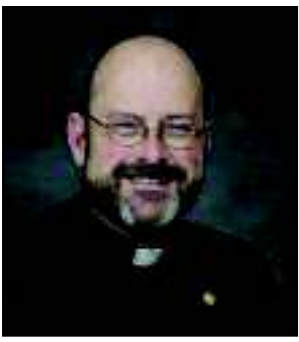


GROWING IN FAITH



By the Rev. Canon
Stewart Murray

One of the many privileges of being a parish priest is the opportunity to meet a wide range of people from every walk of life. The adage that "we all have a story to tell" is confirmed for me every time I visit with someone in their home or over coffee in the parish kitchen. I learn so much about people's joys and sorrows, the challenges that they face and their concerns about fam-

Taking time to listen to others with our hearts

ily and friends. I am often humbled by the faith, courage and wisdom that people share as they tell their story; the story of a family struggling to make sense of the death of a child; of an older couple facing the diagnosis of cancer; of a young person struggling to find work. Each story, like the person who shares it, is unique. Though the concerns may be similar, each person's journey is their own. Each of us brings our own unique story to be part of the ongoing stories of our parishes, for in a very deep way the story of every parish is made up of the individual stories of those who belong to that unique parish.

St. Paul, in describing being part of the Body of Christ through bap-

tism, reminds us that we are called to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). Our lives are bound up together in the waters of baptism in Christ. Together we seek to know and follow Christ, through worship, service and the bonds of friendship. We are not simply a gathering of individuals when we worship or meet together, but members called to care and encourage one another in Christ. To take time to listen to each other's story and especially to those of the many visitors and newcomers who come to our parishes is sometimes not easy at times. We are often rushed and occasionally our own needs and concerns hinder us from taking the time to listen

with our hearts and not just with our ears to the person with whom we are speaking. Perhaps you have had the experience of talking with someone and you quickly get the impression that they are not really listening. But everyone's story, from the members of longstanding to the recent visitor, can only become part of a parish's story if it is listened to as if it were of utmost importance or value.

Nurturing the ongoing story of our parishes is the privilege of each one of us. The clergy and wardens, of course, should lead by example. But everyone in the parish needs to be part of growing the story. The question is – are we ready to welcome and be open to hearing the stories of those who will come to

experience what we Christians celebrate? So many in our society are looking for a community that will take time to listen to their story and have the willingness to walk with them in their journey. Loneliness and isolation are becoming chronic problems in our society despite all the advances in communications and social networking. Will we welcome strangers and encourage them to become part of the story of our parish? My prayer is that each one of us will be open and ready to receive the gift of the story brought by each new person who comes to our parish looking for a spiritual home.

The Rev. Canon Stewart Murray is Incumbent at St. Barnabas, Ottawa

Education for Ministry

2012 a productive year for EfM

By Lisa Chisholm-Smith
Missioner for
Baptismal Ministry Formation

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program of theological education by extension, for all Christians, which includes individual study and group theological reflection. In the 2011-2012 academic year, the Diocese of Ottawa had seven active EfM groups in four deaneries – Lanark, Ottawa West, Pembroke and Stormont.

2012 was a big year for EfM in our diocese with 20 students from three EfM groups in the deaneries of Lanark, Ottawa West, and Stormont plus our first ever EfM online student, Frank Kajfes, graduating in June. Executive Archdeacon David Selzer presented these graduates with their certificates during a special Service of Celebration held at Christ Church Cathedral on Friday, June 15, 2012. The service was attended by 110 people. Special thanks to the Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah, Pastoral Vicar at Christ Church Cathedral, for her work in organizing the service and to the Rev. Pat Martin for preaching.

Pat Martin completed an EfM trainer's course at the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, in 2011 and qualified as an EfM Canada Trainer. We are pleased that she will be the trainer at the Diocese of Ottawa's annual Mentor training for new and re-certifying mentors to be held later this month (Thurs. Sept. 20 to Sat. Sept. 22) in her parish, St Paul's, Almonte. Now the Diocese of Ottawa is home to two of our



Photo by Lisa Chisholm-Smith

Twenty-one Diocese of Ottawa Education for Ministry graduates and their mentors pose for a photo at a special Service of Celebration at Christ Church Cathedral June 15, where the grads received their certificates, presented by Executive Archdeacon David Selzer.

very own homegrown EfM Canada Trainers, Pat Martin and Dr. Patricia Bays (All Saints Westboro).

In addition, diocesan EfM Coordinator, Lisa Chisholm-Smith, was invited this year to sit on the EfM Canada Board. The Board provides support and direction for the EfM Canada staff. A recent change has expanded Board membership to other parts of Canada.

The members of the Board for 2012 - 2013 are: Catherine Dafoe Hall (Director), Patricia Bays (Trainer Representative), Kenneth Phillips, (Alumni),

Roland Hendrickson (Financial Advisor), Christine Ross (On-Line Coordinator), Carol Kysela (Mentor), Lisa Chisholm-Smith (Coordinator), William H. Harrison, (Member at Large). One board position normally held by the Kootenay Diocesan Coordinator is currently vacant.

The function of the Board is to set policy and long-term planning of the Program in Canada. EfM Canada operates the EfM program throughout Canada under license from the School of Theology of the University of the South.

Class of 2012 EfM Graduates

Stormont Deanery (Parish of Glengarry)

Sheldon and Rosann Carr, co-mentors
Natasha Charpentier, Christine Clark, Karen Davison Wood, Susan Heckman, Jean McPherson, Allan Rowland, Janet Sturrock, Linda Stacey.

Lanark Deanery

William Passmore and David McCreery, co-mentors
Luc Faucon, Gail Gillespie, Diane Lachance, Tracey Paetzold in absentia, Mary Passmore, Deane Zeeman.

Ottawa West Deanery (St. Michael and All Angels, Ottawa)

Brian Cameron and the Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera, co-mentors
Marilyn Brownlee, Brian Cameron - mentor graduate, Melodie Conlon, Patricia Gill, Leslie MacDonald-Hicks, Eileen Mortimer, the Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera, mentor graduate.

EfM Online Student

Frank Kajfes