

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

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Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Parish Secretary: Magda Nowak 905-655-3286 x 101

Youth Director: Dennis Wardle x 109

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Friday Office Closed.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Friday 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass)

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Youth Mass

Sunday 9:00 a.m. (with Children's Liturgy JK, SK, Grade 1 & 2) & 11:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please download the Baptism Information Kit and Registration Form from the parish website, www.stleothegreat.ca

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course. Please call the Parish Office.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the parish.

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

LOCAL HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY PASTORAL VISITATION

If you or someone in your family is in the Oshawa, Whitby or Port Perry Hospitals and would like to have a priest (for serious reasons) visit the person who is sick for Anointing of the Sick, Last Rites, Confession or Communion, please note that there is a full-time Catholic Priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether *Father Pius Alejo* is present in the hospital (or when he will be). If *Father Pius Alejo* is not available and there is an emergency requiring a Catholic priest, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286 and when prompted, press "8" and leave your message. Fr. Charles will receive your message (if he is available) and return your call. If there is no emergency but you would like to speak to Fr. Charles, please call the parish office and leave a message with the parish secretary at 905-655-3286 x 101.

ROAD TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

MY STORY BY FATHER CHARLES T. FORGET



Every man who has become a priest, that is, called to be a priest and affirmed this God summons with the affirmation of their life, has their own unique story of how this became known to them, how it was discerned, how

they responded over time to the call and what their priesthood fulfilled has been like. While some priests tend to keep their story close to themselves I have always considered it important to share parts of my whole story with others in order to show that this relationship between God and the individual man is often repeated in the life of the Christian. Yet the priesthood is unique in that it has its foundations in the priesthood of old before Christ in which the priest offered something outside of himself in expiation for sins – the blood of a ram, a goat, or a bull. When Jesus the Messiah came he offered himself for sin as Christ was both priest and victim (sacrifice). So is the priest of Jesus Christ.

The call to priesthood is not merely a man's reflection upon that which he will do as one would in a career move or selection. It comes from Christ himself as a pull from above rather than a human push from below. In the vocation story of most any priest are the people who questioned the man about whether he had ever thought about priesthood or that he would make a good priest, which is to say that people of faith see qualities in the person that are priest-like. These are sparks that can turn the mind to bring before God this same question: "Lord, could you be calling me?"

Fulton Sheen said that God never shouts a vocation but whispers it to us in our souls over and over again. This whispering was ever-present in my childhood and in the midst of our family's lived faith. I remember often playing the part of a priest with my sister who would don one of my mother's nylon stockings on her head and call herself a nun. We would make round hosts out of white bread with the vacuum cleaner nozzle (of all things!) which made them perfectly round. I used water for wine, a move Our Lord himself used in his first miracle at Cana, and I would celebrate Mass on my mother's cedar chest. I remember that when I did so I was most serious and even one time when I was 'celebrating Mass' on top of our square TV set in the living room. Those in the kitchen were making fun of me and I remember treating them as if they were committing sacrilege.

As a young child I can recall always feeling like I was God's little boy and knew that he knew me. I felt close to him especially when we went to Mass each Sunday.

God moved in my life in a special way when I was in grade one and our teacher, Sr. Mary Jacqueline, asked our class what we wanted to be when we grew up. As hands shot up around the classroom of St. John the Evangelist school in

Whitby I remember saying seven simple words "I would like to be a priest". The words themselves weren't all that significant to me but were to the ears of God, for as soon as I uttered them my heart began to pound and I experienced the most beautiful inner sensation as though I was being filled with cotton candy. When I looked back on that day I knew that the Holy Spirit was saying to me, "What you have said is God's will for you."

I was never particularly fond of school and report cards attested to this fact with comments like "Charles needs to apply himself" and "Charles tends to day-dream instead of doing his work". Though I was just an average student I decided after grade nine that I didn't want to continue in school. Those were, of course, very different days when one could quit school at the beginnings of high school or even earlier and still get a job and begin a life, and countless numbers of people did this. I read spiritual books and listened to Fulton Sheen audio tapes and these helped to deepen my faith in Christ and love his Church. From time to time I would attend a vocation retreat but these seemed to turn me off with talk of my need to return to school to get my high school diploma and I wasn't having it. I remember saying to Jesus that if he wanted me to be a priest he was going to have to find another way to get me there because I wasn't going back to school, well at least not until much later.

Over the years whilst I was occupied with going to work and living my life God never stopped giving me clear signs that he was calling me. One time during Lent I went to evening Mass at St. John the Evangelist and was near the back and to the left side of the church when a priest I had never met before came out to celebrate the Mass. At the consecration he held up first the Host and then the Chalice but then extended them directly toward my direction. I thought this strange but after Communion and the final blessing, as I was genuflecting from my pew, the priest was coming toward me from the sanctuary. He approached me and asked me what I was doing with my life. I told him that I was working in GM and he informed me that during the Mass he had a strong sense that I had a call to the priesthood. On another occasion I was attending a prayer group in Oshawa and when everyone was asked to hold hands and pray the Our Father together, the woman on my left whose hand I was holding seemed a bit shaky. When hands were dropped at the end of the prayer I asked her if she was okay. She shared with me that when we were holding hands she was given a powerful sense of God's love for her and that Jesus was calling me to the priesthood. After I had been working in General Motors in the car plant for a few years it wasn't until I attended one particular vocation retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary that I had a renewed sense of God's call to the priesthood and it was on this retreat that I met the new vocation director, Fr. Sean O'Sullivan. At one point of the retreat weekend we went for a walk along the Scarborough bluffs and I was telling him about my vocation story thus far, my dislike for school, my work background and my sense of a call to priesthood. He invited me to come to Serra House, a house of study and discernment for younger and older men in Toronto. Following our talk I went to the Holy Hour which went by like

a holy-minute and it was there that I received from the Lord the ability to say 'yes' to God's call to seriously work on the discernment of priesthood. Discernment is always the choice or choices between two or more goods.



I was admitted to Serra House and in the first year attended a few courses at York University. My complaining regarding the courses I had to take during the first year prompted Fr. Sean to seek the

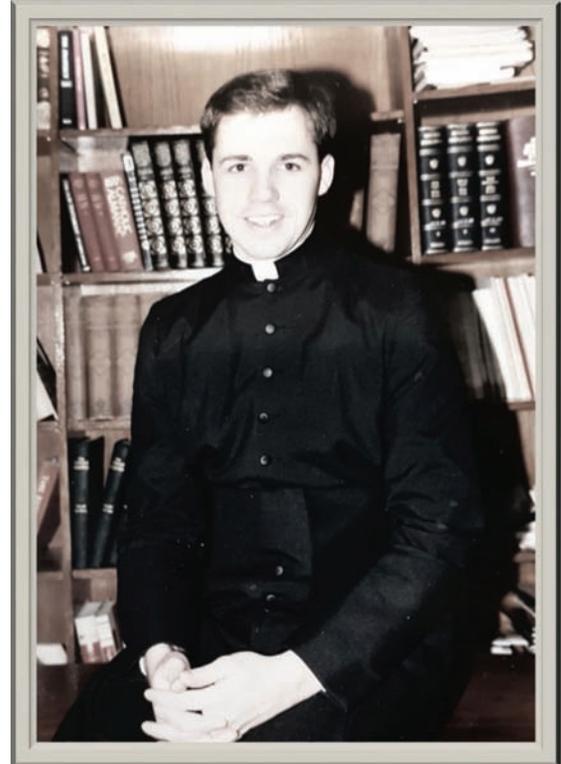
Cardinal's permission to send us Serra House students to The Oratorian Fathers for the necessary Philosophy courses we needed to enter the Seminary so in my second year I completed a year of Philosophy which enabled me to apply for and be admitted to the Seminary formation at St. Augustine's in Toronto in 1987. The return to school and seminary classes and courses was a challenge to me but I managed to keep up with my fellow seminarians.

When I was in seminary formation the process was a four-year program of courses in scripture, theology, ecclesiology, liturgy and Church history among others. Seminary life was a balance of study, prayer and community which is the same balance to be found in parish life as a priest. Half way through our formation we were assigned to a parish for one year as an intern to get a taste of pastoral work in a parish setting. I was assigned to St. Brigid's parish with a kind and gentle pastor, Fr. Basil O'Brien.

I was ordained on May 8, 1993 at St. Michael's Cathedral by then Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic along with seven other men. My First Mass was celebrated at St. Brigid's and the Sisters of St. Joseph kindly allowed me to host my reception at the Christie Mansion at Queen's Park and Wellesley St. My day of Ordination to the priesthood was a joyous event and I was conscious of 'when' I felt I had been ordained as my Spiritual Director had invited me to do. It was when the Cardinal laid his hands on me. I knew in that brief moment that the call of Jesus throughout my life, sinful and unworthy though I was, was now fulfilled in the call to be, as Jesus was and all his priests after him, both priest and victim.

My first parish assignment after ordination was as Associate Pastor of Blessed Trinity parish in Willowdale. I was stationed there for two years with Pastor Fr. Benoit Jobin from 1993 to 1995. I was then named Associate Pastor to the late Fr. Michael Waites at St. Patrick Parish in Markham until 1997 when Cardinal Ambrozic named me as Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Port McNicoll, a position I filled until 1999 when I was named Pastor (for the first time) at St. John Vianney Parish in Barrie where I served in that growing and busy parish for ten years until 2009. Since that time I have happily served as your pastor here at St. Leo the Great in Brooklin. My life here as a priest and pastor has had so many blessings and challenges to as is found in all our lives. Yet it is the same God who called us who sustains our every endeavour on the road of life which travels with and to him and I have been happy to share this road with all of you. (Fr. Charles)

*Father Charles,
Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary
of your Ordination to the Priesthood.
May God continue to bless you, your
vocation and the people whose lives you
continue to touch.*



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 8th

8:30 a.m. Intentions of Father Charles

Wednesday, May 9th

7:00 p.m. † Mary Mulcahy

Thursday, May 10th

8:30 a.m. No Mass

Friday, May 11th

8:30 a.m. † Philip Launay

Saturday, May 12th

4:30 p.m. † Donald Alford

Sunday, May 13th

9:00 a.m. † Sadie Hallihan

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Catholic Mothers Group



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