



This Month in the Diocese

An E-Publication of the Diocese of Antigonish

Issue 2

September 2015

Let's Keep It Going!

**Back to Church + Catechetical Sunday
= Welcome Back Sunday**

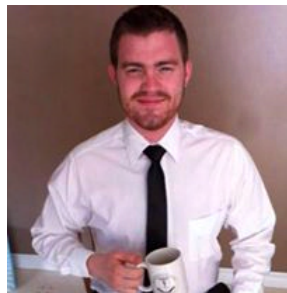
Offered jointly by the Welcome Back Catholics Committee and Emmaus Centre, Welcome Back Sunday Sept. 20 (Sept. 19 for Saturday masses) is a time for all of us to reflect on the importance of mass to our faith development.

Moving forward, let's make every Sunday a time to invite someone new, or someone back. Welcome, Autumn!

Finding God, It's a Family Affair



God is not hidden in some distant place but in our selves and the person next to us.



Youth on the Move

Meet Nolan Conrad, the new Director of Youth Ministry for the diocese. Read his story and see the array of upcoming events – from football to hiking - on Page 2.



Philadelphia-bound

Two of our families and Bishop Brian Dunn are headed to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families Sept. 22-27. Read more on Page 3 and follow the visit with the family blog: www.antigonishdiocese.com

Helping Our World:

The refugee crisis weighs on our hearts and minds; our Council of Priests has set up an ad hoc committee to consider our diocesan response and the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops has issued a letter with suggestions for personal and community action. See the CCCB letter in both English and French on our website:

www.antigonishdiocese.com

Upcoming Events: Page 4

On Care for Our Common Home Social Justice series, New Beginnings Retreat for Healing

We welcome your ideas and comments!

Contact Jennifer Hatt, Communications Officer: Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca

Or visit our website: www.antigonishdiocese.com



Youth on the Move

By Nolan Conrad

Director of Youth Ministry

Warm Greetings! My name is Nolan Conrad, I am the new Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese. I am 23 years old and as a response to the recommendations made by the Renewal Congress in 2013 I've been hired to respond to the needs of youth in our diocese. I'm hoping to reach as many of you as possible. Many of you (priests, lay persons and religious) have expressed interest in working and volunteering or are already in the ministry for youth. This is a wonderful desire, and a worthwhile direction that the Lord is taking us all on as a Diocesan community.

As I begin this journey, I wish to grow in understanding of how each region of the Diocese works. What programs do we have in place? What is working and what isn't? What more can we do? I believe through communication, our YM community can grow into something great! I will be adding my contact information at the bottom of this letter. I want to know your ideas, suggestions and your advice! If you wish to contact me, ask questions, register for events, etc. I am usually available at my office but I always respond to emails!

Things happening now:

- Prayer and Pigskin Boys/Mens Retreat day and football game. (Oct. 24th at ST.FX Contact me for registration)
- Cape Breton East Challenge (Nov. 13th- 15th Girls. Nov. 27th - 29th Boys at Cape Breton Dean) More info at www.CBcursillo.com
- Cape Breton East Challenge FollowUp (Every first Wednesday of each month 7pm at Our Lady of Fatima)
- Cape Breton West Challenge (Nov. 13th- 15th Girls - Renewal Centre)
- Coxheath Hills Hike and Mass (First Week of October TBA at the base of Coxheath Hills)
- St. Joseph's Youth & Family prayer group, North Sydney (Starts Sept. 21st Every Monday 7:30pm)

I look forward to working with you all to proclaim Jesus to our youth and families but also to the whole world. Let us not be afraid to say his name, with strength, conviction, and love to all those who we meet. The Church's mission is to evangelize to let the world know it is in fact Jesus we seek when we dream of happiness, and that he is our savior and our God.

God bless you all,

Nolan Conrad

Director of Youth Ministry

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Philadelphia-bound

Families representing region on international stage

Conference, mass with Pope Francis among events in Philadelphia Sept. 22-27

In the photo:

Andrew McKenna, 7, can't wait for the World Meeting of Families; his sister Bethany and her twin brother Kevin, 4, are more wait and see, but everyone, including their parents Michael and Cindy McKenna of Antigonish, left, and Peter and Jeanette Chafe of Port Hawkesbury are thrilled to be representing the Diocese of Antigonish at the international event, which will draw thousands of participants from around the world.

The first decision was easy. When asked by their parish priests if their names could be put forth for an international conference on the family, Jeanette and Peter Chafe of Port Hawkesbury and Cindy and Michael McKenna of Antigonish said sure. "We really didn't think we'd get picked," Peter joked. But last spring, both couples received word that they would be representing the Diocese of Antigonish at the 8th World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on Sept. 22-27, 2015.

The World Meeting of Families was started by Saint John Paul II in 1994. This year's conference is the first to be held in North America. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring two families from each diocese in Canada to attend.

Michael and Cindy became involved in St. Ninian's Parish after moving to Antigonish six years ago. In 2014, Cindy was confirmed in the Roman Catholic faith and remains active in the RCIA program, for adults joining or renewing their commitment to the faith. Michael is family director for the Knights of Columbus, teaches catechism and has been involved in the Cursillo program. Plus, they are home-schooling parents of three children, with a fourth due later this year.

"We are so grateful for this opportunity to attend the conference," Michael says. "This has meant incredible grace in our family's life."

Peter and Jeanette were married in St. Joseph's Church, Port Hawkesbury, in 1982 and have been active in parish life there ever since. As their two daughters grew, the couple was involved in catechism and parish council and served as Eucharistic ministers. Now grandparents, the couple is excited to engage with families of all stages. "We're looking forward to meeting like-minded people," Peter said, "and we're excited to go with a younger couple, especially ones as devoted as they are."

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Philadelphia-bound from Page 3

While in Philadelphia, the families will have the choice of more than 100 speakers, as well as activities for children and a special weekend concert. A highlight of this event is the first North American visit by Pope Francis, who will say mass for the public on Sept. 27.

The goal of the conference is to engage, enlighten, and share information, devotions and activities to engage and enrich family life. "The plan is for us to bring back information that we can use and share with our parishes and committees," Jeanette says. While at the conference, the couples will try keeping in touch daily via a blog link through the diocesan website. Once back home, they will give presentations on their experience and the sessions in which they took part.

Share in the experience!

www.worldmeeting2015.org

www.antigonishdiocese.com

Upcoming Events

On Care for our Common Home

Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m.: Oct. 3 and 17, Nov. 7 and 28

is a series of workshops facilitated by the Social Justice Committee of the Diocese to deepen our knowledge of Catholic social teaching

Workshops will be held at St. Ninian's Place, Antigonish and the KOC Building, Sydney

Workshop 1: Our Human Role in the Order of Creation

Workshop 2: Taking Action on Climate Change

New Beginnings Retreat Weekend

Mabou, Oct. 23-25

Is a program of sharing and healing for persons who are separated, divorced, or in bereavement. The retreat is an opportunity to connect with faith and peers, and be reminded that no one is alone.

For information and registration, contact Ron Currie, ph (902) 564-0788