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# The Shepherds' Trust NEWSLETTER

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## Fathers Dave and Bill Harding Blessed in their Calling to Serve

*The following article is an edited excerpt from the Epilogue of "Theology For Beginners", a book published by Father Dave Harding on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, May 30, 2002. Father Dave tells us the story of his life as a priest and shares with us the life of his brother, Father Bill Harding who died on September 12, 1994. Father Dave was very close to his brother, Father Bill and feels blessed to have had his brother also serve the Archdiocese and to have had the opportunity to serve with him. Father Dave is a scholar, an author and educator, a dedicated and committed pastor. He shared a great sense of adventure with his brother and recounted how one summer the "Fathers" decided to drive an oil tanker truck across Canada just for the experience!*

*Father Dave has been retired since 1988 and today lives at St. Monica's Parish in Toronto where he helps with Masses. In addition to writing and publishing his memoirs, Father Dave is a member of a committee of retired priests, who put together a newsletter to provide news and information to the retired priests in the Archdiocese. Father Dave recalls receiving \$30 each month in his early years as a priest and is very grateful for the support he receives today from the Shepherds' Trust for his retirement.*

I was ordained in 1942 and loaned to the Diocese of Nelson, B. C. where I served as curate in Kelowna in the Okanagan Valley, Cranbrook in the East Kootenay and Nelson in the West Kootenay.



Then, I was appointed Manager and Editor of "The Prospector", the Catholic Newspaper in the Diocese. Bishop Johnson was thinking of sending me to Denver, Colorado to study Radio and Television work., when I was recalled to Toronto, my own Archdiocese.

I served as second curate at St. Mary's Church in Barrie, and then second curate in St. Michael's Church in Fort Erie.

On August 15, 1946, Cardinal McGuigan appointed me Professor of Philosophy at St. Augustine's Seminary. When I studied there, the Seminary was not affiliated with a University, so I did not have a degree. Thus, I enrolled immediately in Honours Philosophy at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. For my first six years there I taught full time and studied full time and I managed to get an Honours B.A. in Philosophy in 1949 and an M.A. in Philosophy in 1952. I taught there for two more years and then I had a bout of illness.

My next appointment was as curate at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Etobicoke in 1954. In 1956, I was appointed Founding Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Agincourt. I arrived there on the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7, 1956 and by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, I managed to build the Church, hall and rectory in fourteen months. The Church was opened on December 22, 1957. I served there for fourteen years until 1970. I then became Pastor of St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Woodbridge in 1970.

My next appointment was to study for a doctorate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and I graduated with a Ph.D. in 1975.

I was appointed Director of Human and Spiritual Development with headquarters at Annunciation Parish, where Fr. Bill Harding was Pastor, from 1975 to 1979. During that period, I was in residence at La Salle Manor as Chaplain of the Christian Brothers. I was invited to be on the Committee of the Doctorate in Ministry Program at the Toronto School of Theology.

I became Pastor of St. Theresa's Shrine of the Little Flower in Scarborough and served there from 1979 to 1985.

My next appointment was to be Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Thornhill from 1985 to 1986.

At this time, Fr. Bill Harding was Founding Pastor at Prince of Peace in Scarborough and he had such a vast Parish that I volunteered to go there as Associate Pastor in 1986. I remained there for eight years and then Fr. Bill entered into eternal life on September 12, 1994.

I was appointed Administrator of Prince of Peace and I looked after that huge parish all by myself until July 1, 1995 when two priests were appointed to succeed me.

As I look back over the years, I realize what a definite advantage I had having my brother Fr. Bill serve as a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto from 1948 until 1994.

He had a remarkable record in that he had only six appointments in his forty-six years as a priest. He spent five years at Holy Rosary Parish in Thorold, where he brought the whole place to life with his youthful energy and priestly zeal.

Then he spent seven years at St. Mary's, Star of the Sea in Port Credit. During those years, he had the parish booming. At that time, there was not a Catholic School from Long Branch to Oakville. Thus, Fr. Bill with the help of the parishioners set up School Boards in Port Credit, Lakeview, Erindale and Clarkson. He was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the four Boards. He attended all the meetings, dealt with the Ministry of Education, met with lawyers and contractors in the building of all the schools, hired teachers and staff, arranged mortgages, supervised the building of the schools and acted as the chaplain of the schools.

Those four Boards and all the schools now form the southern section of the vast Dufferin-Peel School Board in Mississauga.

Fr. Bill also bought a United Church in Clarkson for \$25,000.00 to give the people in that parish an opportunity to start a parish. They called the first school in Clarkson, St. Christopher's, after the son of Joe Williams, one of the trustees on the Board.

Fr. Bill also bought two acres of land in Clarkson where the new Church of St. Christopher was built.

Fr. Bill was next appointed Pastor of St. James in Colgan and the Mission, St. Paul's, in Tottenham. There he looked after two churches, served as secretary of the School Board and a substitute school bus driver.

After two years there, he was appointed Founding Pastor of Annunciation in Don Mills and Scarborough, the neighbouring parish to Holy Spirit where I was stationed. Thus, he could reside at Holy Spirit rectory. He succeeded in building a huge church, hall and rectory at Victoria Park and Ellesmere Avenue in two years. He served in that parish for 18 years.

Then he was appointed pastor of St. Benedict's in Rexdale from 1980-1983, where he implemented Vatican II and established the lay ministry.

In 1983, he was appointed Founding Pastor at Prince of Peace parish serving north Scarborough and southern Markham. He built that church, hall and rectory in three years and looked after the seven Catholic Schools in the area. Annunciation and Prince of Peace parishes turned out to be two of the best attended parishes in Toronto.

In addition to all his ecclesiastical work, he managed to keep up his

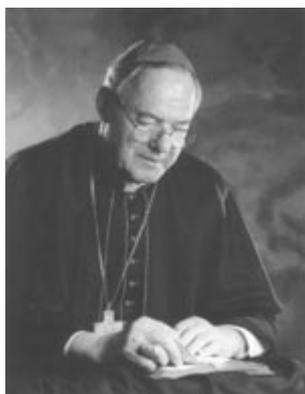
academic work and he got two Masters Degrees and a Ph.D. in his spare time. He also talked me into getting our private pilots' licences. Like St. Paul, he could say, "I spent and was spent."

Finally on September 12, 1994, he was called home.

Long live the good pastor. May he live forever in peace, love and joy.

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## Message from the Cardinal



Dear Friends,

The annual Shepherds' Trust collection is a time for all of us to remember the faithful service rendered by our clergy and to support a fund that is enabling 79 retired and disabled clergy to live in peace and with dignity. Contributions are also essential to the priests approaching retirement age. Since 1996 contributions have helped greatly but continued generosity is necessary to reach the goal of ensuring that all our priests will be adequately cared for during their

retirement years.

This year's collection is scheduled for the November 13-14th weekend.

Contributing to support our clergy who for so many years have freely cared for our needs is imperative. "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." (Acts 20:35) Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, I ask for your generous help and invite you to take part in this year's collection.

On behalf of our clergy, I express a deep sense of gratitude for your support.

Yours in Christ,

Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic  
Archbishop of Toronto

# A Life - A Legacy: Deacon Peter Doyle

Benjamin Franklin, a founding father of the USA, left us with the oft-quoted expression “but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”. While not disputing this scenario in our modern temporal world the Christian would have a different perspective and if asked to add or delete from this expression would in all likelihood change one word to read as follows: “but in this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and resurrection”.



Under both the temporal and spiritual scenario above there is one commonality—following death every person will have left a legacy of some kind. To many a legacy denotes a bequest, a donation or a gift of a life lived but it can be much more than these. A legacy can mean many things to different people. For parents it can consist of leaving children with strong values, by passing on the torch of faith, by loving unconditionally and by imparting principles to live by for a productive life in society. For a priest it can encompass the sacramental life of the Church in the many baptisms performed, giving people the bread of life in Communion, witnessing marriages, celebrating the Eucharist or hearing confessions and absolving the sinner. Legacies are the sum of how we spent our lives in good or in evil.

In our Catholic tradition we have many signs of legacies like donated stained glass windows in our churches, the tombstones in our Catholic Cemeteries, schools named after eminent Catholic educators, books written on spirituality or bequests and donations made to our Church. The list is expansive. To each person a legacy is unique and personal.

I had the good fortune of meeting Father Peter Rosettis, a retired Diocesan priest, several years ago. He was a good priest who served in many parishes in the Toronto Archdiocese since his ordination in 1943. He retired from active ministry in 1992 and was receiving a pension from Shepherds' Trust. Father Peter loved his Church, was a man of prayer, loved music, reading, taking walks, keeping active and keeping in touch with his confreres in the priesthood. However as he aged his health deteriorated and in his final years his greatest affliction was the partial loss of his voice that hampered him from celebrating the Eucharist.

Father Peter was a frugal man who had little use for material things but as a

good steward of God's gifts he managed his treasure well. He learned the value of a dollar from his working class parents who came to Canada from Lithuania in the early 1900s and they worked hard to raise and educate a family in St. Catharines. On my various visits to him at his small apartment in the east end of Toronto I couldn't help but notice his modest lifestyle and the absence of luxuries like air conditioning in the hot summer months. He was not averse to collecting discount coupons if it meant savings on his grocery purchases. As our friendship developed he entrusted to me the task of preparing his annual income tax return. As he was a generous donor to many Catholic charities each year it was a pleasure for me to annually say to him "you will have a sizeable income tax refund this year".

Father Peter died on 13 June 2003. I assisted the Executor of his estate, Father Oliver Moloney, in preparing all the necessary filings and legal duties required of an Executor. After paying off his lawful debts, bequeathing generous sums to family and life long friends the residue of his estate was bequeathed to Shepherds' Trust. Father Peter left many spiritual legacies as a faithful follower of Jesus in the commitment of his life to God as an ordained priest but to his fellow priests he left them a material legacy that will substantially augment the Shepherds' Trust to a desired level of financial sustainability. His generous charitable bequest enabled his estate to be tax-free.

It is a goal of the Trustees of Shepherds' Trust to eventually build the pension assets to a level where the future will be secure in providing adequate retirement benefits to the priests who have served long and faithfully in the Archdiocese.

There will be a day that we too will pass from this world to meet our Maker and for those left behind we will leave a legacy of some kind. What that legacy will be will be up to each one of us. In a recent newspaper article it was stated that it is estimated that by the year 2010 two million Canadians will die without having made a valid Will. If one dies without a Will (intestate) it will be too late to bequeath a sum to a favourite registered charity such as the Shepherds' Trust, and to reduce income taxes accordingly.

If you are planning on having a new Will drawn up, or perhaps considering changes to an existing Will you will be greatly helped by contacting my office for a copy of the Estate Planning booklet that contains much useful information on Wills, Powers of Attorney, Catholic Cemeteries Archdiocesan registered charities and much more. Call Deacon Peter Doyle for your free copy and other useful information at (416) 934 3400, ext.561 or e-mail to: [pdoyle@archtoronto.org](mailto:pdoyle@archtoronto.org).

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# Retired Priests Honoured at Mass of Thanksgiving

by Mary Ellen Hannah



In reflecting on the Mass of Thanksgiving and the reception, for our retired priests held on May 30th, at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Mississauga, it is difficult to pinpoint what was the most memorable part of the day.

Was it seeing our retired priests, called personally by our Lord to shepherd His flock as they concelebrated Mass? Perhaps, it was moving to say the least.

Was it the homily where we were reminded of how these men guided their bewildered flock through the welcome, but nonetheless sweeping challenges and changes of Vatican II? It was thought provoking and made me think about my dad and how difficult it was for him to adapt to the changes. I never realized how difficult it must have been to be a priest during those “radical” times. But still, the homily wasn’t the most memorable part of the day for me.

Was it the absolute magnificence of Michael Burgess voice as he sang Panis Angelicus? Close! Michael was definitely one of the high points of the afternoon! Listening to him was like being touched by an angel. You could have heard a pin drop in the church! But again, that wasn’t quite it.

Was it the lump in my throat when the Knights of Columbus served as an honour guard for our retired priests as they entered and exited the church and distributed communion? Almost, but no, that wasn’t quite it.

Was it the sumptuous pates and dips served at the reception afterwards in the parish hall? Delicious for sure and it was wonderful to meet and chat with old and new friends, but that wasn’t it either.

If I had to pinpoint the most memorable moment of that afternoon, it had to be the obvious joy on the faces of our retired priests to be honoured and remembered in such a warm and wonderful manner. What a day!

To see Fr. Tom McKillop, holding court at the reception, surrounded by people young and old, hanging on his every word was so gratifying. What an opportunity!

It was the obvious delight on the face of Fr. Ted Mahoney as he fed cookie after cookie to “Montreal” a guide dog in attendance at the mass and

reception. It was watching Montreal rest his head in his new found friend's lap, obviously content.

It was Fr. Emidio Cremona singing a duet in Maltese with Therese, one of the ladies from the parish social committee. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, Fr. Cremona, Therese or those of us who watched and listened!

It was watching Michael Burgess and Monsignor Gerard Breen deep in conversation, oblivious to those who stopped by the buffet to nibble or to catch Michael's eye. Monsignor Breen and Michael were really catching up!

It was seeing the relief on the face of Fr. Marshal Beriault when he finally made it to the church after having been caught in a horrendous traffic jam and then watching him settle in to enjoy the day, happy to be among so many friends.

It was talking with Fr. Alexander Takacs and his sister Yolanda Tomze, each of them so concerned for the others welfare.

It was talking to Fr. Norbert Gignac about the old days on Freddy Channel in Georgian Bay.

It was all of these things and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

The Shepherds' Trust is more than just an annual collection. It is these men and the many wonderful ways in which they have enriched our lives. Thank-you Lord!

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## Keeping a Parish Alive and Active

by David Breech

An east ender, tried and true, Father Edwin Platt lives today in the home he grew up in as a child. His home, the original rectory of Corpus Christi Parish, in Toronto's east end, has been in Father Platt's family since 1935. He sits quietly in the living room, surrounded by the love and memories of 5 brothers and 4 sisters. His parents were Victorian - "awfully good and very dutiful". His father said his mother's middle name was "duty". Their lifestyle was the reason for his vocation. At age five, when other boys dreamed of being a fireman or policeman, he wanted to be a



priest.

He attended St. John's and Corpus Christi elementary schools, St. Michael's College School and finally St. Augustine's Seminary. Ordained in 1948, he enjoys being a priest and remembers, with affection, his postings within the Archdiocese. Father Platt said it was a great privilege to begin his pastoral work at St. Paul's under the guidance of Father Walsh. Father Walsh was a strong advocate and practitioner of home visits.

Home visits were a great source of inspiration and education for Father Platt. He learned how quickly "word gets around". During one of his visitation days at St. Paul's, the first parishioner offered him a cup of tea - he declined - but the parishioner insisted saying it was already prepared - he accepted and after chatting for awhile, he left to visit the next home. Once again, he was offered tea - he declined - and was abruptly told, "you had tea at Mabel's, why can't you have a cup here as well?" Timing was also important, usually the afternoon, sometimes the evening but never in the morning because you "are as welcome as a skunk at a garden party". Father Platt believed that there are no panaceas, but parish visitations come as close to an answer in keeping a parish alive and active because "when you go to someone's house, you have gone the limit".

Through the first 22 years, Father Platt served at St. Paul's, Holy Name, St. Cecilia's, St. Mary's Victoria Harbour, and St. John Fisher. For the next 16 years, Father Platt was stationed at St. Thomas More in Scarborough, a church that he built and a community that he helped to develop and grow. His last posting was at St. Luke's in Thornhill for 18 years. Father Platt loves the "action" of parish life and says he doesn't want to just sit around. He says noon day Mass during the week at Corpus Christi and Sunday Mass at 9:00am. Father Platt enjoys participating in the functions and activities organized for the retired priests and he always looks forward to attending the alumni day at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Father Platt is most appreciative of the Shepherds' Trust as it allows him to live in his own home and help at Corpus Christi, only one door away. And Father Platt suggests that the need will soon be greater as the number of retired priests grows.

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## Music to a Traveller's Ears

By Karolina Wilczynska

Always open to travel and new experiences, fifty years in the priesthood have provided many opportunities for discovery and learning for Father Benoit Jobin. He has been all over the world, and has applied what he learned on his travels to his ministry right here in Toronto.

Hailing from Sainte-Foy, Quebec, a town that has since been integrated into Quebec City, Father Jobin came to Toronto in 1947, taking up studies in philosophy and theology at St. Augustine's Seminary. Once there, Father Jobin encountered his first challenge of living in Toronto: mastering the English language, after growing up in a mostly French-speaking community.

