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Thanks to Rebecca Campbell, Kevin Storey’s Executive Assistant, for her patient and careful proofreading of this text.



Greetings from the Superior General and from the Editor of the *Annals* 2022

Dear Confrères and Basilian Lay Associates,

I am pleased to present you the *Basilian Annals* for the year 2023. I can't help but think back on our meeting with Pope Francis in 2022 and receiving his blessing on our Congregation. Pope Francis confirmed the need for our charism in the Church today and encouraged us to be witnesses of joy.

This little volume is our congregational history: 201 years of our Basilian Ministry. I want to thank all who contributed to this history. I want to thank Jack Hanna who has compiled and edited this material. Above all, I thank God for inspiring our Ten Founders to live a vision 200 years ago. If you are a Basilian reading these words, you are part of that vision. Let us all continue to be witnesses of joy.

Fraternally, in Christ,


Kevin J. Storey CSB

Superior General

Dear Brother Basilians and Basilian Lay Associates, *Apreciados Hermanos, Mes chers confrères,*

Jacques Duret, André Fayolle, Joseph Lapierre, Henri Martinesche, Jean François Pagès, Augustine Payan, Jean Baptist Polly, Pierre Tourvieille, Julien Tracol, Jean Antoine Vallon: these are the ten priests who founded our Congregation. Père Julien Tracol was the first Secretary General and Historian of our Institute. This *Basilian Annals* is the continuation of our history that Julien Tracol had the foresight to begin to compile.

In the *ANNALS* of 2023, we begin by reading about the Basilian ministry in the countries where we serve. At the end of this little booklet, we read of the lives of our brothers who have entered eternal life. I hope that you enjoy paging through the *Basilian Annals* of 2023. *J'espère que vous apprécierez la lecture des Annales des Prêtres de Saint Basile de 2023. Espero que Uds. disfruten de la lectura de los Anales Basilianos de 2023.*

St. Basil, pray for us. San Basilio, ruega por nosotros. Saint Basile, priez pour nous.

In the Lord's peace,


Jack Hanna CSB

Secretary / Treasurer General

Editor of the *Basilian Annals*



BICENTENAIRE • 2022

Les dix fondateurs des Pères Basiliens



Edwin Espinoza - Artista colombiano

que

Arrière, de gauche à droite: Pierre Tourvieille (1780-1859), Jacques Vincent Duret (1762-1841), Henri Martinesche (1797-1879), Jean-Baptiste Polly (1772-1846), Augustin Payan (1771-1847), Joseph Bovier Lapierre (1757-1838)

Devant, de gauche à droite: André Fayolle (1791-1847), Julien Tracol (1796-1885), Jean Antoin Vallon (1775-1840), Jean François Pagès (1793-1861)

**Holy Father Basil, remember your Congregation, which has belonged to you from the beginning.
Stir up, O Lord, in your Church the Spirit which Blessed Basil served,
so that filled with the same Spirit, we may be eager to love what he loved,
and to put into practice what he taught. Amen.**

Basilian Curial House

Toronto ON

The Basilian Fathers have been without an official Curial Residence for almost ten years. After the Curial House at 16 Bernard Avenue was purchased in September 2022, a few renovations (e.g., installing an elevator and creating a chapel, laundry room, and additional washroom) were done. **John Huber, David Katulski, Morgan Rice, and Kevin Storey** eventually moved in at the end of June 2023. We are most grateful to the Curial Office staff who worked very hard to make the move go so smoothly! We are awaiting the installation of a back lift as well as an altar for the chapel, in which we have incorporated stained glass and other architectural elements from 95 St. Joseph Street. Since July, Diego Eleone Fernandes has been cooking us delicious suppers Monday to Friday. We are all having to be careful and disciplined so as not to let our waistlines increase too much! Our lovely neighbours have warmly welcomed us to the tight-knit neighbourhood. The location is extremely convenient to both the temporary Curial Office (360 Davenport Road) and the one under renovation (146 Davenport Road). John, David, Morgan, and Kevin have enjoyed forming this new local community.



John Huber moved from Houston to Toronto in June. He continues to serve on several boards, including the University of St. Thomas, Incarnate Word Academy of Houston, Aquinas Institute of Rochester, and now St. Michael's College School. John has also visited our two confrères in France and keeps in touch with the principal of the Collège there as well. John continues as the Director of BNENE and has done in-services in all three Basilian North American schools as well as the school in France. He was privileged to receive final vows from three of the confrères in Mexico in the fall. A week before Christmas, he had an accident and broke his arm and had a facial injury, which has

limited some of what he does for the time being. John also continues to be the chaplain for six French couples in Houston in Équipe Notre Dame faith sharing community. He is able to attend their meetings whenever he is in Houston for University board meetings. John has 14 nieces and nephews, five great nieces and nephews, and he and his brothers remain proactive for the care of their mother who is 91.

David Katulski continues his work as Case Director for both criminal and civil suits brought forward against confrères. He celebrates morning Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Joseph's College School and whole school Masses on special occasions. As a chaplain member of the Order of Knights of Malta, he tends to the spiritual needs of the Dames and Knights through Advent and Lenten Retreat days, pastoral counseling and spiritual direction, visiting the sick and infirm members. David also offers monthly retreat days for the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca.

Morgan Rice continues as Rector of the Curial Community and Pastor of St. Basil's Parish. (Refer to the St. Basil's entry on page 29.) After having lived in the Basilian Fathers of USMC community for six years, he moved into the Curial House at the end of June. David Katulski and he have been working with the contractor and architect on the renovations at the Curial House and Curial Office. Morgan concluded his term on the Archdiocese of Toronto's Council of Priests and as a Director on the St. Michael's College School (SMCS) Board. He continues to serve on the SMCS Foundation Board.

Kevin Storey continues on the Board of Becoming Neighbours and celebrates Masses for the Toronto Blue Jays Baseball team. He has been able to accompany his parents in their illness. His father, Ivan Storey, died on March 5, 2023, and his mother, Loretta Storey, entered hospice care in November 2023, shortly before she became a great grandmother and Kevin became a great uncle for the first time.

The Basilian Fathers General Council 2022 - 2026



**Morgan V. Rice CSB (Second Councilor), John B. Huber CSB (Vicar General),
Kevin J. Storey CSB (Superior General), Pedro M. Mora CSB (Third Councilor),
Paul F. English CSB (Fourth Councilor).**

Roberto Rojas Peña CSB (Padre Beto)

25 años de ministerio sacerdotal

Recibí la gracia de ser ordenado sacerdote con un corazón humilde y lleno de deseos. El Dios poderoso y bueno me había enviado hermosos ángeles terrenos a lo largo de mi existencia y me dio la oportunidad de observar la historia de mi vida, no con ojos humanos sino a través de los suyos. Experimenté su presencia y su bondad a través de rostros y personas de carne y hueso, capaces de amar hasta entregar la vida por lo amado y no solo por una persona amada, sino simplemente por alguien necesitado.



El día de mi ordenación lo viví en éxtasis. Era un largo camino que terminaba; pues no era solo un tiempo de más de diez años de formación, sino el culmen de todo lo que significaba mi existencia. Se abrió un horizonte amplio para mi vida y una aventura increíble se iniciaba. Mis amigos, mis compañeros de jornada, muchísimos fieles de los distintos lugares donde yo había realizado distintos apostolados, especialmente jóvenes; mi familia; todos estaban ahí con ojos asombrados, pero con gusto, participando de la fiesta sacramental y humana. Razonaban en mi interior estas palabras: "Por ellos me consagro. No pretendo grandezas que superen mi capacidad."

Al paso de los años, con la enfermedad a cuestas, abundantes imprevistos, con el cuerpo cansado, el corazón sigue con fuego, latiendo alegremente al ritmo del Evangelio. Estoy agradecido con todos los basilianos, especialmente con aquellos que impactaron mi vida, dejando una huella indeleble en mi corazón. El espíritu misionero del incansable Padre Murphy CSB. La sobriedad y austeridad del Padre Francisco Launtrie CSB. La sencillez y espiritualidad del Padre Tomás Dugan CSB. La imponente personalidad y predicación del Padre Tomás Sepúlveda CSB. La profundidad de espíritu y conciencia social del padre François Morfin CSB. La docilidad y humildad de los padres Jess Owens CSB y Daniel Porter CSB. La amabilidad del Padre Alejandro Sinasac CSB. La resiliencia en la tercera edad de la vida de los Padres Mooney CSB y Lorenzo Moran CSB. La actitud festiva del Padre Memo Frankenberger CSB. Hubo muchos más que con un gesto, una acción o una palabra, fueron forjando mi personalidad ministerial. Hoy, sin haber llegado a la estatura de ninguno de ellos, les viviré eternamente agradecido. Gracias, gracias, gracias ... paz, fuerza y gozo.

I received the grace of being ordained a priest with a humble heart full of desires. The powerful and good God had sent me beautiful earthly angels throughout my existence and gave me the opportunity to observe the story of my life, not with human eyes but through his own. I experienced his presence and his goodness through faces and people of flesh and blood, capable of loving to the point of giving their lives for the beloved and not only for a beloved person, but simply for someone in need.

The day of my ordination I lived in ecstasy. It was a long road that was coming to an end; for it was not only a time of more than ten years of formation, but the culmination of all that my existence meant. A wide horizon was opening up for my life and an incredible adventure was beginning. My friends, my companions of the day, many of the faithful from the various places where I had carried out different apostolates, especially young people; my family; all were there with astonished eyes, but with pleasure, participating in the sacramental and human feast. These words were in my heart: "For them I consecrate myself. I do not pretend to greatness beyond my capacity."

With the passing of the years, with illness, with many unforeseen events, with a tired body, my heart is still on fire, beating joyfully to the rhythm of the Gospel. I am grateful to all the Basilians, especially those who impacted my life, leaving an indelible mark on my heart. The missionary spirit of the tireless Father Max Murphy CSB. The sobriety and austerity of Father Francis Launtrie CSB. The simplicity and spirituality of Father Thomas Dugan CSB. The imposing personality and preaching of Father Tomás Sepúlveda CSB. The depth of spirit and social conscience of Father François Morfin CSB. The docility and humility of Fathers Jess Owens CSB and Daniel Porter CSB. The kindness of Father Alejandro Sinasac CSB. The resilience in the third age of life of Fathers Mooney CSB and Lorenzo Moran CSB. The festive attitude of Father Memo Frankenberger CSB. There were many others who, with a gesture, an action or a word, forged my ministerial personality. Without having reached the stature of any of them, I will be eternally grateful to them. Thank you, thank you ... peace, strength and joy.

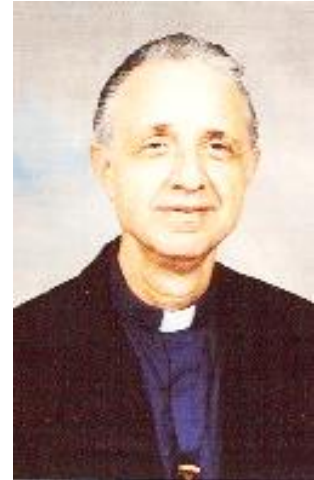
Jamie Abercrombie CSB

50 years of Priestly Ministry

I attended St. Mary of the Purification parish and was impressed by the pastor, Msgr. Daily. I attended St. Thomas High School and appreciated the Basilians there. As part of my preparation to be a Basilian, I studied Spanish in Mexico for a year. I was ordained at St. Anne parish in Houston by Bishop John Morkovsky on June 9, 1973.

I found serving the Hispanic people to be my most rewarding priestly ministry. At Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, the people embraced me and my ministry. I served there twice. I also serve the Hispanic community at St. Anne parish. I will always be so grateful for the fraternal love and support of my Basilian brothers, my family, and the parishioners in the parish Communities that I've been blessed to serve as a priest.

These days I exercise my priestly ministry especially in the Liturgy of the Hours and attempting to deepen my spiritual life with twenty minutes of contemplation daily. I am impressed with other elderly priests.



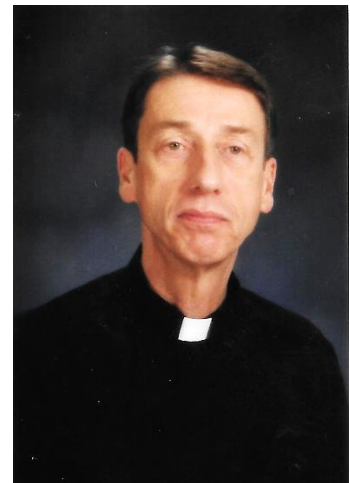
Richard Wahl CSB

50 Years of Priestly Ministry

"We have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God"

That was the quotation on my ordination remembrance card. It summarizes my vocation well. My parents, Herb and Mae Wahl, with the Creator provided this earthen vessel – body, mind, emotions, abilities. They also brought me at my baptism to the treasures of being a child of God, the Church and the graces of faith. I brought this earthen vessel with its additional growth and education and belief in vocation, to the Basilian Fathers at profession, and I received the treasure of community, ministry, witness value, and vowed life. At ordination, this earthen vessel, now with additional education, theological studies, teaching and ministry experiences, received the treasures of sacramental ministry, preaching, counseling.

I am grateful that this earthen vessel has been able to minister with such treasures.



Michael Paul Brand CSB, 50 years ordained, May 19, 1973. No information received.

+Robert Michael Kasun CSB

50 Years of the Vowed Life

The armchair in my sitting room is a great place for reflection and meditation if I don't fall asleep. One day, around the time of my 50th anniversary of profession, I was sitting in my chair reflecting on the things and people who had influenced my vocation. There were many. Here is one of them. Probably it was a small one; nevertheless, it was an influence, and I delight in thinking about it.

Sister Patricia Mackey OSU, was my Grade 12 English teacher. She was fantastic. English was my favourite subject. She could hold my attention for almost a full 40-minute period. Near the beginning of the school year, she was teaching short stories. The stories were in a textbook entitled, "Enduring Prose." I thought the title meant "putting up with prose," something like a Lenten penance. Later, Sister informed the class that it meant "lasting prose." One particular day during Sister Patricia's short story unit, it was coming near the end of the class, and I was getting bored. So, I closed my textbook. There, at the bottom of the textbook cover I suddenly noticed the words, "Edited by Father Patrick Gorman CSB." I thought to myself, "How cool is that! Just think - a 'priest' who is a high school English 'teacher' and an 'editor' of a textbook of great stories probably read in hundreds of high schools across the country. How unique is that. I really like that! What a way for a priest to have an influence on youth!"

At that time, I had never heard of the Basilians. But after graduation, I enrolled as an undergrad at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon. At STM there were many Basilian teachers and administrators. And what a group they were! By the time of college graduation, I had applied for entrance into the Basilian novitiate. Several years later, at a funeral reception at 95 St. Joseph Street, I met Father Patrick Gorman. I singled him out. He looked friendly enough. I told him how he had impressed me as a high school student with the literature textbook he had edited, and how it had influenced me to consider priesthood as a way of serving in the Church. Then, if I remember correctly, he thanked me, and encouraged me, actually at considerable length, to be attentive to other ways the Lord might be influencing me in my vocation. Later, another Basilian pointed out to me that Father Gorman was considered one of our finest high school English teachers.

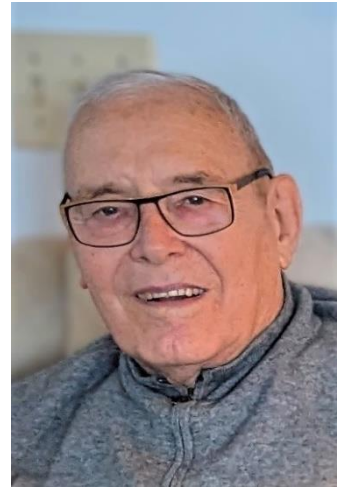
After final profession and ordination, I became an English teacher myself and I loved it. Sadly, I didn't become an editor or author of enduring literature. But to this day I am beholden to Sister Patricia Mackey and Father Pat Gorman, two English teachers who had influenced my vocation to religious life and priesthood. Thanks to both of you and thanks to many other Basilians who were also my teachers and influencers. I thank God for putting you in my path.



Joseph Ian Boyd CSB

60 years of Priestly Ministry

Ian Boyd was born in Price Albert Saskatchewan, on January 23, 1935. After graduation from St. Thomas More College with a degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1956, he entered the Richmond Hill Novitiate and was professed in 1957. He studied Philosophy for two years, and then he taught at St. Michael's College School. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop George Flahiff CSB, on December 15, 1963, in St. Basil's Church in Toronto. Ian lived with his sister Betty Boyd in Edmonton AB. (*Rest in Peace, January 2024.*)



James Neil Carruthers CSB

60 years of Priestly Ministry

Jim Carruthers was born in Windsor, Ontario on February 7, 1935. After graduating from Assumption High school (where he was a cheerleader) he entered the Rochester Novitiate and he was professed in 1953. In 1957 he received a B.A. degree from Assumption University in Windsor. He taught for three years at Assumption High School. He attended the Ontario College of Education and received a High School Teacher's Certificate. He studied Theology at the Grand Séminaire de Quebec, he transferred to the Grand Séminaire de Saint-Sulpice in Paris, and he completed his Theology at St. Basil's Seminary in Toronto. He was ordained in St. Basil's Church in Toronto by Archbishop George Flahiff on December 15, 1963. Jim lives at Presentation Manor in Scarborough.



Basilians 60 years professed in 2023:

Robert Barringer, Michael Fallona, Bob Glass, Jack Hanna, Douglas Mosey

Basilians 70 years professed in 2023:

Leo Burns, James Carruthers, Leo Reilly

The Curial Office Staff



Carolina Klapp



Elizabeth Contreras



Amanda Parcher



Carolina Angulo

Carolina Klapp was born in Santiago, Chile and serves as the Congregational Financial Officer. She has been employed by the Basilians for 14 years. She works closely with the Treasurer General to manage the finances of the Congregation and the St. Joseph Mission Center. She provides financial reports, prepares the yearly budget, and ensures compliance with regulatory agencies.

Elizabeth Contreras is from Palmira, Valle, a small city not too far from Cali, Colombia. She has been working for the Basilian Fathers since January 2006. She is Assistant Financial Officer and performs the day-to-day financial operations. These include accounting, account payables, bank reconciliations, audits, and taxation. Elizabeth loves people and she is always ready to help Basilians!

Amanda Parcher is a lifelong Torontonion, and she has worked for the Basilians for 11 years. She receives donations and pensions, she oversees health and car insurance, she is responsible for the accounting of the building costs, and she is the on-site IT person. Amanda is essential to the operation of the Curial Office. Outside of work, she likes to play football and enjoys traveling.

Carolina Angulo is a native of Panama, she is fluently bilingual in English and Spanish. She comes from the corporate world in Panama but she has found a perfect fit in the more fluid structure of the Curial Office. She serves as receptionist, she oversees mailing, she assists the Secretary-Treasurer General and the Financial Officer. She is a capable professional and she is a valued addition to the staff.



Rebecca Campbell

Rebecca Campbell is from Georgetown, PEI (Prince Edward Island); she has worked for the Basilian Fathers for eleven years. She became the Assistant to the Superior General in 2019 and she supports him in his day-to-day administrative duties, including managing his very complex schedule. One of her important roles is recording the minutes of the General Council Meetings. She manages communications with the Basilian Lay Associates. She also assists the Secretary General by judiciously editing and carefully proofreading projects such as the *Basilian Directory*, the *Basilian Newsletters*, and the *Basilian Annals*. Besides her outstanding office skills, she has had extensive culinary training and is an accomplished chef with a specialty in the confection of fine pastries.

Basilian Fathers General Archives

Michelle Sawyers, Archivist

2023 will be an interesting chapter in the annals of the General Archives of the Basilian Fathers; we tackled some big challenges and big changes. Since 1997, the archives were housed in the Scollard room at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre. Now that the CFBC has closed, most of the collection is stored in a purpose-built room at Henry Carr Farm, in Bond Head, Ontario, once a Basilian residence but now owed by St. Michael's College School.



The new storage area was built early in the year as a self-contained room within the garage of the house. It has its own system for controlling the temperature and humidity, and is constructed to keep out water and pests. We were able to move ten of thirteen compact shelving units for maximum space efficiency. Before the move, I carefully arranged and labelled each box to ensure it would have a spot in its new home. Some material had to be culled, especially things that were irrelevant to Basilian history or things that were one of many copies. Some items found new homes in the archives of other institutions – for example, architectural documents from St. John Fisher College were transferred there. Extra supplies were donated to the USMC archives.

As moving day approached, the boxes were packed into moving bins by a team of students and with the generous help of the Loretto Sisters archives staff. Finally, the bins were moved and unpacked. Important files and photos that are frequently accessed are currently stored at an Archdiocese of Toronto facility.

In contrast, autumn has been a season of decidedly low-key activities. A project to digitize a collection of audiocassettes is in progress. These tapes include recordings of retreats, talks, and oral histories, amongst other things. It has been a treat to listen to the young voices of Fathers who I know, as well as the voices of exceptional people I never met like Cardinal Flahiff and Father McCorkell. Especially interesting was the recording of Father Max Murphy recounting his time learning Spanish in Monterrey and Guadalajara, and the subsequent entrée of the Congregation into Mexico.



While the tapes transfer from a Walkman to the computer, I have also been working on entering information from the *Dictionary of Basilian Biography* into a database. This will make it easier to search for biographical details and to extract certain data and statistics such as high school alumni lists, birth places, and trends over time. In 2024 I'm looking forward to settling into our permanent space where I will be able to have more resources on hand and can then comfortably welcome visitors and researchers.

Photo above: Andrés Capuyan (far left), a member of the Curial Office staff, supervised the team of generous students who unloaded the archival material into the Henry Carr Farm Archive Installation.

Coordinator of Communications

Ilya Kovalevskiy

Taking on the role as Communications Coordinator in June 2023, Ilya continued the work of his predecessors, maintaining and expanding the Basilian Community and the Basilian Charism via social media and the internet. He began by learning The Congregation's history and contacting each Basilian school, university, and parish in order to become more acquainted with their Communications and Basilian Staff, later going on a cross US trip from Michigan to Texas to meet many of them in person.

During the Christmas season, he created the annual Christmas cards sent to donors, as well as a Christmas video address from The Superior General, which gathered donations via the Basilian website and social media.



Currently Ilya has established continuous contact with communications teams at each Basilian institution in Canada, US, Colombia, and Mexico, and is working on the new years content calendar, which will include a greater degree of contributions from each institution. His goal is to create a continuous and self-sustaining representation of the Basilian Charism through the current events happening at Basilian schools and parishes that feature the Basilians and are indicative of their dedication to their work.

To this moment, he has produced over 100 pieces of content, ranging from website articles, social media posts and YouTube videos, which have reached a total of 22,000 people across the platforms of Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Google, and Mailchimp. Below we include a prayer Ilya composed for the end of the year 2023 and the beginning of 2024.

Gracious Father in Heaven, as we stand on the threshold of a new year,
We lift our hearts in gratitude for the gift of life and faith.
In the embrace of your love, we find strength and purpose.

Lord Jesus, our Savior,
Guide us on this journey of a new beginning.
May your teachings illuminate our path,
And may your presence be our constant source of inspiration.

Holy Spirit, source of wisdom and peace,
Descend upon us as we enter into this new season.
Illuminate our minds, comfort our hearts,
And inspire us to live in harmony with your divine will.

Praesidium Standards Monitor

Alice Turner

As previously communicated, the Basilian Fathers received a 5-year Accreditation for September 2022-2027.

As such, we developed processes to ensure that our Accreditation remains valid by conducting reviews of key activities on an **annual** basis.

Critical elements center around the following:

- Changes in leadership in the past year
- Annual communication on our commitment to the protection of minors
- Screening and background checks for candidates in formation
- Visitations and House reports
- Ongoing Praesidium / Safe Environment training / and other requirements



In October, we submitted our Annual Assessment Summary to Praesidium, followed by a zoom meeting to discuss the report with a designated Praesidium Accreditation Specialist, Saul Espinoza. In November, Praesidium formally wrote to acknowledge our ongoing Accreditation.

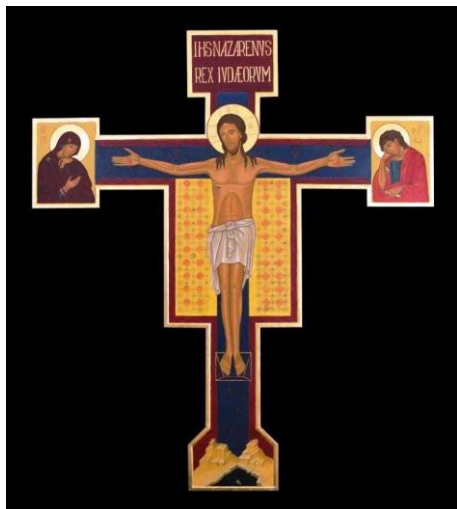
PRAESIDIUM
— ACCREDITATION —



Basilian Brothers who Live Independently

Basilians in Las Cruces NM

David Otto Klein CSB, Don Hyatt CSB, and Ed Heidt CSB visit at Heritage Assisted Living, Don's residence in Las Cruces. David Otto continues his ministry at Saint Isidor's and Our lady of Health parishes and The Good Samaritan-Care Home in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Ed helps occasionally at Saint Albert the Great Newman Center and Saint Isidor's.



Mark Gazin CSB, Archdiocese of Vancouver

During 2022-23, I resided at Star of the Sea Parish in South Surrey/White Rock, BC. In July 2023, I moved to St. Matthew's parish in North Surrey. In addition to my parish pastoral responsibilities, I continued to commute to the Tribunal two days a week, interviewing petitioners and witnesses, preparing briefs in marriage cases as Defender of the Bond or as Judge.

The crucifix pictured in this article is a work of art by Canadian Frank Turner and hangs in the John Paul II Pastoral Center of the Vancouver Archdiocese. It was installed in 2015.

Jefferson Thompson CSB, Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC,

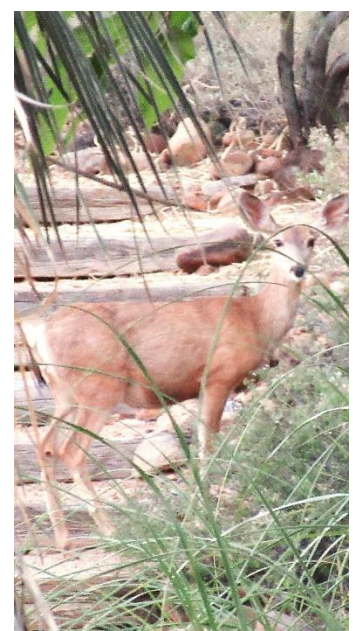


In addition to his ministry and responsibilities as Pastor of St. Pius X Parish in North Vancouver, Jeff Thompson also serves the Archdiocese of Vancouver as a member of the Presbyteral Council, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Archdiocese, and as the Archbishop's Representative to St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School on the North Shore. Jeff enjoys getting together with +Michael Miller and Mark Gazin periodically for archdiocesan and social gatherings. He particularly delights in hosting them for dinner in his rectory. Jeff also continues to enjoy gardening and scenic hikes along the beautiful West Coast.



David Sharp CSB, Wickenburg AZ

David Sharp says he continues to thrive in the peace and quiet of the desert. "I have noticed that three sets of Road Runners are rearing their young and feeding on the lizards and small snakes. They eat most of them and then migrate away for three years or so. This allows the lizards and other creatures to prolifically procreate for a few years and then the Road Runners return to repeat the cycle. This reminds me of my life. Spiritual and physical cycles occur on a regular basis. For example, I have a few years of intense reading and study followed by a few years of stillness and listening and peacefully letting go. So, wherever one is, that is OK. Be patient and all will be well!" David, as always, sends some beautiful photos of the Desert Southwest near his home.



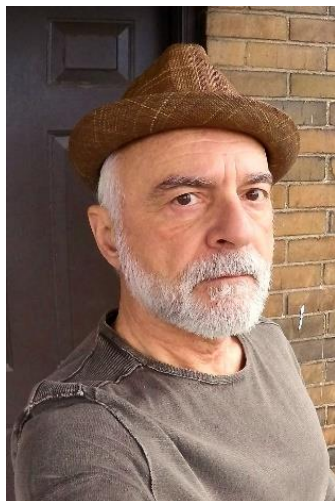
Bernard Pinsonneault CSB, Windsor ON

Retirement in Windsor at Kensington Court retirement facility has placed me central to family and friends. These past ten years at Kensington Court have given me the privilege of offering daily Mass for the residents. That along with counseling, hospital visitation, and working jigsaw puzzles, time goes by fast. I am refreshed when I go for several days at a time to visit old parishioners. God is generous.



Timothy Scott CSB, Montreal QC

In Montreal, the Catholics of St. Gabriel's (English) and St. Charles (French) are moving closer together in St. Charles Church. At considerable expense we have stabilized the two towers, and the Church is open for worship. My work as pastor of these two Montreal parishes faces many challenges in our recovery from the pandemic. I continue to teach Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) on the faculty of the Grand Séminaire, now affiliated with Laval University. I'm very happy to continue with the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle in the ongoing process of reconciliation with Indigenous communities in Canada. There is much for which we can give thanks.



Don Lococo CSB, Windsor, ON

When I am writing music, I only return to this dimension for biological needs. I just doffed off a few lines. And here is a recent pic ... a study in brown. By the way, speaking of brown, I had *Guajolote con Mole Poblano* (Turkey with Mole Poblano) for supper this past Christmas. The best I've ever made. It takes two days. The preparation of the peppers and all the nuts and spices is labour-intensive. I make the paste up days earlier because it can be stored. On the day to eat, the simmering of the turkey is fairly straight-forward but it still takes about an hour to cook the mole, add the turkey broth, add the chocolate, and simmer the cooked turkey in the mole. I use the recipe from the *Mexico the Beautiful Cookbook*.

Manny Chircop CSB, Garden City MI

There was a time when I couldn't even pronounce the word "OCTOGENARIAN." Now that I am one, I had to practice in order to know who I am. I am grateful to God for my health which is still keeping me somewhat active in ministry as I continue to help in a local parish of St. Kenneth as well as many funerals and other masses in some other local parishes when needed - which seems to be quite often due to the shortage of priests. I am grateful that I can now do what I am doing in serving the people of God. I have been blessed to have met so many parishioners who truly have helped my own spirituality and hopefully I have contributed some good toward theirs as well.



George Smith CSB, St. John Fisher University, Rochester NY

George Smith continues to teach in the Department of Religious Studies at St. John Fisher University. He is a member of the University's Board of Trustees and continues to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Toronto School of Theology. In the fall of 2023, he began a new weekend parish ministry at St. Theodore's Church in the Diocese of Rochester.

Paul Rennick CSB, Amica, Windsor ON

My retirement years provide me ample opportunity for reading, prayer and reflection, which are my main activities on a day-to-day level. Besides the resources of my own library, I subscribe to *THEOLOGICAL STUDIES* and *COMMONWEAL*, so there is always something to learn. I also go to the gym three to four times a week in order to keep all the parts moving. Now that Covid is more under control I hope to return to concerts and movies more regularly. I find that everything now takes longer and I cannot do as many things in a day as I once could. Medical appointments seem to be an unending part of the schedule. Currently I have a phalanx of physicians to attend me. In the face of the challenges of these years I find the only appropriate response is gratitude. May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and forever.



Leo Walsh CSB, Amica, Windsor, ON

As with all the baptized, and so all religious priests, pastoral care of one's neighbour never finds an ending. Finding myself in new circumstances, I am still looking for opportunities to exercise such care. The staff and residents of Amica House are friendly and caring of each other. The local pastor has been extremely welcoming. The future looks open and bright.

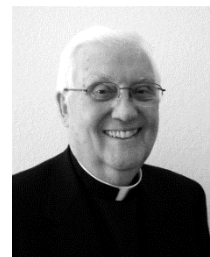


Anthony Giampietro CSB, St. Anselm's Abbey School, Washington, DC

I am in my third year as president of Saint Anselm's Abbey School in Washington, DC. Founded by Benedictine monks in 1942, St. Anselm's is an independent Catholic school for boys in grades 6 through 12. While the academic program is quite challenging, students benefit from a wide range of sports and other extracurricular activities. There is a tremendous commitment on the part of alumni and others in the St. Anselm's community to make the school accessible to all qualified applicants, regardless of the financial capacity of their families.

Joe Moffatt CSB, Northville, MI

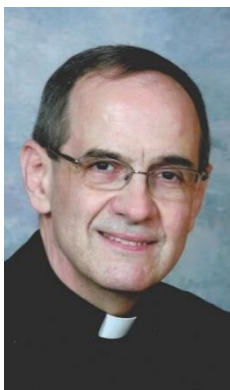
In anticipation of the new year celebration, please accept my best wishes for a truly HAPPY NEW YEAR, in peace and good health! Thanks for the opportunity to have "something to say in print." My retirement is cheerful, peaceful, quiet, and uneventful.



Kevin Mannara, CSB, St. John Fisher University

2023 saw continued growth at St. John Fisher University, as well as celebrations for the 75th anniversary of our founding. The growth was especially seen in our campus ministry program, as well as record student attendance. President Gerry Rooney hosted a magnificent celebration on the terrace in front of Kearney Hall on our actual founding day, September 21. The display in our Welcome Center featured the many ways the Basilian Fathers founded and guided the institution.

Participation at Mass and all our programs continues to increase. This year's alternative spring break service trip had record attendance when nearly 40 students spent nearly a week serving in Kentucky. Our music ministry displays the gifts of our students, and each year is capped off by a presentation of Advent Lessons and Carols. Participation in the OCIA program welcomes more Catholics to the Church than the local parishes do. Our program has produced two candidates for priesthood. Gerry and Susan Rooney hosted a lovely dinner on August 5 to celebrate my sixth anniversary of ordination. They are both very supportive of the Basilian Mission.



Walter Werbylo CSB, St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, ON

Walter Werbylo, associated with the Basilians of the University of St. Michael's College, is working and living at St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto, where he teaches New Testament courses and is one of seven priests who serve as spiritual directors for the seminarians. Living at the seminary are ten priests who work at full-time ministry in the seminary. There are thirty one seminarians living in the seminary in either years 1 through 4 of theology or in the initial spiritual year, plus four seminarians doing their year of internship in a parish and coming to the seminary every month for two days of discussion and input regarding their pastoral work.



+Bob Kasun CSB, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto

I am now into my 8th year serving as auxiliary bishop for the Central Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto which includes all the Basilian houses in the archdiocese except for Presentation Manor which is just inside the Eastern Region. A highlight of this year was the opportunity I had to be a spiritual director on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a pastoral role I thoroughly enjoyed for about 50 front-pew Catholics from various places across Canada and the U.S. A couple weeks following our return, the war broke out. Nobody had any kind of inkling that trouble was brewing. I am writing this note on World Day of Prayer for Peace. Lord, grant that it may come.



Joe Pilsner CSB

Father Joseph Pilsner, CSB, served as Registrar for the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies during the academic year 2022-2023. He administered the PIMS degree program and assisted the president in hosting a convocation. Father Pilsner has taken a leave from the Registrar's position for the 2023-2024 academic year. He is living on Long Island, NY, and caring for his parents, both of whom are infirm.

Les Basiliens d'Annonay et le Collège du Sacré-Cœur

Nos deux confrères français mènent une vie humble après avoir contribué pendant de nombreuses années au service désintéressé du peuple de Dieu en Ardèche. François Morfin vit confortablement à l'EPHAD Saint-Joseph de Varagnes à Annonay. Il a une très mauvaise vue, mais il est capable de lire un peu. Bernard Buisson est passé de la grande Maison Saint-Joseph à une résidence plus petite mais modernisée dans l'ancien couvent sur la propriété du Collège.



*Le Collège du Sacré-Cœur,
Bernard's house is the small building at the bottom right.*

Le Collège du Sacré-Cœur continue à bien se porter avec un nombre record d'inscriptions. L'excellent directeur de l'école, M. Michaël Bouvier, a terminé plus de 20 ans de service. La nouvelle directrice s'appelle Mme. Stéphanie Robin. Bien qu'il ne reste que deux Basiliens à Annonay, nous sommes reconnaissants à Dieu pour l'impact énorme que les Basiliens ont eu sur l'Eglise en Ardèche. L'enseignement catholique de qualité se poursuit au Collège. L'école primaire, "Montalivet", est en train de déménager dans notre ancienne Maison Saint-Joseph. Avec deux écoles sur le même campus, les institutions appartiennent maintenant à "L'ensemble Scolaire Saint-Basile", un merveilleux hommage à l'éducation basilienne qui a commencé à Annonay.

The Basilians in Annonay and the Collège du Sacré-Cœur

The two French confrères live a humble life having contributed many years of selfless service to God's people in the Ardèche. François Morfin lives comfortably at the Saint Joseph de Varagnes Assisted Living in Annonay. He enjoys keeping up with Basilian news. He has very poor vision, but he is able to read a limited amount. Bernard Buisson has transitioned from living in the large Maison Saint-Joseph to a smaller but modernized residence in the old convent on the property of the College.



François



Bernard

The College du Sacre-Coeur continues to do well with a record enrollment. The excellent principal of the school, Mr. Michaël Bouvier completed over 20 years of service. The new principal is Madame Stephanie Robin. While only two Basilians remain in Annonay, we are grateful to God for the tremendous impact that Basilians have made to the Church in the Ardèche. Quality Catholic education continues at the Collège. The primary school, "Montalivet", is in the process

of moving into the former Maison Saint-Joseph. With two schools now on the same campus, the institutions now belong to "L'ensemble Scolaire Saint-Basile", a wonderful tribute to Basilian education.

Basilian Fathers of the University of St. Michael's College

Toronto ON



The local Basilian community consists of Rev. James Farge CSB, Rev. Michael Lehman CSB, and Rev. T. Allan Smith CSB. We continue to adjust to life after the pandemic, which is happily receding from memory. The summer months brought some changes to the composition of the community. Rev. Joe Pilsner CSB resigned as Registrar of the Institute and moved to Long Island NY to care for his parents for the year. Rev. Morgan Rice CSB moved into the new curial house with other members of the General Council. Their departures necessitated some changes to the house schedule and appointments.



In mid-November, the house took its turn hosting Toronto Basilians at a monthly gathering. Ten joined us for an informal dinner in Phelan House. The campus of the University of St. Michael's College saw some changes as well. A new caterer was hired to manage food services for students in the Canada Room and for resident priests, faculty, and staff of the College in the Faculty Dining Room. After many years of discussion, the

Faculty of Theology and Regis College united to create the Regis-St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. The Basilian Fathers of USMC helped to establish the Father Terrence Forestell CSB Deanship of the newly formed Faculty. The former St. Michael's Faculty relocated to Regis College, where all classes are now held. In May, the USMC community celebrated the installation of the Dante Garden at the corner of St. Joseph Street and Queen's Park Crescent to commemorate the 700th anniversary of Dante. The installation is a series of 100 bronze panels by artist Timothy Schmalz, depicting scenes from the 100 cantos of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, and it includes a sculpture of Dante at work in the centre of the installation.

James Farge is Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections in the Library of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies where he performs a wide range of other tasks for the library. Benefiting from a large donation, he has been overseeing the conservation of damaged books. He is secretary of the Institute's Board of Governors and serves on its Finance and Audit Committee. He remains on the Editorial Board of the Collected Works of Erasmus and on the *Comité de lecture* of the *Revue d'histoire*

de l'Église de France. He is secretary of the Corporation of the Basilian Fathers of the University of St. Michael's College, and house infirmarian and liaison with the USMC food service. He continues to preside at the weekly Tuesday noon Mass at St. Basil's Church and to help with confessions. The General Council's delegation of Jim to find new homes for art works from the Flahiff Centre took quite a lot of his time. In his opinion, the art works were enthusiastically received at St Basil's Church, the University of St. Michael's College campus, Henry Carr Farm, Keon House in Houston, and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. Detroit Catholic Central recently asked for the large portrait of St Basil commissioned in 1979 by Father P. Wallace Platt CSB. Jim was especially pleased when Father Pedro Mora CSB was the first to request the colourful cubist Stations of the Cross for the parish church of Our Lady of Egypt in Bogotá, one of the oldest buildings in Bogotá (1633), recently entrusted to the Basilians by the archdiocese. The above-mentioned activities have greatly slowed Jim's work in composing the biographies of Basilians who died between 2002 and 2023. Still, he has completed 189 biographies (49 of them former Basilian priests), with 23 others in process.

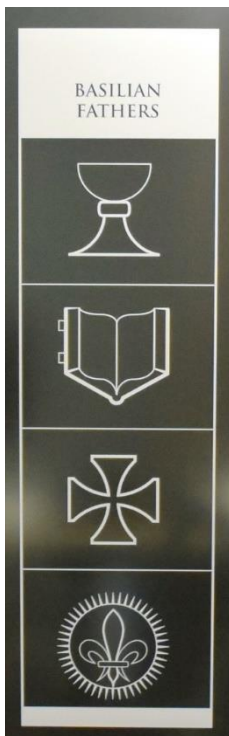


Michael Lehman continues his ministry in Catholic Education with the Toronto Catholic District School Board as a member of the Catholic Teachers' Centre and the Religious Education and Family Life Department and as Chaplain with involvement in Adult Faith Development with all employees of the Catholic Board. He is the guest master and sacristan for the local community. Many of his days are spent in one or more of the 200+ schools of the system where he celebrates Eucharist, Memorial Services, Reconciliation Services, facilitates classroom discussions and presentations, and provides staff support. He is called upon to facilitate retreats and days of reflection for staffs and students on various days and evenings. Michael's ministry takes him across the Greater Toronto Area, and he is often called upon by other Catholic school boards for facilitation of retreats, masses, and presentations as well. Another part of his ministry is the development and implementation of the 3-year Pastoral Plans for the Board. Added to his work with the school board, Mike has also been called upon to provide input and professional development to the Ontario English

Catholic Teachers' Association as well as co-ordinating religious education courses for educators. Mike has also been called upon to provide professional development to neighbouring school boards and senior teams therein. And he has contributed to the Religious Education Courses at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Mike is involved in weekend parish ministry in several parishes in the city which is most rewarding. And with what time remains, Mike enjoys quiet evenings at home with a crossword puzzle and a Montreal Canadians hockey game.

T. Allan Smith was reappointed Rector of the local house in July. He is Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, and a Fellow of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval

Studies. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto. He accepted the invitation to join the Research Initiative for Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought at Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) as a research scholar. His thirteenth and final doctoral student at the Faculty of Theology successfully defended his dissertation in January. He is advisor for one Licence in Mediaeval Studies candidate at the Institute and is a member of the supervisory committee for one doctoral student at the Regis-St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. For the Slavic Department, he taught "Old Church Slavonic" during the winter semester and is a member of two dissertation supervisory committees, one dealing with Tolstoy and the other with Dostoevsky. In the spring he was a manuscript assessor for Cambridge University Press. He continues his work on a collaborative project based in England, *Wisdom in Exile: Sergii Bulgakov's Theological Works, 1918-1944*. This is a four-volume collection of English translations of Bulgakov's writings to be published by T & T Clark/Bloomsbury in 2025. This year he contributed the following translations: "St. Peter and St. John: The Two First-Apostles," "New Chapters on Trinitarity," "The Vatican Dogma," "Heaven on Earth," "The Papal Encyclical and Lausanne," "Nation and Humanity," "Racism and Christianity," "Reflections on War," and "The Idea of the Common Task."



University of St Michael's College Brennan Hall Dining Room (below).

Tablet honoring the Basilian Fathers, founders of USMC in 1852 (at left).



Frassati House, Toronto, ON

The members of Frassati house are Norman Tanck, rector, Jack Hanna, and Douglas Hilmer.

Each weekday begins with Morning Prayer and Eucharist; the homilies are always spiritual and instructive. After supper, Evening Prayer closes the day on a reflective and restful note. The confrères take turns preparing weekday dinner.

Frassati House is in an area of Toronto called Corktown. It is a very mixed neighborhood. There are privately owned houses and condominiums as well as social and subsidized housing. Recently several town houses were built on the corner of our street that sold for \$1.2 million. The Good Shepherd Ministries, which provides free meals to about a hundred people, housing for people with AIDS and for refugees, is behind us.

Like the members of the house, the house itself is aging.

The house consists of two connected townhouses. The furnaces in both units were replaced and the plumbing was upgraded. The on-demand water needed to be repaired and grab bars were installed in all the bathtubs. The house is warmer and safer now.

Norm Tanck continues as Associate Pastor at St. Basil's Church. Mass is celebrated twice every Monday through Friday with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction following 12:10 PM Mass on first Fridays. Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday. He and Morgan Rice, the Pastor, are the only Basilians assigned to the parish. Fortunately, Father Jim Farge, Father Dan Donovan and some of the Jesuits associated with the University of St. Michaels College help. Norm also provides spiritual direction for several people.



Frassati House looks best in the spring with the Japanese Magnolia in bloom.



Norm remains Director of Associates, although there were no English speaking associates this year. He is also the Basilian Coordinator for the Toronto-London Basilian Lay Associates.

In May Norm gave a presentation and led a discussion for the faculty and administrators of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology and the Jesuit's Regis College which had recently established a new partnership for Theological education. The presentation was on the issues involved in closing and merging institutions. He did a similar presentation in September for their student leaders. In November Norm presided and preached at the annual Tri-College Mass (USMC Faculty of Theology, Regis College, and St. Augustine's Seminary).

Like Doug Hilmer and Jack Hanna, Norm had some minor medical problems. He had a kidney stone removed. The procedure went well but there were some complications afterwards. He also fell and spent several hours in the emergency room. Nothing was broken or damaged.



This past year has been an up and down one for Doug Hilmer. Ministry, community, and other aspects of his life were going well until this spring when he got an infection in his right knee. He spent several weeks in hospital and several more in a rehab hospital followed by several weeks doing physiotherapy to help him walk again. He is still living with pain and finding it difficult walking but is getting stronger slowly. He started back to work again and is looking forward to increasing his hours to what they were before. Doug is grateful for those who kept him and his family in their prayers. He says, "Dealing with the physical has also been an emotional strain. I'm happy to have the support of my local community and family as well as other's assistance. I'm looking forward to the new year and new beginnings".

Jack Hanna continues his work as Secretary-Treasurer General. He is very happy working with the staff in the Curial Office. Jack finds everyone helpful and dedicated to the Basilian Fathers. Jack is slowed down by arthritis but when he is sitting down, he is fortunate that he has no pain at all. However, walking is not so easy anymore. Fortunately, a lot of the work of the Secretary-Treasurer General is done sitting down! Jack says that paying bills and signing checks is best done seated.

Since Jack arrived at Frassati House in 2013, he has taken care of mowing the back and front yards. The yard ministry is coming to an end. "I will miss it" says Jack. "When I finish mowing the yard, everything is in its place, flowers are pruned, cut grass has been gathered up and the rakes and the mower are locked up. Most things in life are not that tidy!"

Jack played the Casavant organ in the Chapel of the Flahiff Centre for the first profession of Bishoy Dawood. This was the last time the 1951 organ was played for a liturgy. It has served well in the Chapel of St. Basil's Seminary, later St. Basil's College, and, finally, the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre. Jim Farge made his usual cryptic comment about Jack's keyboard abilities; after the Mass, he smiled and said, "Why, Jack, I've never heard you play better." The organ was donated to a parish in Dundas, ON.



This summer Jack spent four days in Gananoque, a quiet little village on the shores of Lake Ontario. He took a pleasant afternoon cruise through some of the 1000 Islands (actually there are about 1800 islands in the St. Lawrence River). At Frassati House, Doug Hilmer, Norm Tanck, and Jack take turns cooking. Jack's specialties include Spanish Paella, Peri Peri chicken (a Portuguese dish), Texas barbecue beef, chicken in *mole poblano a la mexicana*, and duck with black bing cherries.

Assumption Parish, Windsor

The Basilian Fathers of Assumption Parish decreased by half of our numbers this year with the appointments of Maurice Restivo to the Mission Office and Leo Walsh to Amica Retirement residence. Jim and Steve soldier on in the Family of Parishes with ministry at five different churches but coming together for community prayers, liturgies, meals and the occasional outings to Detroit Tigers, Red Wings or the Windsor Spitfires.

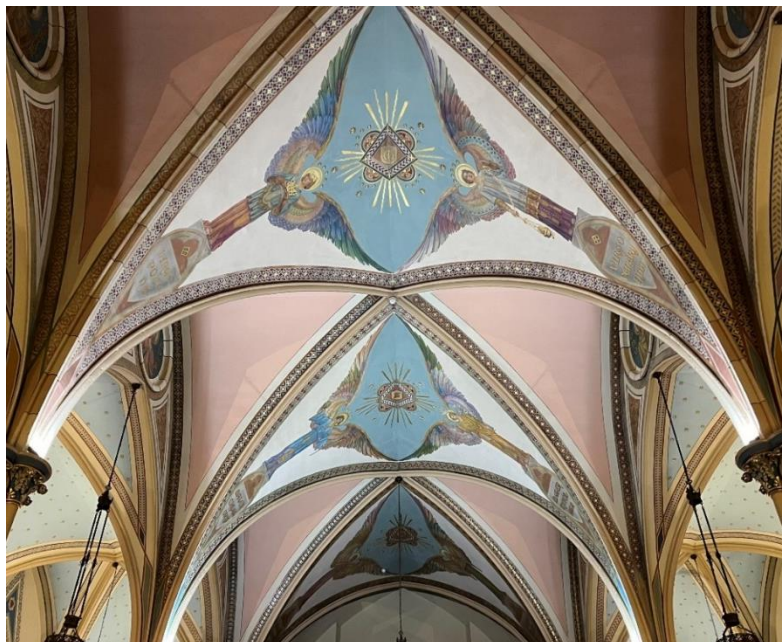


Steven Huber continues to serve as the Administrator of the Family of Parishes. Despite his busy schedule, he still is able to exercise his musical talents by singing with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Windsor Classic Chorale. Steven is grateful that he remains able to share the gift of music with others.

This year, Steven also had the great joy of celebrating his brother Gregory's wedding. It was a joyous occasion, and Steven hopes that Gregory and his wife Jennifer will have a blessed and fruitful Marriage. **(Photo at left)**

Restoration work continues on the historic Assumption Church building. Both the east and west aisles have been completed, and this year saw work commence on the centre aisle. For the first phase of the work, the organ needed to be disassembled in order to erect the scaffolding. We are hopeful that the organ will be reassembled and updated in the new year.

We have also learned the identity of the artist who is responsible for decorating the church. Guido Nincheri was an Italian born artist, who upon immigrating to Canada, was responsible for decorating approximately 200 Churches in Canada and the United States. We look forward to learning more about the history of this artwork as further studies are undertaken and the renovations continue. **(Photo at right)**



Jim O'Neill (*photo below.*) continues to help at the Family of parishes with Sacramental ministry and outreach to the poor. He visits the community dinner for the needy and supports the volunteers in the Forgotten Harvest food distribution each week. In his retirement he also walks the dog and takes care of house incidentals like shopping and cooking. We host a supper each week for the priests of the Family of Parishes as well as some retired priests. It creates a community of priests as our numbers decrease.

Jim also serves as the Rector for the house and is a member of the Assumption University Board of Governors. Jim very generously helps out as a contact person for the Basilian confreres at Amica Retirement residence in Windsor. His presence and his ministry there is much appreciated by the Basilians at Amica as well as the members of the General Council in Toronto.



Assumption parish was served by the Jesuits in its early days. In 1870 Father Denis O'Connor and other Basilians arrived to serve at the parish and at Assumption College which had been founded in 1857 by the Jesuits. 2017 marked the 250th anniversary of the parish. In 2019 restoration of the historic church was begun.

Basilian Novitiate

Edmonton Alberta (July 2022 – July 2023)

During 2023, the Basilian Novitiate for Canada/US consisted of **Dave Bittner**, Director; **Warren Schmidt**, Assistant Director; and **Bishoy Dawood**, Novice. The novitiate was housed in St. Alphonsus Church rectory as was the novitiate before this one.



The Novitiate programme involved daily Mass, as well as daily Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, and Evening Prayer. Morning Conferences took place each weekday. These conferences focused on religious life, the vows, community life, Scripture, the person of Jesus, discipleship, and Basilian history. Our resources for these conferences included Basilian documents, Vatican II and post-conciliar documents, and other books on religious life and spirituality recommended by previous novices and by Norm Tanck, CSB, Director of Associates. From January until April, Dave led the Monday through Thursday morning conferences, while Warren led the Friday afternoon conferences on Basilian history, priesthood, and our Basilian Motto. After Easter the schedule was adjusted, moving Warren's conferences to Tuesday mornings.

Bishoy continued to be involved in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola at the Providence Renewal Centre. This programme made use of Kevin O'Brien's book *The Ignatian Adventure*, and consisted of monthly group meetings (via Zoom) and bi-weekly individual meetings with a spiritual director (also via Zoom). Bishoy's Ministry during the Novitiate primarily centred on serving at weekday and Sunday liturgies at the two parishes. In addition, Bishoy led the Friday Stations of the Cross at St. Clare and St. Alphonsus. Our local community in Edmonton celebrated a Community Mass every Tuesday at 7:15 AM, led by that week's leader of prayer. During the weeks that Bishoy was the leader of

prayer, Dave served as celebrant and Bishoy gave the reflection. His reflections were uniformly excellent, and gave us all a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Coptic spirituality.

The Novitiate pre-profession retreat took place at Providence Renewal Centre June 23-27. Warren Schmidt preached the retreat. His conferences centered on the Vows, Community Life, Ministry, and our Basilian Charism and Motto, *Teach me Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge*.



All three members of the Novitiate community flew to Toronto on July 6 in preparation for Bishoy's First Profession on July 8 at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre. Dave preached at the Profession Mass, and the Superior General, Kevin Storey CSB received the vows. Jack Hanna played the Casavant organ; Bishoy's profession was the final time the instrument, installed in 1951, was played for a liturgy. The liturgy was followed by a delicious luncheon in the refectory.

The following day, Bishoy, Warren, and Dave went to Presentation Manor for Mass and lunch. After this, we toured Presentation Manor and met with each Basilian resident in his room. It was a very moving experience for each of us.



St. Basil's Church

Toronto (Served by Basilians since 1856)

Though COVID was still present as indicated by a few folks still wearing masks, its effect on church attendance has decreased. The congregations are larger this year, especially during the Christmas liturgies, though we have not returned to pre-COVID numbers.

Father Dan Donovan continued to celebrate the weekday 7:30 AM Mass, while the 11:30 AM confessions and 12:10 PM weekday Masses were regularly celebrated by Morgan Rice (Pastor), Norm Tanck (Associate Pastor), Jim Farge, Joe Pilsner, and Jesuits Gordon Rixon and Adam Lalonde. Our weekend Mass schedule continued with Masses at 5 PM Saturday and 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 PM, and 4:30 PM Sunday. The USMC Campus Ministry continued with a 6:30 PM Saturday Mass geared towards students and celebrated by various priests associated with USMC.

Our outreach meal programs were coordinated by Hilda O'Connor, who was hired in July. They operated year-round with the help of dedicated volunteers who prepared and served lunch indoors on Mondays and Tuesdays. A take-away bagged option was also available. A snack service on Thursdays sponsored by students was added during the fall semester. Our parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was as busy as ever assisting neighbours in need by providing food vouchers.

Last year's parish synodal sessions helped the parish staff identify three priorities to foster: (1) community and belonging, (2) lay leadership and empowerment of parishioners, and (3) attentiveness to God and the needs of the community. We offered three events in the summer to foster community and belonging. In addition, we held a Ministry Fair at the end of September to engage parishioners by inviting them to learn about and volunteer in different ministries. We strive to be a listening parish in the spirit of synodality.

The parish music program under the direction of John Paul Farahat continues to be strong with the 8-person Schola Cantorum singing at the Saturday evening Mass and the Parish Choir at the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass. We began a new initiative of Musician-in-Residence, currently served by Lindsay McIntyre, to offer concerts throughout the year and voice lessons for the parish choir. The USMC Schola Cantorum under the direction of Christina Labriola continues to offer seasonal concerts at St. Basil's.

Sacramental preparation for First Communion and youth Confirmation occurred at the start of 2023 with reception of the sacraments in the spring. Our RCIA program brought around 20 people into the Church at the Easter Vigil. We have about the same number in the current program, which started in October. We were able to resume the Catechesis of Good Shepherd program for children ages 3-6. All of this would not be possible without the support of a wonderful staff and dedicated volunteers!



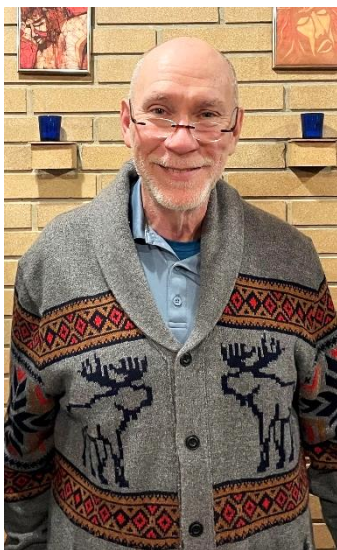
The Basilian Fathers of Edmonton AB

St. Alphonsus and St. Clare Parish Communities

St. Joseph's College

The Basilian Fathers of Edmonton reside in the rectory of St. Alphonsus Church in a low-income neighborhood of Edmonton. The house began the year with five members but is now down to three; our former novice, Bishoy Dawood, is now a scholastic in Houston, and David Bittner was reassigned at the end of October, also to Houston. The local community gathers at 7:15 AM Monday to Friday for morning prayer, with communal mass on Tuesday mornings. We have a communal meal on Tuesdays and Saturdays, which is usually made by one of us, although take-out is occasionally on the menu.

During 2023, Dave Bittner continued to celebrate one of the Saturday Masses and one of the Sunday Masses each week, usually alternating weeks between the two parishes. In addition, he celebrated most of the weekday Masses (two days a week at St. Alphonsus, two days a week at St. Clare). He recorded, edited, and posted the Sunday Mass each week on the St. Alphonsus YouTube Channel and the two parish Facebook pages. Because of his upcoming move to Houston, Sunday, July 13 marked the final recorded Mass. In addition, he continued to serve as Director of Novices for Canada/USA, ably assisted by Warren Schmidt.



Dave attended the Andrean High School Class of 1973 50th Reunion on June 30-July 1. He was in Toronto from July 6-10 for Bishoy Dawood's First Vows. In July he was able to visit his family in Maryland and Florida.

Ongoing and new medical conditions continued to affect Dave's life and ministry. His mobility continued to deteriorate, which led to a number of falls. As he put it, "Stairs have become my enemy." Glenn McDonald designed and built four ramps (three for St. Alphonsus and one for St. Clare) which greatly improved Dave's safety during Mass. In addition, he has had to undergo further outpatient medical procedures for his various cancers. The prayers and support of the Edmonton confrères and the parishioners at St. Alphonsus and St. Clare have been powerful helps.

Ministering in two parishes meant that there would be two farewell celebrations. The Farewell Mass at St. Clare took place on Sunday, October 15 and was followed by a delicious pancake breakfast. The Farewell Mass at St. Alphonsus took place on Sunday, October 22 and was followed by a wonderful luncheon. Dave left Edmonton on October 29.

Glenn McDonald is pastor of St. Alphonsus and St. Clare parishes. He also serves as a Division Chaplain for Edmonton Catholic Schools. His work with ECSD involves school masses, online liturgies, fostering reconciliation between the Church and First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and staff, overseeing LGBTQ+ student groups, and other sensitive pastoral situations.

For board involvement, Glenn is serving his second term with L'Arche Edmonton. Glenn also serves on the Board of St. Michael's College School and the Basilian Finance Committee.



Glenn would like to take this opportunity to thank the Basilian Community and the Lay Associates for their prayers and support. Being the pastor of an inner city parish has taught him the importance of grace and mercy in lives of the poor and vulnerable.

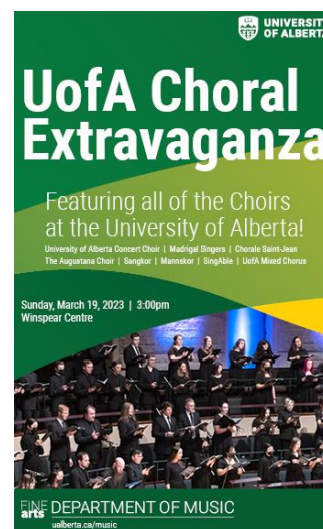
Warren Schmidt, CSB, completed his first year as Basilian Academic-Assistant Professor of theology at St. Joseph's College in September. From January to April 2023, he taught two courses at SJC: CHRTC 101 (Catholicism: An

Introduction) and CHRTC 250 (The Theological Education of the Catholic Teacher). In Spring 2023 (May-June) he taught an online section of CHRTC 101. In Fall 2023, he taught another in-person section of CHRTC 101.

Warren is nearing completion of an article based on his doctoral dissertation, defended in 2022, for publication. The article is entitled, « L'évolution de la tension entre pouvoir et charisme dans le sacrement de l'ordination presbytérale depuis Vatican II : une étude de la tension actuelle entre langages sacramentels et visions ecclésiologiques sous-jacentes » ("Developments in the tension between power and charism in the ritual of the presbyteral degree of the sacrament of orders since Vatican II: A Study of Current Tension between Sacramental 'Languages' and their Underlying Ecclesiological Visions"). Warren also presented a paper at St. Mark's College's conference "Pope Francis and the Future of the Church: Prospects and Challenges for Renewal," in May. His paper was entitled "Pope Francis and an Appreciation of Baptismal Charisms in the Context of Post-Vatican II Ecclesiology of Ministry."

In addition to academic endeavours, Warren served for a second year as assistant novice master to David Bittner, CSB, culminating in Bishoy Dawood CSB's first profession of vows, which Warren attended at the Cardinal Flahiff Centre in Toronto in July. Warren preached the retreat in final preparation for Bishoy's profession, on the Basilian motto (Goodness, Discipline, Knowledge) and our vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

Warren has continued to sing with the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus this year. He also enjoys cooking and walking in the nature reserves and parks in and around Edmonton, and cross-country skiing when snow conditions permit. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors of St. Michael's College School and to lead a group of friends and family in Evening Prayer daily on Zoom.



Jim Stenberg continues to be the rector of the local community (Warren is first councilor), and serves at St. Joseph's College as the main chaplain, meeting every two weeks with the College President. Attendance at the masses continues to grow as the impact of COVID gradually fades.

On April 27, 2023, Jim's cousin Douglas Atkinson died by suicide at the age of 32. This was a terrible shock to the family, and it didn't help that it was only a few weeks before Mother's Day. One of the quirks of Jim's presiding style is that he no longer even alludes to Mother's Day or Father's Day on the relevant Sundays. He believes that for those suffering from trauma, it is just salt in the wound; for the rest, it is superfluous to their existing blessings.

Jim continues to teach PHIL 209 (The Human Person: Philosophical Issues) in the Winter term. This year he engaged a TA to grade his essays for him, which greatly increased the ratio of fun to tedium. Unfortunately for him, the TA got a job in Red Deer and so in the coming semester Jim will have to deal with essays on his own.

Jim visits his mom every few months. She lives about two hours away, near Stettler, with her granddaughter and cats. The cats are of a rather indeterminate number; Mom says there are ten indoor cats (up from nine) and two outdoor (basically feral) cats. Everyone is fine, except that mom is on the waiting list for a knee replacement. Jim's dental work – consisting of two dental implants – that has been faithfully recounted in these pages over the last few years, has finally come to a successful end. *Deo gratias.*



St Alphonsus Church



St. Clare Church



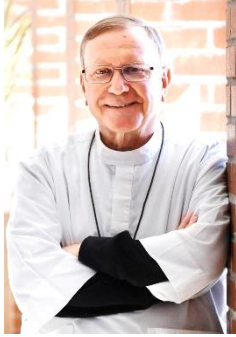
The Basilians at Presentation Manor Scarborough ON

John Reddy continues as superior of the community, with John Malo as first councillor and Tom Rosica as second councillor. Current (December 2023) members of our community are: Denis April, Leo Burns, Robert Barringer, Daniel Callam, James Carruthers, Michael Fallona, Donald Finlay, John Gallagher, Neil Hibberd, Robert Holmes, Brian Inglis, Wilfrid Janisse, Gordon Kennedy, Kevin Kirley, John Malo, Donald McLeod, John Reddy, Leo Reilly, Thomas Rosica, Joseph Walsh and Clarence Watrin. Associated with the house are Ian Boyd and Edward Johnson. Deaths in 2023: William Irwin and James McConica.



We serve the residence by presiding and preaching, administering the sacraments and through a ministry of presence. Together with other religious and many lay people, the Basilians have helped to make Presentation Manor a welcoming place. Confrères gather in the community room at 4:15 PM for evening prayer, followed by an informal gathering before dinner. Pre-prandials are provided for those in assisted living on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

The year started off on 2 January with Neil Hibberd's having been taken to the emergency room at Saint Michael's Hospital with bleeding on the brain; he was admitted to the intensive care unit. On his return to the Manor, he was placed in the assisted living wing, where he remains. A few days later Kevin Kirley fell and broke his hip. After surgery and a slow recovery, he recovered fully, D.G. There have been so many visits to emergency that we are almost on a first-name basis with the first responders. On 4 February, with a wind chill of -30 C, a pipe burst, resulting in a temporary loss of heat for some of the confreres. Later that month, Tom Rosica arranged for a party of residents to attend Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Tom has also delivered series of talks in the chapel: see his entry below. On 16 June, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, we celebrated a memorial Mass for the confreres who have died here during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Father Kevin Storey presided, and Father John Reddy preached. Some relatives of the deceased joined us for the Mass. Those remembered were: Father Alphonse Anthony Maria de Valk [died April 16, 2020]; Father Raymond Arthur Jackson [died July 23, 2020]; Father Thomas Joseph McReavy [died October 4, 2020]; Father Martin Janez Dimnik [died November 15, 2020] and Father Gerald Francis Dillon [died December 3, 2020]. A highlight of the year was the visit of Toronto's new Archbishop, Francis Leo, to celebrate Mass for the residents on 15 April. The Archbishop—who had been invited by Tom Rosica, a personal friend—stayed for lunch. His gracious manner won the admiration of all.



Last year in this space **Bob Barringer** expressed his hope that he might have “cleared the decks” by the end of 2023 so as to make progress in the tasks he had accepted as literary executor to two persons (one a Basilian). Alas, he is still swabbing those decks and is hoping that 2023 will at least see the end of his current work on the editing and translating of a book written by one of his Eastern Orthodox theology professors when he had spent a year in Romania (1970/71). 2023 also marked the sixtieth anniversary of their religious profession for himself and fellow Presentation Manor resident Michael Fallona: the only two survivors remaining from the Erindale novitiate class of 1962/63.

Leo Burns is currently playing BINGO and euchre while locked up in an old-folks’ home. As a member of the army reserve, he laid a wreath in the chapel on Remembrance Day, 11 November. This year he celebrated the seventieth anniversary of his first vows.



Dan Callam celebrates Mass at Holy Rosary Church regularly on Mondays and occasionally on other weekdays and weekends. From time to time, he also celebrates for the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. He is a board member of the Society for Catholic Life and Culture, the Chesterton Institute, and *Catholic Insight*—now an e-magazine—and a regular contributor to its web page. He made a presentation to the seniors’ club of Holy Rosary Church on Krzysztof Kieslowski’s film *Dekalog VIII: “Thou shalt not bear false witness.”*



Jim Carruthers: This has been an eventful year as the Manor slowly develops into a new form of community, a model perhaps for the future. With Leo Burns and Leo Reilly, I celebrated seventy years of profession and with Ian Boyd, sixty years of ordination. In October I and my two nephews, David and Jason Howie, celebrated both at David’s home in London, Ontario. Because of COVID-19 we hadn’t been together for over four years. I am dealing with the difficulties of old age in my back, prostate and all the rest. I have attended a few *LIVE from the MET* opera broadcasts, a miracle of satellite technology. Also, I find both the writing of Timothy Radcliffe OP and the series on civilization of Thomas Cahill enriching and beautifully written.

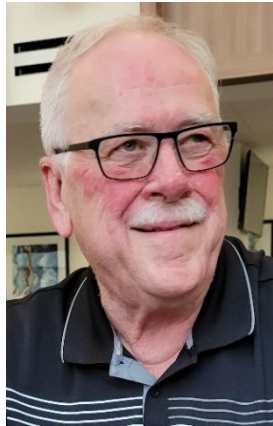
Bob Holmes: Two years after having been hospitalized with meningitis, I have made progress in overcoming its effects. Although still requiring a feeding tube I have gained thirty pounds and have much of my old stamina back. My balance has improved, and with trekking poles I can walk for two hours without difficulty. As a result, I have been able to re-start many aspects of normality, especially in the ministry of Peace and Justice: a plethora of ZOOM meetings and local activities. I am happy to be living at Presentation Manor with the Basilian community.



Brian Inglis continues to preside at the community Eucharist three or four times a month. He also accompanies the singing at Mass on Sundays and other special occasions. He continues to play the piano in the dining room regularly and many people enjoy that.



John Malo continues as second councillor. While his own health has stabilized nicely, he cares for many confreres who are less fortunate.



Don McLeod continues to serve as Director of Healthy Aging and Eldercare for the community, and is currently in process of revising the mandate of the position to reflect the COVID-19 impacted world. In addition, he continues to serve as chair of the Board of Governors of Assumption University and as chair of the Trustees and Supervisory Board of the Canadian Religious Self-Insurance Retention Program, which provides reasonably priced insurance to religious congregations. Finally, in May of this year, Don and Bob Holmes were elected to the newly constituted Residents' Council of Presentation Manor. The Council represents and promotes the interests and rights of residents; its work has been both challenging and rewarding. Finally, Don is blessed to continue to be a member of a vibrant and supportive community of Basilians and other seniors.

John Reddy: 18 November marked the fifth anniversary of the Basilians at Presentation Manor.

In June, John preached the annual retreat for the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Peterborough, Ontario. In September he preached the retreat for the Windsor area Basilian Lay Associates, and in November he led a reflection day at the Jesuit Retreat Centre in Pickering. He assists at the local parish, Our Lady of Fatima, and seems to be the go-to priest for funerals in the Toronto Irish community. He can attest that life at Presentation Manor is not dull. John serves on the board of the Gibbons-Daley Foundation.



Tom Rosica serves as second councillor of our local community at Presentation Manor. He is also co-director of Ongoing Formation for our congregation along with Morgan Rice. Over the past two years, Tom has assisted the General Council in helping to find employment opportunities for confreres in Mexico and Colombia. He travelled to both countries and a positive opportunity emerged in Mexico that will allow young Basilians to be involved in an educational institution in Texcoco, near Mexico City.

Tom continues to offer conferences to the Presentation Manor community throughout the year on Scripture and ecclesial themes. He serves on the Board of Directors of Presentation Manor and is involved with the fund-raising committee of the Board. He established the "Fund for Continuing Education of Seniors," which has benefited the whole community at Presentation Manor. In addition to being a celebrant for daily Masses at Presentation Manor, Tom also assists every weekend in various parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto.



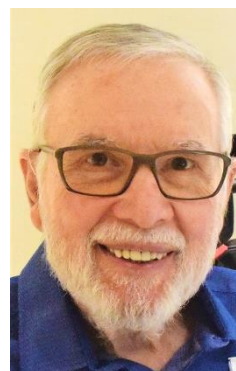
Tom arranged for the visit of Toronto Archbishop Francis Leo to Presentation Manor on April 15; Archbishop celebrated the Eucharist, stayed for lunch, and visited with the residents. It was an uplifting pastoral visit that was appreciated by everyone.

Tom preached the Lenten retreat last year for the Basilian community at Dillon House in Houston and has given Scripture conferences throughout the year to the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Toronto, the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, the Sisters of Saint Mary of Leuca, and the Carmelite Sisters in Toronto. Over the past year, he preached the Resurrectionist Fathers and Brothers in Kitchener; the priests and bishops of the diocese of Oakland, California; the Sisters of Saint Martha and the Congregation of Notre Dame; and the Sisters of the Precious Blood in London. Tom is on the retreat team at the Manresa Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Pickering.

He has led parish missions at Saint Clare of Assisi (Woodbridge); Saint Peter's Parish (Toronto); Saint Mary's Parish (Campbellford); Christ the King Cathedral Basilica Parish (Hamilton); Saint Andrew's Parish (Oakville); Saint Benedict's Parish (Etobicoke) and Saint Michael's University Parish (Waterloo). Tom led the study days on synodality for the priests and bishops of the diocese of Hamilton; the study day for clergy and lay leaders of the Archdiocese of Montreal and the retreat for young people and pastoral ministers of youth who attended World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. He has also taught two courses on ecumenism and interreligious dialogue in the Petrine ministry of Pope Francis and introduction to the Old Testament to the young sisters in the formation program of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood.

Joe Walsh at eighty-seven has certainly entered the last decade of his life.

"There are only three Basilians here at Presentation Manor under eighty, so I'm in good company. Leo Burns, Dan Callam, Bob Holmes and myself (without Jim Gaunt in Texas) celebrated the fifty ninth anniversary of our ordination at the House Eucharist on 13 December. A few Basilians have recently needed canes, walkers, or wheelchairs. Fortunately, I do not yet need these helps to mobility."



Clarence Watrin: "I say an early morning Mass daily for a variety of intentions, such as vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Through the grace of Christ Jesus, I offer my prayers, works and sufferings in union with him and for his intentions. I bring Holy Communion to confrères confined to their rooms. Also, I use my computer and my telephone to encourage the faith and Christian love of nearly two hundred people.

Most of the photographs in this article on Presentation Manor are courtesy of Ilya Kovalevskiy, the Coordinator of Communications for the Basilian Fathers. Thank you very much.

The Basilian Fathers at St. Michael's College School

Toronto ON

This past year of grace, 2023, has progressed blessedly for the Basilian Fathers of St. Michael's College School. Andrew continues his ministry for the St. Michael's College School community in the role of President, Bill has returned from his sabbatical and is now exploring what it means to be "present" in his new role as high school chaplain.



High points of our lives here continue to be the dinner table discussions regarding the challenges and joys in our respective ministries. The students and their parents or guardians, the faculty, staff, and administration provide ample fodder for table topics, laughter, and prayer.

Bill enjoyed being back at the Grade 7 & 10 outdoor education camps, Andrew enjoyed his time with the Grade 9s.

Many weeks worth of discussion were involved with the planning and celebration of the Advent Mass with His Grace, Archbishop Leo. That was truly a time of joy for us, and we think for the archbishop as well. The school was certainly welcoming and appreciative of his time with us.



We continue to keep the archbishop, the Archdiocese of Toronto, all in ministries of leadership, and the entire Church in our prayers. We also continue praying for the Basilian Fathers, in thanksgiving for our lives and ministries, and (we haven't given up!) for peace in the world.

Dillon House Houston Texas

We have very much to be grateful to God for. Ron Schwenzer has been our Superior since November 2021 and now he is handing the reins to Richard Wahl. Ron regularly bakes cookies and cooks delicious Holiday dinners on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other times. He has dealt with numerous other affairs to keep Dillon House in good financial and physical working order.

Richard Wahl retired at the end of December from 20+ years of ministry as a Canon Lawyer in the Archdiocesan Tribunal. He assumes the Superior's role at Dillon House as 2024 begins. In June Jamie Abercrombie celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Vince Dulock joined us when the Mission Center in Sugar Land moved its operation to Keon House and Maurice Restivo became the Mission Director. The death of his two brothers relatively close together in 2022, has had an profound impact on Paul O'Connor this year, and so he is even closer to his younger sister and brother and regularly keeps in contact with them.



All of us have some serious health problems but a few are able to do some ministry: Ron Schwenzer helps out at St. Anne's three days a week with daily Mass, Sunday Masses, and hearing confessions. Richard Wahl has regular weekly assignments for the Incarnate Word Sisters' convent as well as frequently celebrates a weekday Mass in a parish and Saturday and Sunday Masses somewhere. Bob Glass hears confessions monthly for residents at Shalom Center. Vince Dulock fills in for confessions and weekday Mass at the Chapel of St. Basil. Bishop Ramírez has a variety of liturgical duties: funerals, Quinceaneras, weddings, Anointing of the Sick, as well as driving his brother from his bi-weekly dialysis treatments. Carl Belisch celebrates weekend Masses for the retired Dominican Sisters and the residents of St. Dominic's Nursing Home. Father Tom Rosica preached a retreat for us at the beginning of Lent and will direct our house retreat in January 2024.

