

May 9th 2019



Dear Sisters and Friends,

Today we call to mind Mother Xavier's arrival to Chatham in 1860.

During our Lenten journey this year, we were invited to journey with people around the world who are leaving and arriving – leaving their homes, arriving at places totally foreign to them; leaving the known, arriving at the unknown; leaving family and friends, arriving amongst strangers who may not speak the same language, have the same customs.

“Far from my homeland, I feel lost.”

Perhaps Mother Xavier had similar thoughts/feelings arriving in Chatham as an immigrant; arriving in a new city, a new country, new community, and new house/home. Questions asked – was it the right choice?

Remembering Mother Xavier's arrival in Chatham makes me think about leaving and arrivals in my own family and myself. My great-grandparents leaving Ireland and arriving in Canada; myself leaving Calgary and coming to Chatham and again the same question – was it the right choice?

“My heart is stirred by thoughts of the family I left behind.”

How many times in my own life have I arrived? Arriving means coming from – what did I leave? Was the leaving/arrival my own choice? Arriving – at small decisions, at big decisions, at someone's home, at the store, at the dinner table Have I/you ever thought of how often we arrive, of how the arrival affects me in my daily life?

Let us remember:

***“All days come from one day
That much you must know,
You cannot change what's over
But only where you go.” (Enya)***

Thank you Mother Xavier, for your arrival. We will never be the same!

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