



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 30; May 18, 2018

TWICE YEARLY I PARTICIPATE IN THE HINDU-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE, a group that I co-chair on behalf of the Canadian Bishops. The CCCB maintains twelve such dialogues, eight ecumenical (with Christian partners) and four inter-faith. Our Dialogue group met last Saturday in Mississauga, focusing on how we train people for leadership and service within our respective traditions. It's always interesting as we discuss both similarities and differences. The focus of such interfaith encounters is to build bridges between communities and promote understanding of each other's traditions.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE: I met recently with Sr. Ruth Hennessy CSJ and Aspa Bouzinelos who coordinate our refugee sponsorship. Did you know that the Diocese of Peterborough is the only "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" in this area? In the recent Syrian crisis, we coordinated with our parishes and other groups and individuals to sponsor refugees. In the past three years, some 200 Syrians have arrived in our diocese under our Sponsorship Agreement, and another 65 or so are still to come. I am grateful to the parish refugee groups and to Sr. Ruth and Aspa who have worked so hard in this endeavor. Parish groups who are interested in sponsoring another refugee or family should contact the Diocese.

THE ORDINATION OF DEACON STEPHEN DECARLO to the priesthood takes place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on Friday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. What a great occasion of joy for Stephen and our Diocese! And for me personally, not only because he will be such a great addition to our presbyterate, but because it will be my first time ever to ordain a priest. Please remember Stephen in your prayers and join us that night at the Cathedral if you are able: you will participate in a truly moving and inspiring liturgy.

OUR DIOCESAN MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS takes place on Sunday, May 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral. We have planned this Mass as a special way to celebrate with all those in our diocese who entered the Church at Easter. RCIA team members who helped to prepare them are equally welcome. As we prepare for that Mass, it is essential for pastors to RSVP to let us know who is coming.

FATHER RANDY FOSTER recently returned to St. Anne Parish in Peterborough after a lengthy hospital stay. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to convalesce at home.

I ENJOYED LUNCH AT OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL this week. This annual luncheon is a way that they express thanks to friends, benefactors and clergy. I was happy to see several of our priests there and to have a chance to engage with students, staff, and supporters of the school.

THE CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE HAS BEEN INTENSE, with visits to five parishes in the past week. This weekend (the feast of Pentecost) I will venture down to St. Mary Parish in Grafton on Saturday and then simply stroll next door on Sunday for Confirmations at our Cathedral.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel