



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 19; March 2, 2018

FROM THE VINEYARD was on hiatus last week. While I wasn't exactly on hiatus, I was buzzing around on commitments outside the Diocese of Peterborough. One of them was the **Lenten Day of Recollection** for the Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of St. Catharine's. Their numbers are similar to ours, so it was a group of sixty or so clergy that managed to feign attention during my two talks. We gathered at the peaceful Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls and capped off the day with a holy hour in their beautiful and historic chapel.

I HAD A GREAT VISIT AT ST. MARY PARISH IN GRAFTON on the first Sunday of Lent, where I was well hosted by Father David West and his little dog too. The parish is thrilled at the completion of the major renovations to their historic bell tower, an iconic landmark in the region. Congratulations to the Committee who oversaw the project and continue to raise funds for it. I was privileged to preside and preach at all the Masses – and the Parish Pancake Breakfast after the last Mass was a special treat!

I VISITED THE PETERBOROUGH REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE THIS WEEK. While I have crossed the threshold a few times on pastoral calls, this visit was more formal and informative. Father John Rathinaswamy and I met with Dr. Peter McLaughlin, President & Chief Executive Officer and Matt Snyder, Associate Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer. That was followed by a very congenial meeting with Eileen Harbottle and the Spiritual care staff. Afterwards we visited patients on the Palliative Care ward. I was very much impressed by the dedication to pastoral care at the hospital and am always taken with what a first-class medical facility we have here: that includes the fine staff. Now if I could just figure out why you enter the building on Level 4!

WE HAD OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD this week, discussing the annual transfer of clergy within the Diocese this June. We always invite priests and deacons to respond to a questionnaire about their current situation and their desires for future ministry. The Personnel Board (consisting of the four area Deans, our two Chancellors and the Vicar General) give valuable advice about how best to deploy our clergy to fill the pastoral needs of the Diocese. All of this will come as news to those who thought Bishops decided these things on a wing and a prayer! (We don't exclude prayer by the way.)

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIEF EXCURSION TO ST. MICHAEL PARISH, COBURG TODAY. I will have the chance to visit with Father Gerardus Hauwert, IVE, and Fr. Jim Byrne, IVE, celebrate the noon Mass, and view the mural restorations that are ongoing.

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MEET THIS WEEK WITH MURRY WATSON, Faith Animator for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. Lest we in "the south" forget, that board covers a good deal of our Diocesan territory and serves many students, with schools in Bracebridge, Huntsville, and Parry Sound. I was glad to learn about many initiatives, including the ongoing introduction of the new Religion Program, "Growing in Faith Growing Christ."

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel