Dear Parishioners: It's good to be back in the saddle! Thank you for your prayerful support during my silent retreat and the Diocesan CWL Convention: both events were remarkable experiences in their own way. So much is happening these days! Please continue in your prayers for our First Communicant Families, as they celebrate the Sacrament over the Sundays of Easter. The Pastoral Moves will be published this Monday: I’m told (by the talking drums) that there will be approximately 40 – a third of all parishes! Fr. Clare Coleman (in our neighbouring parishes of St. James & St. Patrick) has made no secret of his coming retirement: please keep that in mind next month, when we take up a collection for the Priests’ Retirement Fund. This giant (in every best possible way!) has long served as a mentor for me: in some of my darkest moments I have turned to him for advice: his wisdom and inspiring service (both here and in our diocesan Mission in Peru) continue to shape my priesthood. Please pray for all parishes involved in the moves, that this event will prove to be a renewal of grace for all involved. Speaking of priests, next Sunday being Good Shepherd Sunday, we will take up a collection for St. Peter’s Seminary – to support those at the very beginnings of the priesthood. I am so impressed with the holistic approach taken in seminary formation today: please be as generous as you can in support of St. Peter’s. Locally, we will start a Vocation Support Prayer program, where parish families will take a crucifix (and prayer resources) for a week, to help focus our prayers, and make ourselves obedient to the Lord’s request to “pray the Lord of the Harvest to send workers out into the Harvest”. Cardinal Mindszenty of happy memory said “no one is closer to God then a mother.” I can’t say any better than that: God Bless all our mothers. Easter is the best part of the year – Alleluia! God Bless, Father Matt

World Day of Prayer for Vocations
“The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a “cage” or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.” Message from Pope Francis for World Day of Prayer. Take a moment to see the many vocations initiatives in our own Diocese by visiting VocationsLondon on Facebook, Twitter or www.dol.ca/vocations.

Catholic Education Week
During the week of May 5-10, 2019, local Catholic District School Boards within the Diocese of London celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province and to Canada. Catholic Graduate Expectations challenge students to articulate in society those fundamental values that underpin Catholic education. This year’s theme is “Living as Joyful Disciples”. For more information visit www.dol.ca/catholic-education-week.

St. Teresa of Calcutta
Faith in Action Award Recipients
The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board will recognize all St. Teresa of Calcutta Faith in Action Awards for 2019 at their Catholic Education Week Mass on Monday, May 6, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church in Dublin at 5:00 p.m. They are honoured to have The Most Rev. Bishop Ronald Fabbro celebrate the Mass. The Huron-Perth Catholic Trustees’ Student Leadership Awards will also be given out at this time. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Kelly Franklin from Farntown Canada Presentation
The CWL Councils of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Precious Blood invite the ladies of the Catholic Women’s League in Our Family of Parishes and their family members and/or guest to join us in listening to Kelly Franklin from Farmtown Canada. Kelly will speak to us about Farmtown, its response to Human Trafficking, Project ONroute along the 401 corridor and how we can help with this serious issue. Friday, May 10th at 7 pm at Precious Blood Church Hall, Exeter. Please note: No one under the age of 18; 16 and 17 year olds may be accompanied by an adult.

News Briefs from the April 2019 Blue Water Rest Home Board Meeting...
Volunteer Appreciation - Blue Water Rest Home values and appreciates the support we receive from our volunteers. An appreciation event is being held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 from 2-4 p.m. at the Zurich Mennonite Church. Entertainment and refreshments will be served. Blue Water Rest Home is a Non-Profit Charitable organization and donations of $10 and greater are receipted and $500 and greater are recognized on a Donor Plaque.
Mother’s Day Tea & Bake Sale
There is going to be a Mother’s Day Tea & Bake Sale at the Bluewater Rest Home on Saturday, May 11th at 2 pm sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary. Baking is appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

Employment Opportunity
CCLC, the Catholic Christian Leadership Camp of the Diocese of London, is seeking the following positions: Summer Leadership Camp Coordinator, Youth Leadership Inclusion Support Staff, Outdoor Learning Coordinator, Day Camp Coordinator, and Day Camp Counsellor. Details for these and other positions are available at www.dol.ca/employment

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
The Huron-Perth Catholic DSB is seeking one volunteer Catholic ratepayer to serve on its Audit Committee for a 3-year term effective July 1, 2019. The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight.

Candidate Eligibility:
• Must have sufficient accounting, senior financial management or legal expertise to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards.
• Must not be a current employee or officer of the Board, or of any other district school board or school authority.
• Must not have a parent, child or spouse currently employed by the Board.
Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume by 12:00 p.m. Monday, May 27, 2019 to the attention of Mary-Ellen Ducharme, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer at HR@hpcdsb.ca

Wedding Anniversary Mass
The Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB, invites all married couples to attend this year’s Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 2 at 3 pm at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica. This special annual Mass is a celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. All couples who register will receive a keepsake Certificate. To register please visit www.dol.ca/wedding-anniversary, phone your parish office, or use a sign-up form available at the back of the church.

Bishop’s Dinner for London & Surrounding Communities
The Eleventh Annual Bishop’s Dinner for London & Surrounding Communities will be held on Wednesday, June 12 at the London Convention Centre. This annual event gathers our community with Bishop Fabbro in a “Celebration of Faith, Friendship and Charity” to raise vital funds for Vocations London and St. Peter’s Seminary. This year we welcome three-time Juno nominee Emm Gryner with her band. For tickets or sponsorship information, please email Mrs. Frances Barnard at bishopsdinner@dol.ca or phone 519-432-1414 or 1-888-548-9649, ext. 255.

The Rotary Club of Grand Bend to Ship Food Aid to Mozambique Cyclone Victims
The Global Literacy Project has taken a little detour from the sea container loads of school supplies we usually ship and we wanted you to know. On March 14 Cyclone Idai devastated much of central Mozambique and parts of Zimbabwe and Malawi. In addition to the growing number of dead and homes destroyed, cases of Cholera have risen from 5 on March 27 to over 1000 by April 2 and over 4700 by April 11. In addition over 700,000 Hectares of crops ready to harvest have been destroyed! The Rotary Club of Grand Bend’s Global Literacy Committee is preparing a 40’ sea container for shipment to the Rotary Club of Donda, near Beira Mozambique. Rotary Clubs will distribute the goods to those in most need. Container and Shipping costs will be $10000. This container is only possible thanks to the support of our product donors above and our Partner - The Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation. Financial assistance from Rotary Clubs in Stratford, Port Elgin, Goderich, London, Sarnia, Southampton and Watford.

Would You Like to Help? Donations to this project will receive a tax receipt. Please make your cheque payable to The Foundation for Education Perth Huron and send it to box 1261 Grand Bend ON  NoM 1T0 or donate online at http://bit.ly/GlobalLiteracyProject. We expect to resume our school supplies shipments this summer. In the meantime, we are using our expertise in loading sea containers and our Rotary connections to deliver this much needed aid.

Brian Hall, Rotary Global Literacy Project
Rotary Club of Grand Bend
519-238-6116