



Online Catholic Opinion

No. 2

August 2022

News, Views, Events and Developments

Established 1896



JAMAICA AT SIXTY..

The picture above depicts more than a shallow gesture of friendship or a replay, with a different cast, of Bob Marley's One Love Concert effort some forty plus years ago.

This time the show of unity better be for real! National problems of unaffordable food, endemic corruption, inadequate education, weak families and rampant murder cannot be solved without bi-partisan political consensus and broad social buy-in. That is the lesson from our independence history.

Facing us now, are hard and unpostponable changes of attitude, behavior, policy and practice facing Jamaicans. These will require joining hands and hearts.

This is the time for a sharpened acceptance of the common good, a spirit of self-sacrifice and self-restraint and a decisive rejection of the sinful inequalities birthed in our history but present, even worse, today.

And this is where Archbishop Richards comes in. It is the Christian way of life, the message of Jesus' life in the New Testament, which shows the way to real - demands no less.●

not opportunistic - unity, and from that to renewed national purpose.

Archbishop Richards represents this, not only as a Catholic, but as President of the Jamaica Council of Churches and Chair of the even wider Umbrella Group of Churches. He is encouraging our political leaders on behalf of the whole ecumenical church.

We believe that both Andrew Holness and Mark Golding are sincere in their commitment to the flourishing of all Jamaicans. Their show of goodwill and unity at the Emancipation celebrations sends a good signal. They need to be encouraged by people and institutions of faith to undertake a consensual crafting of the next budget, a joint focus on implementing the recommendations of the Patterson Commission in transforming education; a campaign for the revival of wholesome family life and common stances on corruption and violent crime.

Catholic Opinion commends our political leaders led by our Archbishop in this symbolic start. We must all commit to move to implementation. Our common faith demands no less.●

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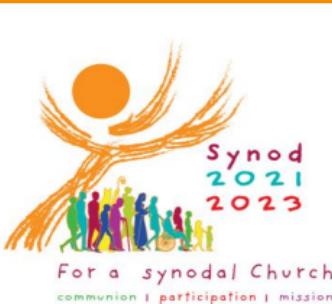
[\(Click page number to access page\)](#)



St. Michael's Forum No. 1 on the Future of Denominational and Trust Schools in light of the Patterson Report"



Click button for videos



Prayer for the Synod on Synodality

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your
name.*

*With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our
hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us
down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our
actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of
truth
and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place
and time,
in the communion of the Father
and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen*



The New Online Catholic Opinion

Feedback



- Love it!! Love it!! Love it!! This is a truly great publication. I do like the presentation, the articles and the user friendliness. A wonderful way to inform, inspire and grow one's faith. Thanks for this step in the right direction. **Venita M. Massey (Holy Cross)**
- Finally got the CO open. It is magnificent! It quite informative and attractive. I am sure the Faithful will find it a compelling read. I was with Shirley Rodney yesterday...she thought the first edition front page article was a negative piece. However, I think the caption is quiet apt and gets the attention of the reader. Good...! OCP ready to go! Congratulations! **AB Ken**
- This is a truly great publication. I do like the presentation, the articles and the user-friendliness. A wonderful way to inform, inspire and grow one's faith. Thanks for the step in the right direction. Blessings. **Vivienne Dacosta (St. Richards)**
- Thank you. I was very much elated to receive the **Catholic Opinion** online, and indeed, was edified by the variety and scope of the articles and accompanying photos included in the issue. The children's page too shows cognizance of the need of children for enjoyment and education, as well as an understanding of their thought processes. I was particularly excited by the article on the blessings of the boats, as it demonstrates our involvement in the everyday lives and livelihoods of ordinary people. I believe this is exactly what we, the Church, should be focusing on. Thanks for highlighting that aspect of Catholic Christian ministry.

[Cont'd on page 12](#)

ST. MICHAEL'S FORUM ON PATTERSON REPORT

The first public forum on the Patterson Report on Transforming Education was held on Thursday, July 14, under the auspices of St. Michael's College and the Ecumenical Education Committee. The forum brought together some key persons in education, especially those in Church and Trust operated schools who make up a significant percentage of schools in Jamaica, many of whom are high performing schools.

The presenters were Dr. Dana Morris-Dixon, Mrs. Grace Baston and Mrs. Maureen Dwyer. Dr. Adrian Stokes, Chair of the Implementation Oversight Committee, also spoke from the audience and responded to questions.

Dr. Morris-Dixon, who had been a member of the Patterson Commission, went through some of the salient aspects of the Report. She pointed out that we were not short of commissions analysing Education, but our weakness was in implementation. Also weak was accountability in the education system. She reminded us of the learning crisis in education where, despite the inputs, the system was failing to

produce the desired levels of governance, where Church and Trust Schools were being hampered in what they could do by Government policies which fetter their work. She underscored the significant contribution of these schools, and called for tangible recognition of the significant resources that they bring to the education system. For her, this requires a strengthening of the partnership between Government and these schools, through greater communication, consultation, and freedom from certain state impositions so as to perform even better.

She pointed to the need to address challenges at the Early Childhood level where teachers were inadequately qualified and poorly paid. She pointed to the need to rethink the primary level teaching in an idiom that was not the first language of most children. She saw an emphasis on social values, reading, writing and arithmetic as needed at that level. She was very supportive of the call for re-instituting auxiliary fees for who could pay. Finally, she spoke to the absence of a genuine philosophy of education that spoke to the need for the holistic [Cont'd on page 6](#)

Pope Francis Appoints 20 New Cardinals

On Saturday, Aug. 27, Pope Francis elevated 18 bishops and two priests to be cardinals. They come from Ghana, East Timor, France, USA, Nigeria, Singapore, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Italy. With this August consistory, the eighth by Pope Francis, the College of Cardinals will have 132 cardinal electors — that is, cardinals under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote for a new pope in a conclave. Of these 132 cardinals, Pope Francis will have appointed 83, 62% of cardinal electors. By the end of 2022, when six more cardinals will have turned 80 years old, this percentage will be 65.

The quorum for the election of a pope is two-thirds or 84 cardinals. At the end of 2022, the cardinals created by Pope Francis will only be two less than the quota necessary to elect a successor. In the Aug. 27 consistory, Pope Francis also created four new cardinal non-electors, men over the age of 80. Pope Francis had initially named five but later accepted a Belgian Catholic bishop's request not to be made a cardinal. 

What yuh think?

Can't stay – gotta rush out!

A practice has developed over the years, especially in certain parishes, for some persons to hurry out of church right after communion. What's the rush? Gotta fix lunch? Gotta beat traffic? God's blessing is no longer needed? When you consider it, it is a great disrespect to God to leave Mass before it ends, unless there is a dire emergency. I have seen a congregation where almost one-third of the congregants have left Mass before it ends. Just as coming late to Mass "tief from God's time" so leaving before Mass ends tiefs His time and shows scant regard for His

worship. Some take communion and don't even return to their seat but leave straight away. Have you stopped to think that you should spend time communing with the God that you have received? Do you understand the level of disrespect? There are 168 hours in a week and Sunday Mass nowadays lasts just about an hour. That is all! Remember Jesus asked: "*could ye not watch with me one hour?*" (Matthew 26:40) Celebrating the Holy Eucharist is not a fast-food activity! Show some respect and reverence, people! Stay not just until the blessing but until the last verse of the recessional hymn is sung! God deserves no less. 

Joe Pereira



Above: Fr. Howard Thompson presiding at the induction ceremony of Dawn Latore into the **Madonna della Strada** Community at Stella Maris Church.

Georgetown University commits to reparations.

Georgetown University (a Jesuit university in the USA) created a fund that could generate close to \$400,000 each year to benefit the descendants of slaves once "owned" and sold by the university. This is the latest in the school's efforts to address the historical legacy of slavery, after students had voted in support of implementing a fee of \$27.20 per semester for a reparations fund. In 1838, the university sold 272 slaves it "owned" to pay off debts and ultimately keep the school open. Georgetown has been engaged in conversations over the last few years about how to acknowledge that history, including creating an admissions policy for the descendants of those slaves.

EDITORIAL

Have You Noticed

that **Archbishop Kenneth Richards** has been pictured at a number of civic events over the Emancipendence period and before? This is because he is serving in two important public capacities: as President of the **Jamaica Council of Churches**, and Chair of the wider **Umbrella Group of Churches**.

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed that all "may be one". That prayer for Christian unity, indeed for human collaboration at every level, constrains the Jamaican Catholic Church to grasp every opportunity for shared worship, joint witness and mutual respect with believers of all different denominations.

For many centuries, animosity, jealousy and misunderstanding led to harsh words, cruel disrespect and violence between people of different denominations in Jamaica. When we look at some commentary in the **Catholic Opinion** of a century ago, we find unfortunate evidence of this.

Since the 1960s however, following the teaching on Christian unity by the Second Vatican Council and led by visionaries like former Archbishops John McEleney and Samuel Carter, Jamaican Catholics have taken their rightful, humble and fulsome presence in Ecumenical circles.

This is the tradition in which Archbishop Richards now follows. Sadly, there are some religious tendencies who consider the Pope to be the anti-christ and who believe that Catholics bear the "mark of the beast" and so do not want to associate with us.

Jesus teaches us to love those who hurt us, so we are neither angry nor dismissive of the mandate for Christian unity. By sharing our faith in word and action, we give a powerful witness to a society badly divided not only by religion but also class, politics and status. Uniting under the cross of the Savior is our nation's only hope!

The beliefs we share in common are much more important than the issues which divide us. Catholics should visit other churches, share social and educational projects and pray for Christian unity.

In our 60th year of Independence, when the number of practicing Christians is dwindling and our children and young people are being led astray, the disunity of the followers of Christ is a reproach which must be corrected. 

Ronald Thwaites

Prayer for Priests



Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen

POPE FRANCIS' CANADIAN TRIP RELATES TO ALL COLONIAL SUBJUGATION



Pope Francis visited Canada from July 24 to 30. He described it as a penitential pilgrimage aimed at healing and reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. At the Vatican in April, he had met with representatives of the Canadian First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Indigenous peoples as part of a process of apology for the Catholic Church's involvement in the Canadian government policy from the nineteenth into the twentieth centuries of residential schools. Children of Canadian Indigenous people were forcibly taken from their families and placed in residential schools, forbidden to speak their native languages or practice their culture, in what some termed cultural genocide. In many cases, in addition to psychological and emotional damage, they were physically and sexually abused in those schools. Christian churches operated most of the

schools for the Canadian government. Catholic religious orders operated between 60 to 70 percent of some 130 such schools.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Pope Francis told a large gathering of Indigenous people at the site of a former residential school.

Before his closing address, Pope Francis met privately with residential school survivors. Then he attended an event that featured Inuit colonizing mentality of the language and traditions as a powers that oppressed the manifestation of the cultural Indigenous peoples."

"I am sorry. I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the church and of religious communities cooperated, not least through their indifference,

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suffered colonialism and other forms of subjugation.

Many Indigenous people said they were moved by the visit. They said the Pope's willingness to say "I'm sorry" on Indigenous land was a crucial first step toward healing. But some Indigenous leaders called on him to also apologize for the action of the Catholic Church as an institution. They also want the church to revoke papal decrees from the 1400s that provided religious backing for the conquest of Indigenous societies in the New World and elsewhere by Europeans.

Particularly, many call for him to reject the Doctrine of Discovery that sought to justify colonization and cultural erasure.

Francis told a large gathering of Indigenous people at the site of a former residential school.

He said he was "deeply sorry" for the ways in which "many

Christians supported the

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Chairman for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Bishops shares Statement from Catholic Co-Chair of the National Catholic-Muslim Dialogue: "[Catholics in the United States Stand in Solidarity with Our Muslim Neighbors](#)"

[Click link for full statement...](#)

PRINCIPAL OF BASIC SCHOOL RECEIVES AWARD



L-R: Mrs. Pauline Russell, Education Coordinator, Diocese of Mandeville; Mr. Dennis Thomas, Board Chair of Annunciation Basic School, Hayes, Clarendon; Mrs. Doreen Brown (Principal).

Mrs. Doreen Brown, Principal of Annunciation Basic School in Hayes, Clarendon, and Mr. Dennis Thomas, Board Chair, in May 2022 received awards from the Early Childhood Association for their outstanding involvement in their schools, and their contribution to Early Childhood Education. ☩



Child Month March at Annunciation Basic School, Hayes

“The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” – Pope Francis.



First Communion at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Ransford Ave., Kingston, on August 14, 2022: Deacon Desmond Gordon JP and Fr. Richard Award, C.P. in the background.



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New Mathematics Programme



The Office of the Archbishop of Kingston has launched an initiative to improve the teaching and learning of Mathematics in Catholic primary and secondary schools. The first activity was a week-long workshop for Primary teachers from Catholic schools across the island, held at St. Joseph's Teachers' College from Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29, 2022.

Through the generous sponsorship of the Mayberry Foundation, 32 primary educators participated in "Mathematics IS Problem Solving: Enacting Ambitious Mathematics Instructional Practices", a professional development experience that

is expected to transform their teaching of mathematics, and similarly inspire their colleagues back at school. Each school was represented by two teachers from different grade bands; one from grades K-2 and one from grades 3-6.

The facilitator for the week was Dr. Dionne Cross Francis, an expert in the field of primary mathematics education. Dr. Cross Francis engaged participants in enlightening content related to the teaching and learning of mathematics, by modelling a problem solving approach designed to help young students to understand and enjoy the subject, and gain confidence in sharing and

justifying their mathematical ideas.

Throughout the week, teachers experienced "aha" moments as they encountered mathematics content in new ways themselves, and reflected on better methods of inspiring young mathematicians. They were encouraged to continue their learning, through deliberate personal research and reflection.

At the end of the week, the educators expressed profound gratitude to Dr. Cross Francis and the organizers of the workshop, and described the workshop as transformative.



St. Michael's FORUM No.2

Funding for Quality Education in Jamaica

August 12, 2022

[Click Name for video](#)

1. [Hon. Fayval Williams](#)
2. [Dr. David McBean](#)
3. [Mr. Livern Wright](#)
4. [Mr. Donovan Mayne](#)

You are called to care for creation not only as responsible citizens, but also as followers of Christ!" -Pope Francis

Cont'd From Page 2: FORUM

development of our children and gave as a pattern to follow the Church Schools where they sought to develop not just academics but values, including the respect for the human person.

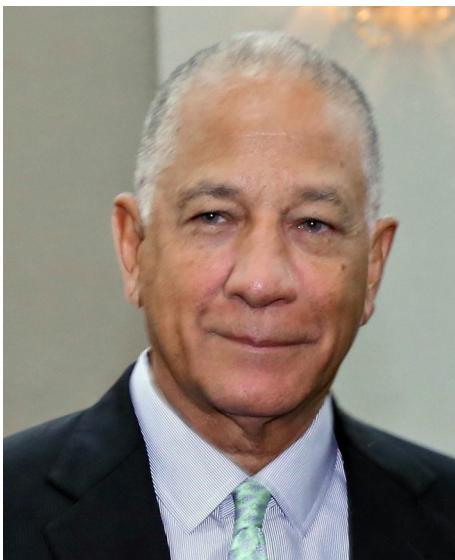
Mrs. Maureen Dwyer, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Youth, explained that the Ministry had been reviewing the Report and determining how it could advance the recommendations. She advised that 54 of the 190 recommendations had now been prioritized. There was a Strategic Team established in the Ministry to work on these. She accepted that further consultations were desirable and invited the Church and Trust schools to articulate a way forward for meaningful cooperation between them and the Ministry.

Dr. Stokes explained that there were groundwork actions being developed, including the establishment of a team employed to advance implementation. A time-frame was also being developed. He emphasised that further consultations were part of the way forward, and attention to communication. He advised that implementation projects were often not successful, and urged focus on implementing, for even if we had 20% of the recommendations implemented, it would improve the current system. He called for feedback and avoidance of conflicts in trying to get recommendations implemented.

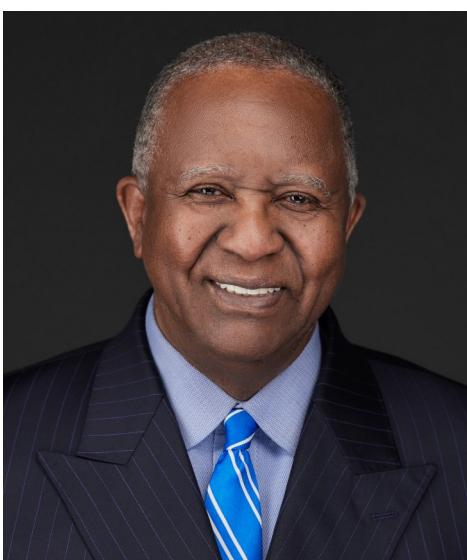
The forum attendees endorsed the need to address Early Childhood education as a priority, as well as restoring auxiliary fees and finding ways to reduce State fettering of Church and Trust schools.



"If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?"



Mr. Stephen Hill



Mr. Francis Price



Mr. Richard Lake

THREE OLD BOYS FOR INDUCTION TO ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE HALL OF FAME 2022

STGC Old Boys Stephen Hill ('59), Francis Price ('64) and Richard Lake ('70) will be inducted to the St. George's College Hall of Fame for 2022 at a Cocktail Reception and Induction Ceremony at Talk of the Town, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, on Saturday November 12, starting at 7 p.m. Induction to the North Street school's Hall of Fame is the most prestigious accolade that can be conferred on a STGC alumnus.

The graduates to be honoured, who collectively span three decades of school days, were selected based on a range of criteria: Stephen Hill for Community Spirit; Excellence and Achievement in his Field; International Recognition; and Vision and Innovation; Francis Price for Community Spirit; Excellence and Achievement in his Field; Inspiring Leadership; and Service to the College; and Richard Lake for Community Spirit; Excellence and Achievement in his Field; Inspiring Leadership; Vision and Innovation; and Service to the College.

By virtue of many years of hard work, all three Georgians have achieved professional success, but none of whom has ever lost sight of the legacy of the Jesuit discipline "Men for Others", which was instilled in them during their youth at St. George's.

While at STGC, Stephen Hill was an exceptional academic and sportsman; having taken his place of prominence on the victorious Manning Cup team of 1958, the winning team of the 1960 Olivier Shield Championship, as well as on the winning team of the first Walker Cup competition.

He was also Captain of the Sunlight Cup Cricket team. The Valedictorian of his graduating class in 1959, he was part of the distinguished debating team whose podium he shared with Georgian luminaries Trevor Munroe and Ronald Thwaites. *Robert hill Perter Rickards and Dennis Edmund*

Today, Stephen Hill is the CEO of the Caribbean International Network (CIN) – a television network for Caribbean news and cultural content which broadcasts to the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut Tri-State Area in the United States. For the Jamaican and broader Caribbean diaspora, CIN TV is a connection to home by way of the latest news and captivating programming, varying from comedy and drama to food and music.

Francis Price graduated from St. George's College in 1964 and secured a place at the University of Rochester, New York from which he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1974 in Economics and an MBA in Finance in 1975. He subsequently climbed the corporate ladder at Xerox Corporation, and ultimately became President and CEO of Interact Performance Systems and of Hybrid Manufacturing Engineering Technologies. He has now established commercial and industrial operations with presence in Mexico, China, as well as Michigan and California in the United States.

To reflect his contributions to his alma mater, Francis Price is a consistent donor, who has tangibly demonstrated his dedication to St. George's College over the years.

Now a trustee at Rochester, he has observed, "Education is the great equalizer that allows social boundaries to come down."

Richard Lake, an alumnus of the class of 1970, keeps the Jesuit mantra "Men for Others" fully expressed in his post-Georgian life. He notes, "St. George's served as my father's father, giving him the values that were important for a successful life, such as integrity, honour of your word, and respect for everyone. Those values were in turn instilled in me."

His most memorable philanthropic efforts for St. George's College are the annual Rodwell Lake UWI scholarship, the sponsorship of school fees for Manning Cup students and sponsorship of Manning Cup meals, as well as the rehabilitation of the school's football field.

Participating sponsors of the 2022 STGC Hall of Fame to date are Burger King; Continental Baking Co. Ltd; Derrimon Trading Co. Ltd., JN Bank; National Supply; and Mr. Philip Wong.

The St. George's College Hall of Fame Selection and Organising Committees comprise of Chairman Donovan Chen See ('76), Wayne Wray ('78), Paul Bitter ('61), Jezeel Martin ('02) and Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jnr. ('96).

Contact:

Nicky Hoo Fatt
Public Relations
STGC Hall of Fame
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876 396 8571 or
876 925 2044



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF DUNSHANE



L-R: Deacon Dennis Hendriks, Father Thomas Ngigi, Bishop John D. Persaud, Archbishop Kenneth Richards, Missionaries of the Poor (front right) and Father Luciano Labanca, Charge d'Affaires, Nunciature of the Holy See, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.



Participants in the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Dunsinane attend to Noel Wilkins' presentation on the teachings of the Catholic Church about Mary, Mother of God.

Approximately one hundred and fifty persons went on Pilgrimage to the national shrine of Our Lady of Dunsinane in Hatfield, Manchester on Saturday August 6, 2022. The gathering was blessed several times with showers of rain, but this did not dampen the spirit of the participants.

Father Marek Bzinkowski, pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Maggotty, was MC for the event. Mrs. Hope Wood-Salmon got the gathering into the mood with an enthusiastic Praise and Worship session.

Noel Wilkins led an informative apologetics presentation, answering questions related to the Catholic teaching about the life of Mary, Mother of God, eg: How can Mary be 'ever virgin'? Did Mary

have other children? Did Mary die? Is it OK for a Protestant to pray the Rosary? Hear the answers for yourself here: https://youtu.be/Fouc_Y0ZLJI

The main speaker, Grace Baston, principal of Campion College, spoke on the theme: Mary Model of the Synod. She spoke about the ways in which Mary journeys with us. As the Lady of the 'walking people' (as she is known in Latin America), Mary is 'one of us', remaining with us even through darkness.

Mrs. Baston spoke of the importance of fixing our families in order to fix the nation and shared the song "Stick by me, and I'll stick by you" by John Holt to demonstrate how we must stick together.

After the Rosary Walk, Mass was celebrated led by Archbishop Kenneth Richards. During the homily he exhorted the assembly to listen to what God is telling us, and to answer "this will I do". Father Luciano Labanca, Charge d'Affaires of the Nunciature in Trinidad and Tobago, was visiting Jamaica, and he joined the Pilgrimage as a special guest.

Bishop John Persaud, Bishop of Mandeville thanked the team involved in planning and organizing the event, as well as participants, before the final blessing was given. The Missionaries of the Poor led the singing throughout the day. ↩



Pilgrimage participants participate in the Rosary Walk.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Dunsinane.

August 6. 2022

Click the button for Videos.





KIDS PAGE

JESUS SAID: WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

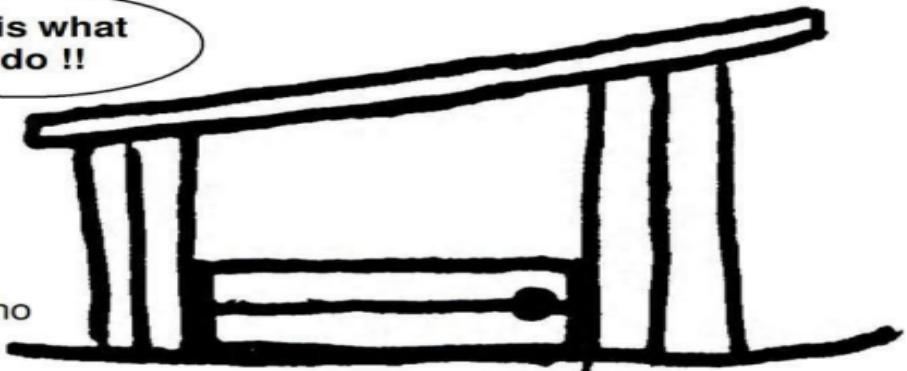
TO BE RICH ?

OR

TO LOVE GOD ?



This is what I'll do !!



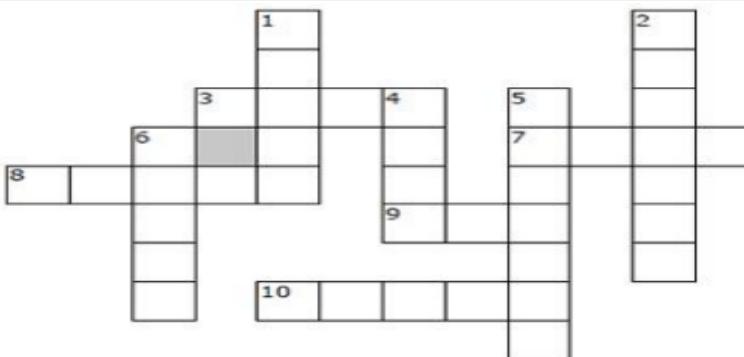
Jesus told the story of a man who had a barn. He wanted to build a bigger barn to become rich. But soon after he died. He did not enjoy his riches.

Colour in the big barn and draw in it some crops.

THEN JESUS SAID:

"BE RICH IN THE SIGHT OF GOD"

Write or draw a picture about how we can be good in the sight of God.



ACROSS

3. One who acts unwisely
7. Having great material wealth
8. Large farm buildings used for storing farm products and sheltering livestock
9. To take food into the body through the mouth
10. An official who decides cases brought before a court of law

DOWN

1. Agricultural products, such as grain, vegetables, or fruit
2. A person who educates or gives instruction
4. The period of time between birth and death
5. A male having the same parent or parents as another
6. To take liquid into the mouth and swallow

rich
life
judge
eat
crops
fool
brother
teacher
barns
drink

S	H	E	L	B	A	R	A	P	T
A	E	G	D	U	J	O	I	L	O
H	C	R	O	W	S	T	E	C	M
R	I	N	A	D	O	A	R	A	H
E	R	F	D	H	A	R	S	E	G
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	C	O	E
T	Y	E	D	N	E	I	R	F	D
O	A	S	R	R	A	B	I	T	U
R	E	E	H	T	O	R	B	O	J
B	L	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T

CROWD
SHARE
ARBITRATOR
RICH

MASTER
FRIEND
AVARICE
HARVEST

BROTHER
JUDGE
PARABLE
TREASURE



AVOCAT SUMMER CAMP HIGHLIGHTS !!!

From August 14-20, 2022 twenty-four young people from inner city Kingston and deep rural Portland spent a week together in prayer, reflection and fun at the Avocat Primary School in Silver Hill, Portland



Miss Ruby and Miss Jackie serving dinner.



Youth interaction at camp Avocat.



The bonfire on Thursday night.



Avocat youth leader J.R. facilitating the "Mafia".



Youth from St. Anne's and Holy Name after River.

Town come to country!

From August 14-20, 2022 twenty-four young people from inner city Kingston and deep rural Portland spent a week together in prayer, reflection and fun at the Avocat Primary School in Silver Hill, Portland. Teenagers from St. Anne's Church, Denham Town/Hannah Town and Holy Name Church in Greenwich Town were given (for many) a first-time rural experience by teenagers from St. George's Catholic Church at Avocat, Portland, learning how to raid tangerine trees, negotiate precarious swinging bridges over raging torrents, and bathe in freezing cold mountain rivers.

Every day there were talks and discussions on the theme "relationships". Archdiocesan Youth Director Fr. Mario Burton started the ball rolling with a talk on having a solid relationship with God. Mrs. Grace Baston, Principal of Campion College, shared on how to develop deep personal friendships which result in relationships. Kevin and Anna-Lisa Rodriguez shared on friendships and relationships in marriage; and Fr. Ambrose MoP who serves at St. Anne's and Holy Name brought some of the Missionary Brothers of the Poor who conducted a bible quiz and handed out prizes



Deacon Peter and Father Sam at the little elevation.

for correct answers. Deacon Peter Espeut spoke on the relationship God has with us through the Eucharist.

Three priests visited and presided over wonderful eucharistic celebrations with keyboard, drums, and trumpet from the Avocat youth, part of a music programme led by parish priest and violinist Fr. Sam Allogia who celebrated with us on Thursday.

Successful summer camps run on

their kitchens, and Miss Ruby and Miss Jackie kept everyone stuffed with Jamaican lunch and dinner fare such as stewed pork, curry chicken, and stew peas, as well as breakfasts of cornmeal porridge, callaloo and cabbage with yam, green bananas, and fried dumplings.

Scrimmage football was an everyday occurrence among the boys (and some of the girls). Evenings were spent playing games such as Mafia, Kalooki and Dominoes. The bonfire on Thursday evening was enjoyable with the singing of Jamaican folk songs while marshmallows were toasted and sausages were singed in the flames. Dance moves were showcased by the youngest campers.

The young people put on a formal sit-down buffet dinner on Friday night. The young belles were escorted to their seats by their young gentlemen with full etiquette.

A good time was had by all, and not a few tears were shed when goodbyes were said on Saturday.

The youth from Portland will visit St. Anne's in September for Mass and a meal, and plans are already being made for next year's camp. ↗

Summer camp with youth from the six churches in Westmoreland held at St Mary's in Revival; summer camp held with youth from the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral and its mission St Paul's, Glendevon held at the Msgr Gladstone Wilson College and Sacred Heart Reading



Workshop at the youth camp held at St Mary's Revival.



Tancia Brown receives a prize for being the most helpful.



Youth camp at Sacred Heart church in Reading.



*Youth in the Blessed Sacrament camp
praying the Living Rosary.*



Skit on the sacraments at St Mary's Revival.



*Youth visiting the Marian Garden at Sacred Heart Reading
during youth camp*



The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

We celebrate the Assumption of Mary into Heaven on August 15th. What does Catholicism teach about the assumption of Mary?

First, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary did not suffer from original sin but was conceived full of grace. According to this doctrine, known as the Immaculate Conception, God's supernatural life dwelt in Mary from the very beginning of her existence. It is important to emphasize that from a Catholic perspective, the Immaculate Conception is not simply about Mary. This doctrine ultimately is about the mystery of Jesus Christ. God became man in Mary's womb. Since Jesus truly is the all-holy God, the Second Person of the Trinity, Catholics believe he is worthy to dwell in a pure vessel, a holy temple. Thus, it is fitting that God would prepare Mary as an immaculate dwelling place, full of grace and not stained by sin, for the God-man.

The annunciation scene in Luke's Gospel may at least point in this direction. The angel Gabriel greets Mary, "Hail, full of grace." The Greek word in Luke's Gospel for "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) is in a perfect passive participle form, which would indicate that Mary already has been filled with God's saving grace, even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.

Second, the *Catechism* teaches that Mary was

taken to heaven when the course of her earthly life was finished. The Church does not declare whether Mary died and then was assumed into heaven or whether she was assumed before she died. It leaves open both possibilities. However, the majority of theologians and saints throughout the centuries have affirmed that Mary did experience death—not as a penalty for sin but in conformity to her son, who willingly experienced death on our behalf.

Third, the *Catechism* affirms that Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory right at the end of her earthly life. One of the consequences of original sin is the corruption of the body (see CCC, 400; Genesis 3:19). If Mary was full of grace and did not suffer from original sin, it is fitting that she, like her son, would not experience such bodily corruption.

In the New Testament, Mary is presented as the first to hear God's word and accept it at the annunciation (see Luke 1:38, 45). She responds to God's word promptly by going in haste to help Elizabeth. She also describes herself as a servant of the Lord (see Luke 1:38, 48). Mary remains faithful to her son, following him even to the cross (see John 19:25–27), where she experiences the fulfilment of Simeon's prophecy at the Presentation: "A sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Luke 2:35). She

perseveres in faith throughout her life. She gathers with the apostles for prayer even after her son's ascension (see Acts 1:14). Thus, the New Testament presents a clear portrait of Mary as the first and preeminent disciple of Christ, who hears the word of God and keeps it in her heart.

Since one of the blessings promised to all faithful disciples is victory over death, it is fitting that Mary, who is the first and model disciple of Christ, would be the first to receive this blessing. Catholics thus believe that the privilege of resurrection promised to all faithful Christians was given first to Mary and in a totally unique way.

While the rest of us hope to have our bodies raised to glory at the end of time, Mary experienced the resurrection and glorification of her body at the moment her earthly life ended. Thus, her assumption—which flows from her unique participation in Christ's victory as the mother of the Saviour and as the first and most faithful of Christ's followers—anticipates to some degree our own share in the fullness of that victory if we persevere as followers of Christ.

[Adapted from Edward Sri, [FRANCISCAN SPIRIT BLOG](#)] ↗

Accommodation for UWI & UTECH students.

St. Michael's College is offering single-room accommodation for UWI & UTECH male students at reasonable monthly rates: \$28,000 per room and a few double rooms at \$20,000 per person monthly. Apply at the College (ph. 876-927-1259; email: stmtc2909@gmail.com)

"Priests shouldn't be politicians and condemn their flock but should be pastors who accompany the faithful with tenderness and compassion." - Pope Francis

You are invited to join in celebrating
our Patronal

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Beginning with a Novena

September 6 - 14 nightly at 6.00pm by zoom
(link to be posted)



and on

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

(FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS)

With Holy Mass

At

Holy Cross Church, HWT

6.00pm

Celebrant & Homilist:

Most Rev. Kenneth D. Richards, DD, CD

Archbishop of Kingston

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHEDRAL TO GET MAJOR FACE LIFT



Groundbreaking Ceremony July 30 2022: L-r Msgr Eremodo Muavesi (rector); Brian Wiggan (church council chair); Bishop Burchell Mcpherson; Bishop The Hon. Conrad Pitkin (Custos of St. James); Councillor Richard Vernon (deputy Mayor); Fr. Francis Chisalla (Vice Rector).

The Diocese of Montego Bay recently conducted a ground-breaking ceremony to officially begin in earnest, a multi-million dollar renovation of the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Montego Bay.

The project was initially launched in the year of the Diocese's Golden Jubilee in 2018 with fundraisers and appeals for financial assistance but was unfortunately drastically curtailed with the onslaught of the Covid 19 pandemic.

As pointed out by the Most Rev. Burchell McPherson, anniversary of the Diocese to Bishop of Montego Bay, when the Catholic community was relocated from St. James Street to its present location on the lands adjoining Mount Alvernia High school, the new building at the time was never designed as a Cathedral as the Diocese of Montego Bay had not yet been established. The building was reflective of the mood of the post Vatican Council 2 era, hence the contemporary design and most notably its flat roof. Attempts

were made for the 40th

improve the interior which was done by adorning the church with impressive stained-glass windows and improved lighting. Live streaming technology was also added a few years later.

The proposed renovation will incorporate a completely new façade, bathrooms, air conditioning, new pews, upgraded audio visual facilities and interior design enhancements and other features.

Education Commissions meet to advance Christian Living courses

On Thursday, August 11th 2022, members of the Education Commissions of the three Jamaican dioceses met at St. John Bosco Academy in Manchester to prepare Catholic Christian content for our schools. The gathering was held under the auspices of the National Coordinator of Catholic Education and was attended by both Archbishop Richards and Bishop Persaud.

Mrs. Grace Baston, Principal of Campion College, gave a lively presentation on the philosophy of Catholic education, derived from Vatican documents and the teaching of the Antilles Conference of Bishops. The participants determined to work together for the deepening of the Catholic witness in the more than one hundred schools owned and operated by the Church in Jamaica.

The occasion marked the first time school leaders were joining in such a common endeavour; all the more significant when social ethics and religious values must become stronger characteristics of all our institutions.

Further meetings are planned with school board members and principals at the diocesan level and later with teachers, parents and parishioners.

(FEEDBACK) Cont'd from page 2

It would be recalcitrant of me, however, to not mention how bombarded I felt by the abundance of negative statements at the beginning of the first article. While I completely understand how overwhelmingly those aspects of our society infiltrate our thoughts, could we aim, nonetheless, at more optimism, and insert the more stressful observations in smaller, more palatable doses.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely **Angela Alcock (Holy Cross)**

I commend the Administrators for their effort to keep the CO relevant, using modern technology. My thought is that its a pity CO went from a newspaper, to two pages of the Gleaner, to one page and now with CO online. How many people have internet, how many people have the time/find it difficult to read it online, how are the people in the pews going to get it? Do we want non-catholics to read it? We missed the opportunity to expose the teachings/beliefs of the church when it was a paper in the Gleaner and moreso now. Unfortunately the Catholic church is losing members in droves, no matter how we try to get them to return. We in the pews need to be more **welcoming and friendly**. The clergy need to be more present to our people, especially to the youths , the sick and homebound. People no longer look up to us, except when they want something. How I grieve and pray for my Catholic church. **Gloria Graham (St. Theresa)**



Bishop McPherson concluded the Sacred Heart Triduum around the Feast of the Sacred Heart by celebrating Holy Mass in Reading with concelebrants left to right: Fr Tomaz Denicki-homilist, Msgr Eremodo Muavesi, Deacon Baldwin Powell, Fr Wojchech and Fr Moris Achid.



The Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) Sisters of Nigeria celebrated 25 years of service to the Diocese of Montego Bay at a jubilant celebration at the St Joseph's Church in Savanna la Mar. Their coming to Jamaica was in response to an invitation from then Bishop of Montego Bay Most Rev, Charles H. Dufour; they then extended their ministry to the Archdiocese of Kingston.

Vatican Synodality Survey Seeking Views of Those on Periphery

Now that parishes have online survey to be submitted recorded testimony from the faithful and compiled it in official reports, the Vatican is sending the message that they want to hear from those they may have missed – young or inactive Catholics who failed to show up at the parish meetings. To that end, the Vatican is conducting an

[Click to Take Survey](#)



Nicaragua expels Mother Teresa's nuns in latest crackdown



The nuns had been working with the poor in Nicaragua since 1988 and ran a children's nursery, a home for abused and abandoned girls and a nursing home. A government department which oversees non-governmental organisations accused it of "not meeting its obligations" to declare the provenance of its funds. More than 200 organisations have been shut down in Nicaragua since 2018 for allegedly breaching strict new laws about funding. Tension between the government of Daniel Ortega and the Catholic Church has been high ever since clergy sheltered students protesting against President Ortega during a wave of anti-government protests in 2018. ➔

Pope's August prayer intention: 'For small businesses'

Extracts from Pope Francis' prayer request for August:

"Let us pray for small and medium-sized businesses, hard hit by the economic and social crisis, so they may find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities."

"Stores, workshops, cleaning businesses, transportation businesses,

and so many others. The ones that don't appear on the world's richest and most powerful lists, and despite the difficulties, they create jobs, fulfilling their social responsibility."

"Without them, it would not have been possible to make it through the COVID crisis, and they continue to be necessary now. This is why it is important to pray for them."



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION | AUGUST 2022

For small businesses

We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities.



Bishops of Haiti decry ongoing insecurity and gang violence

Following the latest gang clashes in Port-au-Prince in which the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption was severely damaged on July 27, by an arson attack, the Bishops of Haiti again lament the deterioration of the security situation in the country, calling for the restoration of the authority of the State and the disarmament of gangs.

