



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 21; March 16, 2018

I MADE A LONG OVERDUE VISIT TO OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH IN PORT HOPE last weekend. It is one of our most historic churches in the Diocese, and it was a privilege to celebrate Mass there. Father Gerry McMahon was a gracious host, not to mention an excellent tour guide. I really enjoyed the driving excursion around the town, greatly enhanced by Father Gerry's local knowledge. We ended with lunch with the parishioners after the Sunday morning Mass, a great chance to meet many of them. As I promised, it will be the first of many visits.

JP II HOUSE IS OUR RESIDENCE FOR MEN discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood. Located in Peterborough (next to St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish) it has housed many young men over the years: some of them now priests or studying in the seminary; some having discerned a different path in their life. Father John Perdue has produced a brief, interesting video about life at JP II House, which you can find on the Vocations website. Be sure to stick around for the comical outtakes and bloopers at the end!

ON THE SUBJECT OF VOCATIONS, I WAS AT ST. PETER SEMINARY in London this week. Fr. Perdue and I made a visit there to touch base with Jason Willis from Ennismore, who is nearing the end of his first year of studies. We also had the opportunity to visit with the faculty and staff, who do such stellar work preparing men for the diocesan priesthood. Additionally, it was good to see the progress on the major renovation project that is ongoing, giving St. Peter Seminary a new lease on life.

I WILL BE AT THE MEETING OF OUR NORTHERN DEANERY TODAY, held at St. James-the-Great Parish in MacTier. Our Diocese is composed of four geographic regions or "deaneries," with a local priest who is designated as the Dean. These three or four meetings a year provide a forum for priests to interact and to do some planning on a local level. Father Neil Campbell, the pastor of Holy Family in Britt, fulfills his role as "Dean of the North" very ably. And lest we forget, Simcoe-Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algonquin comprise a large section of our Diocese.

OUR PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL a.k.a. Priests' Council met at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre this week. Like the deaneries, that is also about a quarterly meeting, and it is one of the most important bodies of consultation in the Diocese. Father Randy Foster, Pastor of St. Anne Parish in Peterborough, chairs the Council and always keeps us on track.

THE SHARE LENT COLLECTION takes place in our parishes this Sunday. It is a principle way that we fulfill our call to mercy and charity in the Lenten season.

WE WERE SADDENED TO LEARN THIS WEEK OF THE DEATH OF TIMOTHY PATRICK, the brother of Father Paul Patrick, OMI, who is Associate Pastor at St. Therese Parish in Courtice. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. Our sympathies to the Patrick family at this time of their loss.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel