

What's Up

August 2023

LORETTO CANADA | SINCE 1847

*Mission is at the heart of who we are,
and love is the driving force that urges us on.*



Founder Teresa Dease 1820 - 1889

175 YEARS



Art by Susan Daily ibvm

Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady

Thomas D. Stegman, S.J.

As we pray in the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, "Today the virgin Mother of God was taken up into heaven." We celebrate the mystery – proclaimed as dogma by Pius XII on November 1, 1950 – that "when the course of her earthly life was finished,

[Mary] was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven" (Munificentissimus Deus).

What are we assuming, taking as granted, when we celebrate Mary's Assumption? In the first place, we assume that Marian celebrations ultimately direct our attention to her Son, just as in her lifetime Mary directed those around her to heed Jesus and his words (John 2:5).

In the dog days of summer (at least in the northern hemisphere), we are beckoned to enjoy an Easter oasis. This feast thus reminds us that we are people on a journey, destined to "a better homeland, a heavenly one" (Heb 11:16). We are summoned to be people of hope.

Let us pray:

O Immaculate Mother of God,
We know that your eyes,
which caressed maternally the humble
and suffering humanity of Jesus on earth,
are now filled with the vision of the glorified humanity of the
incarnate Wisdom.

We are confident that your eyes of mercy look down upon us
with our sorrows, our struggles, and our weaknesses,
and smile upon our joys and our victories,

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Did you know?

We have the life-giving certainty that your eyes, which wept on the earth bathed with the Blood of Jesus, still gaze on this world, a prey to wars, persecutions and the oppressions of the just and the weak.

We look to you for comfort in the grief of our hearts and in the trials of our "Common Home".

Adapted from Prayerist

Remembering Rose Caneuill



Juanita Mary Theresa's, (Rose), mother died when she was 10 so she boarded at Loretto Academy in Hamilton for High School and joined the Loretto sisters soon after. In the post war time, Catholic schools were flourishing in Toronto, and we Loretto sisters were being offered many schools to staff. It was fairly common for young sisters to be called into a classroom before teacher training to fill the gaps. They relied on their more experienced colleagues to coach them through the first challenging years in the classroom. So Rose taught for 2 years before she went to Teachers College in Stratford. However, those years were foundational for her and she remained committed to primary children for all 27 years of her elementary career in Stratford, Hamilton, Fort Erie, Guelph and Toronto.

By 1980 Rose was looking for more. Following a time of advanced studies in Scripture and a time of self reflection, she went to Loretto College School and became their school secretary. The fire at Loretto Brunswick sent her off to Loretto Abbey and for another long period Rose volunteered in the Guidance department. She was the last IBVM at the Abbey High School and was much loved by the students and staff.

Rose had a passion for dogs. She didn't have one of her own but her sister Diana's dog may as well have been hers. Rose could walk to Diana's house and walk her dog to the delight of all three of them. And she loved stuffed animals. Rose would ask the Abbey girls to donate some to needy children at Christmas time and take bags of them to the Lourdes Parish Christmas party.

The readings and hymns she chose for her Funeral speak of her struggles but more importantly about her confidence that God was with her, knowing her, finding her when she called. Rest now Rose in the presence of your Good Shepherd who has found you now for eternity.

Remembering Donata Dean



Flora Mary Dean was educated by Loretto Sisters in Guelph and Hamilton. She was given the religious name Donata in September 1945 at 22 years of age. And this past April, Donata celebrated with great joy her 100th birthday and 78 years as a Loretto Sister! Donata had a large spirit and presence, and a free one at that. Her laugh was loud and infectious. Her interests were wide: cooking, eating, singing, reading, politics and painting. At her best, she exuded a joyful creativity.

Donata was one of the founding members of our ministry at Corpus Christi school in Vancouver. There, she became a great friend of Archbishop Carney and gave 14 years in total to the Vancouver Archdiocese. Some of us remember the classrooms of the late 50's and early 60's: rows of single desks. In Donata's class, the children were on the floor with large pieces of paper in interest groups quietly working on their stories. This individualized approach was before she studied at OISE and The Institute for Child Study.

Along with all the changes in the 60's was the study of language development in primary children. Enter Mr Mugs, a friendly sheepdog who became the main character in a reading series published by Ginn. Good primary teachers across Canada were recruited to write these 40 books with accompanying workbooks. Authors included Sisters of St Joseph, Notre Dame and Loretto, namely Donata and Martha Kambeitz.

Donata spent 25 years in elementary education before she moved to Guelph to assist Sr Christine in The Drop In Centre. She was back to cooking and became friends with the folks who dropped in. She moved to Yorkhaven Place, an outreach of the Drop In to live with some street women and help them to live independently. In Guelph, she learned to paint flowers and pioneer scenes with watercolours. For over 29 years, while being an artist herself, she called it forth in others at the Drop In. Indeed, those walls are hung with the work of her students.

With failing eyesight, she moved to Loretto infirmary and then to Presentation Manor. She delighted in ever more colourful Croc choes and used her keen sense of observation to help in the Assisted Living dining room. Now she sees clearly again and is raising her voice to God's Glory for all eternity. We sing with her about her call to follow Jesus, about her reliance on the Good Shepherd, and about her efforts to care for others as if they were Jesus and we do that in the joy of the dance.

Both remembrances by Mary Mallany

Presentation Manor

Cabrini Fahlman and Ursula Witkowska



Sr Rose at Canada Day event; far right, all decked out in red & white

Presentation Manor (PM) was decorated in red and white - especially in the main dining room and assisted living - in preparation for July 1. Our Loretto Canada Day celebration was held on July 3 with tasty snacks and drinks enjoyed by all.

Mid-month a recorded video presentation by Fr Bill Clarke, SJ was offered for those not able to make a retreat due to mobility issues. The theme was "Knowing the Heart of Jesus". There were 31 participants who attended one session per day, followed by reflection questions and the opportunity to then share with others. And we've been lucky to see 4 students from St Michael's Choir School perform choral arrangements. They hope to form a band named "Fortes 4". We wish them good luck!

We are active: Bridget Nazareth and Ursula Witkowska were recently elected to the PM Resident's Council. Along with five others we are at the service of the residents to ensure that their concerns are addressed, and their rights protected. One of our key roles is to present those concerns to the PM administrators and then work together to find solutions. Another is to encourage the residents to take part in the diverse activities provided or begin new ones springing from their own interests.

Rosemary Albon and Ursula are on the Liturgy committee. Rosemary shares her sense of beauty to provide attractive environments for our major liturgical seasons. She also creates prayers for our various liturgical celebrations. Ursula is the chair of the committee and encourages the assembly to keep singing along with other musicians.

High School Bursaries 2023

The "Loretto Sisters' Award" that is presented during the "Loretto connected" High School graduations each June, was very well received by both students and their parents. Once again, it was heart warming to hear of the accomplishments of these young people, both academically and in service to the school and wider communities. The recipients have demonstrated remarkable leadership ability already and will surely "do much" in the lives ahead of them ... as Mary Ward said.



August 2023 ♦ IBVM CANADA

Loretto Maryholme

Carol Ivens & Jane McDonell

Loretto Maryholme increasingly is a sacred space for much-needed solitude and rest that embraces guests with welcome and permission to be themselves. The reflections on their experience and expressions of gratitude witness the blessings received.



"A place to meet God ... rejoicing in the abundant life surrounding this magnificent setting. Peace, quiet - just what I was hoping to find. There is a spirit of freedom ... very little pressure ... an atmosphere of tranquility & peace. Thank-you! Thank you!"

"The birds, sound of the waves, rain on the leaves, peacefulness, kindness, beauty, swimming in the lake - all help me to find "me" again. I thank you for that."

"There is a serenity here, a calm sense of place and of what has come, what is, and perhaps what will be. Much of life seems to be finding equilibrium in spite of exterior circumstances - Loretto Maryholme says 'let's take care of the external so you can see clearly within - or without. I'm thankful for the intentional blessings and hospitality and openness of this space.'"



"This place is an absolute wonder! I came here to write and found much more than a quiet, peaceful place. As soon as I arrived, it felt like a spiritual retreat. I did not expect to feel, so viscerally, the blessings wash over me. My body, mind, spirit feel fully at peace. Thank you."

"Coming here is like getting a warm blanket wrapped around your soul."

"It gave me everything I wanted and more. I've left with a feeling of internal peace that I haven't experienced in years. I'll revisit this place internally (especially the labyrinth) when I need to find stillness and calm. And I look forward to further visits. Thank you so much for offering this haven."

"I unearthed a deep & protective love for the natural world which will stay with me. Grateful to the many hands & hearts that have held this safe space for those who wish to go deeper."

"I feel blessed ... to fully enjoy the beauty of creation and all its gifts of love. The atmosphere provided all I needed to let go, relax, and enter a state of peace and joy. I could breathe in deeply God's love so that I can more fully breathe and live it out in every relationship."

"If you wish to see the face of God, come to Maryholme."



Summertime: Left is Sarah Rudolph and Christa Parra, ibvm at the Life Commitment Program for Consecrated Life at Mundelein, IL in July

Right is the spectacular garden at Presentation Manor.

Photos page 5 (MWC): Top: Bob Rae, Sr Sarah & Sr Janet, Bottom: from left, Giovanna, Cynthia, Sarah, Fionnuala & Janet

Archives

Michelle Pariag

In early June, we picked up our travelling “175th Loretto” banners from the last school (out of 10) at “Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Academy”. The inaugural year of mentorship for Loretto Abbey’s “Archival Club” drew to a close and we look forward to future collaboration in September, as well as starting a like-club at Loretto College School. Along with the Mary Ward Centre, we hosted “The First Five: The Loretto Sisters and Irish Toronto” walking tour, a fun and informative event that will be repeated in September.



Kevin Korst (far right) with Canadian region archivists

In June, Kevin Korst, US IBVM Archivist came to Toronto to spend a few days in our archive. It was wonderful to be able to extend hospitality and continue the mutual exchange of information and shared history that Michelle had experienced the year prior during her visit to the US province.

Both Robert and I travelled to Prince Edward Island for the annual Association of Canadian Archivists conference. This year’s conference topic was “Belonging - Considering archival bonds and disconnects.” Beyond the very interesting conference seminars, this also gave us an opportunity to reconnect with other members of the ACA and Catholic Archivist Group that we had not seen since 2019.

Unexpectedly while in Charlottetown, we had the opportunity to meet Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, formerly of the diocese of London, Ontario, for an after-dinner espresso and private tour of the beautiful Bishop's Palace through our connection with the London Diocesan Archivist, Deb Majer. We attended the public installation mass for the Bishop later that week, where we were invited to sit in the “family and friends” section and had a top tier view of the entire ceremony. Truly a once in a lifetime experience.



Bishop's Installation with Archivists

Mary Ward Centre

Sarah Rudolph



Sr. Sarah recently represented the Mary Ward Centre at the United Nations. At the [High Level Political Forum](#) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she worked alongside Sisters Sue Wilson and Joan Atkinson (Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph), Varka Kaladyzhieva

(Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto), Brantella Williams (youth activist), and Gabriel Allahdua (migrant worker activist) to share findings of their civil society report [No One Left Behind? An intersectional analysis of the 2030 Agenda in Canada](#). Their report complements and challenges the [Canadian Voluntary National Review](#) with a look at the experience of those ‘on the ground’ in Canada. The delegation met with officials at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the UN, including Ambassador Bob Rae, as well as officials from Employment and Social Development Canada to share the lived experience of young people and migrant workers in Canada in relation to the SDGs. While the civil society report was well received by government officials, with only 7 years remaining to achieve the SDGs, much more work is needed. The Mary Ward Centre will continue to advocate for young people and migrant workers as we push for progress on the SDGs.

Janet Palafox, IBVM and Cynthia Mathew, CJ hosted Province UN Representatives Sarah Rudolph (Canada), Fionnuala Lynch, IBVM (Ireland), and Giovanna Muiha, CJ (Romania) for a Becoming One experience at the UN High Level Political Forum. The visiting reps had the opportunity to meet with their respective country missions to the UN to talk about the SDGs, participate in plenary and side events at the Forum, and take a bit of time to explore NYC. This was an experience of working together to represent our one Institute under Mary Ward and to learn more about the context of the social and economic development needs of the countries where we live and work.



Loretto College

Mary Lombardo

It has been a busy time during the transition phase of shared responsibilities between the College and USMC. And Dana Foods, the new food supplier has reopened the kitchen to all who are onsite. That is good news!



Former house staff are easing into new routines and getting to know new colleagues. In June, Sr Sarah arranged a top-deck BBQ for everyone to enjoy the good weather and mingle again. It was a glorious day with Solomon in charge of cooking the

burgers and sausages with Belen joining in scooping ice cream cones for all. Looking forward to September students arriving once more.



I am Canadian

Carmen Diston

After many years of an application process, and sponsored by the Loretto Sisters, the Rushemeza family arrived in Toronto on September 13, 2018 with their two adult daughters.



Here pictured - Callixte Rushemeza and Claudine Dusenguremi after an on-line ceremony on Saturday May 27, 2023, in which they took their oath of citizenship.

What a delight and pride it is for them to belong, to have Canadian citizenship, to now for the first time in their lives to have the privilege of voting. They even decorated their apartment for the occasion.

They messaged: "Many thanks to Loretto Sisters for all your love and supports."


Even though they applied together, we now wait for news that their daughters, Elizabeth and Esperance, can write the exam for citizenship.

Our Associate in Peru

Melinda Uy

Melinda arrived safely to a hearty welcome by Sr. Deepa at the airport. Once settled, she visited with community members Deepa, Vannesa, and Ana Paula. Pictured., in her third week in Huaycan Peru and living a full experience in community and the Warmi Wasi ministry, encountering the families as they go up the desert mountain Zone S and Zone T where they reside and do workshops. Melinda writes: "I have had the opportunity to attend 3 workshops on Emergencies, Nutrition and Health Camp given by a great team of women.



The children have always been my heart  as I especially engage with them. I also had the opportunity to participate in flood relief projects



provided to families at the Warmi Wasi Center ." Many new memories for Melinda!

Did you know?

Evanne Hunter

You probably know that every day, thousands of people around the world watch the Daily TV Mass from Loretto Abbey Chapel. But do you know the story behind the Mass which began in 1998?!

Michael McManus began the Daily TV Mass 25 years ago, first broadcasting from St Michael's Cathedral, then from St Basil's Church and since 2014 from Loretto Abbey (while the Loretto Sisters were still living there). The National Catholic Broadcasting Council (NCBC) now leases the chapel from the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and films there twice a week.

The motto for NCBC is "Warming the Hearts of the Faithful by making the Mass available anytime, anywhere and anyplace". The Mission is to "present on the internet and on television, the Church, its beliefs, and its spirituality and to offer a critique of current events in the timeless light of the Gospel".

For television, NCBC buys air time from TV stations: Vision TV, Joy, Faith and YESTV and Salt and Light so that the Mass is available across Canada each day. The Mass is also available on the [NCBC website](#) or via [YouTube](#). It's easy to watch previously aired Masses, by searching by celebrant/feast/day/month/year for Masses from January 01, 2021. (for example ... the January 23 Mary Ward Day Masses in the past). There is also access to past Advent and Lenten Missions. Recently, closed captioning has been added and provoked a response from a viewer from Phoenix, Arizona: "I am deaf ... and this is by far the best closed captioning I have seen in any YouTube window and in any Church service. Bless you!" And now there is a free Daily TV Mass APP to watch on your phone, Smart TV, computer or tablet.

Most of the Mass viewers come from social media platforms with over 400,000 subscribers on YouTube, 35,000 on Facebook and 3,000 on Instagram. Since COVID, the Mass draws from 80,000 to 100,000 viewers daily and 150,000 to 200,000 on Sunday from all around the world.

Often NCBC receives letters and emails requesting information about the "beautiful" Loretto Abbey Chapel and the stained glass windows. Other letters refer to the excellent homilists ... favourite by far is Fr Michael Coutts. Fr Jack Lynch and Fr Pat Fitzpatrick are also sorely missed! The prayer book adds names every day as people ask for prayers for loved ones or special requests. Donations follow.

The cost of the Mass — production and airtime is covered solely by "sponsors", donations and now legacies. The Sunday Mass however, does get some support from the Archdiocese. And the next available date to sponsor a Mass is June 2025.

The staff and the technical crew love being at the Abbey and regret having to move to Pickering while the boiler was being replaced. There is some concern about the impact of the planned renovations and construction when that work begins next year. Another temporary move may be inevitable.

In a way, the Daily TV Mass contributes to the preservation of the history of Loretto Abbey and the legacy of Loretto's educational work in Canada as a significant contribution to the teaching and pastoral ministry of the Church. It is certainly a blessing appreciated by the huge "Daily TV Mass Community".



Christmastime at Loretto Abbey chapel