



Catholic SVG



Fostering Community

Bishop Gerard County is calling on members of the Church to foster a spirit of community by using their talents to bring about togetherness in our Church family.

Bishop County was speaking at a meeting of the different commissions and Parish Pastoral Council agents at the Pastoral Centre on January 19, where he shared his long-term goals for growth within the Diocese.

“In this church, community of disciples, all of us have a role to play. We have different functions. We have the laity, we have the clergy. Our different roles must be to compliment each other in our ministry and together...we are the church,” he said. “Church without laity does not make sense. A church with only clergy does not make sense...that sense of us working together, each and everyone of

us recognising by our baptism, we are disciples of Jesus Christ and that in itself is a responsibility.”

The bishop stressed that it was not about who is better or less than, but about coming together and working together to build a better Church.

He emphasised his message by challenging the stewards present to encourage others to give themselves freely to each other and work together, using their skills and talents to build the Church.

“I think for me particularly in our small community in St Vincent and the Grenadines, if we understand that, try to live that, we will be a light, bring a newness, a new sense of what church is,” the Bishop said.

Bishop County said the Church would focus on the spirituality of stewardship and finding the common pastoral and spirituality that guides the Church.

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7 Charismatic conference hailed a "spirit-filled weekend"

DIOCESE OF KINGSTOWN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FAMILY LENTEN CALENDAR 2019  Pray. Fast. Give/Serve.			MARCH 6TH Ash Wednesday. Take time to go to Mass.	MARCH 7TH Get up early, give thanks and offer your day to God.	MARCH 8TH Call or visit someone you haven't seen in a while.	MARCH 9TH Pray the rosary as a family. Continue once a week.
MARCH 10TH "I was hungry and you gave me food." Mt 25:35. Reflect.	MARCH 11TH Say a prayer of thanks for all you have in your life.	MARCH 12TH Start a kitchen garden and share your crops.	MARCH 13TH Fast by eating only one full meal today. No meat.	MARCH 14TH Pray for those who have nothing to eat.	MARCH 15TH Read God's Word as a family.	MARCH 16TH Commit to daily scripture reading.
MARCH 17TH <i>Feast of St Patrick</i> "I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Mt 25:35. Reflect.	MARCH 18TH Pray for the grace to thank God in all seasons.	MARCH 19TH <i>Feast of St Joseph</i> Be compassionate. Take coconut water to an ill person.	MARCH 20TH Fast from drinking juice today. Drink only water.	MARCH 21ST Pray for those who are suffering.	MARCH 22ND Visit the homebound.	MARCH 23RD Make good use of God's resources. Conserve water.
MARCH 24TH "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Mt 25:35. Reflect.	MARCH 25TH <i>The Annunciation</i> Pray for the gift of obedience to God's Word.	MARCH 26TH Give unconditional love to anyone who challenges you today.	MARCH 27TH Share your time, listen to someone.	MARCH 28TH Pray for the homeless.	MARCH 29TH Think of ways to thank God by serving. Choose one and act on it.	MARCH 30TH Commit to monthly contributions to one of our homes or other social service.
MARCH 31ST "I was naked and you clothed me." Mt 25:36. Reflect.	APRIL 1ST Ask God to make kindness and generosity a habit in your life.	APRIL 2ND Teach someone to say the rosary. Give a crucifix or rosary to someone.	APRIL 3RD Fast from electronic devices today.	APRIL 4TH Pray for the poor.	APRIL 5TH Give items from your closet to someone in need.	APRIL 6TH Commit to sharing your talents and resources.
APRIL 7TH "... you did this to the least of my brothers ..." Mt 25:40. Reflect.	APRIL 8TH Pray for opportunities to show respect and charity.	APRIL 9TH Read scripture for a shut-in.	APRIL 10TH Fast from gossiping.	APRIL 11TH Pray "Jesus I love you" during the day today.	APRIL 12TH Say something nice to a family member.	APRIL 13TH Commit to visiting the blessed sacrament often.
APRIL 14TH "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mt 6:21. Reflect.	APRIL 15TH Pray for God to be first in your life.	APRIL 16TH Listen only to Gospel music today.	APRIL 17TH Fast from getting worked up over small annoyances.	APRIL 18TH Pray for the clergy.	APRIL 19TH Follow Jesus' journey to the cross. Attend service today.	APRIL 20TH Commit/re-commit to service/ministry in the church.
APRIL 21ST Easter! The resurrection.	These activities are based on the three pillars of Lent, prayer, fasting and giving in tangible ways or in service. Involve the whole family! Encourage the young ones to make simple commitments they should be able to keep.					



Roman Catholic Diocese of Kingstown

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18th January 2019

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Grace and Peace of God be with you all throughout the year 2019.

The sudden illness of two of our Priests has awakened our attention to the fact that there is no structure in place for the care of Priests, especially for sick and retired diocesan priests in the Diocese of Kingstown. There is no retirement home and no retirement financial investment fund.

Through the initiative of the members of the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council, the "I Care" Project which aims to support our Priests has been created. This venture, however, would require the support of all Catholics through pledges to the Fund.

The "I Care Trust fund" is an arrangement whereby parishioners make a financial contribution which is set aside for the specific purpose of assisting with the critical medical needs of active and retired priests and also to provide for all aspects of life after retirement from priestly ministry.

The proposed "I Care Trust Fund" will be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of 3 to 4 committed persons. Parishioners will be asked to commit themselves to making a monthly, quarterly or annual pledge to the fund. Pledge envelopes will be given out in the parishes. However, parishioners can choose to make the contribution directly to the Bank account.

In each parish there will be a cell (a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 persons) who will be responsible for driving and managing this project in the respective parish. This initiative has my full approval and support.

I make an urgent appeal for your support to the "I Care Trust Fund." Diocesan priests and their Bishop have to depend on the Diocese to which they serve for their care and the Diocese has an obligation to care for its priests and Bishop.

May Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption intercede for us and may her son, the Eternal High Priest, bless this worthy and noble venture.

Yours in Christ,

+ Gerard County, C.S.Sp.,
Bishop of Kingstown.

FROM LEFT:
Eustace Francis, Eardley Martin
and Ancel Knights



DEACON CANDIDATES

growing in faith and commitment to Church

Three men in the Diocese received the ministry of lector on their journey to becoming Permanent Deacons.

Eardley Martin, Eustace Francis and Ancel Knights received their ordination as lectors at the Cathedral of the Assumption on January 19.

The Diaconate programme is being facilitated by Dayton University and the men have been on the journey for the past three or so years; an experience that they all say have helped them to grow in faith and commitment to church.

Martin is involved in the Family Commission at the Cathedral and assists at the Diocesan level in that field. He also previously served on the Youth Commission.

Martin testifies that his “biggest gain is the knowledge of the Church and the knowledge of the Bible. It has grounded me more deeply, not only in my faith, but also in scriptures. The journey has been very rewarding”.

He further explains that the courses that are a part of the programme are extremely fulfilling and offers a significant amount of knowledge on the Church and its history. He adds by saying “I think even for persons who don’t want to be deacons, there are a lot of courses at Dayton university that Catholics can get involved in, instead of second guessing themselves about their faith”.

The second of the three candidates, Eustace Francis hails from

the parish of Our Lady Queen of the Universe and is enrolled in the programme after being coaxed and encouraged by members of his parish community. Francis confesses that while his initial thought was that he was “over the hill” for that kind of thing, he eventually decided to embark on the journey.

He claims that in a nutshell, the programme is preparing one for service in the church.

“I like to serve others, through the Church because I honestly believe that we are called as Christians and disciples of Jesus to serve. Jesus himself said, I came to serve, not to be served,” Francis said.

Francis, who attends the Catholic Church in Rillan Hill, is involved in the music ministry. He is also a member of the Liturgical commission on the parish level and heads up the Stewardship and Development Commission for the Diocese.


He is also quite passionate about stewardship and believes that it is a way of life. “I’ve really taken that to heart. I believe in my soul that this is the way that every Christian ...should approach the walk of discipleship. Once we are baptised, we become disciples of Christ and stewardship is one of the ways in which you live out discipleship and I think it is a very important path to holiness,” he said.

Ancel Knights, third candidate who is enrolled in the programme, also professes that it has allowed him to grow spiritu-

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It's YOUR CHOICE
A DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you...to give you hope for the future." Jer. 29:11



2019 DATES
 Mar. 22 - 24
 Jun. 21 - 23
 Sept. 27 - 29
2020 Jan 24 - 26

Cost: \$100.00 /weekend

For more info 784.532.9453 | catholicsvg.youth@gmail.com

Did you know?...

Vincent of Saragossa was one of the Church's three most illustrious deacons, the other two being Stephen and Lawrence. He is also Spain's most renowned martyr. Ordained deacon by Bishop Valerius of Saragossa, he was taken in chains to Valencia during the Diocletian persecution and put to death. From legend we have the following details of his martyrdom. After brutal scourging in the presence of many witnesses, he was stretched on the rack; but neither torture nor blandishments nor threats could undermine the strength and courage of his faith. Next, he was cast on a heated grating, lacerated with iron hooks, and seared with hot metal

plates.

Then he was returned to prison, where the floor was heavily strewn with pieces of broken glass. A heavenly brightness flooded the entire dungeon, filling all who saw it with greatest awe.

After this he was placed on a soft bed in the hope that lenient treatment would induce apostasy, since torture had proven ineffective. But strengthened by faith in Christ Jesus and the hope of everlasting life, Vincent maintained an invincible spirit and overcame all efforts, whether by fire, sword, rack, or torture to induce defection. He persevered to the end and gained the heavenly crown of martyrdom.

A PHOTO MOMENT

Members of the Corpus Christi Parish Chior during their concert, "Laudate" in Canaoun back in January



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ally. "I found that I got more interested in reading the Bible. I read quite a lot and began seeing things differently," he said.

Knights says that the programme has helped him to internalise the Bible and he finds himself praying differently, talking to God on a more personal level.

And he said that he allows the spirit to guide his actions.

What is most profound is that the experience thus far, has helped him in his acts of service as well, as he has been able to give more during his visits to the sick, elderly and shut ins.

"I always did but it had a bit more meaning to me, visiting the shut ins and elderly, the sick and so on. It took on a different dimension in terms of, I didn't just visit but after reading the Bible, I started visiting and apart from just talking and trying to keep people happy, I started praying with them," he said.

He adds that "when I saw the reaction of the people and realised what was happening, I could see that they were actually journeying as well, I liked it. ...i feel that I have grown spiritually and I'm still growing".

The Corpus Christi parishioner is very active and says that he participates any activity where he is needed. He offers up quite a bit of time to the church through evangelisation.

The next step on the journey of these three men is to be ordained as acolytes and then as Deacons. All the best to these three Diaconate candidates!



After approximately one year and two months, the MV Barracouda has returned. The Southern Grenadines ferry owned and captained by Mr. Jeffery King of Canouan was out of commission since 2017. The ship had been on dock undergoing an engine replacement and other mandatory safety instalments. Docked at the Kingstown Grenadines wharf on Friday, February 1, the vessel was blessed by Fr. Peter Okonkwo. Mr. King who runs the business with his wife and two sons were happy to be return-

ing to work after such a long break.

After a thorough mandatory Marine Survey and Inspection by the Port Authority as per safety regulations, the MV Barracouda set sail on Saturday, journeying first to Canouan then Union Island. On both islands the vessel was met at the wharf with joyous dancing and singing by the residents. We pray God's continued blessings on this faithful family and for guidance and protection for the passengers.

Welcoming everyone to Mass

by Catherine Lewis



The 'Welcome' Faces At Mass

When I visited Sacred Heart at Rillan, Fr. Mark greeted me at the entrance to the church. I was again acknowledged and welcomed during the announcements. But it was that first encounter with Fr. Mark at the door of the church that made my heart smile. In all the missions I visited, I received a similar welcome and felt really special.

Think about someone visiting your church for the first time receiving such a welcome. They will know you are happy to have them worship with you and will want to come back. Think about the parishioners who worship there each week, they will get an extra boost and a sense of belonging which will help them take ownership of their church. **Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)**

Being welcoming goes beyond greeting at Mass. When a church embraces

and includes people of other nationalities and cultures in Mass and other events, it brings a richness to worship that could only come from diversity, and it brings a different way of doing things which complements the traditional way. ... ***I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... (Mt 25:35)***

And what about parishioners who feel unworthy for one reason or another? There are many ways to include them in the life of the church to make them feel welcomed to serve and participate. We are all part of the Body of Christ regardless of our sinful nature and our status in life. ***This man welcomes sinners and eats with them. (Lk 15:2)***

Is your church a welcoming church? If you don't think so, make it one. Begin by welcoming everyone to Mass, showing them you are happy for their presence in the house of the Lord.



Participants of this year's Charismatic Conference engaged in a session.

Charismatic conference hailed as "a spirit-filled weekend"

The 11th National Charismatic Conference, hosted by the members of the National Service Team (NST), was held on the weekend of January 4th to 6th, and was dubbed by many as a "spirit – filled weekend." Held biennially, this year's conference addressed the theme, "You shall be my people and I would be your God" [Eze 36:28].

Although turnout was somewhat disappointing, the grounds of the St. Joseph's Convent, Kingstown became a place of revival and rejuvenation for over two hundred persons.

The conference opened on the Friday night with a welcome by Fr. Boniface Ezeokeke, one of the Spiritual Directors of the NST. Bishop Gerard County delivered the keynote address in which he challenged all present to continue to be disciples of God, to serve Him humbly and put him in the midst of their lives.

Following the formalities of the evening, featured speaker, Fr. Elveau Augustine of Dominica kick started the weekend's presentations with a talk titled, "God owns me" – delivering a message of hope and encouragement to those in attendance. Through the use of personal testimonies, he showed how the circumstances of our lives can be used to drive us into a deeper and meaningful relationship with God. He expounded that to be owned by God meant that we were [are] cared and provided for by God, and that we should be reassured by the notion that we were "bought with the blood of Jesus Christ." This self-awareness as child of God then becomes our source of strength and courage. Fr. Elveau closed his presentation by reminding us that, "God's ownership over us requires a mutual understanding, to be fired up for discipleship...we all belong to God, others need to witness who we are, so they too can be filled up."

In a similar vein, the presentations made on day two of the Conference reassured participants of God's compassion and love, while stimulating thoughts about the our role and responsibility as Catholics, Christians and disciples.

Calvert Huggins, chairperson of the NST, addressed the attendees on the first part of the theme, "You shall be my people". His was a message that provoked our hearts and minds, to surrender both to the will of God. Mr. Huggins forced us to examine our lives, to acknowledge that we need to change the way we live. He stated that "Our lives must be a witness to the true living God...our service must entail suffering and sacrifice [and we must] be a visible manifestation of Jesus Christ in our society." Another NST team member, Olivia da Silva, presented on the second part of the weekend's theme, "And I will be your God." Referencing John 1:3 and Joshua 1:9, Mrs. DaSilva gave a very encouraging message which reminded us of our value to God and of our need to be obedient to God's plan.

In addition to the 'Healing Service' which ended proceedings for the Saturday night, the remainder of the weekend was filled with animated talks and discussions led by Fr. Elveau, which was further punctuated by lively, 'house rocking' praise and worship led by the St. John's Choir.

Many persons contributed to making the 11th National charismatic Conference a successful one. The NST thanks them sincerely and invites all to join in the various Charismatic Renewals held throughout the Diocese during this year. The next conference would be in 2021.

DIOCESE OF KINGSTOWN

MAY 1

ANNUAL FAMILY FAIR

Cakes & Sweets

Filipino Foods

Local Foods

Ice Cream

BBQ

Bouncing Castle

Games

Wheel of Fortune

Color Board

Horse Riding

Cultural Entertainment Package

Venue: Anglican Car Park

**11AM -
6PM**

