

Mass for the deceased – Theme ‘We Remember’

The Mass for our deceased members is an annual event that TEGSA members look forward to. This year the Mass was celebrated on November 11, 2016 by Fr. Henry Alva, a dynamic speaker and the Provincial of the Franciscan Capuchins in Canada. The hall was packed to capacity. Coincidentally this year it was Remembrance Day as well.

The entrance hymn ‘You are mine’ was sung by all the members present. Keith Coutinho did the first reading, and Sheilah D’Souza in her usual rich melodious voice sang the responsorial psalm ‘The Lord is my shepherd’.

Fr. Henry gave us a thought-provoking and beautiful homily. The subject was ‘If you were to write your own eulogy, what would you have to say about yourself’.

Philomena Fernandes did the prayer of the faithful by lighting three candles. The first candle was for deceased family members. The second was for the members who lost relatives or friends. The third was for deceased veterans and for those souls who have no one to pray for them.

At the end of the Mass, the President Austin Pinto did a reflection by reading a very appropriate poem ‘We Remember’.

Being Remembrance day, all the members joined in singing the National Anthem after which Paul Soares gave us a wonderful rendition on his saxophone of the ‘Last Post,’ which is the ceremonial bugle call commemorating the fallen soldiers.

Faye Swift said the grace before meals and we were treated to a dinner of gigantic slices of pizza and a delicious custard bun.

This was followed by dancing to the music provided by Carol Fernandes. The very enjoyable evening ended with two rounds of Bingo called out by Godfrey Cunningham.

Ramona Coutinho