



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 14; January 12, 2018

**FATHER ALAREY ABELLA, C.P.P.S.**, concludes his service in our Diocese this weekend. He has ministered as Catholic chaplain to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre and has also assisted at St. Alphonsus Parish here in town. The priests of the city gave him a send-off earlier this week, and the parishioners of St. Alphonsus Liguori will say their goodbyes at the Masses this Sunday. We wish Father Rey well as he begins a new ministry as Vocation Director for his religious community, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. No doubt he will enjoy his new home, with its scenic vista of Niagara Falls! I also wish to thank Father John Rathinaswamy for taking on the interim role of providing Catholic sacramental ministry at the hospital while continuing to assist at the Cathedral.

We are launching **THE CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN** in our parishes. This campaign is being promoted by the Bishops of Ontario – and others – to urge our legislators to respect the conscience rights of healthcare professionals who will not participate in or provide an effective referral for Euthanasia. We are also advocating for increased funding and access to palliative care in our province. To achieve these goals, we are requesting that Catholics write to their MPPs and provide us with their email address and postal code. This contact information will allow us to communicate with our parishioners and advise them on ways to appeal to their M.P.P.s on these vital issues now and in the future. I can't overemphasize the importance of this campaign. A chill wind is blowing for Catholic healthcare workers and those of other religious traditions, as they are being told to park their deepest moral convictions at the door.

I enjoyed my drop-in at the **PRINCIPALS' RETREAT** with the PVNC Catholic District School Board this week. The presenter was an old confrere of mine: Father Con O'Mahony from the Diocese of Hamilton gave thought-provoking presentations on "Renewing the Promise," helping us all to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for Catholic Education in our province. I appreciated the discussion that took place in the session I attended, as we reflected on the important working partnership of Catholic schools and parishes.

**THE FLYING FATHERS ARE BACK!** And they have been revived here in Peterborough. Father John Perdue and Frank Quinn have worked to re-launch the hockey playing padres who were so popular back in the 1980's and 90's. I remember attending some of those games and enjoying all the crazy antics that went along with the sport. It's a fun night of hockey, comedy, and good advertising for the priesthood! The game takes place at the Ennismore Arena on Monday, January 29th at 6:00 p.m. For information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.ptbovocations.ca](http://www.ptbovocations.ca).

**THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** will be celebrated around the world from January 18 to 25. This annual event reminds Christians to work and pray together to overcome divisions in the body of Christ and to fulfill the desire of Jesus, "that all may be one." I look forward to participating in the Ecumenical Service being hosted at **St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough** on Sunday, January 21st at 4:00 p.m. I welcome you to join me and our brothers and sisters in Christ for this time of communal prayer.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel