



FROM THE VINEYARD

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CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK CONCLUDES TODAY, after a busy round of activities in our schools. Earlier this week, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario released a Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education, “Renewing the Promise.” It comes as a follow-up to last fall’s province-wide symposium on Catholic Education and continues in the tradition of two previous letters from the Ontario bishops. Looking toward both the challenges and opportunities facing our system, it is a letter well worth reading.

THE “MEN IN BLACK” CONCERT at Sacred Heart Church in Peterborough last Friday was a smash. Who knew our priests had such talents? The night was filled with music and merriment, such that it could not be marred even by my amateurish hammering away at the piano. Sincere thanks to the talented priests and lay people who performed, and the organizers who worked hard to put the program together. And to the audience, some 300 strong!

LAST FRIDAY I WAS HAPPY TO CELEBRATE THE BLESSING OF ECOLE CATHOLIQUE MONSIEUR-JAMOT. Their new school facility on Woodglade Blvd. is top notch and the staff and students are justly proud. The ceremony was attended by students, parents, staff, trustees and local politicians. I was well-accompanied by Father Jean-Pierre Pilon, Pastor of St. Mary in Campbellford, who generously serves as chaplain to the school. We prayed that the school – named for the first Bishop of Peterborough - will continue to be a place where the Catholic faith is taught and nurtured.

THE ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE was held at Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday and, as usual, it attracted thousands of people who peacefully demonstrated against the injustice of abortion. I arrived on Wednesday, in time to celebrate the Mass at St. Theresa Church for the Vigil of the March. On Thursday, I was delighted to cross paths with many individuals and groups from our Diocese. Various priests and lay people of all ages came, with nice contingents from Peterborough, Lindsay, Hastings and Cobourg. (Sorry if I missed anyone!) Yesterday evening, I managed to weasel my way into “The Rose Banquet,” mainly through the largesse of Fr. Tom Lynch and Priests for Life Canada. It was an uplifting couple of days.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE HELD THEIR DIOCESAN CONVENTION this past weekend in Bowmanville. Although I could only be there for the Mass and Opening Ceremonies, it gave me the chance to express appreciation for the invaluable work of the C.W.L. and the dedication of their members within our parishes. The League looks forward to its centennial in 2020!

CONFIRMATIONS LAST WEEK took me as far afield as Bracebridge and Huntsville and kept me as close to home as Immaculate Conception in east city (who twinned with Our Lady of the Assumption in Otonabee.) I will save on mileage costs this weekend, as I will be confirming the young people at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough and St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel