

## **Identification**

I chose to attend a Christian religious service that was a Catholic denomination named St. Patrick's Basilica located at 281 Nepean St in Ottawa. I attended two masses, one on Monday, September 30 at 12:15 PM and another on Sunday, October 6 at 9:00 PM. The first mass attended was a shortened lunchtime mass and the second mass was a full formal service. For the assignment, I will focus on the second mass I attended.

## **Building**

The outside of the building was a light grey stone with large green doors and green iron railings that surround the property. It is a very large and impressive building with large signs indicating its name and that it is a religious institution. From the outside, you could see the stained glass windows which made it even clearer that it was a church.

When walking into the church, you go through a massive green door which opened into a small room with information pamphlets. This room opened into the main area of the church. It is a massive room with stained glass windows lining both sides of the room that feature well known scenes from the Bible. There is a large statue of Jesus on a cross at the front on the right. There is also three-dimensional art in between the stained glass that have other scenes from the Bible depicted in them. The scenes that are displayed are mainly from the birth and death of Jesus.

There are many curved arches that connect the massive pillars that are surrounding the room. There are four sections of rows of pews that are all facing the front of the room indicating that

the front is the focal point. At the front, there is the largest stained glass window in the church that seems to be placed in a spot that receives the most sun during the day as it is brightest one in the church. It is located between two paintings of Jesus after He has risen. The artwork that is in the church affects your experience by highlighting how important Jesus is to this religion. He is the main focus of all of the stained glass windows, statues and three-dimensional art. The front area of the church is sectioned off for the clergy and at the front on the left there are confession booths.

### **Congregation**

There are between 200 and 225 people present at the Sunday mass. There are people of all ages from young children to elderly people and there is an even amount of men and women present. Most of the people are Caucasian but there are a mix of other ethnicities that include African-America and Asian. There is no gender separation at the church and the children that are present are sitting with their parents and participating in the service. The congregation takes part in the service by singing when songs are played, responding to the Reverend when necessary and praying out loud with the Reverend.

### **Leadership**

The leaders name is Reverend Bosco Wong. He is a male who is in his forties. Leadership is indicated by white robes and by their location at the front of the church. Rev. Wong is the main leader as he leads the service but there are three other males in white robes that help out with the distribution of the communion.

## Service

The service was an hour long and it was completely in English. The service started with an entrance hymn of "Amazing Grace" that was accompanied by the church's organ that the congregation also sang along with. A woman that was a member of the congregation read the opening prayer then did the first reading. This was followed by a reading from the Holy Gospel by the Reverend. After, he gave his sermon. It was about faith and what it meant and how important it was to have. He told stories of how Jesus had his disciples place a lot of faith in him. He talked about how it was hard to have faith in an unseen God but that it pays off to believe. The leader then asked the congregation to read the Nicene Creed with him. This was followed by ushers walking from the front to the back passing baskets for donations from the congregation. After, the congregation and the leader prayed the "Lord's Prayer". The Reverend blessed the bread and wine as a symbolic object which represented the body and blood of Christ. This seemed to be the most important part of the mass. The other men in robes helped the Reverend distribute these to the congregation who would walk to the front of the church, take the bread then go back to their seats and pray. Afterwards there was a closing prayer and another hymn was played on the organ as everyone left the church. The congregation seemed to take part in most of the service by singing along when music played and praying along with the leader.