

PARISH NURSING INTEREST GROUP (PNIG) NEWSLETTER



Anne-Marie Mohler

Advent Reflections

Dear members,

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Church's liturgical year and the season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Advent prepares us to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus on Christmas. This year Advent began on Sunday, Dec. 2.

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) annually provides resources to help those in the ministry of health care, and consider the meaning of

Advent and Christmas to our own lives. The reflections below are authored by John "Jack" Shea, a consultant with decades of experience in providing theological and formation services to parishes and faith-based organizations.

The reflections are provided in two formats: audio and video. I hope that you will share them widely across your faith community this Christmas season.

Blessings,

Your PNIG President Anne-Marie Mohler

Reflection for the week of Sunday, Dec. 2:

- Audio (.mp3)
- Video (.mp4) (watch on YouTube)

Reflection for the week of Sunday, Dec. 9:

- Audio (.mp3)
- Video (.mp4) (watch on YouTube)

Reflection for the week of Sunday, Dec. 16:

- Audio (.mp3)
- Video (.mp4) (watch on YouTube)

Reflection for the week of Sunday, Dec. 23:

- Audio (.mp3)
- Video (.mp4) (watch on YouTube)

Reflection for the Week of Christmas, Dec. 25:

- Audio (.mp3)
- Video (.mp4) (watch on YouTube)

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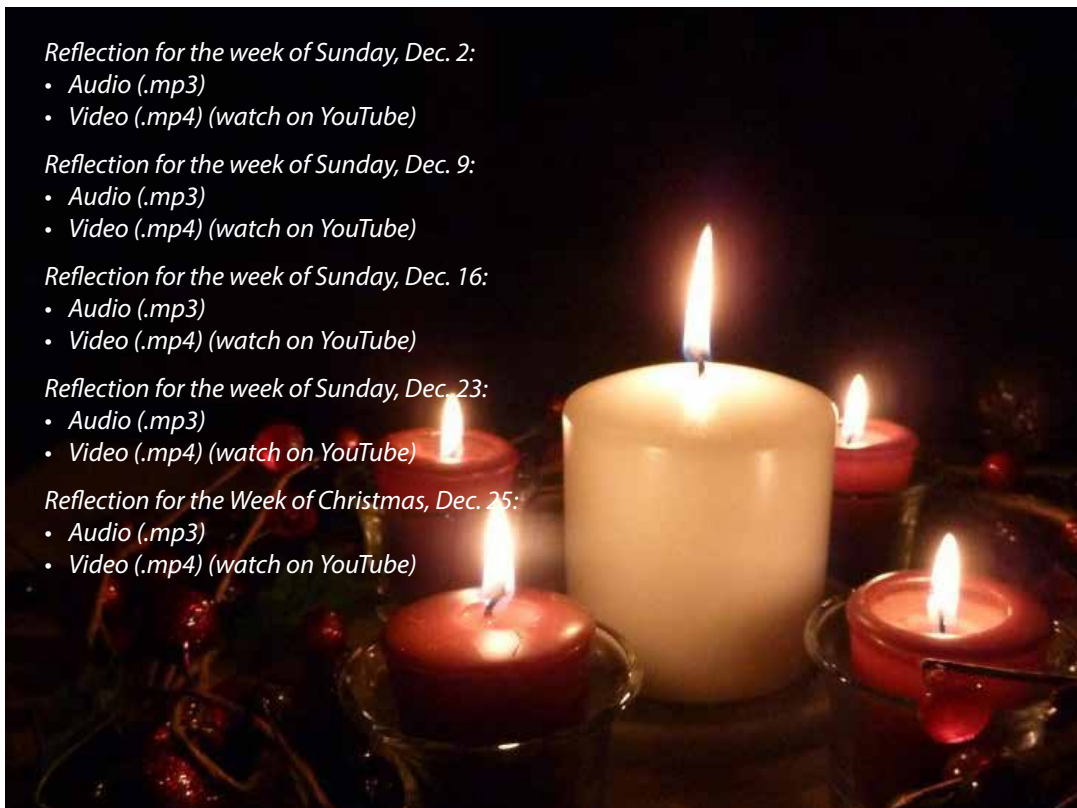
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pnig.rnao.ca

NEWS FLASH:

*RNAO has sent an email to all PNIG members regarding our proposed name change to **Faith Community Nursing Interest Group**. Check your email or log in to RNAO.ca as an RNAO member and look for 'my elections' under 'account management' menu!*

*Do it today! it only takes a couple of minutes and voting closes **December 18th!***



PNIG Education and Networking Day

Submitted by Gloria Wiebe, RN, Health Clinic Coordinator, St. James Cathedral.

This year's Networking and Education Day, was held on Saturday October 27, in the comfortable surroundings of Runnymede United Church in Toronto. The theme, Spiritual Dimensions in Nursing Care, Meeting the Challenge, seemed appropriate after the successful passing of our resolution at the 2018 RNAO AGM.

The resolution called for the integration of the spiritual dimension in the development of frameworks, practice standards related to client care.

The day began with a time for worship and reflection led by Reverend Alexa Gilmour, Minister of Windermere United Church, and musical solos with piano accompaniment and singing Taizé hymns. Prayers were spoken asking for help to find hope and overcome fears, and to give thanks for our life, today.

All those present had the opportunity to share aspects of their practice and resources. We learned from each other, about our successes and challenges. Parish nurses are offering a wide range of activities, such as youth drop-ins, falls prevention and elder abuse workshops, exercise classes, divorce recovery programs, and coordinating lay pastoral visitors. Some nurses participate in Out-of-the-Cold programs held in their churches.



Attendees at the PNIG Education Day in October

The afternoon featured our keynote speaker, Reverend Dr. Cheri DiNovo. Her life experience as an ordained minister and politician in the Ontario government in some ways mirrors the parish nurse's experience, bringing the spiritual dimension into our professional working life. Cheri does this confidently, unashamedly wearing her clerical collar to indicate her Christian values and foundations. She freely celebrates the Eucharist often to develop inclusiveness and community.

Cheri acknowledges her teenage experiences as a school drop-out, living on the street. However, in her youth, she found her faith which has informed her work for social justice, including poverty, minimum wages and welfare rates, affordable housing, LGBTQ issues and rights. Since she resigned her seat in the legislature of 2017, she has been recognized by all political parties for her eleven successful years as an NDP member in the Legislative Assembly. We all were inspired by her wisdom and courage to meet the challenges of making a difference by boldly "speaking out" for the health of our churches and communities, and "speaking out" for parish nursing in our health care system.

Member's Perspective – Report on Education Day – October 2018

Submitted by Dot Klein RN Emeritus (RNAO designation)/Certified Parish Nurse Candidate

I am a Parish Nurse Certificate candidate enrolled with the Foundations Plus for Parish Nurses Program through St Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario. I have been a community nurse in North Eastern Ontario for over 50 years. To my knowledge there are no registered Parish Nurse programs in NE Ontario. I joined the RNAO PNIG and CAPNM because I wanted and needed a network and a support group.

I attended the PNIG education day in Toronto on October 27th. It was well worth my effort – taking the midnight bus from Sudbury, catching the Bloor west subway and returning back to Sudbury on the late bus. The program was inspirational. The welcoming and networking was everything I needed at that time and place. The music and the biblical references brought me back into focus and gave me the strength and perseverance to continue my studies. I have recommended RNAO PNIG for ongoing support to my 10 classmates.

Queen's Park on the Road 2018

Submitted By Anne-Marie Mohler

Queen's Park on the Road (QPOR) is an effective political engagement activity for members. The opportunity to meet with MPPs to discuss priority nursing and health issues empowers nurses and demonstrates that they can make an impact on public policy and influence healthy change for patients, their co-workers, friends and family alike. QPOR allows us to meet MPP's at their riding offices every year.

Through QPOR, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students raise issues and make recommendations that matter to them. RNAO provides resources to assist with MPP meetings.

On November 5th, I met with High Park/Parkdale MPP, Bhutila Karpoche in my role as Acting Policy and Political Rep (PAN) for PNIG. Discussions focused on the following key issues: Reclaiming the role of the RN; increasing access to NPs; transforming LTC; anchoring the health care system in primary care; and increase access to Safe Injection Sites (SIS) and Opioid Prevention Sites (OPS).



High Park/Parkdale MPP, Bhutila Karpoche

Parish Nursing Education Program

We send warm greetings to all of you on behalf of the Foundations in Parish Nursing Program at the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St Peter's Seminary in London, ON. We are very proud to share with you that eight nurses from across Canada attended the most recent Summer Residency program in July. It was held at Brescia University College which is an onsite campus of Western University in London ON. This week-long program introduced the nurses to parish nursing and focused on the spiritual call to ministry. For many, their journey continues as they returned to their faith communities and are currently working towards a Certificate in Parish Nursing which includes the completion of two on-line courses, a comprehensive mentored and practicum experience in a faith community and a final three-day educational opportunity in the Summer of 2019 which will include their graduation and dedication ceremony.

Since the establishment of the Foundations Program in 2010, 68 nurses from across Canada and many Christian faith backgrounds have been part of the program. Each has attended with a desire to learn about incorporating spirituality into their current nursing practice and to learn

about parish nursing and establishing a parish nurse ministry in a faith community.

Our current faculty consists of Louise Trapp as Program Coordinator, Elsie Millerd as Education Coordinator and Faye Brekelmans as Coordinator of On-line Courses. For more information regarding this comprehensive program as well as opportunities for continuing education visit: www.stpetersseminary.ca/Programs/Parish-Nursing/21 or contact Program Coordinator Louise Trapp at ltrapp@rogers.com



Participants in the Summer Residency 2018 after receiving a prayer shawl; Faculty members, Louise, Elsie and Faye included.

Education Opportunities

Foundations in Parish Nursing:

Upcoming Educational Opportunity in 2019:

On-Line Course: Parish Nursing: Facilitating Wholistic Health through the Lifespan

Five-Week Course Consists of the following topics:

Session One: Wholistic Health of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults

Session Two: Wholistic Health of Middle and Older Adults

Session Three: Caring for Families in the Faith Community

Session Four: Impact and Management of Chronic Illness on Families in the Faith Community

Session Five: End of Life Transitions

VCLFF Registration opens:
January 23 to March 6, 2019

Dates for Online Course:
March 10 – April 13, 2019

Course Facilitators:

Faye Brekelmans, BScN, Parish Nurse

Elsie Millerd, RN, BN, Diploma in CS, MTS

Cost: \$50.00 (USD)/course

NOTE: 1) individuals affiliated with a partnering diocese/organization (such as, the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter's Seminary) pay \$50/course; however, an individual not affiliated with a VLCCFF diocese/organization partner pays \$105/course,

2) in order to become affiliated with a partnering diocese/organization (the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter's Seminary) for life, you must send your completed registration form and \$25 cheque (one-time fee) to the attention of Catherine Leach at the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter's Seminary, 1040 Waterloo St., London, Ontario N6A 3Y1.

3) If you are registered in the Foundations in Parish Nursing Program with the Institute for Ongoing Formation at St. Peter Seminary's, you do not pay the one-time affiliation fee of \$25.00 (CDN) to the Institute.

VISIT:

www.stpetersseminary.ca/Programs/Parish-Nursing/21

to apply. Register early as class size is limited. A certificate of completion for successful nurses will be granted by both Dayton University & the Institute for Ongoing Formation.



The Last Great Plague, the Story of the Spanish Flu

Submitted by Gloria Wiebe

To commemorate the centennial of the Spanish Flu, an exhibit was staged in St. James Cathedral. It was titled, The Last Great Plague, the Story of the Spanish Flu, and was on display from October 18 to November 1, 2018. In 1918, during the final year of the First World War, an intense influenza pandemic took hold of the front lines in Europe. Infected Canadian soldiers returned home carrying the virus which then spread rampantly throughout the population and in every part of the country.

Today, little is known of the devastation this terrible flu caused. This exhibit provided moving personal family stories and described the impact it had in Canada, Toronto, and our very own Cathedral. It was an international pandemic and in Canada an estimated 55,000 people died, just fewer than the 60,000 Canadians killed during the First World War. It is estimated that one-third of the world's population became infected, and mortality was high in healthy adults in the 20-40 age group.

Stories were told of a father who died of the flu and was buried in Belgium and of a brother and sister, age 5 and 6, who were left orphans when both parents died of the flu. Cabinets displayed artifacts such as bottle collections from Gooderham Worts, containing so-called cures. Toronto was featured for the effort of Connaught Labs to develop a vaccine.

The cathedral's major role was through Adelaide Plumptre, wife of the Dean of St. James from 1909 to 1935. She was appointed Superintendent of Supplies across Canada and in 1916, the emergency department of the Canadian Red Cross was set up in the parish house. A photo shows volunteers at work preparing sterilized dressing, face masks and pneumonia jackets to send to hospitals throughout the world. As a result of the tragedy and inability to respond to the epidemic, the Federal Department of Health was created in 1919.

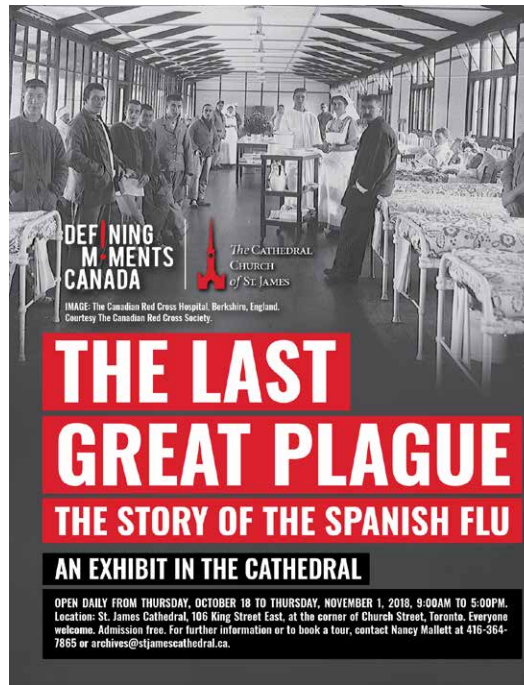
St. James already had a long and recorded history of concern for the sick. In 1812, under then Rector John Strachan, the Church was used as a hospital, and he also established the first hospital and medical school in Toronto.

In this exhibit, Cathedral Archivist & Museum Curator, Nancy Mallett, also wanted to cover the continuing story of the response and role of the church in more recent epidemic/pandemics, such as are HIV/AIDS, SARS, and H1N1.

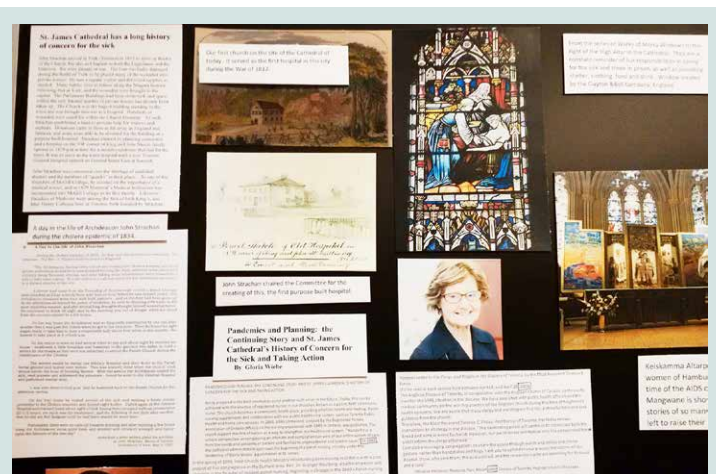
Reverend Canon Douglas Graydon, Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services, and I were invited to contribute this perspective. Douglas Graydon, was appointed Chair of the Diocese Pandemic Preparedness Committee, and as cathedral parish nurse, I served on the committee, which developed a comprehensive Pandemic Response Plan.

We have benefit from the experience of the Spanish Influenza, in that it resulted in the establishment of federal, provincial and city public health systems. Together with medical research and advances in healthcare, and parish/faith community nurses, the churches are better able to respond to health crisis.

Nurses have a unique perspective and role, supplementing and collaborating with our public health care systems, thus establishing a wholistic community health place in our churches.



stjamescathedral.ca/flu-exhibit



Communications ENO and Member Gloria Wiebe shared these photos and an article about a recent Parish Nursing exhibit on the 100 year anniversary of a significant time in medical history. We have come a long way...

Important dates 2019: Mark your calendar

QUEEN'S PARK DAY (QPD) – February 21, 2019

Assembly – February 22, 2019.

RNAO AGM – April 12, 2019

PNIG AGM – April 13, 2019*

*Location to be determined – watch for more details.



For the Next Newsletter:

- **What is happening in your ministry?** Send us a picture from a recent event.
- **Want to introduce yourself to the membership?** Tell us why spiritual care matters to you.

Word limit: 200-250 words. Email this along with a photo of yourself to: communications@pnig.rnao.ca

Send photos of your PN event and make sure they are high resolution (300ppi or 1MB+ preferred)!

We are still in need of qualified people to fill the following vacancies: President-elect and Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 & 10. If you know of someone who would be interested please pass this newsletter along and/or have them contact Anne-Marie at amohler@sympatico.ca.

Your PNIG Executive

PRESIDENT: Anne-Marie Mohler
amohler@sympatico.ca

PRESIDENT-ELECT: *position vacant*

PAST-PRESIDENT /NEWSLETTER: Jeanne Lambert
jmlambert@tdgraham.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Ola Babalola
divine_love25@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: Mary Lynch
marylynch@live.ca

COMMUNICATION OFFICER: Gloria Wiebe
gwiebe@stjamescathedral.on.ca or gloriawiebe@sympatico.ca

POLICY/ POLITICAL ACTION OFFICER:
Lydia Tarasiuk ltarasiuk@me.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR – Ardys Brenneman
rickardys@hotmail.com

Your PNIG MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Region 1 rep: Jo Dee Brown
freelegged@gmail.com

Region 4 rep: Ardys Brenneman
rickardys@hotmail.com

Region 7 rep: May Tao
may.tao@toronto.ca

Region 8 rep: Mary Lynch and Ola Babalola
marylynch@live.ca and divine_love25@hotmail.com

Region 11 rep: Dot Klein
dot.klein@persona.ca

Vacancies for Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 & 10

If you know of someone who would be interested please contact Anne-Marie at amohler@sympatico.ca