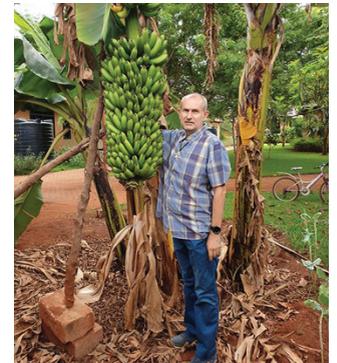
News from Morogoro

It is the beginning of a new semester for the students living at the seminary in Morogoro. This semester there will be fifteen seminarians attending Jordan University College, travelling there by bicycle. Fourteen are studying philosophy, while Yohana Mathias, C.R. is studying theology. Congratulations to Yohana, who

professed perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Resurrection on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We wish Yohana and all the seminarians God's blessings as they continue their journey as religious in the Congregation.

Let us also continue to pray for Brother Moses, who is currently living at the seminary. He will finish his secondary studies in December and will then move to Butiama to be with Fr. Daniel Hinç, C.R.

Congratulations also to Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. for the bountiful harvest of bananas and mangoes that he grew at the seminary. He surely has a green thumb!



Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. showing off the new crop of bananas at the seminary.



Fifteen clerics have begun studies for the new semester.

The following is a prayer written by Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada. It was prepared for interfaith sharing, and is used by permission.

Care in the Time of COVID-19 – A Prayer Upon Masking

May I see the holy moment in the wearing of this cloth
—a sign to the world that I care—
a tangible and visible way of living my love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Since my lips will be covered, may I uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, may I speak clearly,
not only with my words, but with my actions.
As the elastic touches my ears,
may I listen carefully—*may I be full of care*—for all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds, be filled with divine love.
By all that I hold sacred, by the love that is intended,
I say these things, I take this action.
May it be so. May it be so.

How You Can Help the Missions

Donations in aid of Resurrectionists working in the missions (Brazil 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.

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.

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

Please check out the Ontario-Kentucky Province's website at:

www.resurrectionists.ca

If you would like to receive the Resurrection Bulletin by email, you can sign up on the website. Prayer requests are always welcomed and encouraged.



CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION

265 Westmount Road North, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G7



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI