



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 20; March 9, 2018

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH IN COBOURG** is in the midst of restoring the beautiful murals in their historic church. The first phase of the project began more than ten years ago with the murals in the apse, above the sanctuary. Now the murals in the ceiling of the nave are being restored to their former glory. I went there last Friday and celebrated the noon Mass for a surprisingly large weekday crowd. Afterwards, I was schooled by Father Gerardus Hauwert, IVE and Carlos Nunes, the project manager, on the detailed work being done. It is inspiring to see one of the most beautiful churches in our Diocese being made even more beautiful.

**I HAD A QUICK TRIP BACK TO THE CATHEDRAL IN HAMILTON LAST SUNDAY**, for the conferral of Papal honours. In addition to the five senior priests who were named “Monsignor,” various Papal medals were awarded to about a dozen lay people. I was especially happy for my former colleague, Teresa Hartnett (Director of Family Ministry) who received the “Benemerenti Medal” for her work with families, Birthright, schools and various pro-life causes. Over the years, she has shared some of her expertise here in the Diocese of Peterborough. It was also good to touch base with Bishop Douglas Crosby, and with the always jolly Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, who was imported to bestow the honours.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO)** gathered in Toronto this week for our biannual Plenary meeting. Add up the Ordinaries of fourteen Latin rite dioceses, a few auxiliaries, and a couple of bishops from Eastern rites (Syro-Malabar and Chaldean) and we are typically a group of twenty or so. The two-day agenda was packed with items ranging from Catholic education to Catholic health care, from liturgical and ecumenical matters to the always thrilling discussions of finances and insurance. And there is usually some side business that gets conducted away from the meeting table! It’s a hectic pace but always good to be sharing concerns and forming plans with brother bishops.

**IT WAS GREAT TO VISIT THE SOLI SISTERS (Sisters of our Lady Immaculate)** at their new convent in Stewart Hall today. They are a community I know well from Hamilton Diocese, especially as my father resided at their retirement home in Cambridge (The Marian Residence) in the last three years of his life. Here in Peterborough, two of the Sisters provide leadership at Our Lady of the Wayside School, and one has arrived recently to take up a nursing position at St. Joseph at Fleming. I celebrated Mass with them and blessed the new tabernacle, followed up by a very enjoyable lunch.

**IT’S HARD TO BELIEVE WE’VE REACHED THE HALFWAY POINT OF LENT.** This is a good time to remember in prayer all those who are preparing for Baptism and Reception into the Church at Easter time. A survey we conducted last month indicates that there are several dozen people around the Diocese preparing for the Easter Sacraments. May this Lent be a holy and fruitful time for them and us!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel