



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 17; February 9, 2018

THE ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH DINNER held at the Evinrude Center in Peterborough last Saturday was a great success. 170 people gathered for a fine meal and some great entertainment, all in support of Campus Ministry. In addition to my keynote, three students from Trent, Fleming and Sacred Heart College spoke about the importance of their faith and the impact of Campus Ministry in their lives. Thanks to all who came out for the festivities!

I RELEASED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY TO THE CATHOLICS OF OUR DIOCESE ON THE CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM. As you may know, the federal government has recently revised the CSJ application process, requiring an attestation from those seeking funding that they will support “reproductive rights,” including the right to abortion. Many faith leaders across the country have expressed their disapproval of this decision, one that contravenes the freedom of religion. You may read the text of the statement [here](#). Let me underscore how important it is for us to contact our Members of Parliament about this issue.

IT WAS A GREAT CELEBRATION AT THE CATHEDRAL LAST FRIDAY OF THE WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE. Women and men religious from across our Diocese gathered for this celebration of the Mass and the reception following. We are blessed with the service of dedicated religious in Peterborough Diocese: a quick check of our web page reveals five female and five male religious communities, all committed to the service of the Lord and our Catholic community.

THE CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN HAS TAKEN ON NEW IMPORTANCE. We were disappointed by the Ontario court decision that failed to uphold the conscience rights of health care providers who decline to provide or refer for euthanasia. The court ruled that the right of freedom of religion was violated in the current policy of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; however, they stated that such a violation was justified to ensure that patients have access to Euthanasia. The Coalition that is leading this fight is considering an appeal of the court ruling. It is important to note that this does not preclude the government from legislating to protect the conscience rights of health care providers. The Call for Conscience Campaign taking place in our parishes will provide a way for us to lobby our provincial representatives on this important matter.

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK with Ash Wednesday. I expect that our parishes will be busy as people gather to receive the “mark of ashes,” an exterior sign of our desire for interior change. Let this season of prayer, penance and almsgiving be a time of true spiritual conversion for all of us.

THE FUNERAL MASS OF SISTER VIANNEY VOLTNER, CSJ, will be celebrated this morning at Mount Saint Joseph in Peterborough. We were also saddened to learn of the death of **IRENE BEGIN**, mother of Father Andrew Begin, who is chaplain to the care facilities here in Peterborough. Her Funeral Mass will be offered this morning in Carlton Place. Sincere and prayerful condolences to Father Andrew and the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel