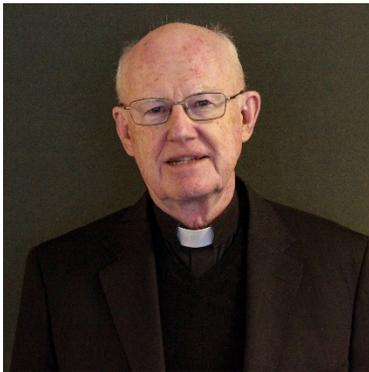


Fond Farewells

by Katherine Quinlan

On December 8, 2019, the priests and parishioners of the Archdiocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Mulhall announced that evening that **Monsignor Joe Lynch** would be retiring at the end of the year. There was an audible gasp from the congregation, which was followed by a collective sigh of relief when the Archbishop clarified that the retirement was only from his responsibilities at the Pastoral Centre and that he would remain as Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish. No one could have guessed that evening that everything would close just a few months later, and that plans for a suitable expression of gratitude to Monsignor Lynch would be thwarted by a pandemic. As restrictions enter a second year, and with the departure this month of two other staff members, **Susan Lett** and **Bob Bryan**, it seems an appropriate time to express gratitude to three valued members of our Archdiocesan family.

Thank you, Monsignor Joe



Those two words, 'thank you', do not seem nearly enough to express the debt of gratitude that the entire Archdiocese owes to **Monsignor Joseph Lynch**. For more than 32 years, he was the lifeblood of the Archdiocese, giving his all for the Archbishops, the priests, and the parishioners he served.

In 1992, just four years after his ordination, Father Joe Lynch was appointed by Archbishop Spence as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Kingston, a position he held for more than three decades. For the first 12 years, he also served as Associate Pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral, until his appointment in 2004 as Pastor of St. Joseph's. During all that time, he gave his heart and soul to the Archdiocese. In fact, he did not take even one vacation, but worked every single day for the people he served. His knowledge, ability, skill, and talent were so greatly valued by Archbishop Spence and his fellow priests that he was nominated by the Archbishop to receive the title 'Monsignor', an honour conferred in 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

When Archbishop Spence retired in 2002, he was replaced by Archbishop Meagher, who quickly recognized Monsignor Lynch's expertise and proficiency and appointed him Vicar General of the Archdiocese, in addition to his responsibilities as Chancellor. For the next five years, Monsignor Lynch was an invaluable support to Archbishop Meagher, especially as the Archbishop battled the devastating illness that would eventually take his life. Through this very difficult time, Monsignor Lynch was the steady hand that kept the Archdiocese on an even keel.

When Archbishop O'Brien was appointed in 2007, he immediately connected with Monsignor Lynch and re-appointed him as Vicar General. Throughout the next 12 years, Monsignor Lynch was a constant support to the Archbishop, and they worked closely together to meet challenges and accomplish the Archbishop's vision for the Archdiocese. In 2019, when Archbishop Mulhall succeeded Archbishop O'Brien, Monsignor Lynch again provided much appreciated support, and the Archbishop relied on his knowledge and experience as he navigated the challenges of his new Archdiocese. Once Archbishop Mulhall had settled into his new responsibilities, Monsignor Lynch quietly took his leave from the Pastoral Centre and, for the first time in his priesthood, became a full-time pastor.

The above tells only part of the story of Monsignor Lynch's contribution to the Archdiocese of Kingston. For 32 years, our priests relied on his exceptional proficiency and sage advice to resolve issues in their parishes. He was a friend to all of them, always available with a helping hand when any of them needed his support. And he was a cherished friend to all the staff at the

Pastoral Centre. Monsignor Joe's door was always open, and he was ever ready and willing to give advice, provide support, and help with any endeavour. His wonderful sense of humour added cheer to the office, and we were all the fortunate recipients of his kindness and thoughtfulness.

