

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

The pandemic hasn't halted the good work of the Church. The Stewardship and Development Office asked for examples, and parishes provided a wealth of them! See the previous fliers at hamiltondiocese.com/news.

CANADIAN MARTYRS, HAMILTON

A report from Sister Mary McIntyre, coordinator of liturgical ministries:

When the doors of the church were closed, the work of discipleship began in a whole new way! A year ago our church communication had already gone digital, so it was a natural transition for us, even as we expanded our outreach: content-heavy weekly emails, updating and optimising our website experience, and daily inspiring messages on social media.

Many video updates and initiatives were posted and sent, including "living our faith" testimonies from community members, Senior Leadership Team updates, weekly introductions of community organizations in need, and virtual walkthroughs of our exciting "Cornerstone" building project – oh, and weekly Mass and Father's Musings!

Small- and large-group "gatherings" took on a new life within our university Chaplaincy: online faith studies, student leadership formation, lectio divina, social gatherings and spiritual direction. We are especially proud of how generously our community responded to our weekly outreach through which all donations to the church were tithed at 10% and distributed among seven local organizations. Even as the church doors were closed, many more were opened. The work of discipleship continues!



DIocese of HAMILTON

HOLY ROSARY IN BURLINGTON KEEPS ITS CONNECTIONS WITH PARISHIONERS

There was never a lull at Holy Rosary in Burlington because of COVID-19! The parish found numerous ways to keep parishioners in touch with the parish and one another. Here's a sampling:

- Holy Rosary's pastor, Fr. Martin Valley, was touched by the loving outpouring he received in May for the 40th anniversary of his ordination. On the anniversary day, a "drive-through" celebration took place outside the rectory door, organized by old friends from Stoney Creek and by other priests. For more than a half-hour, cars kept coming, with families – and even Bishop Douglas Crosby – bringing their greetings. The well-wishes brought "great comfort and reassurance," Fr. Valley said.
- A Web-based bulletin, "Holy Rosary Newsletter 2020," was conceived as a way to keep parishioners connected and to take note of the many wonderful things taking place behind the scenes during challenging times.
- During the isolation, the parish reached out to parishioners who are older, live alone or have chronic and serious health issues. "The purpose of our calls," Pastoral Minister Mary Edmondstone said, "was to let people know that they are missed, to have a chat, to listen to their experience of social isolation, and to see if they had any concerns or needs."
- Cards and drawings created by children of the parish and Holy Rosary School were sent to the Catholic residents of area retirement and long-term care homes.
- A committee was set up to shop and perform errands for seniors who are not able to get out.
- The parish regularly supports the neighbourhood food bank, and Mail Chimp emails have helped inform the church community of its essential requirements and drop-off and pick-up times.
- Members of the Catholic Women's League have been collecting unsold bread from a bakery each Sunday evening for delivery to non-profit organizations.

