



ST. PIUS X PARISH

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15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 13, 2024

SUNDAY MASSES:	SATURDAY	5:00PM
	SUNDAY	9:00AM & 11:00AM
DAILY MASS	MONDAY-SATURDAY	9:00AM
CONFESSIONS:	SATURDAY	4:00PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL, MY NEW PARISH FAMILY!

My name is Fr. Patrick Tepoorten: I am arriving from Church of Assumption, Powell River, B.C. It's been hard to leave the coastal beauty and stunning sunsets of the qather Regional District, but God's call, comes first. Bisogna obbedire il signore. I am a local boy: grew up in St John the Apostle Parish, attended Point Grey Secondary, Langara, then St. Peter's Seminary, Western University in London, Ontario, then a French degree at SFU Burnaby campus.

A cherished childhood memory: driving over the newly built Ironworker's Memorial, for a family vacation at a cabin owned by my great Aunt, nee Geraldine Tepoorten, near the dock at Woodlands. Her father owned a pharmaceutical wholesale business, and bought a little islet (commonly referred to as Tepoorten Island) for his family's vacations. I enjoyed the write up about my great grandfather Julius' Island paradise, in the history book about Deep Cove. One of his sons, my grandfather Dr. Len Tepoorten, was the first dentist in Kerrisdale on 41st Avenue, in 1992. Having heard Mother Teresa at the UN Habitat conference in 1976, I applied to be a seminarian. I was ordained in 1981 with Fr Frank Landry on the North Shore for my first few months, at Holy Trinity. Then I was sent packing, off to Precious Blood Cloverdale, to complete my first year. Holy Cross Regional High School was being built. The Cloverdale pastor felt he needed an assistant to take on the extra duties. Speaking of which; I was Archbishop's Representative at HCRSS for 3 years when Pastor of Immaculate Conception, Delta; and before that I was 8 years at another regional Catholic Secondary, Archbishop Carney Secondary in Port Coquitlam while being pastor for 13 years at Our Lady of Fatima, Coquitlam. Now the trend continues; I have been named, as was dear Father Jeff, Archbishop's Representative of STA. More meetings!! But surely, more blessings too.

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In 1980 while I served as a deacon at St Mary's, Msgr. Lopez-Gallo arrived from Rome, and resided at St Jude's Parish. His dedication to our Tribunal, and his devotion to children are legendary. He was a true father to the children. He established our Parish school, and ensured that it become a strong reality. I hope I can build on his strong foundation.

I became the Vice Chancellor in 1983, and was with Archbishop James Carney when he solemnly dedicated the Church of St Pius X. It was quite a ceremony as Fr Donald Neilson, the then Pastor had a keen eye for the liturgy.

Apart from Parish work I have been chaplain to Shaughnessy-Grace Children's hospital, acting chaplain at Royal Columbian where I lived at St Michael's Parish, Burnaby, have served on the board of CISVA for three terms, have been a Consultor of the Archdiocese and member of the Presbyteral Council, and was for a two year period the appointee of BC Bishops to the Catholic Health Association. I was asked to celebrate the Traditional Mass for the Archdiocese, when serving the Holy Spirit Parish Queensborough. Then I learned Italian from the Trevisan ladies who did parish catering. I have used my Italian a great deal in Powell River especially among the Bagnolesi, Romagnolo, and Fulan families, who bring their rich culture to our North Sunshine Coast. My waistline shows their culinary influence!

I bring to the Parish 43 years of priestly experience. I hope I can contribute in a positive way to this community. I thank Fr Jeff for his gracious welcome, and the Parish staff too. One of my great achievements in life was when I was vice Chancellor. On my first trip to Rome I met John Horgan, a Brother in the oblates of the Virgin Mary. He gave me a whirlwind tour of Rome, and since he was interested in diocesan life, I pleaded his cause with Archbishop Carney when I came home. The Archbishop didn't take long to realize that a graduate of Harvard, and Roman trained seminarian prospect, of Boston Irish roots, would be a special gift. In December of that year, John became Deacon John. I am honoured to try to replicate his good work here on the North Shore, I also want to pay a special tribute to the man who brought about our magnificent Church, Fr Donald Neilson, a great man of the Church and passionate lover of the faith.

My joy in the last ten years has been serving the tla'Amin first Nation people in the qathet Region (formerly called the Powell River Regional District). Their sense of community, their pain and their victories have won me over. One elder lady gave me a private ayajuthem name upon leaving: Meaning: Father.

Hope this wasn't too long, or boring either!

Let us do what St Pius Recommended:

"instaurare omnia Christo" - to restore all things in Christ.

Father Patrick B. Tepoorten,

"Serve with Joyful Hearts"