

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

The pandemic hasn't halted the good work of the Church. The Stewardship and Development Office asked for examples, and parishes provided a wealth of them. A few are here, and more are to come! [See the previous flier at hamiltondiocese.com/news](http://hamiltondiocese.com/news).

ST. ANDREW, OAKVILLE

"Pastoral ministry and social media had been a concern for us for a while and was an important theme in the building of our goals for the One Heart, One Soul Campaign. Short video messages keep us connected with our younger parishioners, and livestream and recorded Mass on Sunday bring our parishioners back to the heart of the parish. Interestingly, as we began to use these new means of communication, parishioners began to ask if we need the funds to build and improve the platforms we are using, and our regular donations began to pour back in."

– Fr. Con O'Mahony

ST. JOHN BREBEUF, ERIN

Fr. Don Sanvido conducted a survey to gauge how his community was doing during the crisis. A couple of the responses from his parishioners:

"I had a long talk with my family. We had not attended Mass regularly prior to COVID, but we are now praying the rosary as a family and vow to never miss Mass again for any selfish reason."

"The pandemic has taught us how to be a family again. We are praying together, eating meals together and playing together as a family. I pray the lessons we have learned during this crisis are not forgotten. My family has become stronger because of this."



DIocese of HAMILTON

AT ST. MARY IMMACULATE IN ELORA, CROSS 'DREW US TOGETHER'

A life-size cross touched the hearts of parishioners during the Lenten and Easter seasons at St. Mary Immaculate in Elora. Michael Madden, a St. Mary parishioner, built the cross, which was featured in the Catholic Register, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The cross originally was painted purple and displayed on the front steps of the church for the fifth Sunday of Lent. It was painted red for Palm Sunday, a crown of thorns was added on Good Friday, and it was adorned with flowers for Easter Sunday and again for Pentecost.

"We as a community have picked up our crosses and are carrying it as a sign that Christ is present in the midst of this and not just behind closed doors," Madden said in the Register article.

Parishioner Lynn Kraemer told the Register that many parishioners said it helped them in their Lenten journey, others have left notes at the foot of the cross and one woman wept when the crown of thorns was added. "It drew us together at the heart of who we strive to be — our faith, our religion, the reason we come together in non-COVID times," Kraemer said. "There were no words needed, no grand homilies or proclamations. The cross spoke to each of us, on our own personal journeys, to our individual hearts."

See the full Register article at: www.catholicregister.org/item/31607-the-signs-of-the-cross-keep-church-a-welcoming-presence.

St. Mary's has had other positive happenings. An email network has allowed parishioners to stay connected, and through it new parish leaders have emerged. Also, the Catholic Women's League continues to collect items and money for the local food bank.

