

## Images of Service Provide Examples of Self-Giving Love

In the midst of this Advent season we are preparing our hearts for the joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus. At this time of the year we often hear it said, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." In Jesus we see the great model of self-giving love who says, "whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant..." and "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..." (Mark 10:43-45). Our challenge as Christians is to follow this example and give of ourselves in service to others.

In this second issue of our vocation newsletter we are focusing on service, since all vocations exist for the sake of service and share in the mission of the Church. We've presented a variety of 'Images of Service' from our Diocese of Hamilton. We know that there are countless others carrying out such loving service in our midst, often quietly and without any fanfare at all.

One of the exciting events coming up within a few weeks will be the ordination of seminarian Bob Love to the Diaconate, a step along the way to his expected ordination to the priesthood in 2003.

I'd like to thank the many readers who provided comments and ideas following the publication in October of the first issue of *Reflections*. We welcome your continued comments and suggestions for future issues.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas as we strive to bring joy and peace to our world.

**Fr. Mark Gatto**

Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton



*Chaplain Loriann Pacenti*

## High School Chaplain Tells Students

# *We're "Hard-Wired for God"*

Helping high school students unlock the doors to their spirituality can be a formidable challenge. But it's a challenge that chaplains, like Loriann Pacenti of St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton, embrace with vigor.

"When I work with students, I remember the questions I had with my own faith at that stage of life," says Loriann. "I try to teach students that we are hard-wired for God and we spend our lives seeking God out. At different times in our lives, we are more active than at others."

Loriann says young people recognize that they have both an intellectual side and a spiritual dimension. While students may be at different stages in their relationship with their faith, she's discovered an innate willingness to be open to spirituality. "It is joyful and very life-giving," she adds. "It's a pleasure to be in a high school setting."

Loriann's own journey to chaplaincy took a somewhat winding path. She was a counselor to veterans and the unemployed for Human Resources and Development Canada when she first recognized the role that faith plays in all aspects of one's life.

"I found a lot of the clients were unemployed for many reasons, not just the labour market. There were other things in their lives which were not going well. Often, they wanted to talk about issues of faith," she says.

As a government employee, Loriann couldn't explore this spiritual dimension with her clients. But she was fascinated by the role faith plays in psycho-social development. The experience started her on a journey that would one day lead her into the service of her faith.

She had already begun earning a master's degree in adult education with a focus on counseling when she enrolled at the Toronto School of Theology to discover more about the Catholic tradition and pastoral care.

"Chaplaincy was a real homecoming for me," Loriann recalls. "My family was always very active in the parish, so that strong faith connection was always there. It was a question of re-visiting priorities, which gets figured out as you mature"

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*Fr. Mark Gatto*

# On the Calendar

A **Diaconate Ordination** will take place **Friday, January 3, 2003**

for seminarian **Robert Love**.

Robert is currently studying at Pope John XXIII Seminary in Massachusetts, U.S.

His ordination will take place at

**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
in Waterloo at 7:30 p.m.**

All are welcome to attend and share in this celebration.

The next **Come and See Weekend** will be held **January 31 to February 2, 2003** at **St. Peter's Seminary** in London.

This is an opportunity for men who may be considering a priestly vocation to visit the seminary and meet seminarians.

For more information, please contact **Fr. Mark Gatto**, *Vocation Director*, at **905-528-7988**, ext. **240**.

*... We're Hard-Wired for God*  
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Now she is back at the high school she herself graduated from, serving the spiritual needs of the school community. It's a service that is distinct from other educators at the school. Chaplaincy has a different focus and purpose than religion classes.

"We may be educating, but we are not classroom teachers. We are the voice of the church in the school. Our role is to help the students live as Jesus did," she explains. "We do charitable work, help students explore their faith on retreats and through counseling, coordinate liturgical events, and lead the school community in prayer and reflection.

"There are two messages I offer to young people," Loriann says. "First, there is no question that there is a God and second, that my faith has brought me much joy."

Loriann's hope is that her students will feel the same joy in their faith that she has experienced during her own spiritual journey.

## What is a **Vocation**?

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, each person receives a 'call' or vocation. God calls all that are baptized to holiness and service. This call is lived as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person.

## Father Kyran Kennedy Receives Prestigious Award

Father Kyran Kennedy has devoted his life to serving the needs of the Hamilton community. A man of compassion, unwavering faith, and a commitment to community service, Father Kennedy is a leader in education, health and recreation who has worked to improve opportunities for both able-bodied and disabled youth.

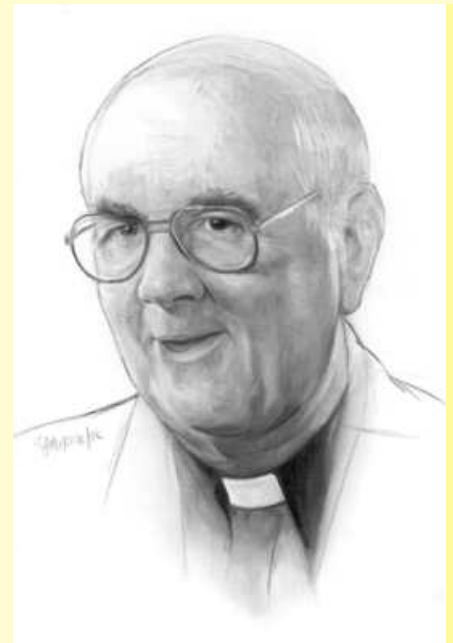
Last month Fr. Kennedy received one of the highest local honours a Hamiltonian can achieve – along with eight others, he was inducted into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction. The Gallery of Distinction is Hamilton's "hall of fame," and portraits of each year's inductees are permanently displayed at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

Fr. Kennedy's comments, on receiving the award, were typically self-effacing. "What I should like to accent and celebrate is not myself but rather all of my companions in Jesus, including lay people, religious and brother priests, who have inspired, supported and prayed for God's people and the priesthood of Jesus Christ," he told the 500-plus crowd.

Fr. Kennedy was ordained at Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton in 1952 and served six Hamilton parishes until his retirement in 1994. But his dedication to the Catholic community extended far beyond the parameters of his parish.

As an athlete and sports enthusiast himself, Fr. Kennedy created and coached the celebrated basketball team at Cathedral High School. His interest and involvement with young people came into play again in 1957 when he was appointed Diocesan Director of the fledgling Catholic Youth Organization. In 1961 he was instrumental in the re-opening of Camp Brebeuf, a residential youth camp that integrated disabled children into its program and pioneered the inclusion of campers with special needs into Ontario Camping Association member camps.

Central to his service to others is Fr. Kennedy's longstanding involvement with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. He has been a member of the board since 1968, was board chairman for seven of those years and chairman of the Finance Committee for three years. In 1998 the school board presented him with the Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education.



*A portrait of Father Kyran Kennedy, by well-known artist Eugene Pawczuk, was framed and added to Hamilton's Gallery of Distinction at the Hamilton Convention Centre.*

Fr. Kennedy included Catholic hospitals in his vision of service, and volunteered on the St. Joseph's Hospital Board of Trustees for 12 years, with three of those years as chair.

In June, 2002, Fr. Kennedy's lifetime of giving was recognized with a Mass of Thanksgiving held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



*Parish Minister Sandy Milne*

## Parish Minister Finds Balance in Service to Church

Work-life balance may be a buzzword of the new millennium. But for those who work in service of their faith, it can often have a different dimension.

"When you aren't ordained, you have a responsibility to yourself and your God but also to your family," says Sandy Milne, the parish minister at the St. Aloysius Parish in Kitchener. "It has to be seamless. I don't compartmentalize being a wife, mother and pastoral worker. To me, service to my family is also service to God. Achieving a good balance is important."

Sandy's service to her parish has evolved over many years. The Church played an important role throughout her upbringing. As she raised her own children, she strove to integrate church into daily life.

Five years ago, when the number of priests in the parish was reduced, she was asked to help out with some of the sacramental preparations.

It has grown from a one day a week commitment to a full-time job.

As the parish minister, she is involved in almost every aspect of parish life, ranging from organizing the food bank to working with a seniors' group.

"I think that being a parent and a spouse helps me understand the simple things that affect people's lives," she says.

As for the work-life balance that so many struggle with, Sandy seems to have that worked out.

"I think that for everyone, our personal vocation is to be Christians, to follow Jesus and how we live out that service to Jesus depends on where we are in our life journey," she says. "If you think of a cross, there's a vertical component, a horizontal component and a central core – that represents our connection to God, to others and to ourselves at the centre."

**Coming Up in Winter 2003**

**The next issue of *Reflections* will focus on discernment. It will be distributed in February, 2003.**

## *You've Got Mail*

### **Sister Cecilia Reitzel Helps Children Learn Catholic Doctrine**

Sister Cecilia Reitzel has devoted her life to the Church. Over the course of more than 50 years, she has taught countless children on two continents the Catholic doctrine and enriched their understanding of their faith.

Now, at age 76, the retired teacher is still spreading the word – this time through the mail.

Sister Cecilia is one of 21 sisters from the Notre Dame communities in Cambridge and Waterdown who administer the Diocese's correspondence program with the assistance of a number of laypeople. The program allows children throughout the community to complete their religious education so they can receive the sacraments of first communion and confirmation.

For nearly 1,000 children throughout the Diocese of Hamilton, Canada Post delivers important lessons of faith and the wisdom of devoted servants like Sister Cecilia.

"Even though I'm retired, this is a way of continuing to help people reach their full potential, which is what education is all about," Sister Cecilia says.

The program was established more than 50 years ago by Bishop Ryan to address the needs of children in rural areas who could not attend

Catholic schools. It has since blossomed to serve a much wider population of Catholic children who attend public school for a variety of reasons and therefore need to get their religious schooling elsewhere.

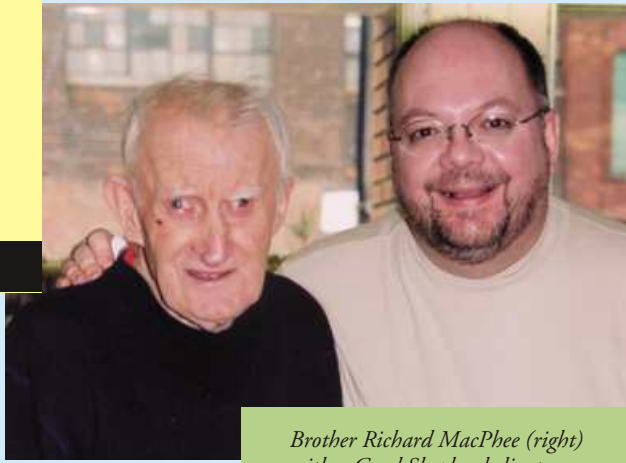
Through the program, children are mailed books and lessons. They send their completed assignments to the sisters, who mark and return the work. The material covers the basic Catholic doctrine that is typically covered in a Catholic school.

In this day of electronic mail, the idea of a "snail mail" correspondence program sounds almost quaint, but Sister Cecilia maintains that working at a desk is far more comfortable than working at a computer. And based on the number of children involved, receiving materials the old-fashioned way has been no impediment to the success of the program.

Sister Cecilia took her vows in 1945. Among her duties, she taught Catholic studies at an independent school in England for 20 years before returning to Canada in 1986 to serve in the correspondence program.

"As I think back on more than 50 years of religious life, I've been so happy," Sister Cecilia reflects. "This correspondence program lets me continue to serve my faith."

*As I think back on more than 50 years of religious life, I've been so happy.*  
Sister Cecilia Reitzel



*Brother Richard MacPhee (right) with a Good Shepherd client.*

# Love Thy Neighbour

## “It’s About Living Your Faith Every Day”

**They are the forgotten ones that struggle on the fringe of society – the homeless, hungry, poor, abused and disabled.**

**To minister to this flock is rife with challenges, but it is what drew Brother Richard MacPhee, Executive Director of the Good Shepherd Centres in Hamilton, to his vocation.**

"I felt I was called to ministry of service, rather than sacramental ministry," Brother Richard explains. "The church has a variety of ways to minister to its people. The sacramental ways are very important, but so too is the work we do with the marginalized people of our society. Many of the people I deal with haven't always had good experiences with the church. We want to be the church to those who have turned away or who never had a church experience."

Brother Richard, a Hamilton native, grew up in a family of modest means but generous hearts.

"I was raised with the idea of helping people in need. We didn't have much, but we shared what we had," he recalls.

After attending Bishop Ryan High School, Brother Richard did his professional training as a registered nurse. He joined the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd in 1980 and studied in Chicago at the Brothers' novitiate. The Brothers are dedicated to serving the sick, poor and unwanted.

In 1983, Brother Richard returned to Hamilton to become Assistant Executive Director of the Good Shepherd Men's Centre. In 1987, he became its Executive Director. Today, the organization has 12 centres serving homeless men and women, homeless teens, those with HIV/AIDS and others needing palliative care, abused women, the mentally ill and the physically disabled.

Brother Richard has taken his work with the disenfranchised beyond the walls of the Good Shepherd's many centres. He serves on numerous boards, task forces and advisory committees to help the Hamilton community deal with a range of social issues, including emergency food and shelter, palliative care and mental health reform.

*I was raised with the idea of helping people in need. We didn't have much, but we shared what we had.*

Incredibly, he also finds time to work on his Masters in Health Services Administration at D'Youville College in Buffalo.

His work in the community has not gone unnoticed. Brother Richard was inducted into The Hamilton Gallery of Distinction in 1999, is a recipient of a Rotary International fellowship and was named Irish Person of the Year.

For Brother Richard, however, the strongest sense of fulfillment comes on a daily basis, from serving those who have no where else to turn.

"The Gospel says to love thy neighbor as thyself. The whole idea of reaching out to others is very central to being a Catholic," Brother Richard says. "It's not just about going to church, it's about living your faith every day."

## Web Site News

Check out [www.vocationinfo.ca](http://www.vocationinfo.ca). Over the last few weeks we've updated our vocation web site with new photos, new profiles and more. There is much more information for teachers, including frequently-asked questions and a resource guide. We're also inviting teachers to share their ideas about encouraging vocations in the classroom and we'll post a selection of them. Suggestions for future web site revisions are welcomed. Please use the *Contact Us* section on the site to send your ideas and comments.

### Contact Us

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DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

### Enthusiastic Response for First Issue of *Reflections*

The first issue of *Reflections* was distributed in early October and by the end of the month it was clear the circulation would have to be increased.

"We received so many requests for additional copies that we've significantly increased the number printed," says Fr. Mark Gatto, Vocation Director. "The response was very gratifying and it suggests our newsletter is filling a need."

*Reflections* is distributed to Catholic educators, parish priests, chaplains, youth group leaders, Serra Club members, seminarians and others. Comments and suggestions about *Reflections* are welcomed and letters to the editor may be published in future editions.