

September 22, 2015:

Blessed Luigi Maria Monti Feast Day Mass & Statue Blessing



On September 22nd, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop Nicola De Angelis, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, spent the morning at St. Luigi Catholic School. He celebrated the feast day mass of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti and reminded the community of the importance of being apostles of charity.

Our school is named after Father Luigi Maria Monti. Father Luigi was born in Bovisio, near Milan, Italy on July 24, 1825. At the age of 10, after his father died, he worked as a carpenter and made wooden craft items to help support his mother and 10 siblings.

Father Luigi consecrated his life to God and took his vows when he was 21. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to serving God. He was constantly making efforts at evangelization and tended to needy, orphaned, and abandoned young people. He capably alternated the task of educator with that of nurse when cholera broke out in 1855 and he did not spare himself in helping the sick. In 1877, with the help of Pope Pius IX, Father Luigi founded the 'Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception' and he worked as its leader for the rest of his life.

On October 1, 1900, at the age of 75, Father Luigi, nearly blind and completely worn out, died of natural causes in Saronno, Italy. On November 10, 2003, Pope John Paul II beatified Father Luigi Maria Monti. At the beatification, Pope John Paul II referred to him as "a 19th-century apostle of the sick and the poor whose life commitment was to heal the wounds of the bodies and souls of the sick and of the orphans."

After the mass, His Excellency, Bishop De Angelis blessed the beautiful statue of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti that he generously donated to the school. Known as an 'Apostle of Charity', Blessed Luigi Maria Monti remains a great role model and inspiration for priests, doctors, nurses, educators, and the St. Luigi Catholic School community. This tangible reminder of our patron and role model in the main foyer will inspire us to help the needy and celebrate the importance of community where we can come together in a safe environment to break bread as family and friends, to reflect, and to give thanks. Grazie mille, Bishop Nick!