

Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

# The Beacon

OCTOBER 2025

A JUBILEE  
OF HOPE



Vol.Iss  
**III.6**

[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)

# The Beacon



Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life' (*John 8.12*). He draws every person to himself to experience in him unimaginable love, unconditional mercy, and peace which flows from the heart. When we bask in that light long enough, we become like him. He says to his disciples, 'You are the light of the world' (*Matthew 5.14*). We become like the 'light' and Jesus sends us out to be the light for others, drawing them closer to Christ through our own witness of life.

We have come to understand that our new Family of Parishes' Vision and Core Values serve as a Lighthouse of Jesus. He is using us as his humble servants and this simple invitation: to call everyone to Christ. Each person is able to experience his life not only in our present life, but also in eternal life.

Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan and Holy Family Parish, London (Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes) is obediently responding to Jesus' great commission 'to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching [all] to obey everything that [He] has commanded' (*Matthew 28.19-20*).

**Come and allow yourselves to be drawn by Jesus, the Light. Find in him what you can find nowhere else and in no one else. Come and see for yourselves!**

## What is *The Beacon*?

Jesus invites us to be **Beacons of Hope**. We do this by sharing our stories of how we are being transformed by encountering Jesus and the Holy Spirit. *The Beacon* is how we are sharing the stories of transformation from members of our community.

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We are building a team of talented and passionate people who have a desire to help prepare our publications, including *The Beacon*.

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**Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes**





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## OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for bringing us together as a Family of Parishes, called to be the light for the world.

We thank you for giving us a vision to become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.

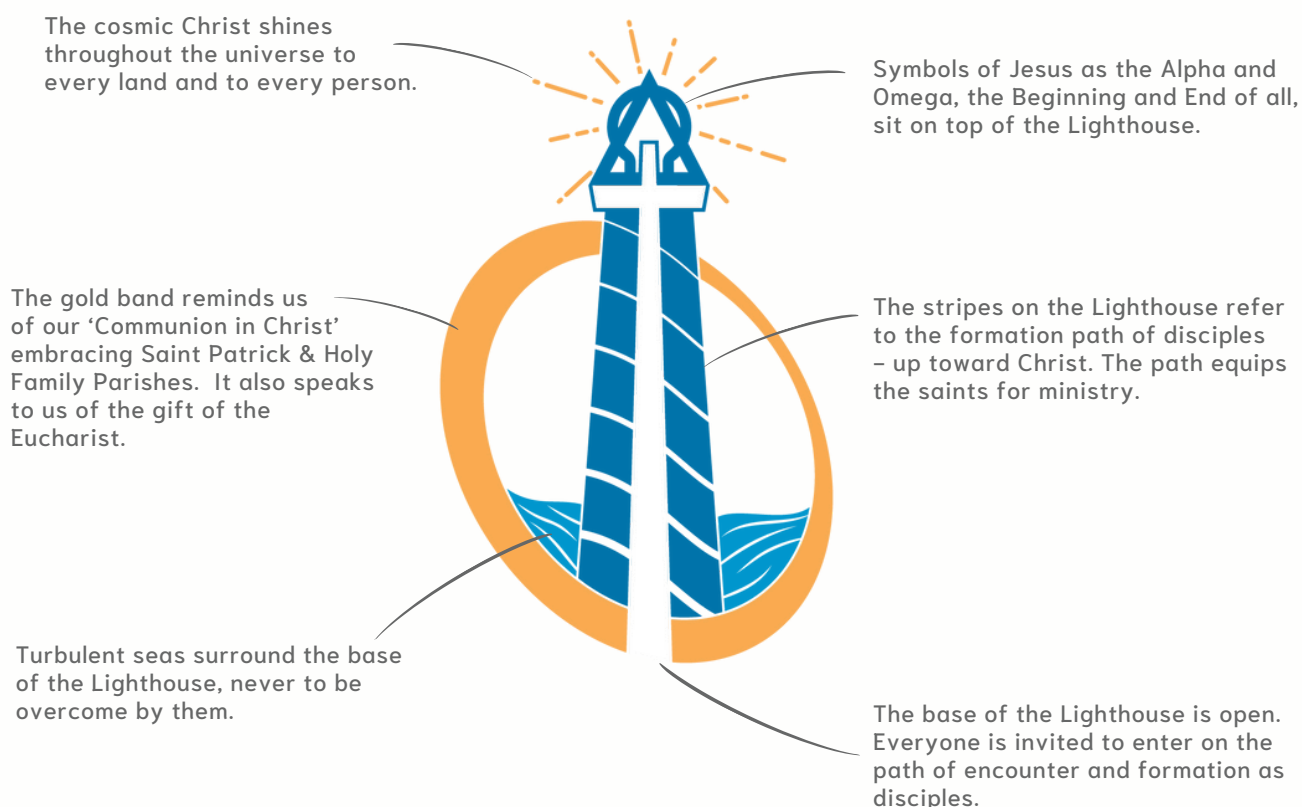
May we rely on the **Holy Spirit** to inspire us to love the **Scriptures**, to share our **faith stories**, to foster **right relationships**, and to be **warm-hearted**.

We entrust our Family of Parishes to the care of Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph —the Holy Family— and Saint Patrick, as we work together to bear witness to our core values and to become the people you desire us to become.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

*Amen.*

## INTERPRETIVE KEY TO OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES LOGO



Jesus is the light of the world, reaching out first to those who have not yet encountered Jesus Christ; second, to those whose Christian faith has grown cold or who are lost; and finally, to those who struggle to live faith wholeheartedly.

**Jesus is our Light, our Lighthouse.**





## FROM THE PASTOR

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As we come to the end of our Jubilee Year and focusing on the idea that we are **Pilgrims of Hope**, I am reminded of what Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen said about this Theological Virtue. Here are his thoughts...

Bishop Sheen taught that true hope is not based on wishful thinking or worldly progress, but on God's divine power to raise people from the dead, as demonstrated by Christ's victory over sin and death on the cross and at Easter. He believed that hope is found by looking to the Victimhood of the Cross and the subsequent glory of the Resurrection, which assures God's ultimate triumph and provides a basis for optimism even in suffering and dark times. For Sheen, embracing suffering was a way to participate in Christ's cross, fitting into God's plan for salvation and leading to higher joy and eternal life.

### HOPE IS ROOTED IN CHRIST'S VICTORY, NOT HUMAN PROGRESS

#### It's not wishful thinking:

Sheen emphasized that hope is not simply believing things will get better because the world is inherently good.

#### It's a divine act:

True hope comes from God's power to overcome death and evil, a power seen in Christ's suffering and resurrection.

#### Good Friday leads to Easter

##### Sunday:

The darkness of suffering and "Good Friday" moments in life are not the end, but are necessary precursors to the joy and glory of "Easter Sunday".

### HOPE IS FOUND THROUGH SUFFERING AND FAITH

#### Embrace suffering:

Sheen taught that suffering, when seen through the lens of the Cross of Christ has a purpose in God's divine plan and can make us better, leading to salvation.

#### Know your true state:

Recognizing oneself as a sinner, rather than denying it, can be a source of hope, as it leads to a desire for spiritual renewal and God's help.

#### Trust God's control:

Hope is maintained by trusting that God is in control and that all of His plans work for the good, even in difficult circumstances.

### HOPE CALLS FOR SPIRITUAL ACTION

#### Heroic spiritual effort:

Sheen urged people to engage in spiritual practices like prayer, attending daily Mass, and reciting the Rosary to strengthen their faith and combat evil.

#### Focus on eternity:

True hope involves desiring eternal life, recognizing that worldly pursuits are temporary and that true peace comes from reuniting with God.

#### The role of Our Lady:

Devotion to Mary, Christ's mother, was seen as a path to hope and salvation, with her intercession helping souls enter God's kingdom.



FR. THOM BLONDIN, PASTOR  
Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London Parishes  
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes



# Jubilee of Youth caps two-week pilgrimage to Italy

BY VANESSA FRANK



In late July, our Family of Parishes (Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan and Holy Family Parish, London) sponsored three parishioners on a two-week pilgrimage to Italy.

Charlotte Hartman, 23, Joe Joseph, 20, and Nick Gutierrez-Moreno, 22, travelled to Venice, Padua, Florence, Rome and Assisi. They walked for eight hours some days as they sojourned to holy sites accessible only by foot. They visited such sites as the Holy Doors, the Vatican, the Basilica of Saint Francis and the Basilica of Saint Anthony, among others.

In Rome, they joined a million other young adults for the **Jubilee of Youth** – a seven-day celebration of reverence and hope. The last two days in Rome were particularly noteworthy as the group of pilgrims gathered at the University of Rome *Tor Vergata* for two days of music, prayers, testimony, a night vigil, Adoration and morning mass led by Pope Leo XIV.

The Holy Father ended his homily with a message of hope for the young adults:

“Dear young people, aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within you and around you.”

The young adults’ pilgrimage is part of 2025 Jubilee, a jubilee year in the Roman Catholic Church with the theme: **Pilgrims of Hope**. Catholics are called to strengthen their faith and seek renewal through prayer, pilgrimage and service.

*The Beacon* writer, Vanessa Frank, met with the three Pilgrims of Hope that traveled to Rome for the Jubilee of Youth.







# Pilgrimage 'deepens your faith in ways I can't really even describe'

Charlotte Hartman, shown in this photo at the Cathedral of *Santa Marie del Fiore* in Florence, said her faith has deepened after a two-week pilgrimage to Italy.

Hours of walking to holy sites every day. Attending Mass each night. Kneeling to pray in churches in Florence, Padua, Venice, Assisi, and Rome. Charlotte Hartman feels her faith has deepened after a two-week pilgrimage to Italy in late July.

"It's a pilgrimage, so I expected that to happen," said Hartman, 23. "But because we prayed the Rosary on the buses, and witnessed the Mass in different languages – it made me feel more connected in my faith than ever because being on a pilgrimage with a million other people who are all Catholic and here for the same thing was amazing."

Since her return home, she feels different during the Mass – more reverent, more connected to the prayers and rituals, especially the Liturgy of the Eucharist when the priest prepares the altar for the presence of Christ during Holy Communion.

When asked if she recommends going on a pilgrimage, Hartman is unequivocal.

"Yes, definitely. First of all, it deepens your faith in ways I can't really even describe," she said. "You meet so many new people. I went into the pilgrimage only knowing Nick and Joe, and then I met probably 50 other people in our group and I'm good friends with most of them today. I've made so many new friends who I can share my faith with."



Charlotte Hartman went to many holy sites on her pilgrimage, including the Vatican.

Saint John Paul II went on numerous pilgrimages and wrote about the importance of the physical pilgrimage in a 1999 letter ahead of the Great Jubilee in the year 2000.

"To go in a spirit of prayer from one place to another, from one city to another, in the area marked especially by God's intervention, helps us not only to live our life as a journey, but also gives us a vivid sense of a God who has gone before us and leads us on, who himself set out on man's path, a God who does not look down on us from on high, but who became our travelling companion," he wrote.

Hartman's reflections about her pilgrimage align perfectly with what Saint John Paul II and other pilgrims before her knew to be true: a deepened personal devotion; a closer connection to the Lord; and a sense of joy that comes from worshipping Christ with others.





## Communal worship 'touched my heart a lot'

Joe Joseph enjoys the view from the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy.

There was a horde of people in the field, each group carrying their country's flag and singing their own songs, and yet a wave of peace washed over Joe Joseph.

He and one million fellow pilgrims were at a university just outside Rome for a night vigil and Adoration led by Pope Leo XIV. The young adults slept under the stars together and prayed Holy Mass, which was also presided over by the Pope, the next morning.

For Joseph, the communal aspect of the pilgrimage was awe-inspiring and deepened his faith immeasurably.

"That's what showed me that this church is universal," he explained. "All of us come together, we pray, and we all believe in the same God. That moment touched my heart a lot."

Joseph experienced a transformation while on the summer pilgrimage in Italy. He and his fellow pilgrims walked at least eight hours some days, visiting holy sites in Assisi, Padua and Rome. The young pilgrims did everything together: ate; prayed; even linking arms during praise and worship music.

"It calls you out of being lukewarm in your faith," Joseph said. "Everybody came from all around the world, all because they believe in Jesus Christ. The amount of faith you see in people, and how the faith has touched them and changed their lives, it's really a calling for all of us to grow stronger in our faith as well."



Joe Joseph is part of the throng of pilgrims outside Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

For Joseph, that means embracing a call to spread the light of Jesus Christ in the world, to be a Beacon of Hope for others. In these current times of economic uncertainty and political polarization, Joseph is committed to spreading kindness and joy in his day-to-day life, and sharing his faith with those around him.

"I think it's our job and our mission to go out and spread some of the light of Christ into the darkest places," he said. "I think that's what we're called to do."

Joe Joseph stands outside the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome.







## 'You've got to stand tall and be proud of who you are as a young Christian'

Nick Gutierrez-Moreno's summer pilgrimage to Italy deepened his resolve to encourage youth to be proud of their Christian faith.

At the Jubilee of Youth that took place in Rome from July 28 to August 3, young people from all over the world heard messages of hope for the future. The youth were encouraged to remain open to developing holy friendships, and trust that they would encounter the Lord's presence.

Gutierrez-Moreno, 22, took these messages to heart.

"You've got to stand tall and be proud of who you are and your values as a young Christian," he explained. "Seeing people around the world come together really made me happy. It was one of those times when you felt like you belonged. It wasn't like you were the only one in the world (living your faith)."

Gutierrez-Moreno felt most connected to others when music was playing. He noticed groups of young adults from Brazil, Puerto Rico and Peru were accompanied by bands, which drew him into their orbit. Brazilian musicians were playing music around a well one day, and Gutierrez-Moreno – along with fellow pilgrim Joe Joseph from Holy Family Parish, London – found himself enjoying the scene and dancing along.

During praise and worship on one of the last nights of the pilgrimage, bands performed for the massive crowd of young people. During one especially moving song about unity, Gutierrez-Moreno linked arms with fellow pilgrims and felt goosebumps on his arms and tears streak down his cheeks.

A music lover, it was only fitting that the praise and worship bands moved him and helped him deepen his faith.

"I was driven to it all the time," Gutierrez-Moreno said of the music. "(Groups would) be dancing around in a circle, praising God, and I'd get in there and start joining them. I thought that was just beautiful, being able to connect with people through music because I think that's a universal language." 🕊

# The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. *Amen*

*Franciscus*



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## Corpus Christi Outdoor Eucharistic Procession Under the *Baldachin*

BY CESAR ABEID

This past June on the Solemnity (feast) of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*), under the blazing summer sun, I had the privilege of participating in our Family of Parish's Outdoor Eucharistic Procession. I was invited to help carry the *baldachin*—the four-poled canopy that shelters the monstrance—as we processed with Jesus through our neighbourhood in Oakridge. Sharing that responsibility with other men of the parish, brothers I know through Mass, Alpha, and our monthly Men's Faith Gathering, was both humbling and profoundly unifying.

The heat was relentless, yet what struck me most were the parishioners with physical limitations who still joined us, leaning not on their own strength, but on faith. Their perseverance reflected exactly what Pope Francis reminds us in *Spes non confundit*: "Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5.5). It was a visible reminder that hope is not a fleeting feeling but a grace that sustains us even in difficulty.

Carrying Jesus around the streets of our neighbourhood was more than a ritual—it was a proclamation. To those watching from porches and sidewalks, it was a sign that Christ is not hidden within church walls but walks with us, alive and present. In an age where faith can seem absent from public life, this procession boldly declared that the Church is still here, still vibrant, still anchored in hope. It also evoked an earlier time when parishes were at the heart of community life, and the faith was carried—literally—through every street.

I was also moved by the witness of our priests and deacons, leading us not only at the altar but also through personal sacrifice in the heat of the day. Their presence reminded me that hope grows when shepherds and parishioners walk together in faith.

For me, this experience renewed my desire to live out the Jubilee call to be a "pilgrim of hope." Opportunities like Alpha and our monthly Men's Faith Gathering have been essential for me to encounter Jesus more deeply and to walk this journey with others. If you are seeking to grow in faith, community, and hope, I encourage you to join us. Together, we can ensure that Christ's presence is not only carried in a procession, but carried daily in our lives as well. 🕊️

**READ POPE FRANCIS'  
SPES NON CONFUNDIT HERE:**

[vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)



Watch on YouTube: [youtu.be/jrSCJl071Zo](https://youtu.be/jrSCJl071Zo)







BY BARB PRESTON

What a privilege and a blessing it was to have the opportunity to spend the Jubilee Year of Hope among the great saints of Italy, and even more special to walk through all four Holy Doors in Rome - only possible every 25 years!

After landing in Venice, our first stop was at the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua. As a child I knew that I could pray to Saint Anthony for physical things lost. But I had no idea that he was well known for his unique and powerful gift of preaching and his love for the Gospel messages. He was a voice for the voiceless and protector of the poor. More than the beautiful church building, it was this text on a plaque that stood out for me:

**"The heart of a man marked by faith allows the message of the Gospel to penetrate between the cracks of everyday life."**

We are all called to be Scripture-Soaked and how encouraging it is to know that we have this great saint to help us when we feel spiritually lost.

Walking through the San Damiano Monastery in Assisi, I reflected on the lives of Saint Francis and Saint Clare (of Assisi). Both left status, wealth and honour behind to follow Christ and live a simplistic life, finding joy in nature and not in material things. They trusted in what Jesus had to offer.



## A Journey of Hope

Saint Francis of Assisi heard and obeyed the voice of Christ from the cross: "Francis, repair my church." Francis began to rebuild the church brick by physical brick, but it was not long before he realized God wanted him to rebuild the spiritual church and to bring people back to Him. I thought of our own Family of Parishes and how Fr. Bob (Remark), through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, brought in The Lighthouse —our Family of parishes vision, and the five core values that support it—also to bring people back to God.

Saint Carlo Acutis —hope for the youth— lying peacefully in the parish church of Saint Mary Major in Assisi, touched me greatly. Later that afternoon, I felt the desire to attend Mass. Sylvia, a fellow pilgrim who is Italian, checked with the reception desk and a few minutes later she, I and a few other pilgrims hurried to the closest church for the 6pm Mass. **What a joy to find that it was the same church we had visited that morning!** At the end of Mass, the parish priest held up the corded rope belt (*cincture*) of the Franciscan order, with three knots that reminds them of their connectedness to Christ and their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. He then invited all present to receive individual blessings for healing. As we went up, he placed the corded belt against our foreheads and said a prayer. What an unexpected blessing! Walking back to our hotel, filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, we were further blessed by a beautiful sunset. I loved the reflective solitude of such a slice of heaven.

The four Holy Doors in the Vatican State and through which we passed, were Saint Peter's Basilica, Basilica of Saint Mary Major (*Santa Maria Maggiore*), Saint John Lateran, and Saint Paul Outside the Walls.



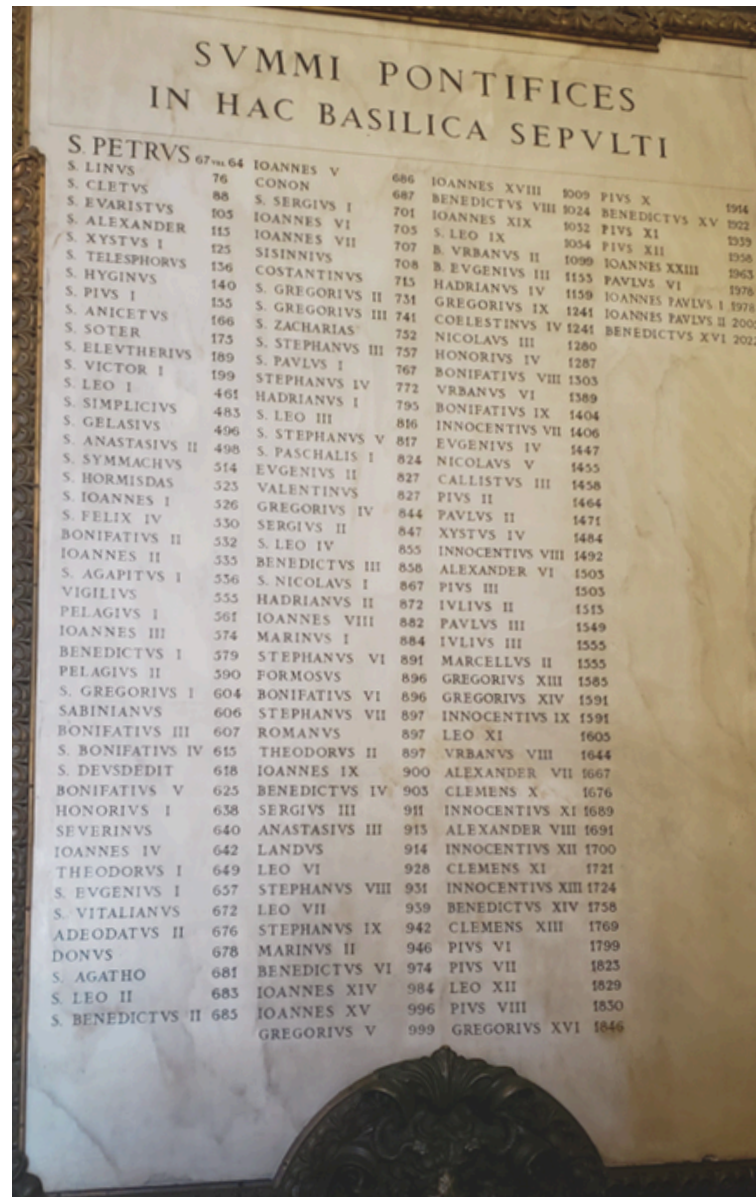


photos (clockwise from top-left) from Barb Preston:  
Barb and Dave enjoy time in Florence. Joan Bolt and the Prestons visit the Colosseum.  
"Supreme pontiffs buried in this basilica" - from Saint Peter to Pope Benedict XVI.  
Pilgrim dance, waiting to enter one of the Holy Doors.

The four Holy Doors in the Vatican State and through which we passed, were Saint Peter's Basilica, Basilica of Saint Mary Major (*Santa Maria Maggiore*), Saint John Lateran, and Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

After a torturous day concentrating on putting one foot in front of the other as we toured the outer walls of the Colosseum in 30°C+ heat, I had begun to realize my physical limitations. I was relieved to enter the Holy Door of Saint Paul Outside the Walls into the cool of this beautiful basilica. We prayed and lit candles for all those at home who had asked for prayer. Reflecting on the many hardships endured by Saint Paul and Saint Peter, I was reminded that I was experiencing a true pilgrimage with both the challenges and the joys. Nudged by the Holy Spirit, I attended confession and experienced the mercy and forgiveness of Christ like never before. This Holy Door I will always remember.

On Sunday, as we edged slowly forward in line toward Saint Peter's Basilica to attend Mass. It was truly amazing and uplifting to see multitudes of people passing through this Holy Door, seeking a deeper connection with Christ.



**This was the experience of a lifetime. I find such strength and hope in the foundation of our Catholic faith that withstands the test of time from Saint Peter to our present-day Pope Leo XIV.**

We are all pilgrims on our way to Christ and whether we travel many miles abroad to seek him or just walk down the street, what counts is that we connect with Him. It is not the splendour of buildings, statues or even the lives of the saints that inspire us that builds true faith; it is the relationship we build with Jesus, who loves each of us with an everlasting love and only asks that in return we love Him back. Herein lies our hope. 🙏





# On the Streets of Assisi

photo from Canva

BY ALEXIS TREMEER


There were so many graces and blessings on our pilgrimage, too many to include them all here. I will highlight only a few, beginning in Venice. As we entered through the Chapel entrance to Saint Mark's Basilica, we heard what sounded like Angels singing. As we walked further into the Basilica, we realized the angelic voices were the voices of a choir singing in the loft beside the altar. The acoustics in this place had turned their voices into those of Angels. And there was a noticeable reverent hush throughout the place as we quietly found our seats.

