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## Canadian Catholic Chaplains in the First World War

The First World War brought dramatic changes to military chaplaincy. As the size of the armed services increased so, too, did the demand for chaplains. There were 83 Canadian Catholic clergy who signed-up to serve the troops.

Priests exchanged their normal routine for theatres of war. All chaplains lived in the same conditions, experienced the same dangers, and witnessed the same carnage as the men they served. Chaplains celebrated Mass, administered the sacraments, tended the wounded, buried the dead and brought spiritual comfort to men in need.

Their commitment earned them respect and admiration. Some chaplains were killed, others were wounded, gassed or died of natural causes. Many were decorated for bravery. It was not a ministry for the faint hearted and their wartime accounts and post-war reflections bring home the true nature of their apostolate.

It was impressed upon the chaplains that their ministries were particularly valuable, as they could not be easily replaced. But while exercising reasonable precautions, there were times when risks had to be incurred. *"When duty calls,"* wrote one priest, *"I know I can count on the help of One Who has never failed me yet."* Shortly after, he died in the mud of Flanders in 1917. He was the Irish Jesuit, Father William Doyle. Father Doyle spoke self-deprecatingly of himself. *"I am not foolhardy, nor do I expose myself to danger unnecessarily; the coward is too strong in me for that."*

The chaplains were given extraordinary faculties by the Holy See. They could give General Absolution to any number of men when there was not time for individual confessions. They could celebrate Mass in any decent place, even underground. When necessary they were allowed to say two or even three Masses on Sundays and feasts of obligation. The men, of course, could receive Communion at the front though not fasting, and in fact more communions were given in the evenings than in the mornings, as then the men were freer to visit the chapels, if there were any. If not close to a chapel, the chaplain carried the Blessed Sacrament with him, so that he could give Holy Communion at any time.

Usually the soldier had two Sundays in the month for Mass, though sometimes other duties interfered. An experienced priest wrote: *"To show that where there is good-will the soldiers have no lack of religious aids, I have had soldiers of the brigade to which I was attached receive Holy Communion without fail every fortnight."*

Chaplains gave sermons to large groups on religious parade, but they also engaged in personal conversations with soldiers, and often wrote letters on behalf of the men. Many chaplains understood the great sensitivity required in their role, giving solace or guidance where requested. Soldiers viewed chaplains who served close to the firing line with respect and admiration.

## About Bells of Peace - Nov. 11 at sunset

**Bells of Peace** marks the occasion 100 years ago, when church bells across Canada rang out to share the news: the First World War was over. As the *sun goes down*, a bell or bells will be rung 100 times at community and church locations across the country to honour the sacrifices of Canadians who served in the 1914-1918 War, and to remember the horrors of war, the costs to society, and the promise of peace.

A sound wave of bells across the nation will help tell a historical journey of Canada's service and sacrifice during the First World War.

Parishes in Hamilton Diocese have been encouraged to participate in "Bells of Peace".



### NO Mass on Mondays

#### Tuesday, November 13

8:00 am - IN THANKSGIVING - Purita Avilla

+ for all our deceased family members and friends

#### Wednesday, November 14

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm

7:15 pm + BILL WYNEN - Resurrection Choir

+ for all our deceased family members and friends

Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

#### Thursday, November 15

8:00 am + MIKE O'TOOLE - Roger Nugent

+ for all our deceased family members and friends

#### Friday, November 16

8:00 am + MANUEL & RUBEN MESSIAS - Tina Chaves

+ for all our deceased family members and friends

#### Saturday, November 17

8:00 am + KAMEL PILLAI, ALOYSIUS PILLAI,

THERESA ALOYSIUS, NIRENJANI MIRIAM PILLAI

5:00 pm + GIULIO FIORETTI - his wife

+ RICARDO SOARES - his family

+ ELIAS PIQUES - his family

#### Sunday, November 18

9:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners

11:00 am + MANUEL & ARCELINA SILVEIRA - Zelia Bento

### **One Heart, One Soul' Campaign**

The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the One Heart, One Soul Campaign to raise money for every Parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. Answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions appear in Parish bulletins regularly. A compilation of all questions that have been published are available throughout the campaign at [oneheartonesoul.ca](http://oneheartonesoul.ca)

#### **What are the parishes' responsibilities in the campaign?**

Every Parish will first assess its needs and determine the projects to which the funds raised for the Parish will be directed. Each pastor will appoint key volunteers who will work with the Diocese and the Steier Group to form a campaign team. That Parish team will help with campaign events and make personal visits to other parishioners to solicit gifts. Priests also will be asked to help with solicitations of some prospective donors.

#### **How will the funds that are raised be split up?**

This is a Parish-focused campaign, and 75 percent of the funds raised by each Parish will stay with that Parish for the goals and projects of its choosing. An additional 10 percent will be directed toward assisting parishes most in need of support. The remaining 15 percent will be dedicated to shared Diocesan ministries.

#### **Where will donors send their gifts, and where will the money be kept?**

Donors' gifts and pledges will be held in trust for the Parish and initially kept in a dedicated Diocesan account. The Diocese will disburse the Parishes' funds to them after the payments have been received and the Parish is ready to undertake their projects. The campaign's Clergy Committee has worked with the Diocese to outline when the funds will be distributed to the Parishes.

#### **Why can't I just support my parish directly?**

Actually, we hope you continue to support your Parish directly through your regular Sunday giving. This campaign is not intended to divert funds that go toward normal operating needs. The campaign is a special effort to meet needs that go beyond the routine and that can help to set up Parishes (and the Diocese) to thrive for years to come. In short, supporting this campaign is supporting your Parish directly – as well as other Parishes in need and various Diocesan ministries.

### **In Loving Memory: A Memorial Mass**

There will be a special Memorial Mass at **St. Clement Church**, Cambridge on **Wed. Nov. 14 at 7:00 pm** to remember all the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League especially those who have died in the past year. Everyone is welcome to attend to pray for our departed brothers and sisters and to support their bereaved loved ones. Following the Mass, light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.

### **Cambridge Right to Life**

Please join Cambridge Right to Life for our Annual General Meeting **Thursday, November 29 at 7 p.m** at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 53 Wellington St. This year the meeting will feature the documentary film, "*Fatal Flaws.*" This important film shines a critical light on the perverse reality that we are now training our medical students how to kill some of their patients. The medical arts of comfort and palliation are being supplanted by the seduction of euthanasia and the murky language of rights. A must see film – begins at 8pm for those only able to attend the viewing. All are welcome!

### **Bake Sale**



### **St Ambrose Bake Sale Sunday, November 25**

Donations of baked goods and **new prizes** for the draw table will be greatly appreciated. Prizes and baked goods can be brought to the Church kitchen Sat. Nov 24th.

### **Pallottine Mission Collection this weekend**

On Sunday October 21, 2018 two Pallottine Fathers began their pastoral ministry at Our Lady Queen of the Apostles church in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is a country in West Africa with population over 20 million. The Government of Burkina Faso (in 2006 census) reported that 60.5% of the population practice Islam. The government estimated that 23.2% of the population are Christians (19% being Roman Catholics) Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo, the archbishop of Ouagadougou, dreams of building a Divine Mercy Sanctuary at Our Lady Queen of the Apostles parish. The parish population is enormous - 8,000 children registered just for catechism classes this year! It consists of 177 small local communities with over 10 small mission churches. Up to the present moment parishioners were able to buy 3 hectares of land; the rest still remains as a dream. The Pallottine Fathers were intrusted to make that dream a reality. Frs. Stanisław Filipek SAC and Dariusz Sala SAC have to begin from scratch... may God, and our assistance and prayers, help them!

Thank you for your generosity to this yearly collection.

### **Adoration Chapel Volunteers required please**

The following days/times require volunteer adorers for our chapel. Please contact Barb at the parish office to assist with one of these times.

Mondays 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
 Mondays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Tuesdays 7:00 am - 8:00 am  
 Wednesdays 7:00 am - 8:00 am  
 Wednesdays 9:00 am - 10:00 am  
 Fridays 7:00 am - 8:00 am  
 Saturdays 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
 Saturdays 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm  
 Saturdays 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
 Saturdays 10:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
 Sundays 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

### **Children's Mass**

**Sunday, November 18 at 11:00 am Mass** Families with young children are especially welcome to attend this Mass. Children will be invited to sit in the Sanctuary for the homily.