



# Holy Cross Family Ministries - Canada

*Families United in Prayer*

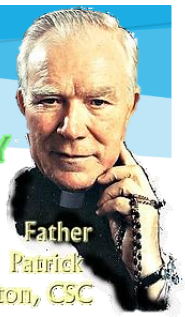
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THE  
ROSARY  
PRIEST

Father  
Patrick  
Peyton, CSC



FAMILY NEWSLETTER | Vol. 1, Issue 3

December, 2018

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The third issue of our Newsletter we dedicate to the patronage of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

This year, let's spend some time in reflecting on our Christian family life. A family is a basic unit of a social life and so it is also basic to our Christian life. The Second Vatican Council Documents call *"a Christian family as a domestic Church."* The Church gets its nature and growth from a family. We all belong to that one family of God. Today we are given a model family to follow in the Holy Family.

Holy paintings often depict the Holy Family as holy people with a halo around them. It is true they were holy people, but lived a normal family life like any one of us with all the family struggles – from making difficult marriage decisions, finding a safe-place in a troubled political system, running away to Egypt as refugees, finding a new home in Nazareth, hard-labourers as carpenters, experienced a father's death as a young teenage boy, then when Jesus grows up, he was not accepted by his society and later condemned to die on the cross.

In this family, we meet a father who was hard-working, just and protective of his wife and son. We meet a mother who supported her husband with care and love, and her Son in his mission to proclaim God's kingdom. We meet a son who, knowing He is the Son of God, still lived humbly and obediently to his earthly parents. They are the true model to live our life, not because they had no difficulties, but because in spite of their struggles, they never gave up their faith in God, their love for each other, their hope for others in the world.

As we reflect on the life of the Holy Family, let's reflect on our family – our relationships, our struggles, our love and concern for each other, our faith in God, and our hope for the future of our family, our church, our society and the world.

May every family – *"a masterpiece of God"* (Pope Francis), draw its true value and inspiration from God, our Creator and author of life.

Fr. Wilson Andrade, CSC

National Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries - Canada



### Our Rosary Witness:

## Johnny Biafore and the Rosary Makers of Canada



Our second Rosary witness is Johnny Biafore of Toronto. In 1999, Johnny and Vince Solcz founded the group called Apostolate of Rosary Makers with the help of John Bead Corp. They find seniors to make Rosaries and distribute them to the churches and hospitals in Toronto, but also find people to carry Rosaries to missionary countries. After the death of Vince, Johnny continued the mission from Our Lady of Gratitude Shrine, collecting rosaries and distributing them, organizing them into packages so it is helpful for people to pray in the families or alone. Since November 2018, Johnny joined the Holy Cross Family Ministries and continues his mission from 120 First Avenue, Toronto. In the month of November alone, he has distributed 5,500 rosaries to various groups. With the help of Johnny, we collect and distribute more than 45,000 rosaries a year.

Johnny is a prayerful, hardworking, friendly and great solidier of Mother Mary who, like Venerable Patrick Peyton, has dedicated his energy and life to spread the devotion to Mother Mary and promote family prayer. In 2019, we are planning to gather a group of Rosary makers and aim to make and distribute 500,000 rosaries. Join our Ministry!

*Thanks to Our Lady's Communicator May 2014 by Marilynne Feeney, Waterloo.*

## October: The Rosary month

### Pray the Rosary with Ven. Patrick Peyton, CSC

We dedicated the month of October to Rosary Prayer. Throughout the month, we had a series of online videos on the Four Mysteries of the Rosary, led by Ven. Patrick Peyton. We encouraged our digital community to join us daily as we prayed the Rosary together. The videos remain available on our Facebook page and website as great resources to foster Family Prayer throughout the year. Over 300 people joined in Praying the Rosary online.



### Rosary Coast to Coast: Oct. 7, 2018



On October 7, 2018, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Over 200 people joined us as part of the worldwide Rosary Coast-To-Coast celebrations, with Adoration at Newman Centre, Toronto, followed by Rosary and Marian procession to St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Fr. Wilson Andrade, CSC celebrated festive Mass at St. Ann Parish.

## November: Memorial Mass

### November 2, 2018: All Souls Day

During the Month of November, we remembered and prayed for all the people who have died in our family, our community and the world. On November 2, 2018, we celebrated a Memorial Mass for All Souls' Day at St. Ann Parish and, as a concrete gesture of this memorial, everyone lit a candle before the altar and prayed for their departed loved ones.



### Nov. 13 – 23, 2018: Pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan

From November 13 to November 23, 48 pilgrims journeyed to Jordan and Holy Land for a two-week Pilgrimage led by Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC. During this trip, pilgrims were able to visit Holy Sites in Jordan – Mount Nibo and renewal of Baptism in Jordan River, Mass at Holy Sites in Jerico, Narareth, Cana, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.



## December: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rosary Rally

On November 29 until December 2, 2018, we joined St. Mary's Parish, London, ON, in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Rosary Rally launched by Fr. Patrick Peyton in 1948. The Advent Mission weekend began with an opening talk by Fr. Wilson Andrade, CSC, on God's call, and Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Dabrowski of London.



On December 1, Fr. Wilson held a one-day Retreat for 60 participants on faith and family, along with Marian Procession with Rosary. The Anniversary mass was celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus James MacDonald, CSC.



We thank Fr. Peter Wojakiewicz and the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish, London, for their warm welcome and many blessings on their ministry to the Church.

## Advent Novena and Christmas Celebrations

On December 16, we began the nine-day novena followed by Holy Mass, in preparation for Christmas. Many families joined us in prayer, novena offering and mass. It was a wonderful way of keeping the tradition of Filipino immigrant families and joining for prayer, sharing of food and fellowship.



This year, the theme of our Christmas Nativity scene was *Care for Creation*. Many people joined us for a festive celebration of Christmas.

## Festival of Families

On December 29, 2018, we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph with a Rosary, Marian Procession and a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Ann Parish, Toronto. Following the liturgy, we invited families to join us for a dinner in celebration of Families.

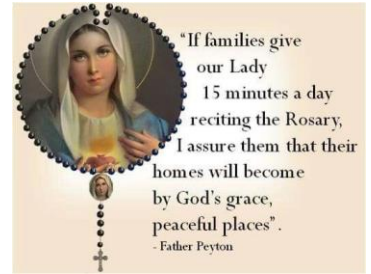
During the event, we reviewed the Ministries' 2018 highlights and the plans for the coming year 2019. More than 150 people joined us for celebration and fellowship.



## “Praying With Technology”

By Maria Barrairo

Immigration is a reality for many in Toronto. Immigrant stories make up the city’s vibrant culture. There are stories about the vast sea of opportunities on one hand, and on the other, stories of difficulties while swimming in that big sea. Many find themselves assimilated quickly, but many also yearn for the homes left behind. Experiences are similar but each is unique, set in one of the most populous cities in North America, where the night-lights are mesmerizing and the pace of life is fast. One feels modernism all around with the rise of tall condominium buildings sprouting like mushrooms, and smart technology getting widely used to provide more ease and access to people.



As the modern world continues to expand with more infrastructures, more cars, more lights, more money, the noise also gets louder. Now more than ever, people are in need of deeper meaning, of reconnecting, of re-grounding, of prayer. Now more than ever, there is a need to create Christian families united in prayer, and it must be done so using a grassroots approach, at the heart of the home. It begins with the parents’ recognition and acceptance that prayer has a place in the modern world. The traditional ways to practice Christianity are available but to engage the children and youth, the use of technology could be advantageous. There are countless apps that one may download to introduce Christianity to children early on. Young adult believers have a responsibility to ensure they will pass the practice on to their future family. To do so, they must remain strong in their faith by not allowing the distractions of the modern world to lead them away from God. Instead, they may use technology to draw themselves closer to God.

Today, people have their smart phones attached to their hip and if technology is leveraged within one’s self and at home, Christian families can grow united in prayer. Personally, praying was easy growing up because it was a part of my life at home. I grew up and moved out of the country and into the big world, and the distractions of the modern world grew as well. I slowly moved away from prayer and God consequently, but in due time, I felt my soul sought for its home. It yearned for deeper meaning, for reconnecting, for re-grounding. With the fast lifestyle I lived, I slowed down and found my home through praying *with* technology. During my morning commute, I listen to a Christian podcast or stream Christian music to clear my head. I also remember to say the Holy Rosary during this time – sometimes on my own, and other times, along a recording, which I also stream online. The peace prayer brings is necessary and like no other. It is humbling and empowering at the same time. Technology does not have to replace prayer in the modern world. Both can work hand in hand to successfully create Christian families united in prayer.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The Holy Cross Family Ministries in Canada invites you to join us for a series of spiritual activities happening in the upcoming months:

#### JANUARY EVENTS

At St. Ann Parish (120 First Ave., Toronto)

**January 5, 2019 – Feast of St. Bro. André Bessette**

5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass

Blessing with Holy Oils and Dinner.

**January 20, 2019 – Feast of Bld. Basil Moreau**

5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass

Veneration of Bld. Moreau’s Relic

#### FEBRUARY EVENTS

**February 3, 2019 – Mass for Consecrated Life**

3:00 p.m. St. Paul’s Basilica, Toronto

**February 9, 2019 – Marriage Sunday**

#### MARCH EVENTS

**March 7 to 18, 2019 – Raise a Roof – Jamaica**

International Mission with the Youth.

**March 9 to 19, 2019:** Join us 9-days for online Facebook

Novena in honor of St. Joseph

**March 30, 2019:** Lenten Retreat

**Please join us every Friday evening, at St. Ann Parish, for Adoration (6:00 p.m.) and Holy Mass (7:00 p.m.)**

#### TRY PRAYER CARD

When Ven. Patrick Peyton was sick with TB, the doctor suggested him to “Try Prayer”. So he prayed and asked for prayers and was healed. Along with this issue, we have included a Try Prayer Card. So in the same way, we invite you to take some time for reflection and Try Prayer:

1. Write down your prayers for Physical, Emotional and/or Spiritual Healing;
2. Fill out the registration form at the back of the Try Prayer Card;
3. Mail your complete prayer card to our office at 120 First Ave. Toronto. ON. M4M 1X1

For more information, please visit our website: [www.hcfm-canada.com](http://www.hcfm-canada.com)

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND PARISHES



### **Holy Cross Family Ministries in Canada**

Website: [www.hcfm-canada.com](http://www.hcfm-canada.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-Family-Ministry-Canada](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Cross-Family-Ministry-Canada)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/familycanada](https://www.twitter.com/familycanada)

### **Holy Cross Family Ministries**

Website: [www.hcfm.org](http://www.hcfm.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hcfm.org](https://www.facebook.com/hcfm.org)  
Twitter: [@FamilyRosaryOrg](https://twitter.com/FamilyRosaryOrg)



### **Catholic Mom**



Website: [www.catholicmom.com](http://www.catholicmom.com)  
Facebook: [@CatholicMom](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicMom)  
Twitter: [@CatholicMomCom](https://twitter.com/CatholicMomCom)

### **Congregation of Holy Cross**

Website: [www.holycrosscongregation.org](http://www.holycrosscongregation.org)  
Facebook: [@cscrome](https://www.facebook.com/cscrome)



## Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Patrick Peyton, CSC

Dear Jesus, Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary.



His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth. We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification, so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that the family that prays together stays together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love. Amen.

## OUR MISSION

Holy Cross Family Ministries continues the two great works founded by Venerable Patrick Peyton, CSC: Family Rosary in 1942 and Family Theatre Productions in 1947. In Canada, our ministry promotes and encourages Family Prayer, and fosters unity and mutual support among all the faithful. Our vision and motto is “Families United in Prayer.” Under the umbrella of Holy Cross Family Ministries International, we form part of Fr. Peyton’s vision of family unity through prayer.

Holy Cross Family Ministries supports families by providing resources, publishing materials and organising spiritual activities that foster prayer life and promote strong faith communities. With the help of supporters and donors in our community, we are able to actively evangelize, educate and continue to support Canadian Catholic families. Should you wish to contribute, here are 3 simple ways to actively support our ministry:



**Become a member:** Fill out a registration form at one of our events; subscribe to our mailing list for event updates and the newsletter.



**Pray with us:** Send us your prayer requests by email or facebook. Your prayers will be offered during Friday evening Adoration and Mass.



**Financial Support:** We thank you for your donations towards our Family Ministries.



### Editorial Team

At Holy Cross Family Ministries in Canada, our staff team and volunteers work diligently to produce and organize the Ministries’ resources and spiritual activities. Our gratitude and acknowledgement for all that they do in helping carry out the mission of Holy Cross Family Ministries. A special thank you goes out to the team that helped put together this newsletter issue.



### Email us

We invite you to join our Family Ministries with your comments, suggestions or personal testimonies on how the Holy Cross Family Ministries is helping you, your family or community. Please email us at [familyministry.canada@gmail.com](mailto:familyministry.canada@gmail.com)