One could feel a truly heavenly presence all around there. It was the most beautiful Mass I've ever experienced, quiet, hushed, focused. After we received communion and were seated, sunlight streamed down on us like a floodlight from one of the windows up near the roof on the side of the Basilica. We were bathed in this light. Words can't describe what this moment felt like, except humbling, Divine, a God-incident.

Assisi too was breathtaking and peaceful. The streets were so clean, flowers everywhere, stonework of the buildings were stunningly beautiful. Various groups of religious orders were walking around just about everywhere we went. A group of young novitiates in Mother Teresa's order came laughing and skipping down the street full of joy, each with a radiant light in their eyes and faces. It left a lasting impression on me – their joy and light. I found myself wishing I had grown up in such a place among such devoted faithful people and all these different religious orders around everywhere for us to see. It's no wonder that they have far more young people in vocations there. What inspired me was the presence of so many religious in their habits and the reverence at every church/Basilica we visited. I found myself saying "I could've said yes to religious life if I had lived here among so many religious and seeing them every day." Their physical presence and joy were beautiful to see and experience. It definitely did something to my heart and soul.

When we saw the small church Saint Francis had rebuilt, it was so tiny in comparison to the huge church where it has now been moved. As I walked inside his small church, I felt peace and was drawn to touch the walls that he had built stone by stone. As I ran my hand across the stone on the outside wall of this little church, I imagined Francis adding each stone using some kind of mud and clay to mold them together. Suddenly, I felt grooves in the wall that fit perfectly with my fingers. I looked and saw finger grooves in the clay molding between stones. Could these finger grooves have been made by Francis? I continued to run my fingers across the stones and into the grooves where his fingers must have been so long ago. I felt a very deep connection to Francis and Clare. When we walked downstairs to Clare's tomb, I read her story that had been put on the walls leading to her tomb. As I knelt at her tomb, I felt another wave of emotion and a presence that came over me as my tears began to flow. For a brief moment I experienced a true connection with Clare and knew she understood my own personal story and journey. I will never forget that moment.

We saw the tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis. Five of us went to Mass there and were given a blessing by the priest after Mass.

We saw breathtaking views and sunsets in all of these places. We enjoyed meals together, sitting on patios drinking Aperol Spritzers and eating gelatos every chance we got. We blended-in with the culture and the breathtaking surroundings, seeing the landscapes that many of these Saints had seen in their time but under much more challenging and difficult times. It has been a difficult transition back to the way of life here since returning. My heart is still back in Assisi. I long to return there again, feeling blessed and grateful for the experience! 



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\* Senior Leadership Team advises and helps the pastor create long-term goals based on the Family of Parishes' vision (The Lighthouse)



### WELCOMING NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes – Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London, please take a moment and click here for more information, or call the Parish offices: Saint Patrick at 519.227.4726 x20, or Holy Family at 519.472.0057 x201.

## We want to support you in prayer ONLINE PRAYER MINISTRY

Join our Prayer Line to receive weekly prayers, reflections, music, and prayer.

To sign up or submit a prayer request, scan the QR-code or go to our website.

Submit your prayer requests on line or email them to [stp.hfp@dol.ca](mailto:stp.hfp@dol.ca)



The Prayer Line is  
powered by Flocknote

[wearelighthouse.ca/online-prayer-line-ministry](http://wearelighthouse.ca/online-prayer-line-ministry)

Please visit our website (under Worship > Mass Intentions) to see our Mass Intentions for the Week and Weekday Mass Schedule. Updates, including funerals, will be posted there.

Saint Patrick



519.227.4726  
[stpatlucan@dol.ca](mailto:stpatlucan@dol.ca)

To meet the Team, please click  
here or scan the QR-code



Holy Family



519.472.0057  
[hfparrish@dol.ca](mailto:hfparrish@dol.ca)



Stay connected with us –  
sign up with Flocknote!



[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)



# Let us give thanks

For what the Lord has  
generously given to us

**Happy Thanksgiving**  
from our Family to yours.

## Thanksgiving Appeal

Share your gifts of love and generosity  
to support the mission of our parishes

TO GIVE AT  
SAINT PATRICK



TO GIVE AT  
HOLY FAMILY



**Saint Patrick  
Holy Family**  
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

[wearelighthouse.ca/giving](http://wearelighthouse.ca/giving)