



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 271; November 1, 2024

I WAS VERY HAPPY TO VISIT MOUNT ST. JOSEPH last Friday, where I celebrated Mass for the Sisters and enjoyed a very hospitable lunch with them. Afterwards, Sr. Frances Baker took me to visit Sisters who reside in their care center where I had many interesting conversations with women who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Church. These are always wonderful visits for me, and I am grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph who never fail to welcome me kindly and graciously.

PRIESTS AND DEACONS OF THE DIOCESE are preparing for our Clergy Study Days, being held at Nottawasaga Inn from Tuesday to Thursday next week. We are looking forward to presentations from Fr. John-Mark Missio on liturgy and Dawn Michie on the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. In addition, our Vice-Chancellor, Robyn Henighan, will update us on plans in our diocese for the 2025 Jubilee Year, focused on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." These promise to be some fraternal and informative days spent together and we always look forward to them.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY concluded in Rome last week, bringing to a culmination this three-year process of a Church seeking greater "Communion, Participation and Mission." The final document (not yet available in English but coming soon) proposes various ways for all the baptized to play a more fulsome role in the life of the Church. Much was done in the past three years to solicit input from local Churches around the world, implemented in our diocese through pastoral planning sessions, parish meetings and online platforms. Let us pray that the results of the Synod may bear good fruit in the life of the Church.

OUR CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS GROUP is thriving under the good shepherding of Father Stephen DeCarlo. Last Saturday, a group of over fifty young people in their twenties and thirties came together from Peterborough, Douro, Kawartha Lakes, the Lakeshore and beyond for an afternoon and evening of fun and socializing. Activities included soccer and football, a campfire, a hearty meal and some "Catholic-themed" pumpkin carving: the winner produced a likeness of St. Gregory the Great! They are planning other great events in the coming months, with excursions near and far. Anyone interested in participating should contact Fr. Stephen at the Youth Office.

WE BEGIN THE MONTH OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints today and the Commemoration of All Souls tomorrow. These occasions remind us to pray for our loved ones who have gone before us, that they may be cleansed of sin and enter the fullness of heavenly joy. Catholic churches and cemeteries will see some increased traffic in the coming days. Tonight, I will celebrate at the Cathedral the annual Candlelight Mass that is offered for the faithful departed, with special remembrance of those who have died in the past year.

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*