



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 22; March 23, 2018

I WAS KEEN TO GO TO KEENE, a small community just south of Peterborough, served by Msgr. Michael Heffernan at St. John the Evangelist Parish. St. John the Evangelist is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Peterborough, built even before the diocese was established. It is currently a mission of Our Lady of the Assumption in Otonabee. I visited Assumption in the fall but had yet to make the trip a few minutes further south to Keene. I was glad finally to do so last Sunday, and to see the pews of the small church filled with people of many different ages.

I SPENT YESTERDAY EVENING AND THIS MORNING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CARFLEO, the Catholic Association of Religion and Family Life Educators of Ontario. It is one of my liaison tasks for the Ontario Bishops, and I enjoy being at this yearly gathering of Religion and Family Life consultants and teachers from across our province. The Conference this year is focused on First Nations matters, "Continuing the Pilgrimage towards Truth and Reconciliation."

CONGRATULATION TO DEIRDRE THOMAS, who was honoured at the CARFLEO Banquet last night with the *Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education*. Deirdre, a retired Superintendent with the PVNC Catholic District School Board, has been a key member of our Diocesan Pastoral Centre for the past year: here she works on Communications, Sacramental Preparation and serves as Administrator for yours truly. We are very proud to see her honoured for excellent work over many years in Religious Education. Her career included stints in Peterborough, Simcoe-Muskoka and Cornwall. Well done, Deirdre!

HOLY WEEK BEGINS THIS WEEKEND with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. How did Lent fly by so quickly? Our priests have been busy offering Confessions in our parishes, helping people to prepare spiritually for the pinnacle of the Church year.

I WILL CELEBRATE MY FIRST CHRISM MASS as Bishop of Peterborough this Monday at 7:00 p.m. Priests and Deacons of the Diocese will gather in the afternoon for a Holy Hour followed by dinner at Knights of Columbus Bishop Doyle Hall. This is the Mass at which Priests annually renew their priestly commitment to serve the Church in union with the Bishop. Additionally, the Sacred Oils (including Chrism) are consecrated at this Mass for use in Sacramental celebrations in the Diocese for the coming year. Parishioners from across the Diocese are welcome and encouraged to join us so that the whole spectrum of the diocesan Church is present.

I am looking forward to another first (for me) this Holy Week: THE WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE STREETS OF PETERBOROUGH on Good Friday. This has been a tradition of more than ten years and, in 2016, was broadcast by Salt & Light Television. Father Craig Cruikshank has been working hard with a team of young adults and high school students to ensure another fine presentation of our Lord's Passion and Death. It all begins Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel