



CWL

St. Catharines Diocese

Friday, April 1, 2022



CWL Catholic Connections

National CWL: cwl.ca

ON Provincial CWL: cwl.on.ca

St. Catharines CWL: stcatharinescwl.ca

President's Message: Be Forgiving

These last two years of the COVID 19 pandemic have taught us many different things. For Lent this year, I remind myself daily to be more self-forgiving. I realize that our lives don't have to be perfect, nor do we have to act perfect. The habit of self-imposed pressure has passed.

We aren't perfect, nor are we supposed to be perfect; we all make unintentional mistakes.

We have the Sacrament of Confession and the Lord to cleanse and forgive our sins; so why can't we begin to forgive ourselves? Women are perhaps hardest on themselves because expectations are so high. Jesus' expectations of us have not changed and these expectations are the only things we should try every day to achieve with the highest regard. Everything else can be forgiven.



On behalf of the Diocesan Executive, **Happy Easter** to each one of you and your families!

Lisa

St. Catharines CWL Diocesan Convention:

Date: Saturday, April 30th

Time: (8:45 a.m.—sign-on) 9 a.m. start-12 p.m.

Platform: Zoom—link will be on the website

Agenda:

- **Father Richard Kowlachuk—Gospel reading and reflection**
- **Crowning of Mary**
- **Rosary—Joyful Mysteries**
- **Business/Election**
- **Closing Prayer**

Message From Deedee Alexandre: CWL Book Club

Current Book: The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King—easily ordered online or available in bookstores

We started studying the book on Tuesday, March 15: (6:45 p.m.—sign on) / 7 p.m. start —and every Tuesday

--we will read approximately 20-25 pages a week

--the Zoom link will be on stcatharinescwl.ca for you to use—**Tuesday, April 5 is chapter 3**

Also! Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre, Vance Badawey, is scheduled to speak to the CWL members on Zoom on **Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m.**—the topic will be about Indigenous Peoples. Keep the date open!

Happy Easter!!!

Breaking News!!!—April 1st

Pope Francis apologizes to Indigenous delegates for 'deplorable' abuses at residential schools

First Nations, Inuit and Métis conclude historic week of meetings

[Olivia Stefanovich](#) · CBC News · Posted: Apr 01, 2022 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: 39 minutes ago

LIVE

Indigenous delegates reflect on Pope Francis's apology for the conduct of some members of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada's residential school system and the weeklong visit to the Vatican. 0:00

Pope Francis has apologized for the conduct of some members of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada's residential school system, following a week of talks with First Nations, Inuit and Métis delegations.

The delegates had gathered for a final and public audience with the Pope at



the Vatican on Friday as Francis spoke of feeling "sorrow and shame" for the conduct of those who ran the schools.

"I also feel shame ... sorrow and shame for the role that a number of Catholics, particularly those with educational responsibilities, have

had in all these things that wounded you, and the abuses you suffered and the lack of respect shown for your identity, your culture and even your spiritual values," he said.

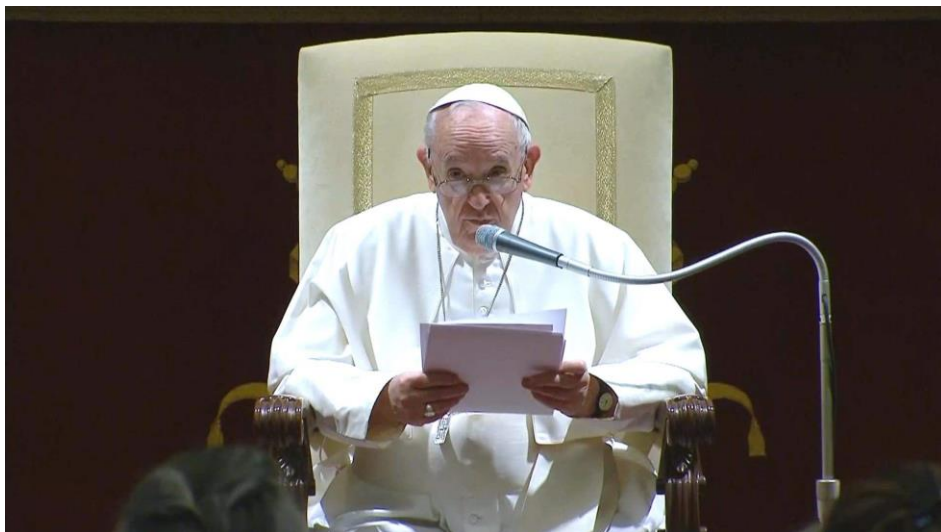
"For the deplorable conduct of these members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness and I want to say to you with all my heart, I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops, in asking your pardon."

WATCH | Pope Francis apologizes to Indigenous delegates for 'deplorable' abuses at residential schools

I am unable to upload the Papal apology—please go to cbc.ca
Deedee

Saying he was 'deeply grieved by the stories of the suffering' experienced in residential schools, Pope Francis apologized to Indigenous delegates at a public audience at the Vatican. 13:41

Francis also said he hoped to visit Canada "in the days" around the church's Feast of St. Anne, which falls on July 26.



Dene National Chief Gerald Antoine, who led one of the delegations, said Indigenous leaders should be part of the planning of such a visit.

- [LIVE | Watch the Indigenous delegation's news conference](#)

"Today is a day that we've been waiting for and certainly one that will be uplifted in our history," he said after the meeting.

"It's a historical first step. However, only a first step. The next step is for the Holy Father to apologize to our family at their home. We seek to hear his words. They also seek the words of apology at home."

- **An apology from the Pope without actions means 'nothing': Manitoba residential school survivors**
- **The Vatican holds billions in assets. Residential school survivors say the Pope should step up on compensation**

The apology comes at the end of a week of private separate meetings between the First Nations, Inuit and Métis delegations and the Pope about the Roman Catholic Church's role in Canada's residential school system.

The Inuit delegation had also been pushing for the church to intervene in the case of [fugitive Oblate priest wanted in Canada for sex crimes](#), and the First Nation delegates also urged the Pope to revoke centuries-old papal decrees



used to justify the seizure of Indigenous land in the Americas by colonial powers.

Colleen Jacob, former chief of Xaxli'p First Nation in British Columbia, leads First Nations delegates in song outside St. Peter's Basilica. (Olivia Stefanovich/CBC)

More than 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend residential schools between the 1880s and 1996, and more than 60 per cent of the schools were run by the Catholic Church.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission — which from 2008 to 2015 examined the record of Canada's residential school system — called for a papal apology [as part of its 94 calls to action](#). The commission also urged all



religious and faith groups to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and people.

Prayers were offered at the Vatican on Friday before Pope Francis spoke at his final meeting with First Nations, Inuit and

Métis delegates, when the pontiff apologized for the conduct of some members of the Roman Catholic Church in running Canada's residential school system, (Delegate/Supplied)

Colleen Jacob, the former chief of Xaxli'p First Nation in British Columbia, wrote about her experience attending residential school in a letter to the



Pope delivered during his private meeting this week with Assembly of First Nations delegates.

Jacob said she can still remember vividly the bus picking her up for the first time in 1974, when she was just seven years old.

She said she was dropped off and separated from her big brother. "It was a big shock to me because back home I used to follow him everywhere," Jacob said. "I would cry when he wouldn't take me."

[Olivia Stefanovich](#)

Senior reporter

Olivia Stefanovich is a senior reporter for CBC's Parliamentary Bureau based in Ottawa. She previously worked in Toronto, Saskatchewan and northern Ontario. Connect with her on Twitter at @CBCOlivia. Story tips welcome: olivia.stefanovich@cbc.ca.

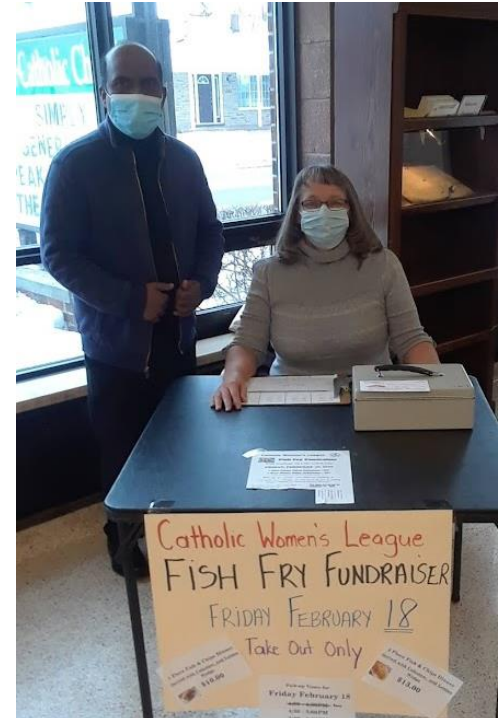


Lorri MacKenzie and Regi Smith

St. Kevin's:

Since the pandemic the St. Kevin CWL, like many others, have had no fundraisers. However, we still gave out all our regular donations for 2 years. As our funds were depleted, we thought we would try to do a fundraiser by partnering with a local kitchen – the Lunch Lady and provide a fish fry fundraiser. It was served as a takeout with either

1 piece or 2-piece dinner options. We were able to observe all Covid guidelines and it was quite the success. The profits from this fundraiser will help to support community organizations as well as supporting the schools associated with St. Kevin Parish. In total, 153 meals were served. And due to popular demand, we are doing it again on Good Friday.



Fr. Sunil and Lorri MacKenzie



Pope Francis consecrates Ukraine and Russia to Immaculate Heart of Mary

Catholic News Service March 22, 2022

Pope Francis prays in front of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima during a Marian vigil in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 12, 2013. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

To watch the program on Youtube.com, go to: <https://youtu.be/EyDgHeoi0Yg>

and start at the 13:50 minute mark.

Canadian Indigenous delegation heads to Rome seeking papal apology

Mar 25, 2022

by [Christopher White](#)



People march on Canada Day in Toronto July 1, 2021, after the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves on the grounds of two former residential schools for Indigenous children in Canada. In four meetings

March 28-April 1, Pope Francis will listen to the experiences of members of Canada's Indigenous communities. (CNS/Reuters/Carlos Osorio)

ROME — In speech after speech for almost a decade, Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of listening. Next week Francis will get to practice what he preaches.

More than two dozen Indigenous Canadians will [meet](#) with Pope Francis March 28-April 1 to give firsthand testimonials about the abuses perpetrated in Canada's residential schools, many of them operated by the Catholic Church. The meetings bring survivors and representatives of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis National Council to the Vatican as part of an ongoing effort to reckon with the church's shameful history of operating a network of boarding schools for Native Canadian children.

"We want to be able to share the stories of our Métis survivors and the families who are living with the lasting impacts of residential and day schools to this day," said Cassidy Caron, president of the Métis National Council.

People who attended the institutions, which date to the 19th century, were stripped of their Native languages and culture and often forced to convert to Christianity. Widespread abuse within the schools, which operated for over a century, has been documented, with [up to 6,000 deaths](#) reported.

Last fall, after years of pressure, Canada's Catholic bishops, as a full body, ["unequivocally" apologized](#) to Indigenous peoples for the suffering they endured in residential schools. Now, according to survivors and their allies, it's time for Pope Francis to do the same.



Cassidy Caron, president of the Métis National Council, said it's important that Pope Francis apologize "on Canadian soil, where the atrocities against Métis, First Nations and Inuit children occurred." (Courtesy of Métis National Council)

A [final report](#) from the country's years-long Truth and Reconciliation Commission has called on Francis to do just that, and, critically, says that it should happen in Canada.

"It is extremely important that the apology happen on Canadian soil, where the atrocities against Métis, First Nations and Inuit children occurred," Caron told NCR. "We are not entering the meetings in Rome expecting an

apology. The apology must be made in Canada, and we will be looking for reassurances while in Rome that this will happen."

Last October, Francis [agreed](#) to visit Canada, though no official dates have been set.

Before that happens, Caron said it is important that Francis and other Vatican officials hear firsthand from survivors and understand "the intergenerational trauma that our Nation continues to suffer from due to the injustices perpetrated in residential schools."



Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina, Saskatchewan, who will be among the Canadian bishops accompanying the delegations, agreed, saying that listening has been an essential part of his own experience of coming to terms with the church's history of mistreatment of Native peoples.

Archbishop Donald J. Bolen of Regina, Saskatchewan, participates in a smudging ceremony as Rita Means, tribal council representative with the

Rosebud Sioux Tribe, holds a smoking bowl at the Church of Santa Maria in Traspontina in Rome Oct. 18, 2019. Bolen said that listening has been essential to coming to terms with the church's history of mistreatment of Native peoples. (CNS/Paul Haring)

"I tend to be kind of linear, agenda driven," Bolen said. "The people that were here working closely with Indigenous people kept saying, 'it's all about relationships, it's all about relationships.' "

"It took me a little while to change gears, but what a beautiful thing it is to walk with Indigenous people," he told NCR. "But I'm learning so much and really benefiting so much from this walk together."

Walking together, said Bolen, means acknowledging some hard truths.

"It means coming to a new narrative about the history of this land and the role of the church and the residential schools," he said.

That new narrative, he continued, must "attend to the suffering that was experienced and the way that colonization really marginalized

Indigenous peoples and the way that the church, by religious communities and dioceses, accepted and played a part in the government's assimilation policy."

In doing so, and by taking young children from their homes, Bolen said, this "deprived Indigenous peoples of language, culture, traditions, spirituality, faith, wisdom and disrupted family life."

Bolen will be joined in Rome by Canadian bishops' conference president Bishop Raymond Poisson of Saint-Jérôme and Mont-Laurier, vice president Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary, Archbishop Richard William Smith of Edmonton, Archbishop Richard Gagnon of Winnipeg and Bishop Anthony Krotki of Churchill-Hudson Bay.

The delegation had planned to come to Rome in December, but the meetings were canceled at the last minute due to a surge of COVID-19 cases, resulting in yet another setback for the long-sought encounter with the pope.

'The process of healing and reconciliation must begin with us learning the full, comprehensive truth to what occurred within the walls of these institutions.'

—Cassidy Caron

As survivors and those living with intergenerational trauma continue the long road of reconciliation, Caron said that in addition to an apology, the church must play a role in helping to restore parts of the Indigenous past that have been taken away, including their records and historical artifacts.

"Unfortunately, for many of the schools that Métis children attended, the records are still held outside of Canada, and are inaccessible to us," she said, noting that the delegation intends to ask Vatican officials to turn over these files.

"The process of healing and reconciliation must begin with us learning the full, comprehensive truth to what occurred within the walls of these institutions," Caron said.

As for what to expect in Rome, Bolen said that from the moment Francis was elected — nine years ago this month — outreach to the margins has been at the heart of his papacy.

As such, he believes Francis will not only be prepared to listen to and learn from the Indigenous delegates meeting with him, but to use the moment to offer the global Catholic Church a lesson.

Francis, said Bolen, has "often spoken about Indigenous people, not only about the negative impact of colonization, but also about the blessings and the wisdom and the insight from Indigenous traditions and ways that a relationship with the land and with creation is inspiring."

"Pope Francis is telling us we all need to learn," he said. "This is where this meeting is in his wheelhouse. It's going to be something which touches what he sees as the heart of his ministry, so I suspect it's going to be a powerful encounter."

While the meeting is considered high stakes, Bolen said that Francis and all church leaders should approach the meetings ready to listen and with a spirit of humility.

Bolen said some delegates will have a lot of rightful anger toward the church and see the meetings as too late. Others will see this as a new opportunity and a chance to continue reconciliation efforts.

Regardless, Bolen said the church must own up to its past and be ready to continue its encounter with those suffering, because "as Jesus said, it's the truth that sets you free."



Christopher White

Christopher White is the Vatican correspondent for NCR. His email address is cwhite@ncronline.org. Follow him on Twitter: [@CWWhiteNCR](https://twitter.com/CWWhiteNCR).

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Email address

MAR 25, 2022

St. Mary's, Welland

Mothers Day Raffle for 2 separate Gift Baskets Tickets will be available for sale after each Saturday mass 5pm and Sunday mass 9 & 11 on April 23,24,30th, as well as May 1st,7th ad 8th.

This event will be the first chance we have had at doing something that feels normal and we are looking forward to it.

Our hope is to help our parish start to feel like life is restarting so hoping that nothing changes in the opening of our lives, and we can move forward all of us being wiser and more hopeful for the future.

Take care and God Bless

Florence Paul St Mary Welland

(wonderful 3-minute long video re: Confession—Father Mike Schmitz)

Do Priests Remember Your Sins?

https://ascensionpress.com/pages/chosen-your-journey-to-confirmation-sneak-peek-3?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Chosen%202022%20-%20Big%20List%20-%20Email%208%20-%20Do%20Priests%20Remember%20Your%20Sins%20%28RGzbYK%29&kx=4W1Qe_ocPIGZG9zfujBwSp8CvHbbK8jQRFQy1tUjRaB_O8tJnYVSUdz-P6kyxhK-.TcpZhH

St. Therese of Lisieux Council, Port Colborne

- April 9 & 10 selling apple pie following each Mass
- Selling tickets on 3 Easter Food Baskets, drawing on Palm Sunday

***Profit from all these 2 functions will be donated to Ukraine Relieve Fund



Ongoing project for Food Bank: this is an 8-month project that started in November to see how many lbs. of food we can collect over this 8 month period

To-date we have donated 396 lbs!!

One (1) of our new members just got married recently

Mr. & Mrs. Diane (nee Ross) & Derek Miller

God Bless.

Mary Nan

10 Powerful female saints to call on for women and children affected by war



Saints: Public Domain, via Wikipedia | EyePress News/AFP

[Zoe Romanowsky](#) - published on 03/18/22--Aletia

We can ask these intercessors to pray for our sisters in Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, and all places where there is war and violence.

The war in Ukraine has forced over two million people to date to flee the country — great numbers are women and children. Families have been separated as men have stayed

behind to fight. Many mothers with children are now refugees in neighboring countries, arriving with little else but the clothes on their backs.

And while the situation in Ukraine rightly requires urgent attention, we cannot forget other places in the world where war has uprooted the lives of millions of people, with high numbers of women and children.

In Yemen, the poorest country in the Arab world, millions are [suffering the devastating effects of a civil war](#) and on the brink of starvation, with thousands displaced and living in camps. According to the UNCHR, “[1 in 4 of the displaced Yemeni families is headed by a woman or girl](#)—20 percent of whom are under the age of 18.”

Similarly, in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, civil war is reported to have taken on all indications of a genocide, [with no food, medicine, or aid allowed into the region and communications cut off by the Ethiopian government](#). Millions of women and children — especially the youngest and oldest among them — bear great burdens as they cope with trauma and struggle to survive.

Learning about these atrocities leaves us feeling helpless, but we can turn to some powerful sisters in heaven to intercede for the peace and healing of all women and children affected by war and violence.



St. Josephine Bakhita

This patron saint of Sudan was an enslaved person and experienced unspeakable abuse and racism as a young woman at the hands of her masters. Eventually, she managed to move to Italy where one of the families she worked for helped her to realize her desire to become a Canossian

Sister Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonized by Pope John Paul in 2000.

St. Olga of Kyiv--was a pagan queen in present day Kyiv (called Kyivan Rus') from 945 to 960. She was exposed to Christianity while on a trip to Constantinople and brought back priests and deacons to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and help her convert her people. The ruthlessness she displayed as a pagan was transformed into courage and strength when she became a Christian.

St. Joan of Arc



Look to the Maid of Orleans when you need a prayer warrior for those who need strength, courage and perseverance. She not only led an army against the English, but refused to renounce her faith, even while knowing she would be burned at the stake for it at the young age of 19.

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity

These two Christian martyrs died for their faith in the early 3rd century. While Felicity had just given birth, Perpetua left behind a child whom she'd been nursing. They both willingly went to their deaths — being thrown into an arena of wild animals — knowing that God would be by their side.

St. Monica

This mother of the once-wayward St. Augustine is the perfect intercessor for mothers and children everywhere. She knows how to dig her heels in and never give up. She is a perfect saint to turn to for mothers who live in fear of what may happen to their children.



St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

This French-born Canadian saint is the ideal person to pray to for Ukraine children whose education has been interrupted. Not only did she take the courageous step of moving to a foreign country, Canada, but this religious sister also cared for Indigenous people and colonists, founded a women's religious order, and began schools. All this was at great risk to her life.

St. Thérèse de Lisieux



While the Little Flower may have led a seemingly peaceful life, she was filled with great loss when her mother died when she was 4, and also when her sisters left the home one by one to enter religious life. Her deep love for Jesus helped her through the various spiritual torments

she experienced in her short life.

St. Catherine of Alexandria

As one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, this 4th-century martyr is a very powerful intercessor and is said to have spoken to Joan of Arc. Her faith in God gave her the bravery to stand up to powerful men and their persecutions of the Christians in her time. Having consecrated her virginity to Jesus, the young noble girl underwent torture and was eventually beheaded for her faith.

St. Rafqa

Also known as St. Rebecca, this Lebanon-born 19th-century saint had to cope with family pressure to marry at the age of 14. She bravely rejected all proposals and on hearing God's call, fled to a convent to dedicate her life to Him as a Maronite nun. She wanted to suffer as Jesus did and became crippled and blind for the rest of her life. Rafqa was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

(really nice and compact article!)

**5 Strategies to Navigate Any Situation Successfully:
Effective tools to help you master change**

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/in-flux/202202/5-strategies-navigate-through-any-situation-successfully?amp>

Fr. Mike Schmitz: wonderful video covering recent “world” events! Sit back and soak it in. Certainly, **good for discussion! Enjoy!**

<https://youtu.be/FcSk2257IT8>

The Catholic Company presents

GET FED™
Bite-Sized Faith

The Seven Last Words of Christ—Part II

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Today, we reflect on the second of Our Lord's final words from the Cross. They were spoken to St. Dismas, the Good Thief, as he and Jesus hung dying side by side on Good Friday. We find these words only in the Gospel of Luke.

Dismas and his fellow-thief had, like Christ, been condemned to death by crucifixion. Unlike them, Jesus was innocent, suffering His punishment due to others.

The bad thief reviled Christ and demanded that He save Himself and them if He be truly the Son of God. Dismas rebuked him for his impiety, proclaiming that they—as criminals—deserved their punishment, but that Christ had done no wrong.

Dismas then made a rather strange request of Jesus:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

He did not ask to be saved from the cross. He did not ask to escape the punishment for his crimes. *He did not even ask for mercy.* He simply asked to be remembered. The request is stunning in its simplicity and its profound humility.

Even more stunning is the response of Our Lord, who does far more than simply remember the repentant.

“Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Dismas will not only be remembered. He will be *forgiven*, and the gates of Paradise will be open to him, once his (and Our Lord’s) agonies are

complete. The Just Man hanging beside Dismas has taken the crimes of Dismas and all of humanity upon Himself, so that we can escape the punishment we deserve.

Dismas' reaction is left to the imagination of the reader, but one can surmise that he died filled with joy and hope. Perhaps he offered up his suffering—in union with Christ—in reparation for his sins and those of humanity. What a beautiful and extraordinary thing, to suffer in such perfect imitation of Christ! What a grace—to rise from being a common thief to being the chosen companion of Jesus in His final hours! How superabundant is the mercy of God!

If we emulate the humility and repentance of Dismas, the same path of redemption lies open to us—even if we have a past we're not proud of. Whether we're struggling to make that first step, or

want to renew our fervor for the spiritual life, [*The Sinner's Guide*](#) is a handbook for us all. Written in the 16th century by Venerable Louis of Granada, a spiritual master praised by saints such as St. Teresa of Ávila and St. Charles Borromeo, this singular work has for centuries called sinners to repentance, offered practical remedies for vice, and extolled the beauty of life with Christ. Order a copy today at [The Catholic Company!](#)

After 9 years, Francis reorganizes Vatican with focus on evangelization, roles for laypeople

Mar 19, 2022

National Catholic Reporter: by [Christopher White](#)

ROME — Pope Francis has overhauled the Vatican's central bureaucracy for the first time in over 30 years, dramatically expanding the number of top leadership roles lay men

and women can hold and reorganizing Vatican departments under the central priority of evangelization.

The 54-page text of the new Apostolic Constitution was released on March 19 — 9 years to the day of Francis' inauguration as pope in 2013 — and fulfills a top priority of the College of Cardinals, who made clear their desire to improve and decentralize church governance when they gathered in Rome to name a successor to the then-recently retired Pope Benedict XVI.

Under the title of *Praedicate Evangelium* ("Preach the Gospel"), the new document stresses that evangelization is the central task of the church.

"The reform of the Roman Curia is also placed in the context of the missionary nature of the church," states the preamble to the text.

The new constitution, currently [only available in Italian](#), will take effect June 5, replacing Pope John Paul II's 1988 constitution, *Pastor Bonus* ("The Good Shepherd").

Overhaul of old and existing Vatican offices

Under the new constitution, the Vatican's Secretariat of State — which is broadly responsible for helping the pope manage the Vatican and for conducting the Holy See's

international relations — remains the highest office, followed by 16 different Vatican departments.

The new structure eliminates previous distinctions between Vatican congregations and councils, with the newly streamlined title of "dicastery."

Most notably, the document states that "any member of the faithful can preside over a dicastery," an update to the 1988 constitution, which [specifically stated](#) that Vatican dicasteries are headed by a "cardinal prefect or the presiding archbishop."

Among the 16 dicasteries, the newly constructed Dicastery for Evangelization is given top listing, just ahead of the newly reformed Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, the oldest and, for centuries, arguably the most powerful office of the Roman curia.

As a sign of the office's significance, the dicastery for evangelization will be headed directly by the pope — a parallel to how the Roman pontiff directly headed the doctrinal office until 1968.

The new office is responsible for the church's evangelical efforts around the world, including supporting new churches, and is divided into two sections: one responsible for fundamental questions surrounding evangelization and the other tasked with overseeing places of "first evangelization."

The section on fundamental questions is tasked specifically with "reflection on the history of evangelization and mission, especially in their relations with the political, social and cultural events that have marked and conditioned the preaching of the Gospel."

In addition, that section will be expected to support local churches in the "process of inculturating the Good News of Jesus Christ in different cultures and ethnic groups, and helping their evangelization, with particular attention to expressions of popular piety."

The reformed Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is listed second among the departments, follows the restructuring of that office set in motion [in February](#), with autonomous doctrinal and discipline sections that will be coordinated by separate secretaries, both of whom will report to the prefect of the dicastery.

The constitution also now relocates the pope's clergy abuse commission, known formally as the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, within the Vatican's doctrinal office. The restructuring marks a change from [earlier draft versions](#) of the constitution, which had confirmed the commission as an "independent institution connected to the Holy See, with an advisory function at the service of the Holy Father."

The new constitution says the commission will remain composed of a president, a secretary and members appointed by the pope, and will continue to operate according to its own statutes.

The current president of the commission, Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley, immediately praised the new structuring, saying in a statement that "for the first time, Pope Francis has made safeguarding and the protection of minors a fundamental part of the structure of the Church's central government: the Roman Curia."

While O'Malley said that the reorganization would ensure safeguarding is a priority throughout the curia, former commission member Marie Collins, an Irish clergy abuse survivor who resigned from the group in frustration [in 2017](#), immediately [took to social media](#) to express concern, saying it has lost its independence.

Among other shifts indicated by the new constitution:

- The Pontifical Council for Culture and the Congregation for Catholic Education have been merged into one body: the Dicastery for Culture and Education;
- The current office of the papal almoner, responsible for the pope's charitable giving and representing the pope in disaster areas around the globe, has evolved into the Dicastery for the Service of Charity; and,

- The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, which has been the subject of a number of [recent liturgical reforms](#) implemented by Francis over the last years, is given the specific mandate of promoting "the sacred liturgy according to the renewal undertaken by the Second Vatican Council."

A complete list of the 16 newly reformed dicasteries is:

- Dicastery for Evangelization
- Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith
- Dicastery for the Service of Charity
- Dicastery for the Eastern Churches
- Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
- Dicastery for the Causes of Saints
- Dicastery for Bishops
- Dicastery for the Clergy
- Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
- Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life
- Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity

- Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue
- Dicastery for Culture and Education
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
- Dicastery for Legislative Texts
- Dicastery for Communication

The heads of each dicastery, under the new constitution, will serve five-year terms, renewable once. No personnel changes were announced upon the publication of the constitution, but they are widely expected in the coming months, with many of the current prefects having served beyond the five-year limit.

Long road to reform and co-responsibility

Over the nine years of Francis' pontificate, a group of cardinal advisers from around the globe have met regularly in Rome, on average of four times a year, with the primary task of drafting the new constitution.

According to the new text, the constitution aims to promote a "spirit of healthy decentralization" to maximize the roles in which local dioceses and bishops' conferences can execute their work, sharing in a "co-responsibility" with the church's central offices in Rome.



All Roman curia personnel, according to the constitution, serve first and foremost to further the "mission of the Roman pontiff and of the bishops in their respective responsibilities towards the universal Church."

"This service must be animated and carried out with the highest sense of collaboration, co-responsibility and respect for the competence of others," the text states.

Christopher White

Christopher White is the Vatican correspondent for NCR. His email address is cwhite@ncronline.org. Follow him on Twitter: [@CWWhiteNCR](https://twitter.com/CWWhiteNCR).

(Another good article from “Psychology Today”)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-pulse-mental-health/202203/spotting-emotional-immaturity-in-high-conflict-personalities?amp>

The Seven Last Words of Christ—Part IV

“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”

Today we meditate upon the fourth of Our Lord’s seven last words. We are posting this meditation early this week, due to Friday’s feast of the Annunciation.

Of all seven, the fourth is, perhaps, the most striking in terms of its portrayal of human suffering. It speaks to the greatest of these sufferings, the most fearful punishment for sin, the worst thing that can possibly happen to a person: separation from God.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, la’ma sabach-tha’ni?” that is, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

—Matthew 27:45-46

Christ, Who is God Himself—abandoned by God? *Separated* from God? How? What do these words mean?



Of course, Christ was never truly separated from or abandoned by His Father. But He exempted Himself from none of the punishments due to our sins, not even the worst

experience—*Hell itself*, the most desolate state of separation from God, a punishment that would have been ours if He had not borne it for us.

But, you may ask, how does a divine Person suffer? The answer lies in His two natures. He allowed Himself to experience all these things in His *human* nature, without the aid of His *divine* nature. As Bishop Fulton Sheen says, “Our Lord restrained His divinity from mitigating even with one drop of consolation the bitterness of His chalice” (*The Cries of Jesus from the Cross*, p.172).

Hearing these words of Christ, we are also compelled to think of those times in every human life when God feels far away, even when sin is not a factor. These moments can be the result of some human loss, or perhaps the “dark night of the soul” that afflicts holy souls striving for God in prayer. These can be excruciating moments, but we can’t accuse God of “not knowing what it’s like.” He knows.

Of course, He didn’t have to put Himself through it to know—but He did anyway, so that our human minds could understand.

The Seven Last Words were a frequent subject of meditation for Bishop Fulton Sheen. *The Cries of Jesus from the Cross* is an anthology of his writings and homilies on the subject. Separated into chapters corresponding to each word, this volume is a spiritual gold mine that will help you meditate more deeply on these words and draw closer to Our Suffering Lord. [Available today at The Catholic Company!](#)



a) Passed Away:

- Elizabeth Turner, 65-year member, February 18, 2022—St. Kevin's
- Margaret Kukucska—48-year member, March 1, 2022—St. Kevin's
- Elsa Serafino—March 30, 2022—Our Lady of the Scapular

b) Other:

- The Knights of Columbus Council 2319 is working diligently and the

"Garden Fest" is scheduled for **April 1 (4pm-8pm), April 2 (9am-5pm) and April 3 (9am-2pm)** -- **Holy Rosary Hall** (Thorold) Parking Lot; Great time to purchase fertilizer and grass seed. 🌱🌱🌱 Compost will also be available (donation/purchase of products). Empty liquor and beer cans/bottles are being collected. 🍷🍷🍷 Donations for Society of St. Vincent de Paul are being collected. 🍴🍴🍴 Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be available ... bbq on Saturday April 2 🌭🌭🌭🍔🍔🍔 Also available are **50-50 Draw Tickets**. \$2.00 each. 3 for \$5.00. Book of 12 \$20.00. Draw Date: May 21, 2022.... don't delay.... 💰💰💰 Contact Bob 905-324-2919. Your support is very much appreciated.

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<https://fundraising.tru.earth/StCatharinesCatholicWomensLeague> (every time you order). **DON'T FORGET TO SHARE THIS INFO ON YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Also! Vance Badawey is scheduled to speak to the CWL members on Zoom on **Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m.**—the topic will be about Indigenous Peoples. Keep the date open!

40 Days for Life

There are three ways to participate in 40 Days for Life in Niagara this year.

1. **Prayer vigil outside the Niagara Falls hospital:** Portage and North Sts. Register online or contact Annette to sign up for a time slot(s).
2. **Virtual 40 Days for Life:** Contact Annette to add your name to a list of participants who will receive a daily email with prayer intentions, Scripture passages and notes to inspire and inform participants.

3. Prayer vigil outside the Niagara Region Public Health Centre in Welland:
200 Division St. Contact Allen for information about signs and time slots.

Since *40 Days for Life* began in 2007, over 20,000 lives have been saved, 114 abortion centres have closed and 229 abortion workers have quit. Let's continue to pray for unborn babies at risk of abortion, their mothers and families, and for all the vulnerable in our community.

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.
Psalm 33:22

April Liturgical Calendar: Living with Christ

2nd: Saint Francis of Paola

16th: Holy Saturday

4th: Saint Isidore

17th: Easter Sunday!

5th: Saint Vincent Ferrer

24th: Divine Mercy Sunday

7th: Saint John Baptist de la Salle

25th: Saint Mark

10th: Palm Sunday

26th: **Our Lady of Good Counsel**

14th: Holy Thursday

28th: Saint Peter Chanel

15th: Good Friday

29th: Saint Catherine of Siena

The Church lists the corporal works of mercy as follows:

- 1. Feeding the hungry**
- 2. Giving drink to the thirsty**
- 3. Sheltering the homeless**
- 4. Clothing the naked**
- 5. Visiting the sick**
- 6. Visiting the imprisoned** (sometimes listed as “ransoming the captive”)
- 7. Burying the dead**

The Church lists the spiritual works of mercy as follows:

- 1. To instruct the ignorant**
- 2. To counsel the doubtful**
- 3. To admonish sinners**
- 4. To bear wrongs patiently**
- 5. To forgive offenses willingly**
- 6. To comfort the afflicted**
- 7. To pray for the living and the dead**

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~the end~