In January the City of Houston began the lengthy process of replacing the water retention pipes which run under the street for six blocks in front of Dillon House and then repaving in concrete the street, curbs, sidewalks, and driveway entrances to residences. The block we live on will be completed, hopefully, by the end of the year. When they were working directly in front of Dillon House, we had to park at different times on the side street for several days.

We are grateful to the Basilian Lay Associates in the Houston area for their prayers and kindness during the year. They provide us with an evening meal on the first Sunday of each month as well as providing delicious food for parties throughout the year. At different times during the year, they bring us gifts.

We are most grateful for the lay staff who serve us: Adam Mayfield, our Circle of Care Coordinator continues to be a true blessing to all of us. He regularly visits our confrères who live outside the house in assisted living residences; brings their mail; buys things for them that they need; drives any of us who no longer drive, but need to go for a doctor's appointment, to a store, etc.; helps some to organize their medications and takes the blood pressure of others. No matter what, he is always cheerful. We have two housekeepers who have served us faithfully since the new Dillon House was built in 2011. We have two wonderful cooks six days a week, a marvelous maintenance man, Andrés, who has served us for over 10 years, repairing and replacing things inside and out as needed. He also cuts our hair and the other Basilians at St. Dominic's Village and generously fills in wherever he is needed and can be helpful.

We have very much to thank God for in 2023!



RICHARD WAHL, back row, just to the left of center, in red vestments. He gathered with family and friends in the chapel of St. John Fisher University in Rochester to celebrate his 50th anniversary of priestly ministry. He begins his term as Superior of Dillon House in January 2024.

St. Anne Parish Houston, TX

During this past year, Saint Anne's Catholic Community saw some significant changes regarding the Basilian priests on our staff. At the end of June, we bid farewell to Father Eduardo Rivera as he began his appointment to Keon House.

The parish gave him a going away party complete with a Mariachi band. All the members of our parish miss him deeply. In July, Father Paul English began his speaking communities. At the end of October, Father David Bittner began his appointment here at Saint Anne's and is a great help with confessions and Masses.



In June the parish hosted a reception for Father David Zapalac celebrating his 30th anniversary of priestly ordination, also with a dinner and Mariachis. On September 7th, David's older brother, Albert John Zapalac, passed away suddenly. David was deeply touched by all the prayers and outpouring of support shown to him by both the Basilian Fathers and the Saint Anne Community. In October, to celebrate David's 60th birthday, the parish threw a Star Wars themed party for David this time with Jawas and Mariachis.

We still continue to livestream our Sunday 11:00 AM English and 12:45 PM Spanish Masses each week in order to reach out to our sick and elderly parishioners who are unable to attend Mass. This past year we held many community gatherings such as a bingo night, and a Vintage Values resale weekend, along with a crawfish boil in Lent and an artisans' market in the fall, and the CCE students sold tickets for our fall raffle. In April, our school hosted our annual fiesta drawing many participants from both our school and church community. All these events were great successes for our parish.

Mass attendance continues to grow. Our RCIA Class this year continues to be one of the largest we have had in a very long time. We continue to celebrate baptisms each month. We have confessions each Saturday afternoon or by appointment. We still offer the anointing of the sick by appointment only. We have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every first Saturday of the month. We have daily Mass Monday-Friday at 7:00 AM as well as noon Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Weekend Masses are on Saturday at 5:15 PM and Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM in English and 12:45 PM. in Spanish. Meetings for our many different parish organizations are held in person throughout the week and on Sundays. Finding a meeting space for all of them can sometimes be a challenge.

As pastor, David Zapalac continues to serve in both the English and Spanish speaking ministries and is extremely grateful for the local confrères who help out in so many ways, along with the local Basilian lay associates who are always ready and willing to lend a helping hand. We are currently gearing up to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2025. The Saint Anne Guild is now in the process of interviewing many

long standing members of our community to share their history with our parish. May God Bless our parish with another 100 years of faith and joy.

Paul English moved to St. Anne's from Keon House in July and began his ministry at the parish right away. He stated that he was very happy to be back at St. Anne's, which has always felt like home to him. He was able to spend time with his family in Syracuse and to visit his friends in Rochester in August before the fall parish and school activities began. He has done his share of weddings, funerals and masses and serves as spiritual director for two people. Paul serves on the boards of the Aquinas Institute in Rochester, NY and St. Thomas High School in Houston.

He enjoys his 10,000 steps most days, reading and listening to music as well as golfing on a weekly basis. He is a member of the Basilian Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC) and the Latin American Apostolate Committee. Paul is also a General Councilor. In July he presided at the funeral of Fr. Roy Oggero, CSB and in October for the funeral of John Boscoe, CSB. The Council meets nearly every Wednesday morning via Zoom, and they gather in Toronto about every two months for extended meetings.

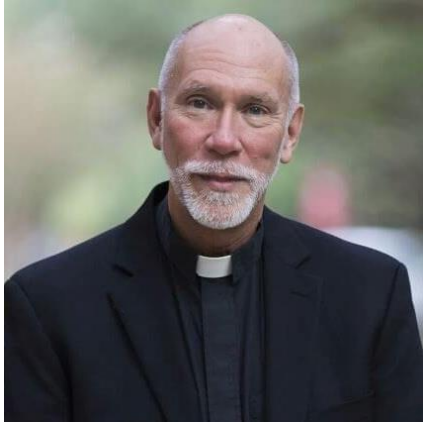
Paul shares the Formation portfolio on the Council and in November attended the Religious Formation Conference annual Congress, held this year in Chicago. He is also a member of the ForMission team which certifies formators through the Religious Formation Conference. He was called upon in early December to preach an Advent-themed Day of Prayer for Religious and Consecrated women of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

In August, Paul had a minor health scare; his PSA was higher than it should be, necessitating testing. Fortunately, after all the testing, there was no indication of cancer. Deo gratias!

This past summer, Basilian Scholastics from the USA, Canada, Mexico, and Colombia gathered in Mexico for the Annual Scholastic Gathering.



In the photo at the left are John Huber (General Councilor), Anderson Úsuga (Scholastic, Colombia), Jesús Rodríguez (Scholastic, Mexico), David Basil (Scholastic, USA), Paul English (General Councilor), and Alejandro García (Scholastic, Mexico).



Dave Bittner arrived here in Houston on October 30, and had to hit the ground running. Halloween morning, he helped distributing Halloween candy to the children in the younger grades of the parish school. November involved becoming accustomed to the Mass and confession schedules, and getting to know the liturgical ministers, the parish staff, and the staff at St. Anne's School.

There have also been special holiday celebrations — American Thanksgiving on November 23, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States) on December 8, and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Dave found this to be a wonderful but VERY long day, beginning with *"Las Mañanitas"* at 5:00 AM, continuing with the regular 7:00

AM Mass (in English), and concluding with Spanish Mass at 6:30 PM. Dave celebrated the 9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass, which was livestreamed. The day concluded with a Zoom meeting with his siblings in Maryland and Florida during which they opened their gifts and reminisced about past Christmases with family and friends.



St. Joseph Mission Center

Located in Keon House, Houston TX

Father Maurice Restivo is the Director of the Mission Center; he began his ministry in the Summer of 2023. Maurice also serves as treasurer of Keon House. Father Vince Dulock, the former Director of the Mission Center has had some health issues recently and is currently residing at Dillon House in Houston. Father Terry Kersch is based at the Mission Center and also serves as Director of Studies for Scholastics. His ministry includes Mission Preaching as well as the important work of visiting the scholastics studying in Mexico and in Colombia to monitor their academic progress.



The Director of Operations at the Mission Center is Aron Fernández, who has worked at the Mission Center since 2016. Aron oversees the day-to-day operations of the Mission Center, is responsible for the physical plant, schedules all the mission preaching assignments for Basilians, does all the banking, records donations, makes travel arrangements for Mission Preaching, and manages the accounting with the part-time assistance of María Hernández.

Thanks to the Basilians who preached on behalf of the Missions in 2023: Paul Walsh, Terence Kersch, Maurice Restivo, Robert Barringer, Patrick Fulton, William May, John Huber, and Vince Dulock. Mission preaching remains a major source of income for the Basilian ministries in Latin America. Donations solicited with the twice-yearly mailing of the *Basilian Mission Newsletter* and a Christmas Card are also significant sources of income.

The Mission Center supports Basilian ministries in Colombia and Mexico. These include many services for people and families who are economically deprived such as health clinics, education, and activities for young children after school hours, workshops to empower women to find employment and ways of supporting themselves, dental clinics, mental health clinics, literacy, food for the children and elderly, and other social ministries. Of course, announcing the Good News of the Gospel and celebrating the Sacraments are an essential part of the Basilians ministry in Latin America. *(At right, Padre Javier Higuera ministers the Eucharist in Bogotá, Colombia.)*



The buildings of the old Mission Center in Sugarland were aging and needing significant repair. The Basilian General Council could provide space in Keon House near the University of St. Thomas and so the decision was made to move the operations of the Mission Center from Sugar Land to Houston. *(A photo of one of the new offices is at the left).*

The Basilian Fathers of Novi

The Basilian Fathers of Novi, though much smaller than ever in the year 2023 (we can now fit at only one dinner table), still has a vibrant life both ministerially and communally. We have been blessed in so many ways with people who care about us and who invite us into their lives.



For the 2022-23 school year, we were joined by scholastic **David Basil** who came to us to gain some different pastoral experience than a parish and to experience the high school apostolate. He quickly bonded with the students with his love for soccer and his passion for Real Madrid FC, though he did not grow so close with Frank, the school dog. While here he was made an acolyte at a school Mass, a rite heretofore unseen by the students, and began to teach classes. The house enjoyed his weekend popcorn popping. *(David distributes the Eucharist in the photo at right.)*

Patrick Fulton continues to minister as Principal of Detroit Catholic High School. The school year has been challenged by the pervasive cultural climate in the United States which creates a challenging environment for the socio-emotional development of a post-Covid student body. That being said, it is warming to see Catholic Central flourishing while much of Catholic education flounders for viability in this day and age. He also serves as Superior. A triumph for the corporate body of the house was the integration of our two adjoining properties with the City of Novi, thereby making one parcel of property that is tax free.

Known amongst the parent community as “Father Everywhere,” **Dennis Kauffman** is indefatigable in his ministry of presence. He serves in a litany of positions: Director of School Improvement, Dad’s Club Moderator, Sports Chaplain, Moderator of the Senior Class. He assists with Student Activities as well as being a regular presider with Sunday Masses at a local feeder parish, Our Lady of Victory. He is tireless in attending sporting events and is a reliable cheerleader for the Shamrocks. In his spare time, he enjoys planting and tending the flowers on the patio of the residence and rails against our resident herd of deer when they make a salad buffet of his efforts.

Rob Moslosky enjoys what can only be described as “semi-retirement” as he is kept busy ministering to the corporal (and sometimes mundane) needs of the community as the house Treasurer. Whether it be changing light bulbs, fixing the ever-essential internet, paying bills, purchasing paper goods or waiting for servicemen, Rob is a wise and prudent steward. He also keeps us entertained with his collection of socks and regales us with anecdotes about his grand niece and nephew as any proud grand-uncle should. He serves as our fact-checker at community meals whenever there is a question about popular culture or esoteric references. Rob also helps out hearing confessions on School Confession days.



John Wheeler, Dennis Noelke, Rob Moslosky, Patrick Fulton, Dennis Kauffman

The “Principal Emeritus” **Dennis Noelke** continues to be a great source of ideas, ministry and support both at home and at the school. As Chaplain at the school he assists with class retreat masses and confessions. His almost daily visits to the school are appreciated by the staff as he checks in on them and finds out the day’s news. Though frustrated by his mobility challenges and burdens as a results of his “essential tremor,” (what is “essential” about it he still has yet to find out!) he always is in good cheer and guaranteed to lift the spirits of those whom he encounters. Dennis serves as First Councilor.

It has been said that “a rolling stone gathers no moss.” This could be said of the *l’ancien* of the house, **John Wheeler**, whose schedule is kept in his little black calendar; it is hard to keep track of his whereabouts and what he is doing. Even at his advanced age, he exhibits a prodigious capacity for sacramental work which would make a newly ordained priest blanch for its demands. In spite of all this he manages to keep a stimulating social schedule, visiting friends, family and volunteering with the Detroit Symphony and Opera House as a long time usher. He keeps supper conversation interesting with updates on the latest show he’s seen and reminisces about an older time in Basilian history. John also serves the house as Second Councilor. He writes, “Family and friends are my greatest source of joy. And I am grateful to the confrères of the local house for putting up with me all these years.”

Basilian Scholasticate

Houston TX

At the beginning of 2023, Eduardo Rivera and Dan Ryan were living at St. Anne's parish in Houston, TX. Dan was taking philosophy courses during the Spring 2023 semester at the University of St. Thomas. Eduardo was concluding his time as parochial vicar at St. Anne. While Dan and Eduardo were in Houston, David Basil was experiencing the high school apostolate at Detroit Catholic Central. In June, the scholastics in the USA had the opportunity to gather with the Basilian scholastics from Mexico and Colombia at the Scholastic Encuentro, a retreat/conference which took place in Tlaxcala, Mexico. By August, the scholasticate in Houston was in full force with everyone moving into Keon House near the University of St. Thomas. Eduardo has moved into his new role as director of programming for campus ministry at the University of St. Thomas. He helps plan the liturgies, retreats, and campus ministry events on campus; he also celebrates Mass, hears confessions, and anoints the sick of the university community. Eduardo has enjoyed returning to his alma mater, seeing how things have changed and grown.



Basilian Scholastics Julio César Chávez, David Basil, Dan Ryan, and Anderson Úsuga join in the icebreakers at the Scholastic Encounter in Tlaxcala, Mexico



Three Basilians: Eduardo Rivera, David Basil, Bishop Dawood

Julio César Chávez lived at the scholasticate while taking English language classes near the university campus. David Basil entered his third year of theology at St. Mary's Seminary; he continued to enjoy his long runs, avocados, peanuts, and popcorn. Both Julio César and David brought the Eucharist to the elderly at St. Dominic's every week. Bishop Dawood settled into his courses at the seminary, studying the Scriptures, pastoral theology and canon law. Bishop has been helping with RCIA at St. Anne's parish since his arrival in Houston; he

teaches classes to RCIA candidates and is sponsoring a candidate who will enter the Church at Easter Vigil. Additionally, Bishoy participates in campus ministry events at the University of St. Thomas; many students know him and enjoy his company. Dan Ryan juggles his first year of theology with an avid enthusiasm for American football, both college and professional. He never misses a Michigan, Pittsburgh, or Detroit Lions game. All four scholastics assist with the liturgies at the University of St. Thomas by serving as lector, serving at the altar, and being extraordinary ministers. The scholastics said farewell to Julio César as he returned to Mexico in December. They are looking forward to more Friday conferences and movie nights in 2024.



A quiet time of prayer at the end of busy day.

Reflexión de Julio César Chávez: Como en toda experiencia, hubo desafíos. Adaptarse a una nueva cultura, lejos de la comodidad de la propia, puede ser un proceso exigente. Sin embargo, estos desafíos se convirtieron en oportunidades para crecer, aprender y entender mejor la diversidad del mundo y de la Iglesia. Las ventajas, sin embargo, fueron abundantes. Las conexiones establecidas con sacerdotes y seminaristas estadounidenses y canadienses contribuyeron a una comprensión más profunda de las distintas prácticas y enfoques pastorales propios de la Congregación.



+Ricardo Ramírez y Julio César Chávez

Al final de este año transcendental, es imperativo expresar gratitud a todas las personas involucradas en esta experiencia. Cada encuentro y desafío ha dejado una huella imborrable en el corazón y el espíritu de este escolástico basiliano.

Reflections of Julio César Chávez: As with any experience, there were challenges. Adapting to a new culture, far from the comfort of one's own, can be a demanding process. However, these challenges became opportunities to grow, learn and better understand the diversity of the world and the Church. The advantages, however, were plentiful. The connections made with American and Canadian priests and seminarians contributed to a deeper understanding of the various pastoral practices and approaches unique to the Congregation.

At the end of this momentous year, it is imperative to express gratitude to everyone involved in this experience. Each encounter and challenge has left an indelible mark in the heart and spirit of this Basilian scholastic.

Keon House

Houston TX

Members: Ted Baenziger, Mitch Dowalgo (Superior, October 2022 -), Paul English (now at St. Anne parish), John Huber (now in Toronto), Jim Murphy, Maurice Restivo (1st Councilor), Terry Kersch, Eduardo Rivera (2nd Councilor); Scholastics: David Basil, Dan Ryan, Bishoy Dawood.

In residence: Father Janusz Ihnatowicz. Guest: Father Boguslaw Migut (Fall semester).

Weekly Community Mass on Monday at 5:00 PM

Liturgy of the Hours 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM

House Meetings the first Monday of each month after supper

Basilian Gatherings and Celebrations

January 2 – St. Basil's Day Celebration at St. Anne's, Basilians and BLA's celebrate Memorial Day,

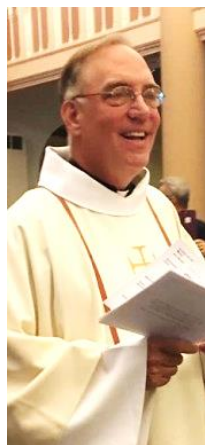
July 4 – Barbecue at Dillon House, Labor Day with Barbecue, November 21 – Presentation of Mary

This year has brought some major changes to our community at Keon House. The Basilian Missions office in Sugarland was closed and moved to our house with Maurice Restivo as the new procurator. Terry Kersch also joined us with ministry at the Mission Office and as Director of Studies for the Scholastics. In addition, the scholastics joined our community with Eduardo Rivera as Director of Scholastics. Paul English and John Huber were moved to St Anne's Parish and the Curial House respectively.

Maurice Restivo

Maurice Restivo arrived in late July as the newest member of Keon House, after a drive from Windsor with all his belongings. Along the way he preached for the Missions and visited with friends. Since then, he has been getting accustomed to his new role as Procurator for the Basilian Fathers Missions (which moved to Keon House on September 1) and reacquainting himself with his native city of Houston. He serves as First Councilor and Bursar of the local community as well as helping around the house and, when needed, in area parishes.

Paul English



In 2023, Paul continued serving as Director of Scholastics and as Chaplain at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. This included weekly Zoom meetings of the General Council and travels to Toronto every six weeks or so for in-person time together. He is a member of the Basilian Formation Committee and the Committee on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). The work at the University included spiritual direction for a number of students as well as for two religious from the Houston area, participation in student retreats, celebrating weddings and funerals. He presided at the UST Baccalaureate Mass.

General Councilors do canonical visitations of local houses, and this year saw Paul visiting Windsor and Detroit. I attended the funerals of Les Schaeffer, CSB and Tom Sepúlveda, CSB. I attended and presented on Interculturality at the Superiors' and Rectors' Workshop. I participated in both the Latin American Summit and the

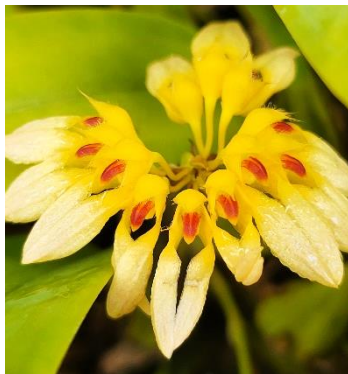
Scholastic Gathering, both held in Mexico. I continue to be a team member of the Religious Formation Conference's certification program for formators, ForMission, which meets in person for 10 days twice a

year and requires various forms of preparation in-between for those in the program. 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the election of Pope Francis and I attended a conference called “Francis at 10.”

Paul continues to serve on the boards and various board committees of St. Thomas High School in Houston and the Aquinas Institute in Rochester. He enjoys walking, golfing, reading and great music. He bade farewell to Keon House after four wonderful years, and to the University of St. Thomas; in June 2023 he moved to St. Anne’s Parish, also in Houston.

Ted Baenziger

2023 was a year of firsts for the French-speaking parish St-Basile. Newly ordained bishop Italo Dell’Oro officiated at the Confirmation of 14 youngsters in May; Father Patrick Eugène, a Spiritan priest from Haiti and a graduate of UST, stayed at Keon House and shared his efforts to educate 200 kids amidst the chaos and despair in his country. Maurice Restivo preached Christmas Eve French Mass. For the first time in our 40-year history, this was a hopeful sign that the Basilians can continue to serve in this vital ministry. We have a new “équipe”, president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary plus a great web page at ustchapelle.org. *(In the photo at the right, members of the French Catholic Community at UST celebrate Bastille Day.)*



On the orchid front, Ted has stepped down from local leadership in the American Orchid Society; he continues to be AOS judge. In the photo at the left is an orchid, a species of *Bulbophyllum*, which received a recent award given in a competition in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Jim Murphy

Jim is very busy since he serves as President of St. Thomas High School in Houston. He is also involved with BNENE (Basilian Network of Education and New Evangelization) working with St. Michael’s College School and Catholic Central to ensure continuity of mission when no Basilians are serving at the schools. Jim writes: “2023 was a busy year at St. Thomas High School. As the last Basilian standing (barely), Jim Murphy is president and de facto pastor. Along with running the school, Jim performs many weddings and funerals for the STH community. A major highlight of the year has been the completion of the New Father Wilson Baseball Field. We move closer and closer to a more thorough connection to the Joplin Campus and are prepped to renovate the old Basilian residence for new office space in 2024.”



Los Padres Basilianos en México



Primera Profesión del Noviciado Internacional en Tehuacán - 7 de enero, 2023

Nuestro año de 2023 en México empezó con dos celebraciones muy significativas. El 3 de enero Roberto Rojas cumplió 25 años de sacerdocio. La celebración se llevó a cabo en la parroquia de San Lorenzo donde Beto fue párroco doce años y en la rectoría de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Tlalmille, Tlalpan donde ha estado instalado desde marzo de 2022. En un correo a Beto, el Padre Kevin Storey escribió: "... has sido una piedra angular para la comunidad en México desde que te uniste - ¡gracias!" ¡Amén!

Cuatro días después, la congregación celebró la profesión de tres colombianos y cinco mexicanos al final del noviciado internacional en Tehuacán. P. Kevin Storey recibió los votos de Alejandro Balderas Rosas, Juan Gabriel Galvis Villamizar, Jose Enrique Hoyos Avilez, Walter Roberto Martínez Royaceli, Luis Alberto Rodríguez Justo, Marco Antonio Sierra García, José (Pepe) Antonio Zamudio Reyes, José Raul Zarama Guetio (nombre principal o apodo está subrayado). La profesión marcó un nuevo momento en la vocación de nuestros hermanos y una etapa en la integración de las comunidades de México y Colombia.



Encuentro de los Escolásticos - Fuera de la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Hubo dos otros acontecimientos congregacionales en México en 2023: la Cumbre y el Encuentro de los escolásticos durante la segunda mitad de junio. La Cumbre fue la primera Cumbre presencial del 19 al 23 del mes. Ocupamos el Mariópolis Diamante cerca de la ciudad de Puebla. El Encuentro de todos los escolásticos se llevaron a cabo del 26 al 30 de junio en Tlaxcala en el centro de retiros de las Hermanas I.C.A.S. al lado de la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Ocotlán. Los puntos destacados del Encuentro fueron el tiempo pasado con el Obispo Ricardo Ramírez; la renovación de votos de seis escolásticos mexicanos: Ángel Vivas, Erick Enríquez, José de Jesús Rodríguez, José Adán Gómez, Lauro Sánchez y Oscar Martínez; y la misa de clausura en el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México.

La parroquia de San Lorenzo se encontró en 2023 relativamente libre de las restricciones de COVID 19, el primer año completo desde marzo de 2020. Hubo celebraciones de la Cuaresma, la Semana Santa, la Pascua, primeras comuniones, confirmaciones, fiestas patronales, el Día de los Muertos, Posadas y Navidad. P. Alejandro Estrada fue el párroco hasta el final de agosto y después P. Antonio Ibáñez sirvió primeramente como administrador y terminó el año como párroco.

El ministerio de la parroquia es posible por el servicio de muchas personas especialmente las Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús de Xalapa (MSCJX) y los basilianos, ordenados y no ordenados, profesos y no profesos. Las Hermanas Azules (un apodo que los basilianos les ha dado, tal vez para distinguirlas de las Violetas) han servido en la parroquia desde 2007. Proveen liderazgo y la formación en la parroquia, especialmente en las capillas, la catequesis, y los ministerios litúrgicos. Padres Jess Owens y Daniel Porter celebran misas regularmente y sirven fielmente en las oficinas de la parroquia (especialmente Jess) y visitando a los enfermos (especialmente Dan). El año empezó con P. Antonio Ibáñez como vicario parroquial y terminó con P. Óscar Gómez sirviendo en la misma posición.



Familias de Belén, Asociado Luis Olivera y P. Alex Estrada

Había muchos escolásticos en la parroquia en 2023. De enero hasta julio, ocho escolásticos sirvieron en todas las capillas y los grupos distintos como MFC (el Movimiento Familiar Cristiano), Betania (grupo de mujeres en misión), Familias de Belén, M.I.S.E.R.E. (ministerio a divorciados), Emaús (Retiros de evangelización a hombres y mujeres) y Retrouvaille. En agosto, cinco de los escolásticos fueron a México para estudiar filosofía y teología; dos otros habiendo terminado sus estudios de teología fueron a Tehuacán: Lauro Sánchez y Alejandro García. Siguieron en Tehuacán Erick de Jesús Enríquez, Oscar Martínez y José Adán Gómez. P. John Huber, el Vicario General, recibió sus votos perpetuos sábado el 23 de septiembre. Han seguido en ministerio en la parroquia preparándose para la celebración del diaconado en enero de 2024.



Escolásticos el 21 de noviembre 2023

En un momento había quince escolásticos mexicanos. En la primera parte del año había ocho en Tehuacán, seis en **el escolasticado** y uno en Houston, estudiando inglés: Julio César Martínez. En agosto, Juan José Ortiz también fue a Houston para estudiar inglés durante dos meses. Regresó al escolasticado para hacer pastoral en la rectoría el tiempo completo. Se unió a los otros ocho escolásticos ya allí: los cinco nuevos profesos empezando teología (Marco, Walter, Pepe, y Justo) y filosofía (Alejandro) y los tres siguiendo sus estudios: José de Jesús Rodríguez (último año de teología), Ángel Vivas (segundo año de teología) y César Enrique Hernández (último año de filosofía). Hasta el final de junio, P. José Alberto Juárez fue el

director de los escolásticos; desde julio, P. Pablo Walsh ha tenido esta responsabilidad.

P. Beto Rojas también vive en el escolasticado. Su responsabilidad principal es **la Rectoría de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**. Ha estado ayudado por los directores de escolásticos, Alberto y después Pablo. Pero son los escolásticos que facilitar mucho del ministerio en la rectoría en sus cuatro zonas pastorales: Tlamille o la cabecera donde está la Lupita; San Felipe de Jesús en la colonia Mirador del Valle; Los Encinos, una capilla adentro del fraccionamiento Tlalpuente; y la zona pastoral más reciente, Actopan.

Por último, regresamos a Tehuacán, a **la Casa San Felipe de Jesús**, más conocido como **el noviciado**. En septiembre, P. Alejandro Estrada asumió la responsabilidad de la casa y preparaciones para los asociados. Ha estado viviendo con Padres Jess Owens, Dan Porter y René Espejel. René celebró en noviembre su tercer aniversario como el párroco de **la parroquia San Pedro Apóstol** en Acoquiaco, una colonia antigua de Tehuacán. René supervisa varios programas y ministerios parroquiales. La presencia y ministerio de novicios y escolásticos han sido una bendición para la parroquia de San Pedro, donde se encuentra también el espíritu de la Congregación de San Basilio.



En octubre llegaron dos asociados, los primeros desde 2021: Fabien Mwehu Itondo y Luis Obdulio Olivera Orozco. El nuevo director de asociados es P. Alejandro Estrada. Fabien es originalmente de la República Democrática del Congo y ahorita un residente permanente del México. Luis es originalmente del estado de Oaxaca. Su tiempo como asociados es para experimentar la vida basiliana y contribuir a nuestro ministerio en la parroquia de San Lorenzo. ¡Parece que Dios nos has dado un nuevo momento de gracia para ahorita y el futuro, ya que también esperamos una nueva casa y apostolado en Texcoco!



Mons. Carlos Samaniego, Obispo Auxiliar del Arquidiócesis de la Ciudad de México besando la cruz, Capilla de San Felipe de Jesús

The Basilian Fathers in Mexico (English)



The Latin American Summit - Mexico and Colombia - June 2023

Our year of 2023 in Mexico began with two very significant celebrations. On January 3, Father Roberto Rojas celebrated 25 years of priesthood. The celebration took place in the parish of San Lorenzo where Beto was parish priest for twelve years and in the rectory of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tlalmille, Tlalpan where he has been installed since March 2022. In an email to Beto, Father Kevin Storey wrote: "...you have been a cornerstone for the community in Mexico since you joined – thank you!" Amen!

Four days later, the congregation celebrated the profession of three Colombians and five Mexicans at the end of the international novitiate in Tehuacán. P. Kevin Storey received the vows of Alejandro Balderas Rosas, Juan Gabriel Galvis Villamizar, Jose Enrique Hoyos Avilez, Walter Roberto Martínez Royaceli, Luis Alberto Rodríguez Justo, Marco Antonio Sierra García, José (Pepe) Antonio Zamudio Reyes, José Raul Zarama Guetio (first name or nickname is underlined). The profession marked a new moment in the vocation of our brothers and a stage in the integration of the communities of Mexico and Colombia.

There were two other congregational events in Mexico in 2023: the Summit and the Meeting of the Scholastics during the second half of June. The Summit was the first in-person Summit from the 19th to the 23rd of the month. We used the Mariópolis Diamante near the city of Puebla. The Meeting of all scholastics took place from June 26 to 30 in Tlaxcala at the retreat center of the I.C.A.S Sisters. next to the Basilica of Our Lady of Ocotlán. Highlights of the Encounter were the time spent with Bishop Ricardo Ramirez; the renewal of vows of six Mexican scholastics: Ángel Vivas, Erick Enríquez, José de Jesús Rodríguez, José Adán Gómez, Lauro Sánchez and Oscar Martínez; and the closing mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The parish of San Lorenzo found itself relatively free of COVID 19 restrictions in 2023, the first complete year since March 2020. There were celebrations of Lent, Holy Week, Easter, first communions, confirmations, patron saint holidays, the Dead, Posadas and Christmas. Father Alejandro Estrada was the parish priest until the end of August and then Father Antonio Ibáñez served first as administrator and ended the year as parish priest.

The ministry of the parish is possible through the service of many people, especially the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Xalapa (MSCJX) and the Basilians, ordained and non-ordained, professed and non-professed. The "Hermanas Azules" (a nickname the Basilians have given them, perhaps to distinguish them from the Violetas) have served the parish since 2007. They provide leadership and formation in the parish, especially in chapels, catechism, and the liturgical ministries. Fathers Jess Owens and Daniel Porter celebrate masses regularly and serve faithfully in parish offices (especially Jess)

and visiting the sick (especially Dan). The year began with Father Antonio Ibáñez as parochial vicar and ended with Father Óscar Gómez serving in the same position.



*Christmas in El Carmen
Erick Enriquez CSB and Father Oscar Gómez CSB*

There were many scholastics in the parish in 2023. From January to July, eight scholastics served in all the chapels and the different groups such as MFC (the Christian Family Movement), Bethany (women's group in mission), Families of Bethlehem, M.I.S.E.R.E. (ministry to divorced people), Emaus (evangelization retreats for men and women) and Retrouvaille. In August, five of the scholastics went to Mexico to study philosophy and theology; two others, having finished their theology studies, went to Tehuacán: Lauro Sánchez and Alejandro García. Erick de Jesús Enríquez, Oscar Martínez and José Adán Gómez continued in Tehuacán. John Huber, the Vicar General, received their final vows Saturday, September 23. They have continued in ministry in the parish preparing for the celebration of the diaconate in January 2024.



*Father Paul English with the scholastics who would profess final vows:
Óscar Martínez, Erick de Jesús Enríquez, José Adán Gómez*

At one time this year there were fifteen Mexican scholastics. In the first part of the year there were eight in Tehuacán, six in the scholasticate and one in Houston, studying English: Julio César Martínez. In August, Juan José Ortiz also went to Houston to study English for two months. He returned to the scholasticate to do pastoral work full time. He joined the other eight scholastics already there: the five newly professed beginning theology (Marco, Walter, Pepe, and Justo) and philosophy (Alejandro) and the three continuing their studies: José de Jesús Rodríguez (last year of theology), Ángel Vivas (second year of theology) and César

Enrique Hernández (last year of philosophy). Until the end of June, Frather José Alberto Juárez was the director of the scholastics; Since July, Father Paul Walsh has had this responsibility.

Father Beto Rojas also lives in the scholasticate. His primary responsibility is the Rectory of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He has been helped by the scholastic directors, Alberto and later Paul. But it is the scholastics who facilitate much of the ministry in the rectory in its four pastoral zones: Tlamille or the main chapel where the “Lupita” is (nickname of “Guadalupe”); San Felipe de Jesús in the Mirador del

Valle neighborhood; Los Encinos, a chapel inside the Tlalpuente subdivision; and the most recent pastoral area, Actopan.

Finally, we return to Tehuacán, to the Casa San Felipe de Jesús, better known as the novitiate. In September, Father Alejandro Estrada assumed responsibility for the house and preparations for the associates. He has been living with Fathers Jess Owens, Dan Porter and René Espejel.



In November, René celebrated his third anniversary as the parish priest of San Pedro Apóstol parish in Acoquiaco (*Photo at left*), one of the oldest neighborhoods of Tehuacán. René directs a full range of parish programs. The presence and ministry of Basilian novices and scholastics has been a blessing for the parish of San Pedro, where the spirit of the Congregation of St Basil is alive and well. In the neighborhood of Acoquiaco, many traditions are strong, such as the Day of the Dead, the Virgin of Juquila, the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Candelaria, as well as the feast of San Pedro.

Two associates arrived in October, the first since 2021: Fabien Mwehu Itondo and Luis Obdulio Olivera Orozco. The new director of associates is Father Alejandro Estrada. Fabien is originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is now a permanent resident of Mexico. Luis is originally from the state of Oaxaca. Their time as associates is to experience Basilian life and contribute to our ministry at Parish of San Lorenzo. It seems that God has given us a new moment of grace for now and the future as we also look forward to a new house and apostolate in Texcoco!



*Community Day, November 2023, in Tlaxcala.
Father Konrad Schafer OSB of Mount Angel Monastery
gave a presentation on the Gospel of Mark.*

Los Padres Basilianos en Colombia

Medellín



Los Padres Basilianos en Colombia trabajan por la dignificación de las personas, haciendo que hombres y mujeres se sepan hijos amados de Dios desde el quehacer Basiliano, es decir, desde la Educación y la Predicación, es este el contexto donde se enseñan la Bondad, la Disciplina y la Ciencia. Los Basilianos en Medellín lideran y animan la comunidad parroquial de San Basilio donde se viene llevando a cabo la “Basiliada” este, fue un proyecto que San Basilio en su tiempo llevó a cabo.



The Basilian Fathers in Colombia work for the dignification of people, making men and women know that they are beloved children of God from the Basilian task, that is to say, from Education and Preaching, this is the context where Goodness, Discipline and Science are taught. The Basilians in Medellín lead and animate the parish community of San Basilio where the "Basiliada" is being carried out, this was a project that San Basilio in his time carried out.

Así pues, la Parroquia San Basilio, el taller de Arte Joven, el comedor Teresa Ramírez, el centro médico, el taller de confecciones, la guardería, Basilnet y, demás proyectos buscan ser un espacio en el que la comunidad parroquial y demás moradores del barrio Olaya Herrera puedan beneficiarse de los servicios que se ofrecen; tales proyectos se convierten en espacios de encuentro con Dios, desde las diferentes tareas que allí se desarrollan.

Thus, the San Basilio Parish, the Youth Art workshop, the Teresa Ramirez dining room, the medical center, the clothing workshop, the nursery, Basilnet and other projects seek to be a space in which the parish community and other residents of the Olaya Herrera neighborhood can benefit from the services offered; such projects become spaces of encounter with God, from the different tasks that are developed there.



Feast of the Presentation of Mary, L to R, Associate Ciro Cárdenas, Sister Yolanda, P. Alberto Juárez CSB, P. Carlos Rodríguez CSB, Sister Bety, Sister Rosaura, Associate Julián Gómez.

La vida fraterna, sin duda, enriquece la vida parroquial, pues la comunidad parroquial cuenta con la riqueza de beneficiarse de un trabajo en equipo, organizado y sobre todo, pensado en el crecimiento personal y espiritual de las personas.

Fraternal life undoubtedly enriches parish life, since the parish community has the richness of benefiting from organized teamwork, and above all, thinking about the personal and spiritual growth of the people.



The Parish of St Basilo in Medellín welcomes a new pastor, P. Alberto Juárez CSB, accompanied by P. Óscar Gómez CSB, P. Carlos Rodríguez CSB

Bogotá



Juan Carlos Rojas CSB, Superior of Basilians in Colombia, Mons. Luis José, Arzobispo de Bogotá, P. Javier Higuera CSB, Maestro de Novicios, P. Pedro Mora CSB, General Councilor

In another instance, the Basilians in Colombia are also present in the city of Bogotá, in the Annonay House where the Scholasticate and the Parish of Our Lady of Egypt are located. In the Scholasticate, the young people in formation study philosophy and theology, having also spaces for fraternal sharing, prayer, spiritual growth and pastoral work.

Este año 2023 ha sido un año para afrontar retos y desafíos de cara a la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Egipto, una de las parroquias más antiguas y hermosas de la ciudad, que se encontraba en una situación compleja a nivel pastoral y arquitectónico.

Sin embargo la presencia de los sacerdotes Basilianos, los Escolásticos y los novicios, ha hecho que la llama del amor por las cosas de Dios y su Iglesia se avive en los habitantes de la comunidad parroquial. Entre las tareas se encuentra la administración parroquial, la presencia visible de la Congregación en la

En otra instancia, los Basilianos en Colombia tienen también presencia en la Ciudad de Bogotá, en la Casa Annonay donde se encuentra el Escolasticado y la Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Egipto. En el Escolasticado los jóvenes en formación, adelantan los estudios de filosofía y teología, teniendo también, espacios para el compartir fraterno, la oración, el crecimiento espiritual y la pastoral.



L to R: Osman De La Hoz CSB, Raúl Zamara CSB, José Hoyos CSB, Anderson Úsuga CSB, Juan Galvis CSB, Marlon Rincon CSB, Eduard Guerrero CSB

Arquidiócesis de Bogotá, la preparación de los sacramentos de iniciación a nivel parroquial y vicarial, la formación ministros lectores y de la eucaristía, la visita a los enfermos, entre otras actividades más.

This year 2023 has been a year to face challenges for the Parish of Our Lady of Egypt, one of the oldest and most beautiful parishes in the city, which was in a complex pastoral and architectural situation. However, the presence of the Basilian priests, the Scholastics and the novices has rekindled the flame of love for the things of God and his Church in the inhabitants of the parish community. Among the tasks are the parish administration, the visible presence of the Congregation in the Archdiocese of Bogota, the preparation of the sacraments of initiation at the parish and vicariate levels, the formation of lector and Eucharistic ministers, the visitation of the sick, among other activities.

Finalmente, los Basilianos en Colombia agradecen a Dios quien ha mostrado su amor en la persona de su Hijo y a su Espíritu, que anima, fortalece y santifica la misión de la Congregación de San Basilio que peregrina en Colombia, gracias también a todos y cada uno de los que hacen posible que el sueño de Dios se haga realidad en estas tierras.



Finally, the Basilians in Colombia thank God who has shown his love in the person of his Son and his Spirit, who animates, strengthens and sanctifies the mission of the Congregation of St. Basil on pilgrimage in Colombia. Thanks also to each and every one of those who make it possible for the dream of God to become a reality in these lands.

Ordination to the Diaconate of Anderson Úsuga, Bogotá, Colombia, Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Egipto. Anderson is at the center at the right of the Cardenal Arzobispo de Bogotá, Luis José Rueda Aparicio

The Bogotá Basilian community:

L to R: Osman De La Hoz, Raúl Ruiz, Marlon Rincon, José Hoyos, Eduard Guerrero, Amaury Ramos, P. Juan Carlos Rojas, P. Javier Higuera Orjuela, Juan Galvis, German Sánchez, P. Pedro Mora, Raúl Zamara



Houston Area Lay Associates

David Zapalac CSB, Barbara Bishop: Coordinators

As usual, we began our year by celebrating the Feast of St. Basil on January 2 with Mass at St. Anne's Church followed by a dinner. As always, there were around 70 people in attendance including all of the BLA's and the priests. It was a joyous occasion!

This past year we have been able to meet after mass on Saturday evening. We share a meal and have a guest speaker. We always enjoy hearing what the seminarians are doing and getting to know them. Also, all of the priests have wonderful stories to share with us. On the first Sunday of the month two of us get together to prepare dinner for everyone at Dillon House. Those of us who take the meal stay and eat with them. They really love this! The priests at Dillon House enjoy the food and the company!

During Lent we watched a DVD entitled The Jewish Roots of Holy Week by Dr. Brant Pitre. Dr. Pitre has written several books including The Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. Our group has read that book and discussed it. It is an excellent book! We all agreed that we want to watch this DVD again this year. It is very powerful and has much to think about.

We had our annual Memorial Day barbecue at Keon House. Our celebration begins with Mass held in the beautiful chapel in the house. All of us bring side dishes and desserts and the barbecue comes from The Pit Room—an excellent restaurant near the University of St. Thomas. Everyone looks forward to this event. Our annual Labor Day gathering was at Keon House. We celebrate mass and then have dinner. The menu is the same as Memorial Day, but it seems to make everyone happy!

Bishop Ricardo Ramírez was our guest in October and spoke about many of his past experiences! What an interesting and faith filled life! We plan to have him back in the Spring to talk about the work he has done in regard to religious freedom. Needless to say, everyone really enjoyed his talk. We were honored to spend an evening with Father Kevin Storey. We all had a light supper and learn about all that is happening with the Basilians here, in Mexico and Canada. We always look forward to his visits. We enjoy getting together.



*DeAnn Englert, Eduardo Rivera CSB,
Sharon Cameron*

Toronto / London Area Lay Associates

Norm Tanck CSB, Brenda Holtz, Nancy Strader: Coordinators

The year 2023 has been a year of change and transition for the Toronto London BLAs. We lost two long time members in the fall, Gemma Ching and Erika Schweigerlehner. Several “Come and See,” whom we hope will commit to the BLAs, have joined our last couple of meetings. We (Brenda and Nancy) are in our fifth year as lay coordinators. Father Norm Tanck CSB is in his sixth year as our ordained coordinator. *(Photo at right.)*



In January 2023, we began the year with a hybrid gatherings format. That is, we used Zoom and in person meetings. Our speaker, Father Paul Walsh CSB spoke to us about formation and the novitiate way of life. We learned about the focus on consecration, life in community and the time dedicated to personal prayer.

In February, our speaker was Father Warren Schmidt CSB, who spoke to us about his area of expertise which is sacramental theology. He believes that how we celebrate the sacraments helps us to define how we are as a Church. He defined **ministry** as “to act in the person of Christ”, noting that there are all kinds of ministry including those for lay people.

Instead of a Lenten Day of Reflection, our BLA gathering joined the Lenten Day Retreat held at St. Basil’s on March 11. We were able to take advantage of the Lenten Retreat of Prayer and explore the conversation of living our Faith within the Parish community. In April, Bishoy Dawood spoke about the factors that influenced him to move to become a Basilian novice now residing in Edmonton. He very much enjoys the Basilian way of life. In May, Father Daniel Callam CSB joined us. He spoke about Mary. Mary was the ideal follower of Christ.

The highlight of our spring season 2023 was the sponsoring of a reception at Presentation Manor which followed a Memorial Mass for those Basilian Fathers who died during the COVID years. The event was held on Friday June 16, 2023. The majority of the Toronto London active BLAs were able to attend. Father Tom Rosica CSB organized this event to remember Fathers de Valk, Jackson, McReavy, Dimnik, and Dillon, all of whom died during the COVID years.



In September, the BLAs were able to take part in a Ministry Fair set up and held by St. Basil’s Parish. This was a new experience for Brenda and me. We reviewed all of the materials that we had which described BLAs and what we do. Several parishioners were interested and have

become “Come and Sees.” We had a one day retreat on September 16th. Father Tom Rosica CSB was our Retreat Master. The session was entitled “Biblical Roots of Synodality” *(photo above).*

Our October gathering was the first of meetings to be held within St. Basil's church. Our speaker was one of our BLA group, Michael Fitzgerald – another first. The topic was Saint Edith Stein, an incredibly gifted lady who moved from Judaism to Catholicism during the years leading up to World War II. In November, JoAnn Lopez, the Coordinator for Faith Formation at St. Basil's Parish, spoke to us about what she experienced during her time in attendance at the Synod in Rome. Our December gathering was our first Christmas party at St. Basil's. We had limited access to kitchen facilities but still managed an amazing array of food.



Gerald Trottier, The Last Supper, 1951, St. Basil's Church Social Area,

Windsor Area Lay Associates

Jim O'Neill CSB and Anne Shore: Coordinators

This year has been different in many ways. After over a decade of leadership as local coordinators, Paul McGill CSB and Anne Marie Handsor stepped down. They have been a wonderful guiding, stable leadership team that navigated the hard covid years and helped keep a small group of associates committed and alive. They were replaced by Jim O'Neill CSB and Anne Shore.



We have begun to gather again for our monthly meetings, for social events with each other and the Basilian priests, for opportunities for spiritual growth and times of mourning and goodbyes. One of the highlights of the year was our annual retreat at Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley (*photo at left*).

John Reddy CSB was our retreat master. His presentations on the scriptural foundations of Teach Me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge gave us much to prayer about and share with each other. It has become a grounding for the year, as we reflect on the changing reality of being Basilian lay associates when there are few Basilian priests here.

One of our priorities this year was to find opportunities to gather as associates and, when possible, with the priests. We had many wonderful gatherings: a fish supper in Lent, a benefit dinner for Guadalupe House, a play in Colchester, the Messiah and Holiday Pops with the Windsor Symphony (and Steven Huber CSB in the chorus), a goodbye supper for Maurice Restivo CSB when he left Windsor for Houston, Anne Marie and Jay Handsor's 50th wedding anniversary lunch, a summer BBQ and Christmas party. The high point was our November 21st celebration where two of our members, Lionel Walsh and Anne Shore made their final commitments.

We made a commitment to our parish community to organize (and sometimes prepare) soup for our weekly Friday Lenten soup and stations. We also lead one of the stations. Michael Denunzio prepared a Lenten evening of Taizé prayer as well. We said goodbye to Frank Mizzi CSB and to Karen Marchand, the



Windsor Area Lay Associate gather with Basilians to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary 2023

wife of one of our associates, Claude. We are grateful for the many blessings received through their association with us. We look forward to an active year and the possibility of new lay associates.

Rochester Area Lay Associates

Kevin Mannara CSB and Cathy Poirier: Coordinators

Article prepared by Vilma Goetting

As we look back on 2023, The Rochester BLA would like to thank Father George Smith for attending our monthly meetings in the absence of Father Kevin Mannara. His prayerful presence has been very much appreciated.

Among our highlights this year was welcoming Daniel Bates to our Rochester BLA. Father Morgan Rice presided at the Mass and Commitment ceremony for Dan at St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Fairport. This was followed by the recommitment of the lay associates present at the time. The celebration was followed by dinner with Father Tom Dugan at the Motherhouse. We have continued to join Father Tom for dinner at his residence at least one a month.



Daniel Bates and Morgan Rice CSB

Last June, an Aquinas senior student received a BLA recognition plaque and monetary award at the June Awards Assembly. The award commends a student who exemplifies Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge in their daily lives at Aquinas. We hope to continue recognizing a "GDK" senior each year before graduation. We have continued our commitment to Aquinas beginning with our Welcome Letters to the new students in August and speaking to each of the 10th grade Theology classes about the Basilian tradition. The 10th grader will be provided a luncheon by the BLA on their Retreat and Service Day in February and the Junior Class will receive congratulatory letters at their ring ceremony in the spring. Lay Associates will volunteer to assist at retreat days.



The BLAs participated in a celebratory Anniversary Mass for Father Joseph Trovato at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Chapel. The many Basilian priests buried at the cemetery were also recognized. Afterward the BLA gathered for a pleasant breakfast at the Lakeside Haven Family Restaurant (*photo at left*).

Some of us have been attending Sunday Mass at St. John Fisher University in support of Father Kevin Mannara and Father George Smith. We also support the Campus Ministry students in their holiday collection efforts. The BLAs sent a check to the Anne Dawson Home for Children in Kingston, honoring Father Joseph Trovato. We hope to continue our support of Father Joe's legacy in the good work of Eight for World Hope begun by St. John Fisher Alumni.

We thank God that we continue to have a Basilian presence in Rochester. May God bless Father Kevin, Father George and Father Tom.

Franklin Joseph Mizzi CSB

January 30, 1938 – January 8, 2023

Father Franklin Joseph Mizzi CSB, died peacefully at Amica in Windsor. He was 84 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 65 years and had served in priestly ministry for 55 years.

Franklin was born in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were Frank Mizzi and Mary Zammit. He had three brothers, Joseph, George and John. He attended Most Holy Trinity elementary school, Detroit, and high school at Assumption College School, Windsor. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester in 1956. He was professed on August 15, 1957 and resumed his studies at the University of St. Michael's College, before graduating from the University of Toronto with a BA in Philosophy in 1962. He taught at Aquinas Institute, Rochester, from 1962-64, and then went to St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto, receiving a STB in Theology in 1967. He also received a MA in Theology from St. Xavier, Chicago, in 1971, and a D.MIN. for Pastoral Counselling from Western Theological Seminary in 1990.



He was ordained December 9, 1967, in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Detroit, by Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck. His first Mass was celebrated in Most Holy Trinity Church, Detroit. Others ordained that year included: Michael Fallona, Angelo Bovenzi, Kenneth Decker, Andrew Grant, Edward Johnson, Norman Kolb, Richard O'Neill, Bernard (Jess) Owens, Dwyer Sullivan, John Sullivan and John Tallon.

Franklin taught at various Basilian High Schools during his career. From 1974 to 1980, he served as Principal of Catholic Central High School. *"The most important part of this job is the idea of Spiritual Unity for the administration, the faculty, and the students. An attitude conducive to learning and student happiness and pride rank as equally important goals."* Franklin served as Campus Minister at Assumption University in Windsor from 1980 to 1986. He later pursued a degree in Pastoral Counseling and established a counseling service in Windsor. For many years he was a successful and sought-after counselor to families, couples, and individuals.

Franklin Mizzi had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester	1956-1957
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1957-1958
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1958-1962
Aquinas Institute, Rochester	1962-1964
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1964-1968
Andrean High School, Gary, IN	1968-1970
Catholic Central High School, Detroit	1970-1980
University of Windsor	1980-1987
O'Connor House, Windsor	1987-2015
Living Independently, Windsor	2015-2021
Amica at Windsor	2021-2023

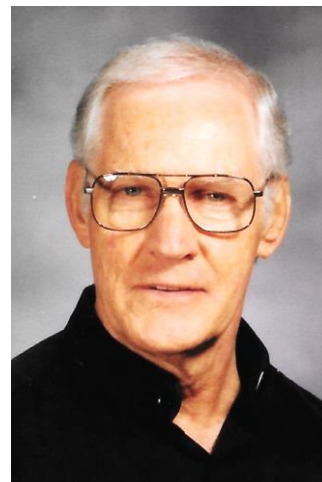
A wake service was held on Friday, January 13, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Windsor. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the same church on Saturday, January 14 at 11:00 AM; Morgan Rice CSB presided and Paul Rennick CSB gave the homily. Interment was scheduled for Heavenly Rest Cemetery in Windsor on Monday, January 16.

Les Francis Schaefer CSB

April 15, 1932 – March 5, 2023

Father Les Francis Schaefer CSB, died peacefully in hospice care in Houston TX. He was 90 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 71 years and he was a priest for 61 years.

Les was born in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were Lester Schaefer and Corinne Knapp. He had four brothers, Larry, Myron, Marlon and Garry Schaefer and two sisters, Carol Vercammer and Shirley Pitre. He attended St. Joseph, Holy Name, St. Francis and St. Edward elementary schools, and graduated from Assumption High School in Windsor in 1950. From high school he entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Richmond Hill, where he was professed on August 15, 1951.



He graduated from Assumption University, Windsor with a BA degree in 1955 and taught for two years at St. Thomas High School in Houston. He also studied Education at the University of Detroit where he obtained a Michigan Teacher's Certificate, received a STB from the University of St. Michael's College in 1960 and a M.Ed. from the University of Houston in 1967. He was ordained June 29, 1961 in St. Basil's Church, Toronto by Archbishop Philip Pocock. His first Mass was celebrated in Assumption Church, Windsor. Father J. Francis O'Neill preached the homily.

Others ordained that year included: Maurice Farge, Frederick Allnoch, Philip Beers, John Damato, Joe Dietrich, Sam Femiano, Alfred Graham, Brian Inglis, Leonard McGravey, Joe Moffatt, Jack Neary, Roy Oggero, Mike Quealey, Richard Schiefen and George Vander Zanden.

In October of 2010, Les was awarded the Father James Wilson CSB Award from St. Thomas High School. The award proclamation read, in part: "Father Les Schaefer has an impressive legacy of service to St. Thomas High School. He has worked for 51 years in Basilian High Schools, including thirty years at St. Thomas. Father Schaefer has truly displayed dedication to the mission of St. Thomas High School by exemplifying the values of Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge in his everyday life."

Les Schaefer had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Richmond Hill	190-1951
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1951-1952
Assumption College School, Windsor	1952-1955
St. Thomas High School, Houston	1955-1957
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1957-1961
St. Thomas High School, Houston	1961-1978
Bishop O'Dowd High School, Oakland	1978-1981
St. Thomas High School, Houston	1981-1988
Bishop O'Dowd High School, Oakland	1988-2006
St. Thomas High School, Houston	2006-2012
St. Dominic Village, Houston	2012-2023

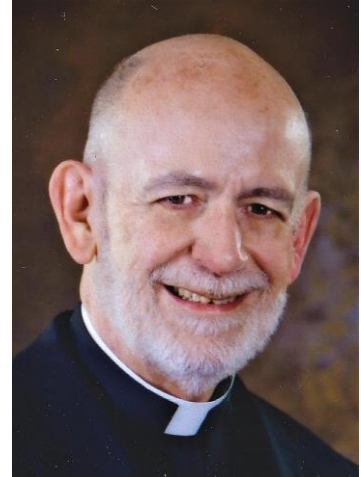
The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Anne's Church in Houston on Friday, March 10. John Huber CSB presided and Richard Wahl CSB preached the homily. Burial was in the Basilian plot at Forest Park, Lawndale, in Houston.

Thomas William Sepúlveda CSB

June 7, 1944 – March 11, 2023

Father Thomas William Sepúlveda CSB, died peacefully at Silverado Memory Care Facility. He was 78 years old; he had been a Basilian for 58 years and was a priest for 48 years.

Thomas was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 7, 1944. His parents were Mauro Sepúlveda and Mary Provencher. He had three sisters, Jean Reichard, Patricia Furtah and Lynn Rose. He attended Our Lady Gate of Heaven grade school and Sacred Heart and Visitation High Schools in Detroit. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Pontiac, Michigan, in 1963 and took his first vows in 1964. He then went to the University of St. Thomas (Houston) where he earned a BA degree in 1968. He taught for one year at the Aquinas Institute, and one year at Catholic Central. He later earned the M DIV degree from the University of St. Michael's College in 1973. He also received a MA in Theology from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, in 1979. He was ordained on May 11, 1974 in Ste. Anne Church, Detroit, by Bishop Walter J. Schoenherr. He celebrated his first Mass the next day with Robert Power CSB giving the homily. Others ordained that year included: Robert Barringer, Frederick Killaire, Douglas Mosey, Robert Sinkewicz, Edward Bellefeuille, Norman Tanck, Jack Hanna and Robert Glass.



A beautiful message was received from the Diocese of Tehuacán where Tom served for many years.



As the Diocesan Church of Tehuacán, our prayer is for the eternal rest of padre Tomás Sepúlveda CSB of the Congregation of St. Basil, of happy memory. Father Tomás made the love of God present among his brothers with his pastoral work for some years in the parish community of San Lorenzo Deacon and Martyr, and as a professor in our Diocesan Seminary. Our condolences to all his brothers in community, the Basilian Fathers. May he rest in peace.

Thomas Sepúlveda had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Pontiac	1963-1964
University of St. Thomas, House of Studies, Houston TX	1964-1968
Aquinas Institute, Rochester NY	1968-1969
Catholic Central High School, Detroit MI	1969-1970
St. Basil's College, Toronto ON	1970-1973
Ste. Anne de Detroit Parish, Detroit MI	1973-1974
Centro Cultural Aragón, Mexico DF	1974-1977
Graduate Studies, St. Mary's University, San Antonio TX	1977-1978
Centro Cultural Aragón, Mexico DF	1978-1979
Casa San Felipe, Mexico DF	1979-1987
Parroquia de San Lorenzo, Tehuacán PUE	1987-1989
Basilwood, Milton ON	1989-1992
Curial House, Toronto ON	1992-1993
Casa San Felipe, Mexico DF	1993-1994
Noviciado San Basilio, Tehuacán PUE	1994-2003
Ste. Anne de Detroit Parish, Detroit MI	2003-2012
Immaculate Conception Parish, Rio Grande City TX	2012-2021
Dillon House, Houston TX	2021-2022
Silverado Memory Care Facility, Houston TX	2022-2023

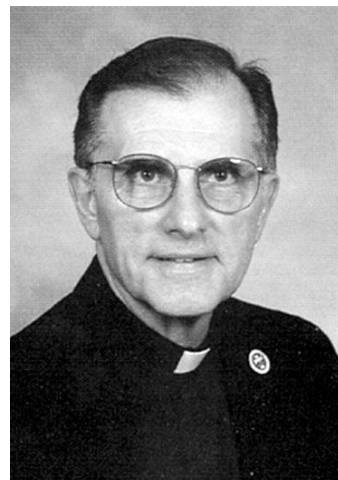
The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Anne Church in Houston on Wednesday, March 15, at 10:00 AM. Paul English CSB presided and Carl Belisch CSB gave the homily. Burial was in the Basilian plot at Forest Park, Lawndale.

Roy Joseph Oggero CSB

June 9, 1932 – July 20, 2023

Father Roy Joseph Oggero CSB, died peacefully at St. Dominic Village in Houston TX. He was 91 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 70 years and served in priestly ministry for 62 years.

Roy was born in Houston, TX on June 9, 1932. He was predeceased by his parents Joseph Oggero and Josephine Bonerio. He had one brother, John, and one sister, Lucille Moratto. He attended Immaculate Conception and Annunciation elementary schools and St. Thomas High School. He entered the Rochester Novitiate where he made his first profession on August 15, 1952. He received a BA from the Assumption University of Windsor in 1956. The following year he taught at Catholic Central High School in Detroit and while there obtained a Michigan State Teacher's Certificate. The following year he taught at St. Thomas High School in Houston. He also received a STB from the University of St. Michael's College in 1961. He was ordained on June 29, 1961 in St. Basil's Church, Toronto, by Archbishop Philip Pocock. He offered his first solemn Mass at Queen of Peace Church, Houston. Reverend Anton Frank, Pastor of Annunciation Church preached the sermon and Reverend M.C. Notzon, pastor of Queen of Peace, was the Assistant Priest. Others ordained that year included: Maurice Farge, Frederick Allnoch, Philip Beers, John Damato, Joseph Dietrich, Samuel Femiano, Alfred Graham, Brian Inglis, Leonard McGravey, Joseph Moffatt, John Neary, Michael Quealey, Lester Schaefer, Richard Schiefen and George Vander Zanden.



Roy Oggero had the following appointments in the Congregation:

Rochester Novitiate, Rochester	1951-1952
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1952-1953
Assumption College/University, Windsor	1953-1956
Catholic Central High School, Detroit	1956-1957
St. Thomas High School, Houston	1957-1958
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1958-1962
Aquinas Institute, Rochester	1962-1970
St. Thomas High School, Houston	1970-1971
St. Basil's Church, Angleton	1971-1972
St. Theresa Church, Sugar Land	1972-1978
Holy Rosary Church, Toronto	1978-1980
St. Basil's Church, Angleton	1980-1985
Christ the King Church, Rochester	1985-1988
St. Pius X Church, Calgary	1988-1990
Sabbatical, Santa Fe NM (Sept-Dec 1990)	1990
St. Theresa's Church, Sugar Land	1991-1997
St. Joseph's Mission Center, Sugar Land	1997-2006
Dillon House, Houston	2006-2007
Basilian Fathers of Sugar Land	2007-2011
Dillon House, Houston	2011- 2014
St. Dominic Village, Houston	2014-2023

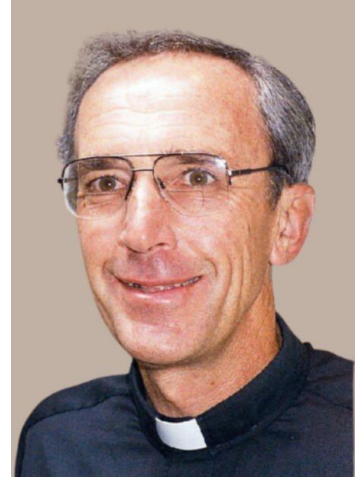
The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Anne's Church in Houston on Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 PM; Paul English CSB from the Basilian General Council presided and preached. The visitation took place before the Mass. The burial was scheduled for the following day in the Basilian plot at Forest Park Lawndale.

John Leonard Boscoe CSB

August 19, 1943 – October 18, 2023

Father John Leonard Boscoe CSB, died peacefully at Silverado Hermann Park Memory Care Community. He was 80 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 61 years and had served in priestly ministry for 51 years.

John was born in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were John Boscoe and Kathryn Lagana. He had one sister, Marlene Worthington. He attended Bow Public and Immaculate Heart of Mary grade schools and graduated from Catholic Central High School, Detroit, in 1961. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Pontiac, Michigan, taking first vows on August 15, 1962. After receiving a BA degree in History from St. John Fisher College, Rochester, in 1966, he taught at two Basilian High Schools in the USA.



He began Theological studies at St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto, in 1968, and received a MDiv degree in 1971. He took his fourth year of Theology in Mexico City while serving as a deacon on the staff of San Juan Crisóstomo Parish. He was ordained in St. Anne's Church, Houston, on June 10, 1972, by Bishop John Morkovsky. The following day a Mass of Thanksgiving was concelebrated with the community at St. Theresa's Church, Sugar Land, Texas. Others ordained that year included: Ronald Anderson, Samuel Bianco and John Robbins. John Boscoe served in Basilian Hispanic ministry for most of his life, both in Mexico and Texas. For many years he was the Mission Procurator in Sugar Land. The Novitiate was next door to the Mission Center and John enjoyed the company of Vince Dulock CSB and his beautiful dog, Pearl. When John moved to Dillon House, Vince gave him Pearl to keep him company.

John Boscoe had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Pontiac	1961-1962
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1962-1963
Rochester House of Studies, St. John Fisher	1963-1966
St. Michael's College School, Toronto	1966-1967
Aquinas Institute, Rochester	1967-1968
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1968-1971
San Juan Crisóstomo, México	1971-1972
Centro Cultural, México	1972-1977
La Iglesia de Jesús Obrero, México	1977-1978
Casa Basiliiana de Tehuacán, México	1978-1979
St. Basil's Parish, Angleton	1979-1982
St. Anne's Parish, Houston	1982-1984
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Rosenberg	1984-1993
St. Theresa's Church, Sugar Land	1993-1994
Parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción, Caltepec	1994-2006
St. Joseph's Mission Center, Sugar Land	2006-2017
Dillon House, Houston	2017-2022
Silverado-Hermann Memory Care Community	2022-2023

The funeral Eucharist for John Boscoe CSB was celebrated at St. Anne Church in Houston on Monday evening, October 23. The burial was scheduled for the following day at the Basilian plot at Forest Park Lawndale. Ron Schwenzer, the superior at Dillon House, led the burial rites.

Ronald Alexander Borg CSB

January 3, 1943 – November 5, 2023

Father Ronald Alexander Borg CSB, died peacefully in Hospice Care in Roseville, MI after a long battle with cancer. He was 80 years of age; he made his first vows on October 15, 1975 and had served in priestly ministry for 44 years.

Ronald was born in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were Emmanuel Borg and Eleanor Wakefield. He had two half-sisters, Christine and Adele Borg, and one half-brother, Henry Borg. He attended Franklin, Roosevelt, Durfee and Webster grade schools and graduated from Western High School, Detroit, in 1961. He completed military service in Texas as an Airman First Class from 1961-1965. He worked for several years in Detroit before entering the University of Windsor, where he graduated with a BA in 1974. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester; the Novice Master was Howie Keon. He studied Theology at St. Basil's College, Toronto for three years and received a M.Div degree in 1978. He was ordained on June 2, 1979 in St. Basil's Church, Toronto, by George Cardinal Flahiff. He celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving the following day at St. Basil's College, Toronto; Father Thomas Sepúlveda CSB gave the homily. Others ordained that year included: Bernard Buisson, David Katulski, Dennis Kauffman, John LaCroix, John McCarthy, Paul Rennick, Alvin Sinasac and Thaddeus Valencia.



Ron spent most of his life in parochial ministry, with many years in the Archdiocese of Detroit, where he served in various parishes and helped care for his ailing mother, Eleanor.

Ronald Borg had the following appointments in the Basilian Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester NY	1974-1975
St. Basil's College, Toronto ON	1975-1978
Centro Cultural de Aragón, México	1978-1979
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Rosenberg TX	1979-1980
St. Basil's Church, Angleton TX	1980-1983
St. Basil's Church, Toronto ON	1983-1987
Basilian Fathers of Angleton TX	1987-1988
St. John The Baptist Church, Amherstburg, ON	1988-1989
On Leave	1989-1990

Ronald Borg had the following appointments in the Archdiocese of Detroit

St. Joseph Church, Lake Orion, MI	1990-1994
St. Alphonsus Church, Dearborn MI	1994-1997
St. Louis the King Church, Detroit MI	1997-2005
St. Bartholomew Church, Detroit MI	2005-2014
Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Detroit MI	2013-2014
Retired, Roseville MI,	
<i>Associated with Basilian Fathers of Novi, MI</i>	2015-2023

The funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Blase Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, MI. John Huber CSB, Vicar General of the Basilian Fathers, presided and preached. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Clinton Township, MI. May the angels take him into paradise.

William Henry Irwin CSB

October 15, 1932 – December 6, 2023



Father William Henry Irwin CSB, died suddenly at Presentation Manor, Scarborough. He was 91 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 72 years and had served in priestly ministry for 64 years.

William was born in Houston, Texas; his parents were William Henry Irwin and Marguerite Hunsaker. He had one brother, John Irwin. He attended St. Anne's elementary school and graduated from St. Thomas High School, Houston. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester and made his First Vows on August 15, 1951. He received a BA from the University of Toronto in 1956, an MA degree in Philosophy from the university in 1958, a STB in Theology from the University of St. Michael's College in 1959, a STL in Theology from Angelicum, Rome in 1961, and SSB, SSL and SSD in Biblical Studies from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome in 1962, 1963 and 1977. He was ordained on June 28, 1959 in St. Basil's Church, Toronto by Bishop Francis Allen. He celebrated his First Mass in St. Anne's Church, Houston. Father Lawrence Lacey CSB, the pastor, preached.

Others ordained that year included: Joseph Barnes, Robert Fink, Harold Gardner, Paul James, Richard Kinsky, Arthur Kirn, Charles Leland, Thomas McReavy, Clare Malone, Thomas Mohan, Robert Neill, Michael Sosulski, James Strickland, Maurice Taylor, Leonard Thompson, René Vermillion and Clare Watrin.

Bill was a respected Scripture scholar, a sought-after teacher, a captivating homilist, and a man of great love for the Congregation. John Reddy CSB, the Superior of the Basilians at Presentation Manor shared these thoughts: "The residents at Presentation Manor were truly grateful to Bill for his teaching sessions for them on Isaiah and the Psalms. At times, he could be explosive, but it did not last too long. Bill preferred no fuss. He liked things to be simple. His health had been failing for some time and he longed to go to the Lord. The Lord heard and took Bill peacefully to Himself." Mark Gazin CSB quoted Rudyard Kipling to describe Bill: "He walked with kings but kept the common touch."

William Irwin had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester	1950-1951
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1951-1955
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1955-1956
St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto	1956-1960
Graduate Studies, Rome	1960-1965
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1965-1970
Graduate Studies, Rome	1970-1973
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1973-1999
Curial House, Toronto (<i>Secretary General</i>)	1999-2001
Assumption University of Windsor (<i>President</i>)	2001-2004
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	2004-2017
Orsini House, Toronto	2017-2018
Presentation Manor, Scarborough	2018-2023

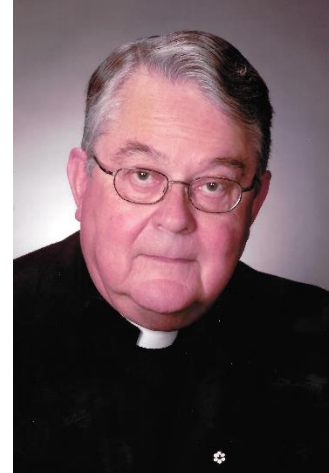
The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Chapel of Presentation Manor, Scarborough, on Friday December 15, 2023. Kevin Storey CSB presided and Tom Rosica CSB preached the homily. Burial was in the Basilian plot in Holy Cross Cemetery in Thornhill, ON.

James Kelsey McConica CSB

April 24, 1930 – December 20, 2023

Father James Kelsey McConica CSB, died peacefully in Michael Garron Hospital in East York, Toronto. He was 93 years of age; he had been a Basilian for 58 years and a priest for 55 years.

James was born in Luseland, Saskatchewan. His parents were Thomas Henry McConica and Edith Crates. He had two brothers, William and Thomas, and one sister, Martha Bryan. He attended Davin elementary school, Regina and graduated Regina Central Collegiate high school in 1947. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1951 with a BA in History and Philosophy. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar for the province that same year. He received a BA in Modern History from Oxford University in 1954 and a MA from the university in 1957. He spent a year at Princeton as a University Fellow before returning to the University of Saskatchewan to teach in the Department of History. He was granted a leave of absence from 1958-60 for doctoral research at Oxford, where he obtained a PhD from the university in 1960 and a D.Phil in 1963. He then enrolled in the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto and received a MA in Mediaeval Philosophy in 1964. He also obtained a STB from the University of St. Michael's College in 1968 and LLD from the University of Saskatchewan in 1986. He entered St. Basil's Novitiate, Erindale and was professed on September 15, 1965. He was ordained on December 14, 1968 by Bishop James Patrick Mahoney in the chapel of St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon. He celebrated his First Mass in the same chapel the following day. Peter Swan CSB gave the homily. Others ordained that year included: Paul Burns, George Hosko, Donald Hyatt, Bernard Merchant, Paul Murphy, Wayne O'Reilly, Ronald Schwenzer, John Wesley and John Wheeler.



James McConica had the following appointments in the Congregation:

St. Basil's Novitiate, Erindale	1964-1965
Graduate Studies	1966-1969
St. Basil's College, Toronto	1970-1971
The Institute House, Toronto	1971-1984
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1984-1990
Oxford University, England	1990-1997
University of St. Michael's College, Toronto	1997-2012
Orsini House, Toronto	2012-2018
Presentation Manor, Scarborough	2018-2023

Jim McConica's own words are worthy of note here: "As a group, those Basilians struck me for two outstanding qualities: their confident pragmatism, and their non-clerical culture. They were unmistakably loyal and close to the living Church in its mission. Their prestige in Canadian academic circles was clear and unambiguous. When I came to the big decision that I must add a commitment to the priesthood to my academic vocation, there was no other group to consider."

On December 29, the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the chapel of Presentation Manor. Kevin Storey CSB presided and Tom Rosica CSB preached the homily. Burial took place in the Basilian plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Thornhill ON. Professor Sir Rick Trainor, Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, sent word that the College Flag will be flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral in honor of James McConica, distinguished alumnus and Honorary Fellow of Exeter. He had also been named an Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College in Oxford University, a signal honor since he was the first Roman Catholic priest to be a fellow since the English Reformation.

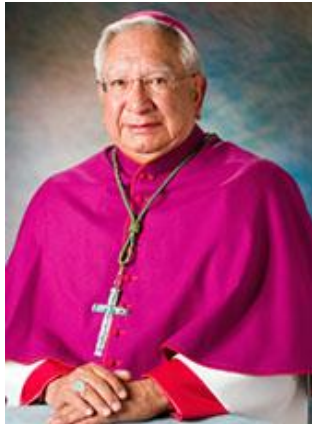
Family Deaths January 2023 – December 2023

Ivan Storey, father of Kevin Storey CSB, March 5, 2023

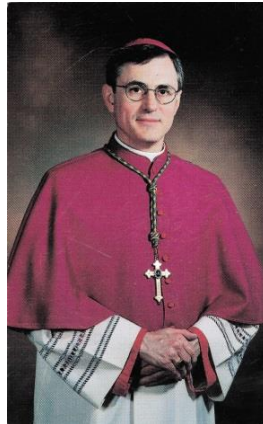
Ronald Tanck, brother of Norm Tanck CSB, July 31, 2023

Albert John Zapalac, brother of David Zapalac CSB, September 7, 2023

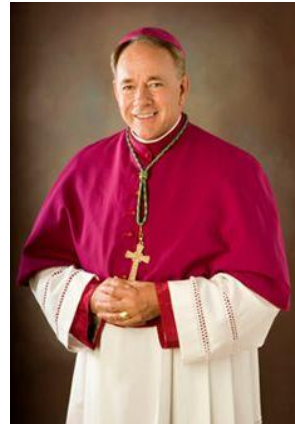
Good Shepherds of the Flock: Our Basilian Bishops



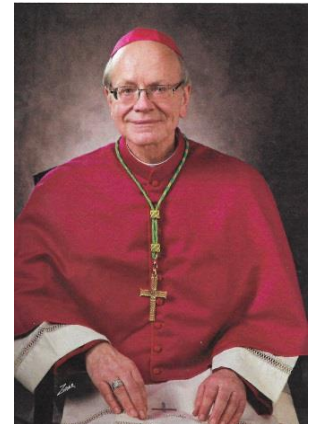
+ Ricardo Ramírez CSB
Bishop Emeritus, Las Cruces NM



+ Ronald P. Fabbro CSB
Bishop of London ON



+ J. Michael Miller CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver BC



+ Robert M. Kasun CSB
Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto ON

Community Count of the Congregation of St. Basil as of December 31, 2023

132 Professed Basilians:

4 Bishops, 104 Priests, 1 Deacon, 23 Scholastics (USA-3, Mexico-15, Colombia-5)

109 Ordained Basilian Priests/Bishops/Deacon:

France, 2; Canada, 58; USA, 33; México, 8; Colombia, 5 (+1 Deacon)

Ages of ordained Basilian Priests and Bishops	Number of ordained Basilians in each group
30-39	5
40-49	8
50-59	5
60-69	22
70-79	25
80-89	35
90-99	8

Laudemus viros gloriosos – Basilian Nonagenarians

Kevin Kirley, 97	Wilfred Caninaing, 96	Thomas Dugan, 94	Wilfrid Janisse, 94
Brian Inglis, 91	Clarence Watrin, 91	Joseph Moffatt, 90	Jack Gallagher 90



St. Basil the Great

330-397

*"A good deed
is never lost.
Those who sow
courtesy,
reap friendship.
Those who plant
kindness,
gather love.*