It was while Father Jobin was studying at St. Augustine's that he discovered his calling to the priesthood. He was ordained at the Archdiocese of Toronto fifty years ago and has remained active in our community ever since.

Father Jobin's studies did not end when he left St. Augustine's. Throughout his travels, which he undertook in between the duties of his ministry, he has had the privilege of learning about different people and cultures firsthand. He says that his travels have helped him to "appreciate that we're not the only ones with gifts from God." Seeing the different ways that people experience God in their lives, and having the opportunity to speak to people when travelling has helped Father Jobin to broaden his horizons and appreciate people more.

He asserts that he has been able to see the people back home in a different light because of his experiences while travelling. One of these experiences for Father Jobin was realizing that there is suffering all over the world, which has made him more aware of the suffering closer to home, such as the condition of the homeless people he often sees on the Toronto streets.

Despite his travels, Father Jobin wished to stay close to his French origin when ministering in Toronto. His placements have included both French-speaking and English-speaking parishes. Two of these parishes were ones that he built himself. The first was a French parish on Don Mills Road called St. Louis-de-France, and the second was the Good Shepherd, an English-speaking parish.

Father Jobin claims that building these parishes was the most challenging part of his ministry, since it took a large amount of work. It was, however, also a very pleasant experience for him, since he says that it was a wonderful way for him to discover the Christian mind of the people who would later belong to the parish. "As a church is built," he affirms, "there is a great spirit of cooperation, help and understanding among the people." Father Jobin adds that it is sometimes challenging to maintain that attitude within a church after it is built.

Father Jobin advises those who are searching for God, especially young people, to always be open to God and to try to see the beauty He created in nature. Father Jobin affirms that there is beauty all around us; we just have

to take the time to contemplate it. He has a strong belief in the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, and encourages young people to take the time to think of what they would like to do, not rejecting right away thoughts of dedicating their lives to religious life or the priesthood.

When asked about the most valuable thing he has learned, Father Jobin replies that it is the importance of always being ready to listen to people. He stresses the need for people to have a place where they can speak openly, and for someone to be there to listen to them and help them. Father Jobin also affirms the importance of people being compassionate enough to be there and listen to others.

Father Jobin feels grateful to the Shepherds' Trust asserting that it gives a sense of security to priests who have worked so hard for their community. He adds that it helps them to feel appreciated, knowing that the community that they have given so much to is giving back to them.

Although he retired in 2001, with Blessed Trinity parish being his last assigned parish, Father Jobin is by no means idle these days. After five decades of ministering to the Toronto Catholic community, he continues to do so at the St. Stephen Chapel on Bay Street and is very involved with the Newman Centre. In his spare time he enjoys going to the opera and to concerts, entertaining his love of music, thus recognizing the beauty of the world around him, still showing us that no matter where we are God is present to hear us, and His beauty is only a glance away.

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## Golf Tournament



Once again the Shepherds' Trust hosted their Annual Golf Tournament held on September 13th at Kleinburg Golf and Country Club. In attendance were 212 golfers who enjoyed the camaraderie of the serious and not so serious golfers. The competition between the foursomes created an atmosphere of enjoyment and much laughter. This event, which is affectionately nicknamed "the second long weekend in September" was a success for all who attended and will be

remembered throughout the year. Special thanks to Bill McDonnell for his dedication to the Trust and to the tournament over the years.

To be included in next year's tournament, please call Marisa Rogucki at 416-934-3400, ext. 615 to be put on the mailing list. A portion of the golf fees are tax receiptable. "Fore!"

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## Offer In Memoriam and Living Gifts on the Web

The In Memoriam card enables you to offer your sympathy to those who have lost a loved one, and your donation will be acknowledged to the family of the deceased without disclosing the amount of your gift.

A Living Gift offers you the opportunity to honour "that special someone" by making a donation in his/her name, while allowing the Shepherds' Trust to continue caring for our retired priests. It really is the gift that keeps giving! The recipient of your gift will be notified that you have made a donation in his/her honour, without disclosing the amount.

For both In Memoriam and Living Gifts, a charitable receipt will be issued from The Shepherds' Trust office. Visit [www.shepherdstrust.org](http://www.shepherdstrust.org).

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