

Confirmation

Gift of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and the EUCHARIST comprise the SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION. Confirmation completes Christian initiation, and strengthens the Candidates by the gift of the Holy Spirit. They are witnesses of Christ, bound to spread and defend the faith by their words and deeds.

Origins of the Sacrament

The Old Testament prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his Baptism in the Jordan by John was the sign that this was the expected one: the Son of God, who would communicate the Spirit to the entire messianic people. On Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, the Apostles began to proclaim the mighty works of God, and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be a sign of the messianic age.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the doctrine on Baptism and the Laying on of Hands is listed among the first elements in Christian instruction. The Laying on of Hands is recognized as the original sign of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.

The Bishop

The original ministers of Confirmation are the Bishops, the successors of the Apostles. They have received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. (The Bishop may transfer this mandate to the local Parish Priest.) The Sacred Chrism used for the Anointing was blessed at the Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral during the previous Holy Week.

The Sponsor

The Sponsor is a fully-initiated member of the Church who:

- ❖ Represents the community; ❖ Will support the parents;
- ❖ Testifies that the Candidate will be a witness for Christ.

The original Godparent may perform this duty; or another adult who serves as an example of Christian living.

The Name

The Confirmation Name is the Christian *Baptismal* name, or the name of another *Saint* who will serve as a lifelong patron and prayer partner to the newly-confirmed.

Effects of Confirmation

The purpose of the Sacrament is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as it was given to the Apostles on Pentecost:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability. (Acts 2.1-4).

The entire Church benefits by Confirmation: it conveys the grace of *Pentecost*, enabling us to live with the fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Generosity, Goodness, Perseverance, Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Continence, Chastity.

Confirmation has several important effects:

- (1) **It makes us more aware of God;**
- (2) **It releases the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:** Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Understanding, Courage, Piety and Reverence of the Lord.
- (3) **It unites us more firmly to Christ;**
- (4) **It binds us more perfectly to the Church;**
- (5) **It gives us strength to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions in order to:**
 - ✕ be true witnesses of Christ;
 - ✕ confess the name of Christ boldly;
 - ✕ never be ashamed of the Cross.

Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism, and imprints a spiritual mark or permanent, indelible character on the Christian's soul. A Candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith; be in the state of grace; desire to receive the Sacrament; and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both in the Church and in the world.

The Liturgy

Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated within the context of the Holy Mass. Following the Proclamation of the Word of God, the Sacrament is administered in this order:

Presentation of the Candidates

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Laying On of Hands ¹

Anointing with Sacred Chrism ²

¹ LAYING ON OF HANDS: The Bishop faces the people and introduces the prayer. Then he (and any concelebrating Priests) extend their hands over the Candidates, and ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon them.

² ANOINTING WITH CHRISM: Candidates walk to the Sanctuary. The Bishop goes to them individually, takes some Chrism, addresses them by their Confirmation Name, and makes the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads.

Bishop: “ _____ , be sealed with
the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Newly Confirmed: “AMEN.”

Bishop: “Peace be with you.”

Newly Confirmed: “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.”



Parish Week / Sunday, 26 July 2026

Saturday, 25 July / St. James, *apostle*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)
11.30 am ► El Shaddai 32nd Anniversary Mass (St. M.G. School)
12.00 pm KOC Car Wash (to 4.00 pm)
5.00 pm Mass: † Danis Mulla (family)

SUNDAY, 26 JULY / 17-A

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
- *World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly*
- *2nd Collection: Maintenance*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Charles)
10.30 am Mass: † Erlinda De Leon (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Ravi Anthonypillai (Doena)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 27 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Ma. Lourdes Sardua (Chita)
7.00 pm Mass: † Antonetta Marten (family)

Tuesday, 28 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Maria & Anna Mutuc)

Wednesday, 29 July / Ss. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

- 8.00 am Mass: † Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

Thursday, 30 July / St. Peter Chrysologus, *bishop & doctor*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Teresita Del Castillo (Corine Maulion)

Friday, 31 July / St. Ignatius of Loyola, *priest*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Camila Maulion (Corine)

Saturday, 1 Aug. / St. Alphonsus Liguori, *bishop & doctor*

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Antony)
5.00 pm Mass: † Moises Sardua (Chita)

SUNDAY, 2 AUG. / 18-A

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*
 - *St. Joseph Centre presentation by Mr. Frank D'Angelo*
- 9.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Antony)
10.30 am Mass: † Olimpio Macabali (family)
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving 31st Wedding Anniversary, William & Maria
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

BLESSING HOME Charity Barbecue 24 & 25 July

Blessing Home is holding a fund raiser barbecue to help build a shelter for the homeless. Please support us and attend this BBQ. It will be held at the Playground at 31 Gilder Drive, 24 & 25 July, from 2 – 6 pm. Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon, and help extend a true spirit of caring to those in need in our community.

Upcoming Weddings

There is a promise of Marriage between:

Sonny Pineda and Genalyn Sambo 3 Aug.

Nagendiram and Antonguanaratnam 29 Aug.

Carl DeAbreu and Fatima Fuentes

25 Sept., St. Paul Basilica

Alan Davis and Santhana Anthonysamy 25 Sept.

Bradley Bonnevie Villareal and Paula Rayos

18 Sept., St. Barnabas Church

Francis Villanueva and Christine Joseph 17 Oct.

Senduran Kandasamy and Smiley Alphonsus 23 Jn.



Focus on the Word

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.28-30; Matthew 13.44-52

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundances your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Amen.

K. of C. CAR WASH 25 July, 12 – 4 pm

“Cleanliness is next to godliness.” -J.Wesley

*Let your vehicle radiate virtue ! The **Knights of Columbus** can give your car the glow it deserves. 12 Noon to 4.00 pm: \$20 for a Car Wash that will elevate your vehicle & mind to a new level.*

ST. JOSEPH CENTRE Visit at Masses, 2 August

Historically located next door to a late-term abortuary, St. Joseph Centre offers positive options to mothers in a crisis pregnancy. We have put in a chapel with stained glass windows, and do Post Abortion Counselling as well. On 2 August, we will visit St. Maria Goretti Church and explain our **Baby Bottles For Life** campaign. Pray for us and our ministry!

Parish Summer Fair 23 August, 9 am – 2 pm

Our Parish is holding a Bazaar on Sunday, 23 August, beginning after the 9.00 am Mass and continuing to 2.00 pm. **Krispy Kreme** donuts are on sale: \$15 a dozen. Proceeds will support **ShareLife**. *Vendors:* To reserve a table, call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425; or: **Angela**, 416-699-8000. Table rental is \$30. Preorder your donuts in the Vestibule at all Masses this weekend.

Spiritual Thought

I am a son of St. Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, ‘For you I am a bishop; with you, I am a Christian.’ In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared.

(**Pope Leo**, in his first address from St. Peter Basilica, 8 May 2025.)

Rosary Sunday Midland, 13 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 13 Sept. The CWL has hired a coach for the day, leaving our Parish at 8.30 am and returning at 6.00 pm. Cost: \$50 per person. To reserve a seat, call: **Chita** (647-883-9138) or **Lillian** (647-909-6425).

COMING UP

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3 Aug.

Wedding: Pineda & Sambo (10:00 am)
Infant Baptism Parent-Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

9 Aug.

Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)

15 Aug.

Feast of the **Assumption of Mary**

16 Aug.

2nd Collection: *Canadian Missions*

18 Aug.

St. Helen, mother of Emperor Constantine

21 Aug.

► C.N.E. opens (to 7 Sept.)

► *WWE Friday Night Smackdown* (Scotiabank Arena, 7.30 pm)

23 Aug.

SUMMER FAIR: *Krispy Kreme* donuts, bazaar tables

27 Aug.

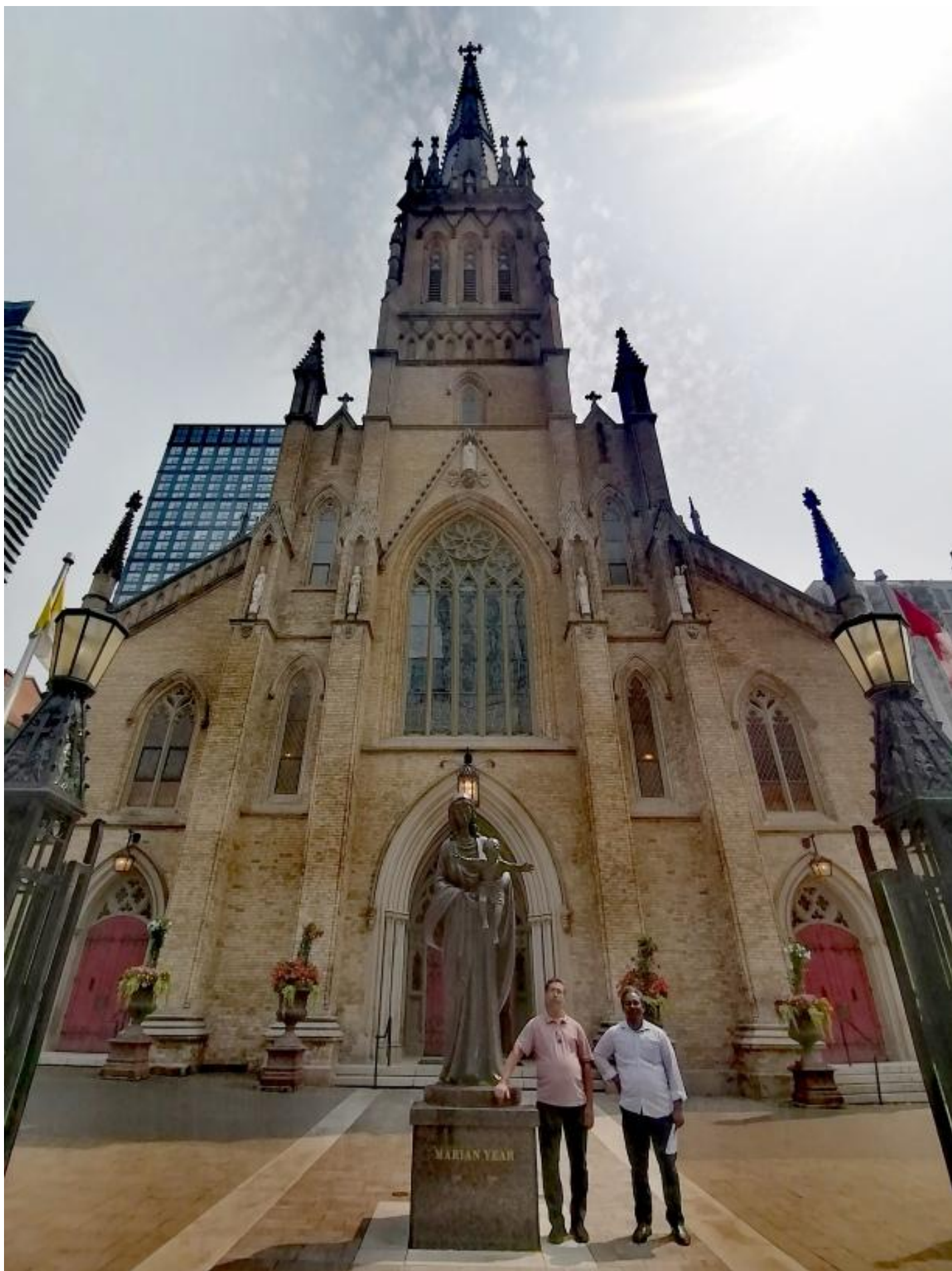
St. Monica

28 Aug.

St. Augustine of Hippo

29 Aug.

Wedding: Nagendiram & Antongnanaratnam (10:00 am)

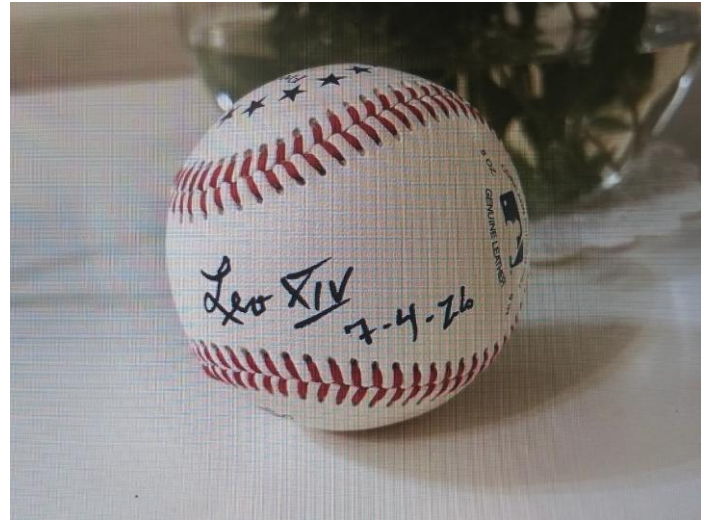


Fr. Thomas and Fr. Wilson, T.O.R. Franciscan Friars, standing in front of St. Michael Cathedral Basilica, 16 July.



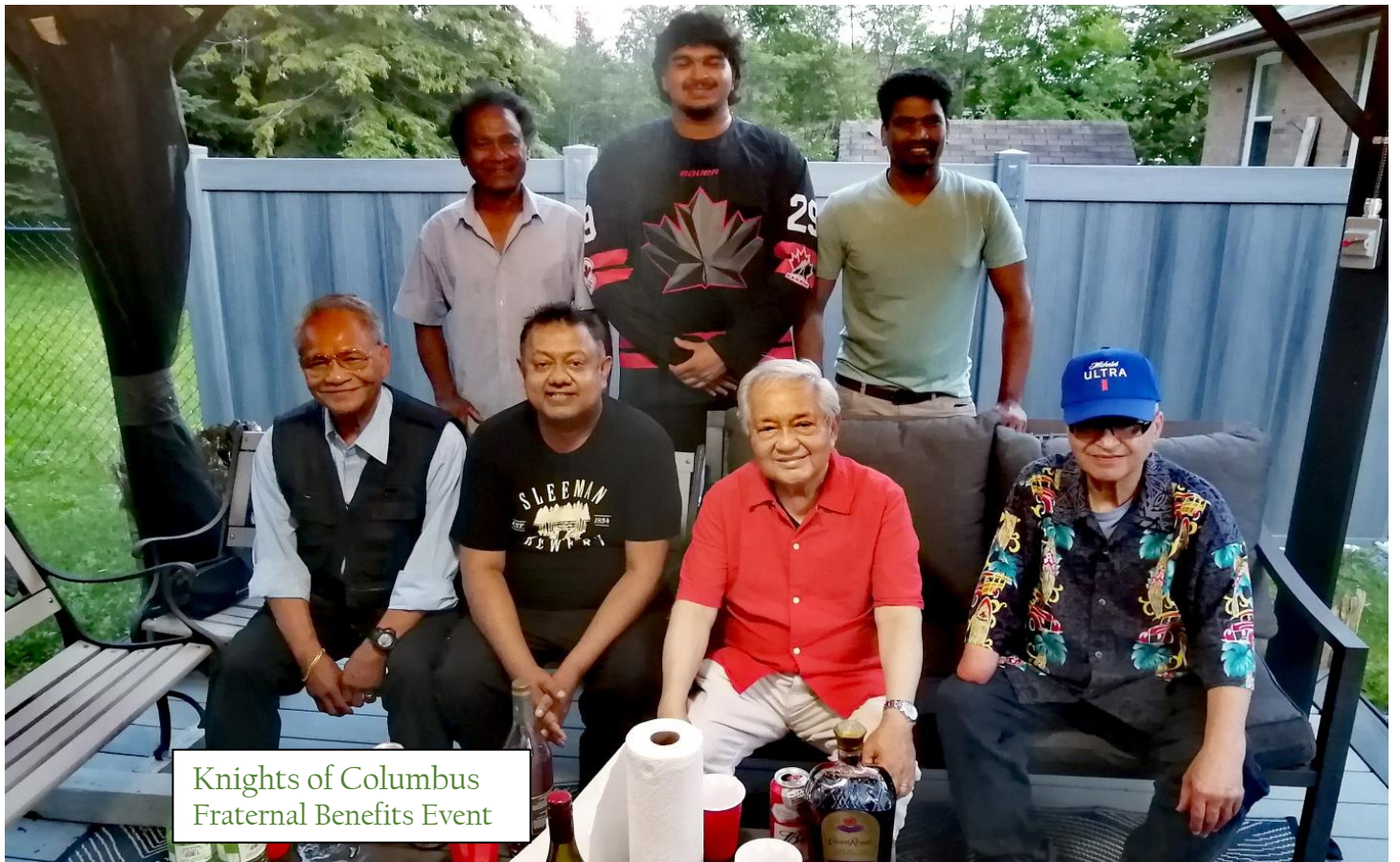
4th of July with Pope Leo XIV

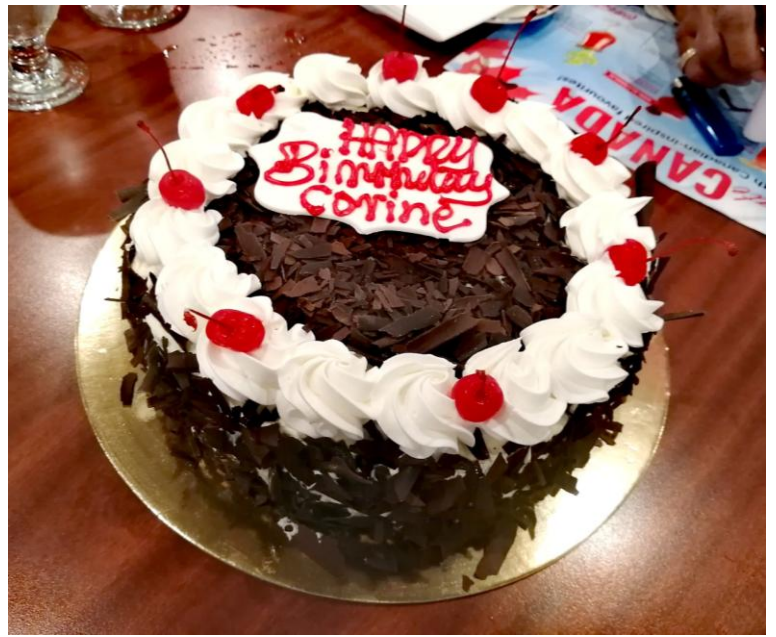
Pope Leo XIV marked the 250th US Independence Day on 4 July 2026 by visiting the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, **Brian Burch**, and sharing dinner with Brian's mother, wife and their 9 children at their residence on the Gianicolo Hill in Rome. Mr. Burch said, "I am deeply honored to celebrate this special day with a fellow American and the Bishop of Rome." The Pope visited after he had spent the first part of the day in Lampedusa, where he addressed migration and prayed for those who have died crossing the sea.



Canada Day
Knights of Columbus
Flag Tribute











Above: The Acropolis, Athens

Below: Golden Temple, Amritsar, India





Above: Foro Imperiali, Roma

Below: Ceiling, Sistine Chapel, Vatican

