

June 2019

ignite

St. Alphonsus Liguori Church

THIS ISSUE

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT, MATTHEW BASSETT,
STARTING POINT

Bollywood Night!

A fantastic evening sponsored by our K of C



Liguori Wine Tour

A great time had by all!



One for me, one for the Lord!

Family Spotlight: The Cullen Family

When Wendy and I (Brad) started coming to St Alphonus Liguori, about 8 years ago, we had no idea the transformation our faith would undergo. It started with the baptism of our first two children, Emma and Jace (now both 7), followed by Charlotte (now 5), and then Norah (now 2). Wendy went through the Vantage program while pregnant with our fourth child and became a member of the Catholic Church, growing in faith and in support of our family. Jace and Emma attend Kids Church, while Charlotte and Norah enjoy Tiny Disciples - all coming back to the pew to rejoin us with artwork, stories, and lessons of how to follow Jesus. I find my own faith continues to grow with the inspiring messages of Fr. Jerry and the music that I find myself humming throughout the week. If you are new to this church or thinking about coming here more regularly, please do! I believe you'll find that you can be part of this warm and welcoming family here at St. Alphonus Liguori Church, too.



New to the parish within the
last year or so?

Join us at our next Starting Point!

Sunday, June 2nd, 12 Noon

Meet the staff
Meet other new members
Have a bite to eat!

REFLECTING ON MY TIME AS AN EDGE CORE MEMBER

By: Matthew Bassett

Sometimes I purchase books but don't read them immediately. I let them be, on the shelf, until a time when I feel the pull of their pages. A few days ago, when packing for a weekend away at my family cottage, the time had come for me to crack the spine of Evert's Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves. I came upon the book back in November, during a retreat hosted by the Youth Ministry Team at St. Alphonsus Liguori.

I first reached out to Nic in September. I had just begun my first year in the Bachelor of Education program at Trent. Part of our degree requires us to complete an Alternative Settings Placement (ASP), a teaching or leadership placement outside of the classroom. Fr. John Perdue visited my class and provided an introduction to the Catholic community in Peterborough. He mentioned that if we were looking for a parish with lively youth ministry, St. Alphonsus Liguori is where to go. As I thought about what I wanted to do for my ASP, I landed on church. My youth group was a blessing to me growing up, and being a part of spiritual and

social outreach opportunities for youth is always special. I contacted Nic, we set up a meeting, and my involvement as an EDGE Core Member began.

EDGE runs every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30pm. It is aimed at providing youth, grade 6-8, with a platform to discover Jesus and to have fun with like-minded peers. I have had the privilege of getting to know dozens of young people who come each week to play, listen, sing, eat, and share their feelings. For me, EDGE quickly became more than a degree requirement. EDGE provided a chance to develop real relationships, to hear profound realizations come from young mouths, and to witness a youthful Christian community full of life and laughter.

I have truly treasured my time at EDGE. I feel both my faith and my leadership capabilities have grown throughout the year. One major take-away message for me is to never underestimate how quickly the trajectory of a conversation can change. I was usually with the grade 6 boys, and conversation was often centred on video games,



sports, or funny things that happened at school. One of the things I worked with them on is "time and place." With lots of space for fun at EDGE, when small group started, we asked that they centre themselves for respectful conversation. It consistently blew me away how fast the conversation could go from video game stats to deeper issues of the heart. These young boys have real issues beyond whether they forgot to turn their Xbox off. They may not let it show, but given the opportunity for realness, I have been pleasantly surprised with the insight and emotion behind our conversations. Whether we are brainstorming how the Holy Spirit is like a rocket ship, how Captain America relates to the fruits of the Holy Spirit, or how the sacraments connect to the

Gospel and living a virtuous life, these young boys never shy away from sharing their perspectives. They love, they fear, they are connected, they share, and they want. Yet in the dualities of our world, in their eyes and in their hearts, I sense goodness through them, and it is incredible to a part of. One of the loves that is spoken about by Evert in his book is Saint Jogn Paul II's love for Young People. They always came to hear him, and he always came to listen to them. Millions of youth found their home in christ through his messages, and he never tired of examining their questions and never doubted the true potential of the coming generation. One line that stood out to me was, "the more the world deprives young people of what is true, good, and beautiful, the more earnestly they will yearn for it" (Evert, 92). I connect this with EDGE because I believe what we offer the youth is an authentic experience of goodness and beauty in our community of love. I can say with confidence that the New Evangelization is alive and well at St. Alphonsus Liguori, and I encourage anyone seeking God and happiness to become a part of it.

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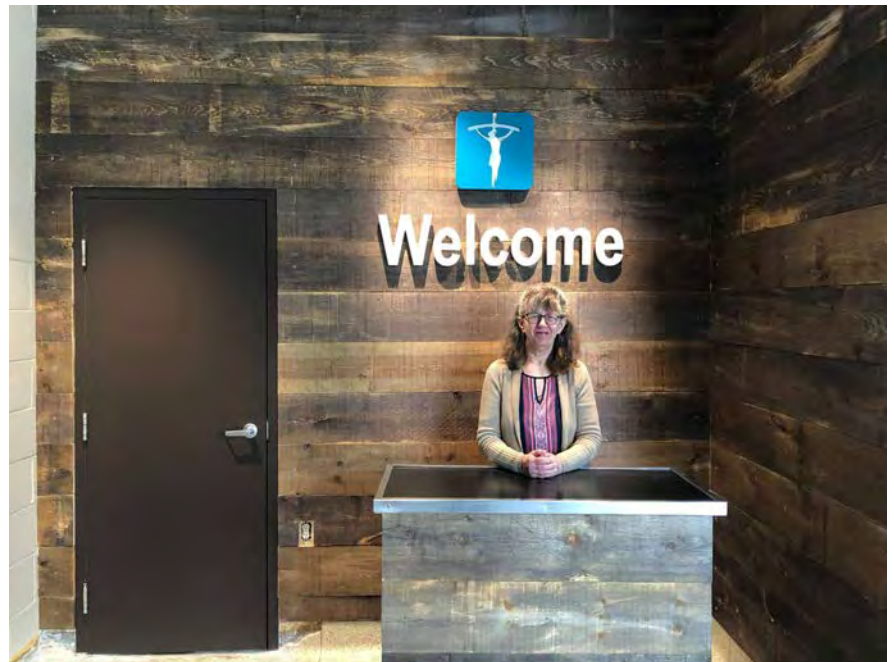
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