



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 23; March 29, 2018

**A SLIGHTLY EARLY EDITION OF FROM THE VINEYARD** this week, as we enter into the great celebrations of the Easter Triduum. My Holy Week and Easter Message has been posted on the Diocesan website.

**HOLY WEEK BEGAN WITH GREAT FESTIVITY ON PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION.** I know that priests, deacons and lay volunteers were busy with the celebrations in our various parishes. Here at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, we had a cool but sunny start to each Mass, as we blessed palms in the square in front of the church. Because it was World Youth Day (held on Palm Sunday in the "off years" when there is not an international gathering) Father Tom Lynch tasked students from Trent and Fleming to be palm bearers in the procession. I thought that was a nice touch – I'm always heartened to see the great number of university and college students at our Cathedral.

**MY FIRST CHRISM MASS AS BISHOP IS NOW IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR.** It was a great program and liturgy on Monday evening, which began with the priests and deacons gathered for Vespers at 4:00 p.m. Father Placid Obijii, SMMM, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Kinmount, preached a fine homily on the theme of prayer. A nice meal was enjoyed over in Bishop Doyle Hall and then the beautiful celebration of Chrism Mass commenced at 7:00 p.m. I was impressed and gratified at the full crowd of worshippers. It was a moving liturgy, as we blessed the sacred oils and as priests renewed their priestly commitment. Special thanks to Fr. Tom Lynch, Fr. Jerry Tavares, our Diocesan M.C. and Deirdre Thomas who expertly coordinated the details.

**I ENJOYED BEING AT ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI PARISH LAST FRIDAY,** for Stations of the Cross and a visit with their RCIA group, "Vantage Point." We should keep in our prayers all of those who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**THE CELEBRATION OF TENEBRAE** was a great success at the Cathedral on Tuesday night. The Cathedral Choir did a marvellous job with this ancient Holy Week liturgy, consisting of psalms, antiphons, readings and the interplay of light and dark. It had been years since I attended Tenebrae, and I was struck once again by the beauty and prayerfulness of the service.

**All is in readiness for THE WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE STREETS OF PETERBOROUGH** on Good Friday. I was able to attend a practice earlier this week and meet the thirty-three young people (and their leaders) who have worked hard to stage this annual presentation of the Passion of our Lord. It is an important annual tradition here in Peterborough and certainly a compelling witness of faith. We begin tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, with our route concluding at Immaculate Conception Parish in East City. I have been praying for good weather for days!

**I PRAY THAT YOU MAY ALL ENJOY A BLESSED HOLY WEEK AND JOYFUL EASTER** in your parishes and with your families.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel