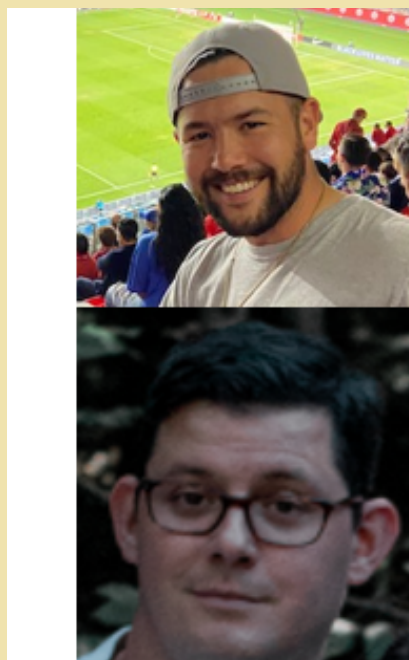




*The Official Newsletter of St. John Bosco Council #14327
2194 Kipling Ave. Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 4K9*



Look Out For

**MEET THE NEW
GUYS**

2 & 6

A LENTEN TRADITION

10

**THE SAINTS - WHO'S
IN YOUR POSSE?**

11 & 14

PLUS MORE:

- CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS - PAGE 15
- IN LOVING MEMORY - PAGE 16
- COUNCIL OFFICERS LIST - PAGE 17





From time to time we
feature and introduce you
to a fellow past or present
member of our Council

MEET TWO OF THE NEW KNIGHTS IN OUR COUNCIL

By Pat Loduca

Since February 2020 the month before COVID-19 our council has added a number of outstanding individuals; in fact, 12 in total. They include Fr. John Mariapragasam, Domenic & Clifford Gonsalves, Vincent Hasbun, Zachary Smith, Daniel Loduca, Don Smith, Nigel Santamaria, Kelechi Nwosu, Dan Pettigrew, and a couple of others with whom I was able to chat recently. John Simoes and Tyler Shadoff are the newest of the bunch. Here's a look into their inspirational stories beginning with John.

Tip of the hat to...

John Simoes

Tyler Shadoff



PAT – Hi John, thanks for doing this with me. Tell me a little about yourself, your birthplace, your family, your career, etc.

JOHN – Thanks for having me. Our family immigrated to Canada in 1990 from Portugal. It was my mom, my dad, my older brother, and me. My sister stayed behind and didn't join us. I was just shy of six years old at the time and have lived in Canada for over 30 years now.

I married my high school sweetheart, Monica. We actually met in Grade 4 and started dating in grade 10. We have two beautiful children; Audrey who is five and Lincoln who is three. My identity markers are father, first and foremost, husband, teacher, soccer fanatic, and a down to Earth, cut and dry guy.

PAT – If you can remember, when/where did God first take a special place in your life?

JOHN – There were two events actually. In the first one, I was fortunate enough to initially have him as a teacher and then as a colleague; Steve De Quintal, a beautiful man and salt of the Earth who still teaches with our board. A man who has six children and who as a pastime reads scripture to inmates at the Don Jail and literally lives, breathes, eats, sleeps the Faith. Almost every initiative you can think of he has undertaken including taking a number of youths to Mexicali, Mexico once to help build a church.

His example was always very humbling because he never took any credit and didn't like the spotlight. So, I've tried to model my own professional career after him. Service to others is what it's all about. Service means doing. You don't need the accolades. He is an incredibly beautiful man and teacher. We were at an inner-city school together and he never had to raise his voice in class. He immediately gained respect from students and staff alike with a calm and peaceful demeanour and he left a real mark on me at 17 years of age.

The second event where God made an impression on me was also in my youth. I was a very rebellious young man and when I was 16 I was involved in an altercation that led to me being stabbed twice resulting in the puncturing of both my lungs. I was hospitalized at St. Michaels Hospital which eventually led to a real devotion to St. Michael the Archangel.

This is because I was born on September 29th which happens to be the Feast Day of St. Michael. My wife and her family are from the island of St. Michael (São Miguel) back in Portugal. And, I also graduated from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. As mentioned, I ended up going to St. Michael's Hospital after that incident and waking up in the ER the doctor said, "Do you believe in God?" I just shrugged and he continued, "Well, you really should because the entry point of the knife missed your spinal cord by a quarter-inch and by the Grace of God you are not a paraplegic. I remember that I cried like a child. It was one of the most humbling experiences.



St. Michael the Archangel

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*I remember
that I cried
like a child*

I needed help to eat, to get in and out of bed, to go to the washroom to relearn a number of daily activities. My girlfriend at the time who later became my wife would come to visit me every day at 2 PM and ended up teaching me the Hail Mary. This is when I learned the Hail Mary and when my devotion to the Blessed Mother began as well. On the left inside of my forearm, I have a tattoo of Our Lady of Sorrows and on the outside of my left forearm, I have a tattoo of an Orthodox image of St. Michael the Archangel. That whole incident got me thinking about choices having consequences and responding to the question, 'What are you doing with what you've been given?' If that wasn't a wake-up call for me, I don't know what would be so I got on the straight and narrow very, very quickly after that. (He chuckles with relief and emotion.)

With Lincoln, our second-born, it was the same thing and I get goosebumps just speaking about it. It was our first trimester and I remember I was pumping gas down at Dupont St and I got a call from one of my wife's colleagues saying Monica had to go to the hospital because she came out of the washroom bleeding. I remember I had to pull over partway to the hospital because I had a breakdown and just started weeping. So, I got myself together and made it to the hospital where my wife was still on the gurney covered by a blanket. I approached the nurse on duty and said, "What's happening? My wife and son are still on the gurney?" The nurse responded, "well, the fetus...," "No, I interjected, that's not a fetus, it's my son." She said, "if the fetus is dead now, it will be dead when we get to your wife." At that point, it took every ounce of me to maintain my composure because, as you can imagine, emotions are running high.

My Spiritual Director at the time told me that one of the challenges I've always had is that because I am a Type A personality and have to have things organized and be on top of things, he suggested that I leave everything in God's Providence and things will work out. So, as difficult as it was with the nurse, I ended up praying the Rosary out in the hallway and offered up however small this suffering was in the grand scheme of things. And, in the end, it all worked out.

I also feel blessed to be a Catholic teacher where I can do things like introducing the Rosary to my students, helping with their Faith formation. For me, this is an example of God's daily intervention. We grew up very poor and yet here we are. I am married and we have two healthy kids, both of us having good jobs by the Grace of God. If you spoke to any of my high school teachers growing up, they would have said that I would either be dead or in jail, so if that's not God's intervention, I don't know what it is!



John, with wife Monica and children, Audrey and Lincoln

PAT – Beautiful, John! Why did you choose to join the Knights?

JOHN – As I progressed through my professional career, our Council Member Alberto Sala made a great impression on me as well, truth be told. I didn't even know that he was a Knight when we first taught together for one year at Fr. Henry Carr. As he can attest, the school had many issues and was not a very easy place to work. Along with Alberto, I met a very good core group of men there who were always giving back and the more I interacted with them the more I understood that at their core was Faith. So, what they did was not based on altruism or general benevolence, but Faith. So, through discernment and prayer I came to the realization that the Knights presented an opportunity to join a group of like-minded men who were, for example, comfortable with doing things like praying the Rosary together; something that was often misconstrued as feminine.

I love the fact that the Knights actively pray, that this is a group of men who are Christ-centred, who have an understanding of the centrality of faith and who are unapologetically Catholic.

I love the service aspect of the Knights. I want my children to grow up in an atmosphere where charity is normative, church attendance is normative, scripture is normative, values and morals are normative; not just something we do as an obligation but something we do because it's who we are. But I know at St. Stephens there is a lot of financial need. So, perhaps, things like raising funds for eyeglasses, winter coats, backpacks, things like that may be an opportunity. The schools do provide Christmas care packages through donation drives to obtain some of these items.

Another idea and something we did in my old neighbourhood was Street Patrol where we would bring food and other items to the homeless in Regent Park. There the need was very visible. Here in our neighbourhood, it's not as out in the open. But I know there is a need.

PAT – Yes. In fact, it's interesting that you bring these things up because first of all, at St. Stephens we raised funds to help with their Snack Program in the first year of COVID when regular funding of their program went dry and second, our Squires do organize a Street Patrol program once a year. It's something our Council is looking to help out with in the future.

JOHN – I would certainly look forward to helping in these initiatives when needed even though I used to be teaching at St. Stephens for half the day and could have helped from the inside. I now teach a full day at Holy Trinity 20 minutes south of here. It's a totally different environment there.

The frustrating thing is that the students I had at St. Stephens have now had three different teachers in the space of five months and the need in that school is incredibly large. It is what it is but it tends to be the inner-city schools that suffer most when the shuffling of teachers occurs.

PAT – You are right. Okay, let's get to your favourites! What's your favourite food?

JOHN – Lasagna! Hands down. A good hearty meat-filled lasagna is my go-to. Any time of year!

PAT – Wow! That's my favourite as well. What is your favourite genre of music?

JOHN – Hard to say because it generally depends on the mood. My playlist includes anything from classic rock to hip hop to country.

PAT – What are your favourite songs?

JOHN – Oh yeah, there are a few CCR's *Good Man*, Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the U.S.A.* which is a classic, and the Beatles *Let It Be*.

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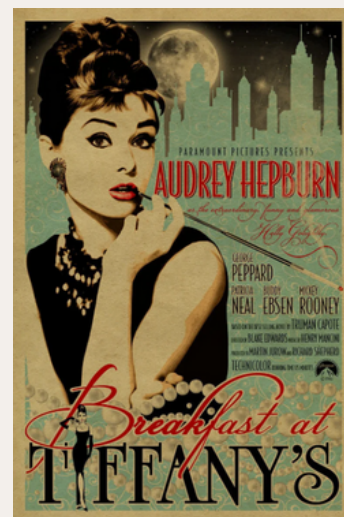
*I love the fact
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PAT – Cool picks! Do you have a favourite hobby?

JOHN – Reading. This is the one thing I haven't been able to do as much as I used to especially given the age of our children, but I had begun doctoral studies a while ago. I completed a Ph.D. ABD (All Book Dissertation), I passed my course work, and then life happened so I put that to the side for now. I was at the point where I was reading a book a day. I do miss just being able to sit down with a book and a glass of Scotch by a warm fire! (We chuckle.) But such is life and I try to sneak it in whenever I can.

PAT – If you could pick your favourite 3 movies of all time, what would they be?

JOHN – Top Gun is the absolute all-time favourite followed by Breakfast at Tiffany's, and Sabrina mainly because I am a die-hard Audrey Hepburn fan. So much so that this is where the inspiration of our daughter's name came from.



PAT – Okay, so that explains it. You were mentioning earlier that you enjoy soccer?

JOHN – Yes, I used to play soccer as a central defender and ended up breaking both my wrists on two separate occasions in the same season!

PAT – Ouch!

JOHN – Yeah. I played fairly hard. I also love cycling. I don't get out as much as I'd like.

PAT – And your favourite sports teams?

JOHN – So, the hometown team back home has a special place in my heart and that's S.L. Benfica. They haven't won anything in Europe since before I was born but they are the hometown club. I also like Chelsea out of the English Premier League.

PAT – Do you have a favourite saint you often turn to?

JOHN – No doubt it's St. Josemaría Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei. I have portraits of him in my house and my classroom. I have an icon of him on my Rosary. For me the beauty and simplicity of his teachings are that we are made in God's image and everyone is endowed with gifts and talents given by God and if we do the little daily things out of a sense of devotion and love then we are in effect sanctifying the things that we do. No matter how menial these tasks may be. It gives a whole context to a labour of love but if you do these things out of love for God and neighbour, then, in fact, they are sanctified because you are also setting an example to others around you.

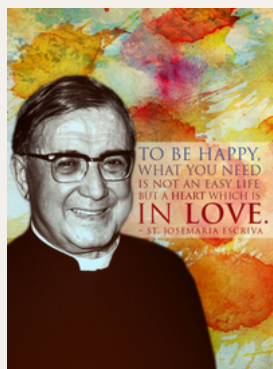
Another one is St. John Bosco. Mariel Cabrera at St. Benedict Church got me involved with the Salesians well over a decade ago through the SLR program. The Salesian Spirituality is very different from Opus Dei. The beauty of the Salesians and what attracted me to them is the focus on youth, especially inner-city youth. "Let them run, let them jump, let them shout, let them do anything but sin." Keep them active and engaged and then teach them a little about the Faith as well. So, these two are the common saints along with, of course, the Blessed Mother which goes without saying for me.

PAT – This is awesome. Thanks again for doing this!

JOHN – Thanks for including me and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in due course when things open up again. This can act as a proverbial ice breaker if you will.



S. L. Benfica



And now here's Tyler Shadoff!

PAT – Hi Tyler, thanks for doing this with me. Tell me a little about yourself.

TYLER – Sure, thanks for having me. I will turn 35 in July. I know I don't look it.

PAT – Don't rub it in, okay? (We both chuckle.)

TYLER – You know, I shave my beard, and they still ID me when I go buy lottery tickets. (We both laugh, but in my mind I think, he's still rubbing it in!) I grew up in a small town north of the city called Keswick. I lived there right up until I left for college and enrolled in a Radio Broadcasting program at Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario; as if Keswick wasn't far north enough already! After a few years, I completed the program and landed a job at 93.5 FM in Toronto where I worked for a few years in the events section of the radio station. A couple of years trickled by and I then took a post-graduate Sports and Event Marketing course at George Brown College.

Once I finished that program, I worked for a couple of Marketing agencies and worked with a few large clients: one of my favourites, Nike Golf; on a Google account; Microsoft. So, a lot of technology accounts. From there I found myself where I am now; working more as a contractor, running a small business. For a while, it was about making ends meet and now it's about looking at ways to grow the small business and move forward.

I have one younger brother, Kyle, who lives out in Northern B.C. with his wife Shannon. We've always been close. He's been out there for 12 years now. He was in Saskatchewan for a while, but the weather was a little too chilly so they found their way to a warmer coastal climate. I'm also married to my wife Ariel. We got married in November 2019 in El Salvador.

PAT – If you can remember, when/where did God first take a special place in your life?

TYLER – This question is actually an easy one for me, Pat, to be honest. Growing up in our household it was quite secular. We were not attending Mass regularly. I did go to a Catholic high school, more because my mother wanted me to, I guess. But after I met Ariel in the spring of 2015, her mother, Hada, a devout Catholic who grew up in El Salvador, felt very strongly that I should begin to attend Mass with her. In the first few weeks and months, it was an opportunity to spend some time with her, but as time passed it became much more than that. I started to appreciate the community aspect of the church. And, soon after that when I decided to propose to Ariel, and my mother-in-law was quite adamant that we would marry in El Salvador, that meant that I would need to get confirmed.

So once I started the once-a-week program at St. Benedict to receive Confirmation, I met a number of other parishioners who were on the same path as me and it really gave me a chance to be introspective and to develop my relationship with God, the Bible, the many teachings which previously I equated to trust your gut, be honest and hardworking, respect your elders, and so forth. But slowly as I developed my experience with the church I was learning more and more about Scripture and realized that my understanding of how to live and Scripture really overlapped. That was when I really began to feel a special relationship with God and with the church and Scripture.



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I've always felt strongly about helping younger people.

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PAT – How does God continue to intervene in your life?

TYLER – With me personally I found that whether I am upset or envious or angry or jealous, or feeling attachment to material things, or wanting a surplus of whatever it may be; I find that I can bring myself back to that centre where I can be detached from those types of feelings. I find I can accept people as they are, having empathy for others and being patient. For me, it's less about sitting on a beach looking at a sunset and remarking how beautiful this world is. It's more about taking a step back from what is causing me to react quickly or negatively to something and taking a deep breath to think about how I can approach a situation with God in my heart and in my mind and how to not necessarily react emotionally, but to just be present and understand to live that moment to the best of my ability. It's from the strength of this new relationship with God and Scripture that I am able to face things on a daily basis, adversities or otherwise, grounded on a platform of confidence.

PAT – That's awesome! This is not so easy in this fast-paced world even though it may have slowed down a bit in the last two years.

TYLER – Yeah, I kind of reflect on that when sitting with my wife and mother-in-law at Mass on Sundays. It's a nice opportunity to be present and not to fall victim to our daily responsibilities and the craziness that we go through nowadays. It's nice. It's that reprieve that I receive.

PAT – Cool. And why did you choose to join the Knights?

TYLER – I've always felt very strongly about helping younger people. And, when I first heard about the road hockey event that was going on Sunday afternoons, and the call to come to assist or bring some extra hockey sticks or just be an extra body to pass the ball around, I think that was the first thing that caught my attention.

Then I learned more about how the Knights function and the role that they play within the parish and community, it seemed pretty clearcut to me that this was a good opportunity for me to join and serve the community to do what I can through my time or an old hockey stick, or whatever. Not only this but also to allow me to deepen my relationship with the community inside of the church; to meet people like yourself and other brother Knights and be able to connect with that sense of fraternity is what made me decide to join the Knights.

PAT – Have you worked with youth in the past?

TYLER – Not as much as I would have liked. There were some marketing events that I was a part of that catered to families. But from that perspective, it was really about selling a product or creating an experience. I did get a chance, however, through the sports that I played growing up to work with some younger kids that way. And I really got a kick out of being that older brother role model for them.

Tyler and Ariel



PAT – What do you think is needed to improve our community?

TYLER – I think in general terms it's leadership and stronger, more active and engaged leadership from young people in my age group that are able to be that bridge for high school-aged kids. When I grew up, I worked with an uncle or a friend of my dad's and I learned to find value in just being there and observing, absorbing, and picking up on the little things along the way.

That divide between age groups is sort of growing. With everything being online and younger kids often isolated, it's easy for them to spend a whole weekend playing video games with friends online. I didn't have that when I was in that age group and circling it all back, I really think what I look to provide and do the best I can is in being a leader; try to bridge that divide between the older and younger generations and see that opportunities are present and the right resources are provided.

PAT – Did you have a mentor growing up?

TYLER – As I grew older, I would say my dad was my closest mentor. I was always able to bend his ear with respect to work, sports, and relationships. So I would say he was my most prominent mentor. Whereas in industry, I never really have connected with a mentor so far. I was always able to rely on my dad for the wisdom that he could provide and the life lessons. To this day, we share a very special bond.



Tyler's famous breakfast sandwich! 😊

PAT – That's awesome! What do you think we as Knights can do to help mentor the youth?

TYLER – Again, in general, it's about leading by example. You know, we often say in jest, 'do as I say, not as I do', but I believe the 'I do' part is closely watched by the younger generation. I have my wife's youngest brother who is 18 years of age and I could talk his ear off all day. I know the look that I'm getting about five to 10 minutes into a conversation that goes on a tangent. So, more important than talking is to lead by example and help out every chance I get, working hard, making sacrifices; whatever it might be, it's about leading by example. This is what will bring what I see to be the overarching message of the Knights and that is to improve our community.

PAT – Good stuff, Tyler and well said! Now let's move on to talk about your favourites. What's your favourite food?

TYLER – I only had to think about this for two seconds and I know it's not really a food and my wife always laughs when I say this, but it's got to be sandwiches! I tell you, a good sandwich, whether it be a BLT or a Sub; oh baby, that always hits the sweet spot for me.

PAT – Hey, you can't go wrong with a good hearty sandwich. Any special sandwich?

TYLER – I make a mean breakfast sandwich with bacon, eggs, and cheese with avocado; it's a thing of beauty in our household.

PAT – Nice! What is your favourite genre of music?

TYLER – So, I've got two and the first one is Hip Hop because when I got introduced to music at around 12 years of age, I really began to identify with this type of music; you know, a young rebellious, 12-year-old figuring life out kind of thing. As I grew a little older and began working odd jobs with some older guys, I really began to enjoy classic rock.

This is another thing that my dad and I really bonded over. One of the many things I loved hearing about was the concert stories of back in the day. I've heard most of them but the one I still ask him about is the one where he drove to Buffalo on a Wednesday night to see Ozzie Osbourne. I love that kind of stuff.

PAT – Yeah, for me too, the seventies especially were an amazing era for music. I couldn't wait to buy the latest vinyl record of my favourite band and rip open the plastic covering to unleash the shiny unscratched vinyl, pop it onto the record player and read those lyrics!

TYLER – Oh yeah, I often talk to my dad about that and those classic bands. What an experience it was to hear for the first-time pieces like Dark Side of the Moon or a Rolling Stones album. It's something your generation really must have enjoyed; so different from music today.

PAT – No doubt. What would your top 3 favourite songs be?

TYLER – Okay, I couldn't come up with three but I have two, both classic rock songs. I asked myself how can I pick a favourite song and my criteria were any time it comes on you turn the sound up a little bit, you listen to the whole thing, and you just stay parked in the parking lot a little longer just to hear it. So, my first favourite would have to be Freebird by Lynard Skynard. That's about as good as it gets for me. The full version with that guitar solo is where you just don't talk and you just listen for 10 minutes.

My second one, another one inspired by my dad, and it's Long Way to the Top by AC/DC. It's a great song but I really love the message. It's working-class, blue-collar, wake up early, work hard, that kind of vibe that appeals to me. You know it truly is a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll!

PAT – Cool. Nice picks. Do you have a favourite hobby?

TYLER – Yeah, my favourite hobby would have to be golf. I used to play pick-up hockey and a couple of injuries slowed that stuff down so now golf has got to be it. I play it as much as I can whether with a simulator in the winter or as much as I can all over in the summer.

PAT – So, you're going to make us all look bad at our tournament!

TYLER – Oh no, the nice thing about playing 'Scramble' is that a rising tide raises all ships! (We both laugh.)

PAT – And if you could pick your favourite three movies, what would they be?

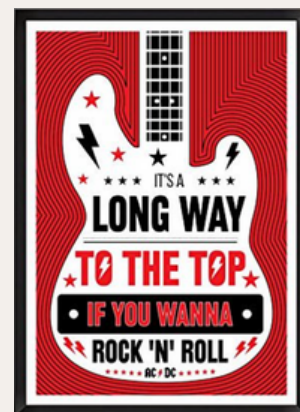
TYLER – So there are a few more classics for you here. I've always been a big sports guy so the first one is a comedy that you may know and that's Major League. Another one that has got to be on your all-time list is Planes, Trains and Automobiles with Steve Martin and John Candy; just an absolute knee-slapper. And my third favourite—I had to think about this one. It's a little different and one of those movies that I watched many times with my younger brother and we would know every line in every scene until we almost couldn't watch it anymore and it was The Odd Couple II. Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon do a remake of the original when they're both in their eighties. It's another all-timer!

PAT – Wow, great picks. And you mentioned you enjoy sports?

TYLER – Yes, I've always been a team sports guy and my favourites growing up in Southern Ontario have and always will be a Leafs, Jays, Raptors, fan. Loyal to the soil as it's said. I would say hockey is my first love but I do enjoy watching NFL Football as well. I played organized hockey right up until 18 so it's certainly my favourite.

PAT – Do you have a favourite saint you often turn to?

TYLER – More on recency bias I would have to say that it's St. Benedict. Mostly because I could stand to do a little more reading on the saints. But it's the saying on the stained glass window in our church which reads "Ora et Labora" that really touched me. When I first found out what it meant, prayer and work, I realized that yes, this is it, this is what you need; continue to work and do good work and provide as well as prayer and remembering to keep in mind that you are always in the presence of God. And when I get off track a little bit, whether, with family or work stuff, I do find that it is that saying that brings me back in and allows me to find my centre.



PAT – That’s so cool, Tyler! Anything else that you would like to add that we haven’t touched on today?

TYLER – No, I think we’ve covered everything off and I’m really looking forward to providing a fresh take and fresh set of eyes with some new ideas to continuing the work the Knights do and doing some great things in our community. Thank you, Pat, for having me. I feel very blessed for being a part of this distinguished group that we have and to together improve our community one task at a time.

PAT – Well that’s just great. We are thrilled to have you aboard and I know you’ll be helping us out immensely with our golf event as well as many of our other initiatives. You know, it’s about having a wide range of perspectives on our team. No one person or even a small group of people can know it all. The more people, the more perspectives and experiences that are brought to the table, the better we are for it. One thing close to my heart is the youth and knowing that they are our future and it’s good to know that we have guys like you who share in that focus as well. So, thanks for joining us and thanks so much for doing this with me.

TYLER – No problem, Pat. Thank you for the call. I’m glad we had a chance to do this and I’m excited and looking forward to committing some good time and moving the needle!

PAT – Awesome!

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*'Ora et Labora'
... brings me back
in and allows me
to find my centre.*

THE VIA DOLOROSA - A LENTEN TRADITION

ADAPTED FROM A PODCAST BY CAROLINE HARVEY - ASCENSION PRESS

Some Lenten practices are so customary or traditional that without them Lent would not be Lent. This is the same for many holidays and celebrations—what is Christmas without a Nativity scene, or a birthday without a cake? With Lent, Catholics are used to the announcements after Mass about Friday fish fries, reconciliation services, and the praying of the Stations of the Cross, The Via Dolorosa.

Each station in this ancient pilgrimage practice remembers significant moments on Jesus’s walk from the Praetorium, where he was sentenced to death, to Golgatha (Calvary) outside of the city walls, to the tomb in a nearby garden. The fourteen stations not only help us understand what this difficult journey was like, but they also allow us to enter into this way of sorrow and be present to Jesus.



Instead of focusing on what we should give up, let's take the time to walk with Jesus during this Lenten season thanking Him, praising Him, and learning from Him.

Through prayer, we can be the consoling face in the crowd that Jesus finds as he slowly makes his way through the streets. We can see how much he struggled to bear the weight of the Cross, falling three times under its weight, and offer to Jesus at that moment all of our struggles that are weighing us down. We can see Veronica wipe his bloody face and find the courage to offer assistance to those around us. We can stand alongside Mary and John as Jesus hangs on the cross and cries out: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

Knowing the full weight of what he suffered allows us to know the full weight of his mercy. To walk with Jesus on this pilgrimage is to encounter his wounds, his sorrows, and his death to know in true faith that Jesus died for you out of love. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends..” John 15:13

THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN!

No, Not the Football Team!

We are all called to be saints. Yes, even you and I. God calls us all and if we respond, we become the ones we ought to be, the ones we were created to be. Nothing is impossible to Him.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
- Matthew 17:19-20



The following is a new feature of our newsletter. It highlights the lives of a few interesting saints whose name day coincides with the time period of this newsletter.

Spend some time getting to know them and the lives they lived. It's amazing to know that many saints were just common folk like you and me who one day took it upon themselves to love and follow the Lord even with the many deficiencies they knew they had.

ST. JOHN of GOD - Feast day March 8th

Born: March 8, 1495 - Montemor-o-Novo, Évora, Portugal

Deceased: March 8, 1550 - Granada, Spain

Patron Saint of:

Booksellers, Firefighters, Heart Patients, Hospitals, Nurses, Printers, the Sick

While a soldier, John was 40 before his sinful life began to weigh him down. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service and headed for Africa where he hoped to free captive Christians and, possibly, be martyred.

He was soon advised that his desire for martyrdom was not spiritually well based, and returned to Spain and the relatively mundane activity of a religious goods store. His heart was still unsettled. Moved initially by a sermon of St. John of Avila, he engaged in a public beating of himself, asking for mercy and wildly repenting for his past life.

Committed to a mental hospital for this, St. John of Avila visited John and inspired him to be more involved with the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

He established a house where he tended to the needs of the sick, at first doing his own begging. But, inspired by his devotion, many people began to back him up with money and provisions. Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious order. John became ill after 10 years of service. He was canonized by Pope Alexander VIII in 1690.





ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC - Feast day March 15th

Born: August 12, 1591 - Le Meux, France

Deceased: March 15, 1660 - Paris, France

Patron Saint of: Social Workers

Louise lost her mother when she was still a child and her father when she was 15. She hoped to become a nun but was discouraged by her confessor, and entered into an arranged marriage. She had one son but soon found herself nursing her husband through a long illness that finally led to his death.

She was fortunate to initially have a wise mentor, Francis de Sales, and later she was to undertake great works under the guidance of another holy person she had not yet met. This was the priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul. At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his "Confraternities of Charity."

After many years, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, he realized that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. Eventually, four simple young women joined her. Growth became rapid and soon she drew up the so-called "rule of life," under the guidance of Vincent, for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

She travelled throughout France, establishing her community members in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death. She was canonized in 1934.

ST. BENOIT-JOSEPH LABRE - Feast day April 16th

Born: March 25, 1748 - Amettes, France

Deceased: April 16, 1783 - Rome, Italy

Patron Saint of: Bachelors, the mentally ill, Beggars, the Homeless

Benoit-Joseph Labre was truly eccentric. He was the eldest of 18 children and studied under his uncle, a parish priest. Because of poor health and a lack of education he was unsuccessful in his attempts to enter the religious life. At age 16, he lost his desire to study and gave up all thoughts of the priesthood, much to the consternation of his relatives.



He became a pilgrim, travelling from one great shrine to another, living off alms. He wore the rags of a beggar and shared his food with the poor. Filled with the love of God and neighbour, Benoit had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and to the Blessed Sacrament. In Rome, where he lived in the Colosseum for a time, he was called "the poor man of the Forty Hours devotion" and "the beggar of Rome." The people accepted his ragged appearance better than he did. His excuse to himself was that "our comfort is not in this world."

On April 16, 1783, the last day of his life, Benoit dragged himself to a church in Rome and prayed there for two hours before he collapsed, dying peacefully in a nearby house. Immediately after his death, the people proclaimed him a saint. He was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881.

Labre's confessor, Marconi, wrote his biography and attributed 136 separate cures to his intercession within three months of his death. Those miracles were instrumental in the conversion of the Reverend John Thayer, the first American Protestant clergyman to convert to Catholicism, who was living in Rome during that time.

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA - Feast day April 17th

Born: 1656 - Ossernenon, NY, USA

Deceased: April 17, 1680 - Kahnawake, QC, Canada

Patron Saint of: Ecologists, Environment, Orphans, Canada



Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was four, Tekakwitha lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief.

He hated the coming of the Blackrobes—Jesuit missionaries—but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was moved by the words of three Blackrobes who lived in their settlement, but she was afraid to learn more about their teachings for fear of her uncle. Tekakwitha refused to marry a Mohawk brave, and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday.

She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life were often opposed. On the advice of a priest, Kateri ran away one night and began a 200-mile walk to a Christian Indigenous village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal. For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God. At 23, Kateri took a vow of virginity, an unprecedented act for a Native woman. She practiced severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. She died the afternoon before Holy Thursday and witnesses said that her scarred face changed colour and became like that of a healthy child. The lines of suffering, even the pockmarks, disappeared and a smile came upon her lips. She was beatified in 1980 and canonized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.



ST. PETER HIEU VAN NGUYEN - Feast day April 28th

Born: Date unknown - Vietnam

Deceased: 1840 - Vietnam

Patron Saint of: Vietnam

St. Peter Hieu was a Vietnamese martyr. He joined the Foreign Missions of Paris and served as a catechist to his own people. He was arrested by government authorities and he and two companions were beheaded. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988 as one of 117 Vietnamese martyrs.

The Vatican estimates the number of Vietnamese martyrs at between 130,000 and 300,000. The Vietnamese Martyrs fall into several groupings, those of the Dominican and Jesuit missionary era of the 18th century and those killed in the politically inspired persecutions of the 19th century. A representative sample of only 117 martyrs—including 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish Dominicans, and ten French members of the Paris Foreign Missions Society [Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP)]—were beatified on four separate occasions. All 117 of these Vietnamese Martyrs were canonized on June 19, 1988.

The tortures these individuals underwent are considered by the Vatican to be among the worst in the history of Christian martyrdom. The torturers hacked off limbs joint by joint, tore flesh with red hot tongs, and used drugs to enslave the minds of the victims. Christians at the time were branded on the face with the words "tả đạo" [左道, lit. "Left (Sinister) religion"] and families and villages which subscribed to Christianity were completely obliterated.

WHO'S IN YOUR SPIRITUAL POSSE?

What if you could sit down with your favourite saints and have a chat? What would you say? If you could pick five favourite saints or saints that are close to you and have a special meaning in your life, who would they be?

I recently listened to a podcast by Catholic scholar and bible educator Jeff Cavins who spoke about this and how he introduced it into his prayer life.

We all form part of the Communion of Saints, one body in Jesus so why not invoke the intercession of those with whom we feel close.

Pat Loduca: My five are listed below. Who's in your posse? When do you call on them? I'm trying to introduce myself to say hello to them every morning and ask them, along with Mother Mary, to help protect me from doing the wrong thing and to pray to them to strengthen those around me and help them to know Jesus.



Welcome to my posse (Pat Loduca):



ST. JOSEPH - Birth unknown, Death unknown

Patron Saint of: Families, Fathers, Canada, and more

"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife." - Matthew 1:24 - Feast Day: March 19



ST. MATTHEW - Birth unknown, Death unknown

Patron Saint of: Accountants, bankers, and more

As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him... When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." - Mark 2:14, 17 - Feast Day: September 21



ST. MONICA - 331, Tagaste, North Africa (Algeria) – 387, Ostia (Rome), Italy

Patron Saint of: Wives, mothers, conversions, patience, and more.