One of Monsignor Lynch's many talents is his fluency in the French language, and, so, perhaps the French expression, **merci infiniment**, is the most appropriate expression of our appreciation for all that this fine man has contributed to the Archdiocese of Kingston. It is no wonder that, at the Mass on December 8, 2019, Archbishop Mulhall's kind words about Monsignor Joe Lynch's years of service to the Archdiocese were followed by a sustained ovation of loud and sincere applause. The people of the Archdiocese are so very grateful to this beloved priest, and we hope that he knows that he has our **infinite gratitude**.

Susan Lett embraces a new challenge

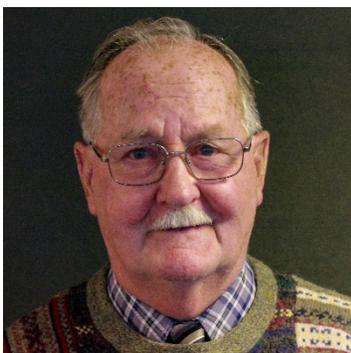


For 18 years, **Susan Lett** has been a dedicated member of the staff of the Pastoral Centre, the last 12 years as Accounting Assistant. Her job title belies the true nature and importance of her responsibilities and the key role she has played in the smooth functioning of the Pastoral Centre and the parishes it serves. Not only has she carried out the many financial tasks that are required in a Chancery Office, but she has been a knowledgeable and indispensable resource for parishes. All the priests, parish secretaries, and bookkeepers know Susan well and count on her expertise and extensive financial knowledge. This expertise has been particularly valued during these pandemic months when she has been instrumental in keeping our parishes solvent.

Finances are just one of Susan's many talents. She is also an effective organizer, coordinating events and activities at the Pastoral Centre and overseeing building maintenance and office improvements. She is a creative expert, designing letterhead, invitations, and even Christmas cards, and facilitating the development of a new Archdiocesan logo. Susan is also a technology wizard, ordering and installing computers, resolving technical issues for staff, and managing the development and maintenance of the new Archdiocesan website. As all Journey readers will know, Susan has been the Editor of our Archdiocesan communicator for the past several years, accomplishing with excellence the many and varied tasks that responsibility entails.

At the end of this month, Susan will be leaving the Pastoral Centre to take on a new position as Parish Secretary at St. Joseph's, Kingston. We know that she will be dearly missed by all the priests and parishes she has served so well, and especially by the staff of the Pastoral Centre. St. Joseph's is Susan's home parish, and she is looking forward to serving its parishioners and to working with Monsignor Lynch, Father Quirk, and Deacon Wojcik. Although Susan is leaving our office, we are glad that she will remain in our Archdiocesan family. Our sadness at her departure is tempered with the knowledge that she is just moving across the parking lot! Thank you, Susan, for everything you have done for us. Please know that all your hard work has been truly appreciated. We wish you well as you begin a new chapter in your life.

A well-deserved (second) retirement for Bob Bryan



Fifteen years ago, **Bob Bryan** began his second career, coming out of retirement to take on the position of caretaker at the Pastoral Centre. Instead of enjoying the reward of a well-deserved rest after a full career of service, this decorated firefighter chose to devote himself to the service of the Church. Ever since he joined our staff, he has done just that, taking exceptional care of the Pastoral Centre inside and out.

For all these years, Bob has kept the offices and meeting rooms at the Centre in ship shape. Not only the staff has benefitted from his

hard work, but anyone who has attended a meeting or event at 390 Palace Road has seen the results of his good work. From arranging tables and chairs in the meeting rooms and chapel to serving meals at events, the care is evident in every detail. Bob is also the ultimate fixer – adept at keeping all the building's systems in good working order. On the outside of the Centre, Bob keeps the lawns mowed, the shrubs and trees perfectly trimmed, and the walks clear of snow and ice. As soon as Spring planting season arrives, he and his wife, Joan, plant and tend flowers and shrubs at the front of the building. Joan can also be seen at meetings and events, helping whenever and wherever she is needed.

In everything he does for us, Bob Bryan always has a smile on his face. He is ever pleasant and kind and accommodating, and we know that we can always count on him. We are very grateful for his years of service to the Archdiocese.

We will miss you, Bob! As you take your second retirement, we ask God to bless you and Joan with many years of good health and happiness.