

The background of the entire page is a scenic landscape. At the top, a dark, jagged rock formation frames the scene like a cave entrance. Below this, a bright sunset or sunrise sky in shades of orange, pink, and blue is visible. In the center of the image, a simple wooden cross stands on a grassy hill. The foreground is filled with tall, thin grasses and dark, craggy rocks. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

NAD NEWS BULLETIN

THE CONGREGATION OF THE SONS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

VOLUME 5 * ISSUE 8 * EASTER 2025



CONTENTS

MESSAGES

FROM THE SUPERIOR DELEGATE	3
EDITORIAL	5

UPDATES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COMMUNITY <i>Woodbridge</i>	7
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD COMMUNITY <i>Scarborough</i>	12
MARY MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER COMMUNITY <i>Calgary</i>	14
SANTA MARIA GORETTI COMMUNITY <i>Edmonton</i>	18
ST. ELIZABETH COMMUNITY <i>Ohio</i>	20
AVE MARIA COMMUNITY <i>Florida</i>	21
BLESSED LUIGI MONTI COMMUNITY <i>Mexico</i>	23
NEWS & UPDATES	25

EDITORIAL BOARD

MANAGING EDITOR	Fr. Eugene Chianain
CHIEF EDITOR	Fr. Benjamin Obetta
ASSOCIATE EDITORS	Fr. Shibu Kallarakkal Fr. Joy Vadakkan





Superior's Message

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERIOR DELEGATE



Dear brothers.

Peace be with you!

These were the first words of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, elected Pope Leo XIV on May 8, 2025, as he stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Square and greeted the immense crowd with the words of the Risen Christ. This greeting set the tone for his pontificate—a mission to champion global peace, build bridges, and foster universal fraternity. Pope Leo XIV emphasized that the peace offered by the Risen Christ is "a disarming, humble, and enduring peace that comes from God, who loves all of us without limits or conditions." This peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is a transformative presence that calls us to reconciliation, dialogue, and solidarity among all people. I echo these words to all the brothers of NAD: Peace be with you! We need the peace of the Risen Christ not only in our hearts but also within our communities and among our brothers. As consecrated men in the Montian religious family, "God calls us to live in community, entrusting us with brothers to love" (Constitutions #80). Yet, we are not immune to conflicts, misunderstandings, and rivalries that erode peace and cause tensions in our communities. We do not choose our fellow brothers in community; each brother is a gift from God. Thus, we are called to foster genuine peace not only in the world we minister to but also within our own NAD communities. The need for peace among brothers is paramount, for it reflects the unity, love, and harmony of the Trinity. As the Constitution reminds us, "In communion of life, the brothers as members of Christ are to show mutual respect, correct one another as the Gospel commands, and bear one another's burdens as a family united in the Lord (#137).



The call to peace within our religious communities invites each member to embrace the peace of Christ—a peace that is disarming, humble, and enduring. It is a peace that demands self-emptying, forgiveness, and sincere dialogue. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18). This exhortation challenges us to confront our own egos, prejudices, and insecurities, allowing the Holy Spirit to heal wounds and bridge divisions. Furthermore, the witness of peaceful fraternal life is a powerful testimony to the world. A community where mutual respect, understanding, and reconciliation thrive becomes a sign of God's kingdom—a place where God's love is not only spoken but visibly enacted. Pope Francis has reminded us that "Peace is not just the absence of war but a commitment to practice active love, even in the smallest of communities." Therefore, let us strive for peace not only in our external missions but within our own hearts and among our brothers. May the Risen Christ, who greeted his disciples with 'Peace be with you,' grant us the grace to build and sustain that peace within our communities and may our Blessed Founder, Blessed Luigi Maria Monti pray for us.

Fr. Eugene Chianain
Superior, CFIC, North American Delegation



Editorial

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT



In his Bull of Indiction “*Spes non confundit*” - Hope does not disappoint, Pope Francis invokes hope as a gift for the Jubilee 2025. Right from the start of his pontificate, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 222-225, Pope Francis emphasized that time is superior to space. The important thing is to generate processes, to open up horizons of expectation, to make possible pathways and an orientation for life.

For the People of God, this is what the rhythm of the jubilee years and the pilgrimage route demonstrate. Every twenty-five years since 1300, the Church, through the jubilee year, invites us to make a new people, make a new beginning, open ourselves to the grace of forgiveness and encounter with the Lord, pointing thus towards the goal of our existence.

What better theme for this Jubilee 2025 than hope, which gives meaning to time by directing it towards eternity, avoiding the trap of being locked in the moment and discouragement.



To enter into this dynamic of hope, Pope Francis makes us contemporaries of those first-century Romans to whom Saint Paul wrote: “Hope does not disappoint, since God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom 5:5). For Paul, hope stems from a conviction, nourished by his entire Jewish culture: God is faithful, He is committed to an irrevocable promise, and he gives strength for the good. What's more, it stems from an experience that was, for him, an event of conversion: God's love for every human being, capable of reaching out to him in his sin and in the depths of his trials. From then on, hope is much more than hope. It is that human feeling of optimism about the future, based on probabilities, which at times can disappoint. It becomes a theological virtue, a gift from God and a force capable of transforming every human life.

To say that hope is a virtue is to see it as active and fruitful. Hence, the call to change the way we look at the world, and to make a concrete commitment to putting up signs of hope through our mission here in NAD.

Dear brothers, in the face of the prevailing challenges we encounter everyday, the theme of this Jubilee year invites us to choose to look at all those signals, sometimes faint, that rekindle faith in each one of us, weave the bonds of brotherly and fraternal love and combat violence and division in our various communities here in NAD and in the Congregation at large.

Pope Francis invites us to take action in eight concrete areas, which are in connection with our mission and charism, daring to show signs of hope: commitment to peace, openness to life, attention to prisoners and the sick, care for young people, migrants and the elderly, and preferential love for the poor. Jubilee grace becomes visible and contagious when it gives rise to a thousand initiatives that restore hope.

This Holy Year invites us in a special way to rediscover with wonder the living encounter with Jesus Christ, who is both the “pillar” and the ‘heart’ of Christian hope. So let us enter into this dynamic of hope especially in these times of uncertainty and polarization, by becoming true ambassadors of hope in our various communities and places of mission, setting out on our journey to reach those who are looking up to us, experiencing God's love and forgiveness, and reorienting our lives towards the eternal life.

Fr. Simon Tuh Bung



Immaculate Conception Community

Woodbridge, ON

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The brothers of the communities in Toronto gathered at Immaculate Conception Parish for a Day of Recollection. This special occasion offered the brothers an opportunity to step away from the busyness of pastoral responsibilities and to devote time to prayer, reflection, and meditation. It also served as a moment to deepen their bonds of fraternal love and unity as Sons of the Immaculate Conception. Marking the first event of its kind in Toronto, the Day of Recollection was met with great enthusiasm. The brothers have collectively resolved to make this spiritual renewal a regular practice moving forward.



PASTA E FAGIOLI DINNER DANCE

"I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food." (Mt. 25:35)

The annual Pasta e Fagioli Dinner Dance was held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Royalton Hospitality Banquet Hall, Weston Road, Woodbridge. All proceeds from the event supported the children's mission of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Eugene expressed his heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to all those who attended, supported, and contributed to the event.



PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Together with the universal Church, the parish celebrated Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, marking the beginning of the holiest week in the Christian liturgical calendar. Palm Sunday is named for the palm branches that are blessed and carried in procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where He would be sacrificed as the Paschal Lamb for our salvation.



HOLY THURSDAY – MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER



On Holy Thursday, the parish commemorated the institution of the Eucharist and the commandment to love and serve one another. Fr. Eugene washed the feet of the designated apostles, symbolizing Christ's act of service and humility. In loving others, we make Christ present among us.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PASSION PLAY 2025

On Good Friday, parishioners powerfully re-enacted the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. The Passion Play provided a profound opportunity for the actors to showcase their talents, deepen their faith, and bring to life the story of Christ's sacrificial love.



MASS IN MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. SONG NESTOR, BROTHER OF FR. EUGENE

"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God" (Wis 3:1).

A large congregation of parishioners, family, friends, and 28 priests gathered to attend the Holy Mass in memory of Fr. Eugene's brother, the late Mr. Song Nestor, who passed away in Cameroon on April 5, 2025. Moved by the tremendous outpouring of love and support, Fr. Eugene expressed his deepest gratitude to the parish community for their comforting messages and prayers during this difficult time. Once again, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Eugene and his family.



CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Fr. Shaiju Matthew administered the Sacrament of Confirmation 130 confirmandi of Immaculate Conception Parish in May 2025. During his homily, he reminded the young people to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit as a guide as they journey through life.



PARISH JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ST. PADRE PIO CHURCH



In the context of the Jubilee Year of Hope, a significant number of parishioners from Immaculate Conception Parish embarked on a pilgrimage to St. Padre Pio Church in Kleinburg on May 8, 2025. The church is one of the designated pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The day included opportunities for Confession, praying the Holy Rosary, and participating in a candlelight procession into the church, where Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Shaiju Matthew. Pilgrims also had the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door—a spiritual act symbolizing the desire for true conversion. Each pilgrim received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, reflecting on God's gift of mercy.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
EVENTS AT ST. DAVID'S PARISH (MAPLE)



Holy Week Celebrations.



Feasts of St. Joseph & Our Lady of Fatima.

Pilgrimage to Europe.

EVENTS AT ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX PARISH
(PORT COLBOURNE)



Celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.



Epiphany of Our Lord Community

Scarborough, ON

Apart from the liturgical activities marking the preparation (Lenten Season) and the commemoration of the Paschal Mystery during the Easter Triduum, two outstanding and eventful activities have been in the Epiphany of our Lord Parish; the Carnival Dinner Dance Party and the Seder Meal Evening.

CARNIVAL DINNER DANCE

Prior to the commencement of the Lenten Season on February 15, 2025, our parish revamped one of their social activities: the Carnival Dinner Dance Party. During this social evening, parishioners appeared in carnival costumes and traditional outfits. Apart from being a social relaxation parochial activity, it was also fund-drive oriented to raise funds for the missions of the congregation. A lot of dining, wining, and dancing marked the evening to the greatest satisfaction of participants.



SEDER MEAL

Saturday April 12, before the commemoration of the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, our parishioners congregated together to observe the Seder Meal dinner, an elaborative spiritual cum social activity inspired by the Jewish Passover meal. It is composed of narratives and ritual symbols associated with the Passover Meal. The dinner was meant to be a spiritual prelude into the spiritual atmosphere of the greatest liturgical week, the Holy Week that re-enacts the last days of Jesus before his death.





Mary Mother of the Redeemer Community

Calgary, AB

*Trusting in the Risen Lord and guided by the Holy Spirit,
we begin this new year with hope and love.*

We continue implementing strategies that renew each member's commitment to the community, fostering a culture of encounter and solidarity. Last year, we emphasized the call to evangelization, recalling our mission to proclaim Jesus Christ and His message of love and salvation. Now, we turn our focus to creating spaces where all are welcomed and supported in their spiritual journey.



Renewal Leadership Gathering March 20th

Our Church, Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, together with its members and communities, has been called to form a community that welcomes, listens, cares for, and accompanies people. In response to their hopes and needs, we have promoted accompaniment to help individuals achieve a fuller and more evangelical life—one that is deeply connected to Christ and His teachings.

Within the framework of different activities and uniting communities with different cultures, for the months of October, November and part of December.



MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER



Additionally, we are making a collective effort to strengthen the Christian formation of our faithful through retreats, workshops, and gatherings that encourage dialogue and reflection on our faith. This commitment to instruction and spiritual growth reflects our response to the call to be a missionary and outgoing Church, as urged by Pope Francis. We aim to be a living, active presence that inspires, guides, and supports each member on their journey toward holiness.



Lent Retreat

This year, we're excited to focus on spiritual and pastoral accompaniment! We believe in the power of walking alongside each individual, celebrating their uniqueness, and providing the support they need to truly embrace and fulfill their Christian vocation. Together, let's embark on this transformative journey!

MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER

Jubilees, or Holy Years, in the Catholic Church are remarkable times of grace, forgiveness, and healing. The tradition began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Excitingly, the upcoming 2025 Jubilee will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea! Under the inspiring theme "Pilgrims of Hope," the logo beautifully depicts people journeying from all corners of the globe, highlighting our shared faith and unity.

Let's wholeheartedly embrace this incredible opportunity together! Mary Mother of the Redeemer organized a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral, uniting hundreds of parishioners in faith. Responding to our Pope's call, this experience has beautifully strengthened our faith and fellowship.



Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral

In conclusion, personal development often requires growth and maturity in both faith and community life. This includes valuing every person and their God-given purpose. We believe that everyone is called to a positive destiny and a deeper understanding of the truth. Jesus Christ stands as our model and guide in this journey. It is essential to know Him, follow His teachings, and strive for a life of personal and spiritual fulfillment.

RITE OF ELECTION IN THE CATHEDRAL

This celebration is a truly special moment, as the bishop officially calls the catechumens to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation during the Easter Vigil. It's a wonderful diocesan event that unites catechumens, their companions, and godparents, who will share heartfelt testimonies on behalf of their godchildren in front of a supportive assembly of the faithful, including our dedicated bishop and priests from various parishes. We have 26 catechumens from our parish this year, and it's such a blessing to witness new individuals embracing the Catholic faith and becoming part of our vibrant community. What an exciting journey we are all on together!





Santa Maria Goretti Community

Edmonton, AB

Our community members having a fraternal Meal together after a Meeting.



Fr Joy's farewell from his formal Parish as he takes over his new assignment as the Administrator of St. Matthew Parish Edmonton.



Blessing of his rectory by Fr Roy and A thank you lunch organized by Fr Joy



SOLEMN BLESSING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Very often when a police officer issues a ticket to someone on the road for over speeding, he wouldn't get a thank you for that meanwhile he was just doing part of his job as an officer, and of course they do much more than just giving a ticket to certain drivers? Therefore, ***it is good to show gratitude to our***



The Blessed Sacrament Parish & Knights of Columbus Luke Kiloran Council 4510 begin a new initiative of a Solemn Blessing for First Responders. This Solemn Blessing Ceremony is being celebrated to commemorate and honour all who are first on the scene of an emergency; 911 Dispatchers, RCMP, Firefighters, Paramedics, the Military including base firefighters and military police, Emergency Room Doctors and Nurses and Funeral Home staff.





St. Elizabeth Community

Columbus, Ohio

ASH WEDNESDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS





Ave Maria Community

Florida

SPANISH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND FAITH FORMATION AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH



St. Joseph Parish in Winter Haven is blessed with a rich diversity of cultures, and one of its most vibrant and active groups is the **Spanish-speaking community**. This community plays a vital role in the spiritual and social life of the parish, participating wholeheartedly in many ministries and parish activities.

Fr. Raju serves as the spiritual guide for this community, offering his constant presence, support, and leadership. Every **Tuesday**, the Spanish families come together for **faith formation, sharing, and family gatherings**, which help them grow in faith and deepen their unity.

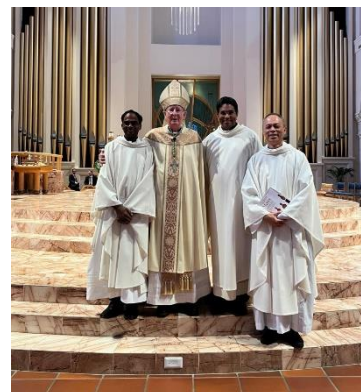
Their commitment to living the Gospel and strengthening family life is truly inspiring. Guided by the model of the **Holy Family**, they work to build strong family bonds, rooted in love, faith, and community. We are grateful for the joyful witness and active involvement of our Spanish community in the life of St. Joseph Parish.

GRADUATION CEREMONY AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Another memorable and blessed occasion was the **Graduation Ceremony of the children of St. Joseph Church**, held in the joyful presence of our **Bishop John Noonan** and our **Pastor**. It was a moment of pride and celebration for our entire parish community.

Our beloved Bishop congratulated, appreciated, and imparted his blessings upon the graduates, their families, teachers, and the whole parish. His presence added great significance to this special milestone in the lives of our children.

We give thanks to God for this joyful celebration and continue to pray for our graduates as they step forward in faith, knowledge, and love.



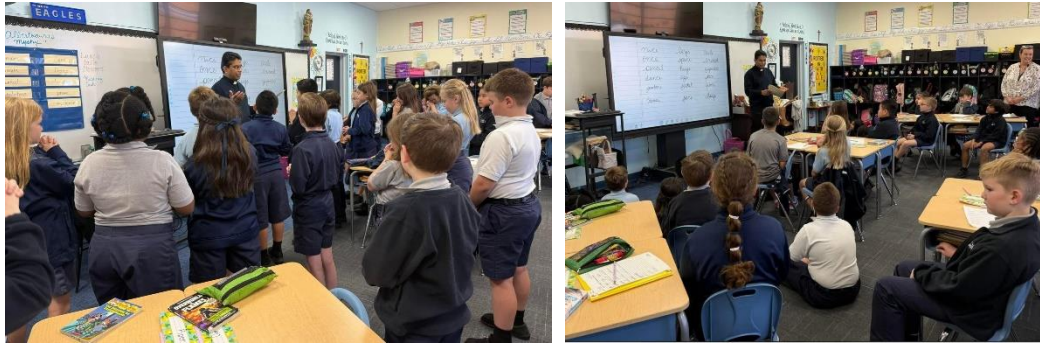
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – A BLESSED MILESTONE

This year has been another season of abundant blessings for our parish! We were overjoyed to have **more than one hundred children** receive their **First Holy Communion** – a truly incredible moment in the life of our Church.

In preparation for this sacred day, we spent meaningful time in training and formation with the children, helping them understand the beauty and significance of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time.

The celebration was truly special – **a joyful gathering of our parish community, parents, catechists, and the radiant children**, dressed in their finest and beaming with excitement. Their smiling faces and pure hearts reflected the grace of this unforgettable day.

We thank God for blessing our parish with so many young souls eager to grow in faith, and we continue to pray for them as they journey forward in friendship with Jesus.



A SPIRIT-FILLED CELEBRATION – MAY 6, 2025



May 6, 2025, was a truly auspicious and grace-filled day for St. Joseph Catholic Church, Winter Haven. Over 90 candidates from our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program received the Sacrament of Confirmation from our beloved Bishop John Noonan.

This joyful occasion was made even more special by the presence of their parents, relatives, family members, and the faithful community of St. Joseph Parish. We were also blessed with the concelebration of priests from neighboring parishes, united in faith and fellowship.

It was a powerful moment of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The newly confirmed received the graces and gifts of the Spirit, embracing their full initiation into the Catholic Church with deep faith and commitment.

Let us continue to pray for them as they walk forward in the light of Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.



Blessed Luigi Monti Community

Merida, Mexico

From the Spanish speaking part of the North American Delegation of CFIC, with its diversities of activities, we present the major activities during this last period, mainly about taking care of the poor and mission to bring the joy of Easter to the far end. The plan of the community this season was to send some brothers to mission and in the same way to carry out vocation promotion.

In the first place, we are called not only to preach the Word of God, but also to be closer to the needy. The community has been trying to show this spirit as a sign of her presence in the community. God being by our side, we had the privilege to have some benefactors who donated chicken to distribute to the people as Easter gift. It was a reason to smile for all of them, and it gave us also the confidence to serve. The people came out in grand numbers to show gratitude to the benefactors and promising to pray for them.



During Holy Week, the community sent Br Raphael and Fr Eric on mission to a village called Sacapuc, a one-hour drive from the community. It was a double mission to stay and help the Christians participate in all the activities during Holy Week and for the promotion of vocations. We had the privilege of encountering young people with two prospective candidates that are about to end their secondary school studies. It was a fruitful mission that made us come back on Easter Sunday after Mass.

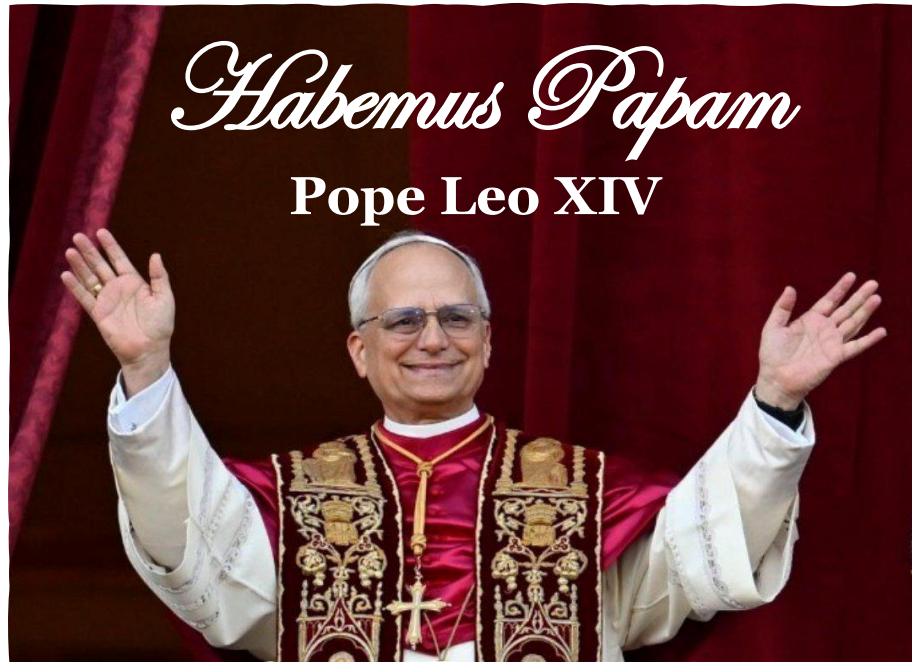


BLESSED LUIGI MONTI (MEXICO)

During our mission in that village, we organized a visit to the sick with anointing, holy communion and confessions to those who could not make it to church. It was a great joy for all of them because they could receive Jesus Christ right in their homes, something very rare there due to lack of time from the parish priest. The people were satisfied with our presence and availability and hope next time they can witness it again. From the vocation promotion, there is hope we can get one or two from this village, due to the good testimony we portrayed which called their attention.



News & Updates



The election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as Pope Leo XIV on May 8, 2025, took the entire world by surprise. An American and an Augustinian missionary with years of pastoral service in Peru, Pope Leo XIV was received with overwhelming joy by the universal Church. The faithful greeted the new successor of Saint Peter and Vicar of Christ with gratitude to God for the gift of a Shepherd after His own heart. The new Pope brings to the Petrine office a wealth of missionary experience, pastoral fervor, doctrinal clarity, and administrative wisdom. From the outset, his pontificate is marked by a clear commitment to building unity, promoting synodality, and responding compassionately to the pressing issues facing the Church today. Pope Leo XIV assumes the Chair of Peter at a time of significant polarization within the Church. Foundational beliefs—such as the sanctity of human life, the nature of marriage and family, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, priestly celibacy, and male-only-priesthood—are being questioned and, at times, dismissed as outdated. He also faces the painful legacy of clerical sex abuse, financial scandals, and increasing divisions between so-called liberal and conservative Catholics. Furthermore, secularism, individualism, consumerism, and militant atheism continue to spread, echoing Pope Benedict XVI's warning about the "dictatorship of relativism." Pope Benedict XVI affirms that 'while ideologies divide, truth unites' (From the Depths of our Hearts). In his first address, Pope Leo XIV stated, "These are contexts where it is not easy to preach the Gospel and bear witness to its truth, where believers are mocked, opposed, despised, or at best tolerated and pitied. Yet, precisely for this reason, they are places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed." The choice of the name Leo XIV signals the inspiration he draws from Pope Leo XIII, known for his defense of the dignity of workers, the poor, and the marginalized, and for laying the foundations of Catholic Social Teaching through *Rerum Novarum*. Pope Leo XIV is expected to echo this legacy by promoting justice, peace, and care for the most vulnerable. As he begins his ministry as the Bishop of Rome and universal Pastor, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide him with wisdom and courage. May his leadership inspire renewed unity, holiness, and missionary zeal across the Church.

Fr. Eugene Chianain



**CFIC North American Delegation News Bulletin
Immaculate Conception Parish**

300 Ansley Grove Road
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L3W4, Canada

Email: newsbulletinnad@yahoo.com