"One thing only there was for which I desired to linger in this life: to see you a Catholic Christian before I died. And my God has granted this to me more lavishly than I could have hoped, letting me see even you spurning earthly happiness to be his servant. What am I still doing here?" - St. Augustine, quoting his mother, St. Monica - Feast Day: August 27



ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE - 8 January 1894, Poland – 14 August 1941, Auschwitz

Patron Saint of: People with eating disorders, drug addicts, prisoners, families

"I want to die in his place. I am a Catholic Priest." - Maximilian Kolbe at Camp Auschwitz, Germany during WW II when he gave his life for a Jewish prisoner.
"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." - John 15-13
Feast Day: August 14



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA - 26 August 1910, Macedonia – 5 September 1997, India

Patron Saint of: World Youth Day, Archdiocese of Calcutta, and more

"Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action." "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." - St. Teresa of Calcutta
Feast Day: September 5

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



CANNOLI SALES!

Get your fresh and delicious cannolis after Masses at St. Benedict Church starting the weekend of March 5th/6th through to the weekend of April 2nd/3rd! The Knights will be selling cannolis to raise money for various youth causes within our community.

SPORTS SUNDAY



Our Sports Sunday Program has been a great success. Thank you to those who have participated or volunteered to help! We hope to continue with the program at some point in 2022 when restrictions permit. For more information please contact: Adam Muscat at 416-428-9828 or adammuscat@live.ca.

NEXT KOFC GENERAL MEETINGS

The general meetings of the Knights of Columbus for the next two months will take place inside St. Benedict Church Hall on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23rd and WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27th both starting with Mass at 7:00 PM. Members will receive notices a few days before each meeting with more info.

IN LOVING MEMORY



SHEILA ROSE TIMSON

March 2nd, 1936 – February 7th, 2022

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family members. Beloved mother to Brother Chris Timson. She will be fondly remembered and missed by all her friends and extended family. She was an active member of her church and loved spending time with her many grand and great-grandchildren.

<https://memorials.gilbertmacintyreandson.com/sheila-timson/4851471/>



FR. VITO MARZILIANO

August 24th, 1955 – February 12th, 2022

Peacefully into the arms of Jesus, Fr. Vito touched the lives of so many. Friend to the Knights. He will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, too numerous to mention, fellow clergy, and his beloved St. Patrick's community of whom he held so close to his heart.

<https://vesciofuneralhome.com/memorials/fr-vito-marziliano/4858146/>



ANTONIO ORSINI

June 6th, 1929 – February 14th, 2022

Passed away peacefully at home with his children by his side. Beloved father to Cris Smith and father-in-law to her husband, Brother Don Smith. Proud employee of the Canadian Pacific Railway for over 25 years. He will be loved and forever remembered by all of his family and friends.

<https://www.cardinalfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/mr-antonio-orsini/>

Let's pray for the repose of their souls and for their families. May they Rest In Peace.

[If you have an event you would like to have announced here, please send us a note to stjohnboscol4327@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnboscol4327@gmail.com)



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN BOSCO COUNCIL #14327 2194 KIPLING AVE. ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO M9W 4K9

Published bi-monthly by the Communications Committee of St. John Bosco Council #14327
Pat Loduca, Tony Di Felice, Wolf Hartmann, Daniel Loduca

IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

Founded on the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., and a group of parishioners. Their intent? To bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled, and needy members and their families. Today, Father McGivney is being considered for sainthood.

Our Council strives to live the values of charity, unity, and fraternity every day and in every event we organize, whether to fundraise for a worthy cause or to bolster our Spirituality. We voluntarily assist our home parish St. Benedict Catholic Church in Etobicoke and we raise money for many other needs in our community and city.

Meetings:

General - Every 4th Wed. of the month except December, July, & August (*April & May meetings respectively include the nominations and the election of officers*)

Officers - Every 3rd Wed. of the month except July & August

Events:

Annual Golf Tournament - This year's date to be determined.

Faith Forum - Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Other Events - Multiple dinner dances, sports viewing parties, and game nights one day when God wills it so! Stay tuned.

Have any questions or comments? Have any ideas for future newsletters and possible fundraising events, or know someone who would like to learn more about what we do and stand for? Feel free to contact us at stjohnbosco14327@gmail.com.

Council Officers and Committee Leaders:

Pat Loduca
Grand Knight

Fr. John
Mariapragasam
Chaplain

Tony Di Felice
Deputy Grand Knight

Adam Muscat
Chancellor

Denzil Fernandes
Financial Secretary

Alberto Sala
Recorder

Jim Bradbury
Treasurer

Steve Azzopardi
Lecturer

Vacant
Advocate

Robert Brown
Warden

Inside Guard: Steve Azzopardi

Outside Guards: Don Smith, Joe Santogrossi, Joe D'Sylva

Board of Trustees: Chris Timson, Joe Muscat, Doug Woods

Tony Di Felice
Program Director

Adam Muscat
Membership Director

Deacon Peter
Takaoka
Faith Director

Robert Brown
Recruitment Director

Tony Di Felice
Community Director

Chris Timson
Fraternal Designate

Alberto Sala
Family Director

Adam Muscat
Youth Chair

Chris Timson
Life Director

Pat Loduca
Communications Chair

Warren Fernandes
Counsellor - Squires

Adam Muscat
Fundraising Chair