In a message released on July 29, the Haitian Bishops

Conference (CEH) once again raised the alarm on the ever-increasing gang violence in the country marred by "corruption, widespread insecurity, kidnappings, extreme poverty and interpersonal distrust."

Violence has been mounting over the past weeks, especially in the capital Port-au-Prince.

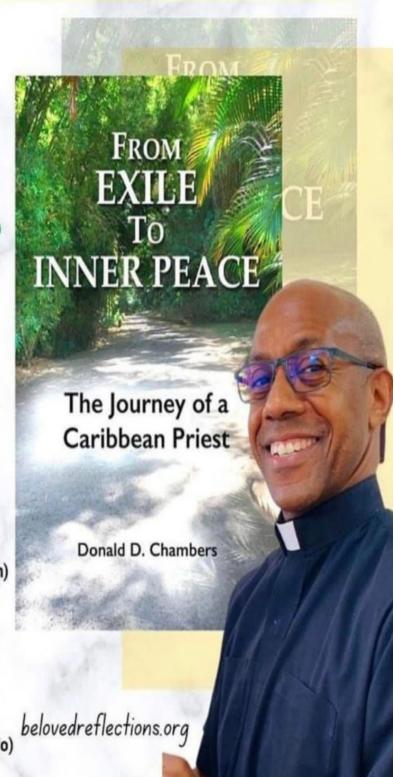
From Exile To Inner Peace

"I would describe From Exile to Inner Peace: The Journey of a Caribbean Priest as educating, forming, accompanying and intervening in the life of individuals who find themselves stuck in the frenzy, fury of pastoral "activities" or held "captive" in the web, spun by the threads of church politics, manipulation, and other painful experiences." Sr. Julie Marie Peters, SSM

Available for purchase at:

- Living Water Community Book Store (OS)
- The Sanctuary of the Holy Cross (OS)
- Liturgical Books (OS)
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- OLSS, Our Daily Bread Bookshop (San Fernando)
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876-818-0069)



belovedreflections.org

Nicaraguan Bishop Under House Arrest.



Police stormed the home of the Catholic bishop of Matagalpa in northern Nicaragua at dawn on Friday, Aug. 19 and detained Bishop Rolando José Alvarez. He was placed under house arrest at his parents' home in Managua, the capital. Five priests and two seminarians who were with him at his residence in Matagalpa were locked up in El Chipote, the notorious prison where more than 100 of the

President Daniel Ortega's opponents have been jailed. Previous to this, Bishop Alvarez (CEN) had been prevented from leaving his home since August 4, when the police stopped him from going to the local Cathedral to celebrate Mass after he voiced criticism over the government's closing of five Catholic radio stations earlier that week. The police accuse Bishop Alvarez of allegedly using media and social networks to incite acts of violence and destabilise the country in the context of heightened tensions between President Ortega's Sandinista Government and the local Church.

In the past year, Ortega's government has jailed nearly all his best-known opponents. His government has also shut down hundreds of civil society groups, as well as universities and media organizations, in one of the most intense waves of repression in the hemisphere.

The Bishops' Conference of Nicaragua have expressed their "fraternal" closeness, "amity and episcopal communion" with Bishop Alvarez. In the past days, several Latin American Bishops have voiced their solidarity with the Church in Nicaragua, alongside the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), which called on the faithful in Latin America and the Caribbean to join in prayer for the Church in Nicaragua and its authorities.

It is full time for the Antilles Bishops to express their solidarity with the Church in Nicaragua and condemn the increasing persecution of the Church and the transformation of the Government of Ortega into a dictatorship similar to the Somosa regime that Ortega once sought to overthrow.

[sections based on an article by Lisa Zengarini in Vatican News]

ARCHBISHOP CARTER S.J. FOUNDATION AND FELLOWSHIP



The Archbishop Samuel E. Carter Foundation was inaugurated in 2009 and has been carrying out one of its mandates, the offering of Fellowships since 2012.

Eligibility for the Fellowship, a post-graduate scholarship, includes acceptance to pursue a course of study at the University of the West Indies or at a Teacher Training Institution accredited by the University Council of Jamaica. Further information is available on the Foundation's website, www.archbishopcarterfoundation.org.

The 2022 Fellowship was awarded to Ms. Denise Joy Carter of St. Patrick's Primary School. She will be pursuing a course of study leading to a Masters in Educational Leadership and Management at the University of the West Indies.

Picture: Left to right: Archbishop Emeritus D. Reece, Foundation Chairman, Miss Lisa Deer 2020 Fellow, Ms. Denise Carter 2022 Fellow, Miss Octavia Gray 2021 Fellow, Archbishop Kenneth Richards, Archbishop of Kingston. ↗

Mr. Daniel Roumel, JP presents a brand new Diagnostic Scanning tool to Ms. Jacqueline Plummer, principal of the Catholic School of Technology (CST) in Mandeville. The tool is a gift from the Mandeville chapter of the Lay Magistrates' Association, for use in the HEART Automotive programme at CST.



To date, eight fellowships have been offered. Successful applicants have pursued programmes in the areas of Masters in Educational Administration, Masters in Leadership in Early Childhood Education, Masters of Science in Human Resource Development, Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Science in Sport and Doctor of Education in Teaching and Learning with Emerging Technologies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pope Pius X is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children. Most Catholics at that time received Holy Communion only once or twice a year. He encouraged them to receive Holy Communion frequently, even daily, and lowered the age of First Communion from about 18 to the age of 7. He also promoted communion to be brought to the sick.

BELIZE BISHOP RECOVERS FROM SURGERY



Bishop Lawrence Nicasio is currently recovering from surgery at Regina Cleri, a home for retired priests in the Archdiocese of St Louis, Missouri following surgery to remove a blockage of the colon which was found to be cancerous. In a letter sent to faithful in Belize, dated August 1, Bishop Nicasio shared a brief update on his current medical situation. He wrote that he left Belize July 6 with the intention to seek medical attention. He was admitted at Mercy Hospital in St Louis, one of the Catholic hospitals in the area. "A CT scan was performed, and the results showed a blockage of the colon. Within a few days, and following medical advice, I underwent surgery to remove the blockage. The surgery was carried out on the 21st of July, and it was successful," Bishop Nicasio wrote. Further treatment is necessary which is scheduled to begin "soon". Bishop Nicasio said it is his hope that he can begin treatment in St Louis, and eventually continue in Belize. In his absence from the diocese, he has asked Frs Noel Leslie, Amelio Chi, and Jordan Gongora to manage business matters related to his office. "I thank them for their generosity in accepting this task. You are a great gift for me. I have always felt abundantly blessed to have such good and faithful people in the diocese. Your prayers and encouragement have constantly strengthened me, and I know I can count on your prayers and support as I continue to receive treatment," the letter ended.

(Catholic News of T&T)

MEMORIALS



Victor Thompson

On Thursday, August 18th, the parish of St. Richard's shared in Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of long-standing parishioner and church worker, the late Victor Thompson who died in Canada a month earlier.

Victor Thompson, a civil engineer by profession is survived by his wife, Yvonne, children Lisa and Andrew and several grandchildren and siblings. He served St. Richard's as Chair of the Parish Advisory Council as well as Chair of the St. Richard's Primary School. [☞](#)

Dorothy Theresa Chambers

The late Mrs. Dorothy Chambers died recently in New York City where she had migrated in recent years to reside with several of her children. Mrs. Chambers is the mother of Rev. Deacon Clive Chambers, Archdiocesan Financial Officer and leaves numerous other children and grandchildren, many of whom journeyed from the United States for her funeral.

She had been a classmate of Archbishop Donald Reece in their early years at Sts.Peter & Paul Primary School, operated by the Blue Sisters. He was the Homilist at her Funeral Mass at Sts.Peter & Paul on August 12th. [☞](#)



Deacon Winston Mars

Deacon Winston Mars, a native of the island of St. Vincent, passed away on August 11, 2022 leaving beloved wife Joan and two children

Winston served at Reconciliation and Good Shepherd Churches and latterly at St. Helen's, Linstead and Missions. He had a deep understanding and belief in the teachings and dogmas of the Church. He believed whatever was 'loosed on earth was loosed in heaven' and whatever was already 'bound on earth' was already bound in heaven.

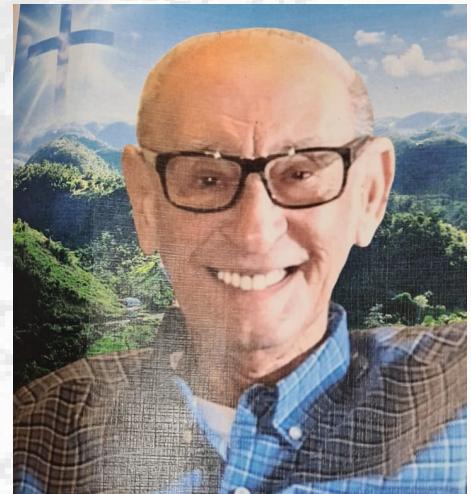
Mass of Thanksgiving and Christian Burial for Rev. Deacon Winston Mars will be held on Saturday, September 3, 2022 at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, North Street, Kingston starting at 10:30 a.m. [☞](#)



Donald George Wehby, Snr.

The Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Mr.Donald George Wehby Sr. was celebrated recently by Archbishop Richards at Stella Maris Church. Mr. Webhy, an alumnus of St.George's College, is the father of Senator Don Webhy Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Grace Kennedy Group of Companies and Chair of the Archdiocesan Finance Committee and a daughter, Dorothea.

He was remembered by his brother-in-law, Hon Ian Forte, as a devoted family man and an avid horseracing enthusiast. Mr. Wehby's wife predeceased him. [☞](#)





Jamaica Council of Churches

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The Jamaica Council of Churches Calls for Urgent Action on Crime

The Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC) reaffirmed its commitment to the national efforts to create a just, safe and equitable society when, in 2020, it gave its unequivocal support to and played a pivotal role in the consultative process which produced the Crime Consensus Agreements and the Consensus Monitoring and Oversight Committee (CMOC). At that time, seven pillars were identified as the key areas in which urgent and purposeful action was needed for the reduction of crime, violence and corruption in order to create a society which is marked by peace, justice and fairness for all.

In our most recent encounter with CMOC, we received an update on the performance of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the eight pillars of the Consensus Agreement. The CMOC report indicated *inter alia* that "only 3 of 8 target areas (37.5%) are progressing satisfactorily or close to plan." We noted that while some pillars have registered some progress, this was woefully below expected performance that would confirm our confidence in the GoJ's commitment to the process in general and the specific targets and timelines for deliverables which it gave its agreement to.

The Council therefore expresses its deep apprehension regarding the substantial delays and failures that have beleaguered the performance of the KPIs of the Consensus Agreement. The Council is particularly dismayed by the delays in progressing some of the critical pieces of legislation which are imperative and fundamental to the attainment of the goals of the Consensus Agreement and the eventual transformation of our society. Some of these items have languished at various stages of the legislative process. We are aware that the legislative process is an intricate and intense one which involves multiple layers of engagement. We nonetheless remain convinced that, as in previous occasions when alacrity was required with passing laws, the same is required at this time.

The JCC is heartened to see the re-engagement of the Minister of National security and notes his commitment to support more granular and specific deliverables that will allow more relevant and focussed reporting by CMOC.

However, we call on the government, which has rightly made significant pronouncements on the urgent need for our society to be characterized by principles and actions that lead to peace, to allay the disquiet of many persons in the church and the wider society, avert further erosion of the already battered trust in our political leadership and institutions and make speedy and serious efforts to correct the slow pace of progress of all pillars of the Consensus Agreement. We urge the government to commit to new delivery dates and communicate its plans to reprioritize the agreement.

We also call on all of the Consensus stakeholders to quickly convene a gathering to re-dedicate/recommit ourselves to the principles and programmes of the consensus.

JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Most Rev. Kenneth Richards, DD, CD.
President
Email: presidentatjcc@gmail.com
Tel: (876) 978-6576 / 927-9915 / 619-1234-5



Troubled movie star has found some much-needed peace in the arms of the Catholic Church.



In some positive news from Hollywood, the actor Shia LaBeouf has converted to Catholicism after studying for his lead role in the upcoming *Padre Pio* movie. It might not come as a surprise to many, considering the Italian saint is a pretty powerful intercessor.

(Taken from Aleteia.org)

[\(Click Picture for full story\)](#)

Most Anglicans Recognize the Pope as “the Father of the Church in the West.”

In ecumenical discussions at the recent 2022 Lambeth Conference in England that brought together over 600 Anglican bishops, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the Anglican Church, has said that most Anglicans recognize the Pope as “the father of the Church in the West.” Welby said that he is “not proud” of the level of progress made in promoting Christian unity in recent years. Addressing the conference, Cardinal Kurt Koch, prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, stressed the urgency of ecumenical dialogue.

In Jamaica, we have an ongoing dialogue between Catholics and Anglicans aimed at drawing us closer together in our common Christian faith.

[Information on Lambeth based on article by Charlotte Evans in Catholic News Service]