



Paróquia Nossa Senhora de Fátima

(Casa de oração e convivência da Comunidade Portuguesa)

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Greetings:

During the weekend masses of April 9th and 10th, Rev. Marinaldo announced that the Parish of Our Lady of Fátima will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2012. Parishioners and the Portuguese Community were invited to attend a meeting on April 13, 2011 with the intent to gauge the interest of the attendees to celebrate this milestone. Following a much enthused discussion between those in attendance, it was unanimously agreed to commemorate this momentous achievement throughout 2012 calendar year. The meeting attendees and Fr. Marinaldo confirmed that the events commemorating this momentous occasion will consist of liturgical and social functions. Consequently, three committees were identified as being required. These committees are:

1. **Social Committee:** The primary objective of this committee is to organize social events throughout 2012 including the Anniversary Gala to be held on Saturday, September 8th, 2012.
2. **Liturgical Committee:** The role of this committee will be to conceive and direct the liturgical program throughout the festive year of 2012, culminating in a Preparatory Triduum during the week leading up to the Gala and concluding with the 40th Anniversary Feast Mass on Sunday September 9, 2012.
3. **Communications Committee:** The responsibilities of this committee are broad based and encompass compiling and organizing exhibits of historical information and artifacts; preparing communiqués; preparing all correspondence relating to the 40th Anniversary Feast; preparing posters and tickets for the planned events; preparing, extending and following up on invitations to dignitaries and guests; chairing and fulfilling announcing duties at social functions, etc.

The Communications Committee will interact with the other committees to ensure that the celebratory events throughout 2012 are coordinated.

It is important to realize that the official 40th Anniversary of our Parish, incorporated on the 3rd of September 1972, was preceded and founded by the Portuguese Pioneers, of which the majority immigrated to this adoptive yet intimidating country of Canada in 1957. These Portuguese Pioneers brought with them their Catholic faith and values that represented who they were and helped define their unique Portuguese culture in a foreign land. In order to prepare for the 40th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, which is a significant achievement for the Portuguese Community of Edmonton, we are asking for your help in piecing together this history. We are appealing to you to share with the Communications Committee any of the following articles:

- Information bulletins from our Parish (particularly from the early years)
- Historical photographs of the Portuguese Community and/or of the Parish activities including Feasts such as:
 - Santo Cristo
 - Nossa Senhora de Fatima
 - Easter Feast
 - Christmas Feast
 - Holy Trinity (Santissima Trindade)

- Sacred Heart Feast
- Communion, Confirmations and Profession of Faith (Comunhão Solene)
- Baptisms
- Weddings
- Historical Documents: birth certificates, passports, identification cards, etc.
- Historical memoirs and recounts of the early years in Canada including church attendance and celebration of feasts.

Please note that all of the items provided to the Communications Committee will be promptly returned to the rightful owners. In most cases copies will be made of most articles, as approved by their owners. These articles will be used in the historical exhibits that are being planned and hosted in the Parish Hall throughout the festive year of 2012.

Please contact the following Communication Committee members to register your articles and acknowledge your participation in clarifying the Portuguese Community's history including our Catholic Faith practices.

Name	Telephone	Email
Helder Afonso	780-973-3119	helder@shaw.ca
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Members of our Communications Committee will be in the Parish Hall every Wednesday between November 2nd and 30th from 11 am to 2 pm. These members will assist in the collection of all the materials requested above and to help you to understand the purpose of this project: The **History of the Portuguese Catholic faith and Parish in Edmonton** since the foundation of the Portuguese Community in the year 1957.



This photo was taken a few days after the arrival of our Pioneers at the CNR Calder Yard in Edmonton. During one of their walks in the Calder neighbourhood near their place of work, they found St. Edmund's Church where they regularly attended mass on Sundays until the CNR work stopped for the winter. Father Reynolds, the Parish Priest is shown in the centre of the photo flanked on either side by the Portuguese Pioneers.

Photo taken by C. Manuel P. da Silva

We take this opportunity to invite all the pioneers and their families, the families of the deceased pioneers, and the Portuguese community at large to a special mass in honour of all the pioneers and their wives who worked hard for many years in our adopted country, Canada. Their contribution in establishing the Portuguese Community and a the main pillar of the Community, Our Lady of Fátima Portuguese Parish, will be remembered forever. Mass will be celebrated by Fr.

Marinaldo at 5:00 pm on Saturday, November 26, 2011. Immediately following this special mass, a reception will be held in the Parish Hall to renew old friendships over coffee and refreshments. At that time, all pioneers who are present will be invited to pose in group photographs. The photographs taken at this reception will be included in historical publications that will be revealed to the public in 2012 and for the Parish archive.

Please, inform your families and friends about the celebratory events that will take place throughout the remainder of 2011 and 2012. More information regarding scheduled events will be provided in the near future. Thank you for your collaboration and support in helping us organize the celebration of this significant milestone.

United in Christ,

Helder Afonso, P.Eng.

Communications Committee

