

SPRING Spotlight



A Warm Parish Welcome to Fr. Gregory Nduka

It was with heavy hearts that we said goodbye to Fr. Andrew, and with joyous hearts that we give a warm Immaculate Conception welcome to Fr. Gregory, our new Associate Pastor.

To help us all learn a little more about Fr. Gregory and his journey to the priesthood he was very willing to answer a few questions.

How did you know you were being called to serve the Lord?

Of all the things I did while growing up as a little boy in elementary school, I realized that going to Church, watching the priest and admiring him while he celebrates the mass, listening to the melancholic voices of the choir music, reading the Bible especially the psalms were more fulfilling for me than anything else. Hence, I joined the altar boys early in my life and became greatly influenced by my then parish priest who happened to be a very good friend of my family. I started my Seminary education at the age of 11, and as the days passed by while still in the minor Seminary, the urge to answer the call to the priesthood became stronger. Prioritizing God's presence in my life gave me a kind of peace that made me personalize Psalm 24:4 "... that I may dwell in the house of the lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

Do you have other ordained family members and were they influential?

I do not have any other ordained family member. But I was raised up by strong catholic parents who were actively involved in some ministries in the church. Beside my personal relationship with God, my parents and my parish priest inspired me to the priestly vocation.

Where in the World has your priesthood taken you and where are you still hoping to visit?

More inspiration which had sustained my call to the priesthood has been drawn through the lives of the saints and the intercession of the blessed virgin Mary. This has been possible through my pilgrimages to some holy places and sites in; Israel, Sinai, Jordan, Rome, Padova, Assisi, Ars, and Medjugorje. Before coming to Canada as a missionary priest, I had advanced my theological studies in dogmatic and fundamental theology at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, Rome. I had also had the opportunity to attend conferences and spiritual exercises in the US, UK, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Spain, Greece, and Switzerland, which is an attestation to the unity of faith and oneness of the Church. The Blessed Virgin Mary has been visible in my priestly life, therefore I also hope to visit Guadalupe and Fatima in the nearest future.

Which is your favourite book in the bible and why?

In the words of St Jerome, "Ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of God". God actually speaks, inspires and transforms our lives through the scriptures. Earlier in my life, I had found the psalms amazing. Not only that God speaks words of power into our lives, but He also speaks directly to our situations too.

Have you completed any missionary work?

After my priestly ordination on 22nd August 2009, I served as an associate pastor, principal of a catholic school and a rector of a minor Seminary all in Nigeria. I was also an associate pastor at Our lady of Guadalupe Church Dartmouth, before moving to Immaculate Conception Church Truro.

Do you have a special prayer you would like to share with our parish?

Lord God, it was to save us that our Lord Jesus Christ underwent the torment of the cross. Give us the grace to know and appreciate you in our lives and in the lives of others. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit. Shelter us in your Providence and sustain our works and services in your grace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Immaculate
Conception



St. Bridget's
Church



St. Kateri
Tekakwitha



Sacred Heart
Church



St. Michael's
Church



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CHALICE SHARE TABLES PROGRAM

Share

1. WHAT IS THE CHALICE SHARE TABLES PROGRAM?

The Chalice Share Tables Program is a unique program offered at Immaculate Conception Parish in Truro with the goal to foster a habit of saving regularly, using financial resources wisely, praying together, and educating ourselves through conversations and presentations on lived experiences. As the group adapts to the program, you'll be given the reins to discuss *your* desired money topics and encourage *each other* to grow —spiritually and financially. The program provides the foundation; You will build upon it.

2. WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA TO PARTICIPATE?

The criteria to participate in the Chalice Share Tables program are to:

Have a bank or a credit union account you can use to transfer funds

Participate in gatherings as frequently as you can

Save regularly and repay fully any loans that are taken

If you need help meeting these criteria, reach out to us!

3. HOW CAN THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT ME?

Participation in the Chalice Share Tables program will help you form a habit of saving regularly through sustainable lifestyle changes. We work together to stay on our personal budgets and plan expenses in a timely manner – including paying off bills and, eventually, *avoid* surcharges, late fees, and missed payment penalties. Chalice Share Tables promotes mutual assistance and support to help us focus on our goals.

4. I LIVE ON A VERY TIGHT BUDGET AND CANNOT FIND ANY POSSIBILITY TO SAVE, BUT I AM INTERESTED IN A LOW INTEREST/INTEREST FREE LOAN; HOW CAN I JOIN?

Saving money is difficult for anyone! But it is *made easier with the support of others*. It is also possible with *any* budget. Keeping each other accountable is a great way to stay on track, and hearing personal experiences from others can help you find that money to save. Chalice Share Tables is a well-planned program that is designed to enable you to build saving as a habit.

5. I HAVE A FRIEND/NEIGHBOUR WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM, BUT THEY'RE NOT CHRISTIAN. CAN THEY JOIN?

Yes! Religious affiliations and beliefs are not a barrier to participation in the Chalice Share Tables program. While we do begin with a time of prayer, and encourage all participants to take part, it is not required. We only ask that respect is shown to our beliefs, as we will respect theirs.

7. HOW DO THE LOANS WORK?

All loans granted through the Chalice Share Tables program are entirely low interest/interest-free. The purpose of the loan is to help *you* in an emergency, not to make any profit. The maximum loan you may apply for is \$750 and must be repaid within 20 weeks of when it was transferred. Repayment takes place during the meetings. Remember that on top of your loan repayment you remain committed to the weekly minimum savings of \$5.

8. I WANT TO SUPPORT OTHERS IN THEIR SAVING. HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

We welcome anyone who wishes to participate, even if you're just there to walk with others in need. This program relies on mutual assistance and support from people of all financial and life backgrounds. If you have no need of the program's benefits, you can become a monthly patron to support the program monetarily or join the group as a participant. If you have no need for a loan, you can help someone else to get one!

For more information you can call Greg Forbes at (902) 899-4064

