

# Religion

## New parish priests seek to bring 'rusty Catholics' back to the fold

By JANET BAINE

Two new priests took charge of Holy Cross parish in Georgetown at the end of June and they're hoping to attract some "rusty Catholics" to Sunday mass.

"People have lost an awareness of the divine based on the culture we're now facing," Father Ed House said. "They've lost an awareness of God in their lives because it's become affordable. Only when they need God, when there is a crisis in their lives" are they attracted back to church, he said. In contrast, churches in poorer countries are always full, he said.

House was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia in 1947 and was the youngest of 11 children. Ordained into the priesthood in 1975, House has served parishes in Kitchener and Hamilton. Between 1986-89 he served with the Canadian Armed Forces as RC Chaplain, and then became pastor at Chepstow, near Port Elgin, Ontario for two years. He's enjoying getting to know the Catholic community in Georgetown, he said.

"I would like to extend an invitation for all Catholics who may have stopped coming to church to come back home," he said.

Father Dan Cyr, 28, is the youthful new associate pastor at Holy Cross. Cyr was ordained in 1990 in the largest graduating class since 1972: seven priests were ordained.

"(Holy Cross) has a lot of young people; it's a youthful parish. It's alive, our Sunday liturgies are alive and there's a lot of children

present," Father Cyr said.

Born in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Cyr lived in Ottawa and Edmonton before he moved to Guelph and attended Bishop Macdonell High School. Like House, he studied at Resurrection College Seminary in Waterloo and St. Peter's Seminary in London.

One of his challenges in Georgetown, he said, is to get the youth more involved in the church.

"I feel it's important, but how that's going to happen, I don't know yet," he said.

Cyr says that his favorite TV show is the Golden Girls.

"It's funny and sometimes it's immoral, but I'm easy going," he said. "I think it is important to have a sense of humor about ourselves and bring humor and heart-warming stories to the faith."

"The parish is strong and has a lot of activities," House said. While the books indicate there are 1,500 families in the parish, House said he doesn't know how many are active church-goers, but he intends to send a survey around to find out. He said 650 bulletins are printed and distributed each Sunday, so the congregations are quite large.

In addition to the pastor and associate pastor, Winston Robinson has worked at Holy Cross as a lay-pastoral worker for 10 years, which he says have been "the best years of my life." Robinson is in charge of the music program and is the "rectory's pun-setter," House said. Robinson directs the church's five choirs which include a funeral choir, a contemporary choir, a children's choir, a mixed adult choir and a Portuguese choir.

A large number of parishioners from Belle Island, Newfoundland are in the parish, as well as many people of Portuguese descent. Portuguese masses are held the first and third Sundays of the month at 4 p.m. Most of the francophone Catholics in Georgetown attend Sacre Coeur Church, where services are in French.

Cyr said the church is very active, with numerous church groups including the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women's League and a Charismatic Prayer Group.

"Our vision is to continue the work of our predecessors in building up the parish family and to provide ministry to all people who need it," House said. "We also want to reach the 'unchurch' people who've given up the faith. Thirdly, we want to create an environment of prayer and celebration."

### Turkey supper

Ballinad United Church Turkey Supper will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, with sittings at 5, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Take-outs available. Tickets available from Alma Sinclair, 877-3721; Eileen McEnery, 877-3721 or Helen Brown, 833-2649.

### Church anniversary

Ebenezer United Church Anniversary Service will be held 11 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 27. Friends and neighbors are invited to join this celebrate 168 years as congregation. The church is located on the Guelph Line, north of Brookville.



The new team at Holy Cross Parish is, from left: Father Dan Cyr, Father Edward House and Music Director Winston Robinson. Cyr and House began working in Georgetown in June and hope to bring more people back into the church. Robinson has been at the church for 10 years.

## DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS Churches & Temples

### Georgetown Alliance Church

Main St. south of Maple Ave.

"Nurturing a growing family of people"

Pastor Paul Little 873-0249  
Mr. Kirk Goodman

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (all ages)  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Family Night Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### MAPLE AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH

177 Maple Ave. 873-9211

Pastor: G. Blake Slessor

**SUNDAY**  
9:30 a.m. - Family Bible Hour  
10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Hour  
6:30 p.m. - Evening Praise Time  
**WEEK DAY**  
6:45 p.m. MON. - Pioneer Girls & Brigade  
9:30 a.m. WED. - Ladies' Coffee Hour  
6:50 p.m. WED. - Adult Prayer Group & Junior Choir  
7:00 p.m. WED. - Youth "Meat & Potatoes"  
8:00 p.m. WED. - Adult Choir  
7:00 p.m. FRI. - Youthline  
Home to Little Cherub Nursery 873-9212  
Mrs. Barb Hutzal / Director

### CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

Anglican Church of Canada

537 Main St. Glen Williams  
(Mountain & Main Sts.)  
416-877-8323

Rector: Rev. Carol A. Skidmore, L. Th.

Sunday Services: 8 am, 10:30 am  
Church School/Nursery: 10:30 am

Come join us - a warm welcome awaits you!

### ENJOY

FAMILY WORSHIP

with an active children's program  
- nursery to teens  
9:45 A.M.

Rev. Mary Campbell B.A., M. Div.

### NORVAL

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

499 Guelph St. (In the heart of Norval)  
Church Office 877-8868; Manse 873-6928

(Bet You Can't Visit Just Once)

### Halton Gospel Temple

Phone (416) 877-2759



Highway 7 West of Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown  
Affiliated with P.A.O.C.

Youth Pastor Rev. Dale Reddekopp

### SUNDAY SERVICES

9:45 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP  
6:30 P.M. Evening Praise  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Family Night  
Friday 7:30 p.m. Youth Alive

### Christian Reformed Church

Trafalgar Rd.

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Rev. P. Stadt

LISTEN TO THE BACK TO GOD HOUR

7:30 A.M. Hamilton CHAM 820  
7:30 P.M. Burlington FM 108  
9:00 P.M. Guelph CJOY 1460  
and Mon.-Fri. Faith 20

5:30 A.M. Global TV Ch. 6 and 41

Ladies' Coffee Break Tues. 9:30 a.m.  
(Sept. through May)

### Knox Presbyterian Church

Corner Main & Church, Georgetown

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

Junior Congregation  
Nursery Facilities

Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister

### St. George's Anglican Church

60 Guelph St., Georgetown 877-8044

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.  
Sunday School/Nursery 9:30 a.m.  
Thursdays 10:00 a.m.

Rector:

Rev. Thomas M.S. Kingston, B.A., B. Th.  
Pastoral Archdeacon:

Ven. John H. McMulkin, B.A., S.T.B., D.D.

Director of Music:

Ms. Sharon Dutton, B.Mus., A.R.C.T.  
Keith A.P. Nunn, Parish Youth Worker

## Long history of Catholics in Georgetown

The first Catholic church in Georgetown was St. Patrick's, built in 1858.

Jesuit priests came to Georgetown from Guelph about once a month. But because the people of Georgetown were not wealthy, the church became dilapidated to the point where the visiting bishop refused to set foot inside.

A stone church on Guelph St. was completed just before Christmas, 1885, and was called Holy Cross. Mass was celebrated in Georgetown two Sundays a month until 1936. During the 1950s, the population of Georgetown grew and by 1955 the Capuchin Fathers took over pastoral care and began holding two masses each Sunday.

In 1958, the Catholics formed a Separate School Board and built a new school which opened that September.

Construction of a new larger church on Maple Ave. was authorized in 1964, and it was blessed the following year. The old stone church was turned over to the francophone community in June, 1966.

At the beginning of September, 1980, the Capuchin Fathers turned over the parish to Hamilton Diocese, due to a shortage of priests.

## GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

## WINTERIZE YOUR PLANTS

Each spring the brutal scars of winter become visible in the landscape. Evergreens appear burnt, junipers are bent out of shape and leaning to one side, many trees have split bark and possibly are eaten by rodents. It is not a pretty picture, and these effects of winter are difficult, if not impossible, to correct once they have occurred.

Evergreen shrub and trees may appear burnt in the spring because of dehydration (loss of water). Winter winds remove moisture from plants, and unless this moisture is replaced in the leaves, they will dry and eventually die.

Plants susceptible to wind burn through dehydration include: Rhododendrons, and other broad-leaved evergreens, yews, junipers, spruce and pines. The best protection against this is to water your plants well (to a depth of 6 inches) in the fall. In addition, wrapping these plants with burlap or winter wrap (a plastic mesh) will break the force and drying effects of the winter wind.

Many junipers, yews and flowering shrubs have upright branching systems. This makes them prone to damage by ice and heavy, wet snow loads. Their branches are pulled down and many upright junipers lean over. Wooden structures (that allow snow to slide off) and wrapping the plants with burlap or mesh is the most appropriate protection in this case.

Maple, London Plane, Crabapple and fruit trees are prone to bark splitting. A vertical split in the trunk bark develops due to rapid temperature changes in the cells of the bark. It usually occurs on the southwest side of the trunk and is sometimes referred to as south-west injury.

There is now available a thin, narrow paper which you wrap around the trunk to reduce the sudden temperature changes and minimize the occurrence of bark splitting.

Rodents frequently find the bark of fruit trees and ornamental shrubs tasty during the winter. Rabbits and mice may girdle a tree by eating the bark completely around the trunk. Trees rarely survive this damage. Plastic, spiral tree guards and/or a paint known as 'Rabbit Repel' usually deters the rodents from damaging the trees.

By doing a little pre-winter care, your shrubs and trees have less damage next spring.

For information on our gardening classes please contact the Garden Centre at 853-2480.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

**TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE**  
ACTON  
853-2480