



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 15; January 19, 2018

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY began yesterday and continues until January 25. The theme this year is “Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power” (Exodus 15.6). I will be the celebrant of the Ecumenical Service being hosted at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. The homilist will be retired Anglican Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael Bedford-Jones. You are invited to join in this time of communal prayer with Christians from Peterborough and beyond.

I WENT SOUTH LAST WEEKEND BUT ONLY TEN BLOCKS! I enjoyed my visit to **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH** which has served the community of South Peterborough since the 1950’s. It and Sacred Heart Parish are under the care of the priests of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, and Father Andrew Ayala, IVE is pastor of both places. I appreciated his kind welcome and his always joyful spirit. St. John the Baptist is also headquarters for the SSVM Sisters (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará) who also serve at both parishes and Sacred Heart College. It was great to meet the parishioners both Saturday night and Sunday morning and to learn something about the history and ongoing life of the parishes.

There is still time to obtain tickets for **THE FLYING FATHERS**, a great night of hockey and good old-fashioned fun! Father John Perdue and company have been working hard to promote this renewed Flying Fathers team. 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.

We are planning for the **MASS FOR CONSECRATED LIFE** which will be held at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on Friday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is observed annually on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is a fine opportunity for us to thank the members of different Religious Orders – men and women – who serve so generously here in our Diocese. I can even claim a bit of a personal connection to such a celebration: my great aunt, Sister St. Ivan, was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough. All are welcome to this Mass and the Reception afterwards, a great way to show our appreciation to people who serve God and the Catholic community with such dedication.

I MET WITH MEMBERS OF OUR DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM THIS WEEK. And I was encouraged to hear of the progress that has been made as we launch our own program for men seeking to become Permanent Deacons for our diocese. Right now, we have five candidates preparing to enter their year of “Aspirancy” in the fall. That will be followed by three years of more intense academic and spiritual preparation. Please pray for these men and their families, as they are embarking on an exciting and challenging journey.

I am heading to the northeast corner of our Diocese this weekend, looking forward to being at **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH IN CARDIFF**, as well as the mission churches of St. Jean Vianney in Highland Grove and St. Mary’s in Chandos/Apsley.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel