



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 37; September 7, 2018

Because of popular demand (i.e. the two or three people who spoke to me about it) *From the Vineyard* is back from summer hiatus and resuming its more or less weekly publication cycle for the pastoral year.

It has been a summer of settling in for our priests in new pastoral assignments. In recent weeks, I installed **FATHER RON MEYER** as pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Kinmount and **FATHER LUIS LAPINID** as pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Fenelon Falls and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Bobcaygeon. I'm grateful to all our priests who accepted new assignments and are now adapting to new parish situations; and of course, to staff and parishioners who also must adapt when these changes take place. I am glad that our priests have been warmly welcomed.

The Church has been rocked in recent weeks by more allegations of clergy sexual abuse and institutional inaction and cover-up. **I ISSUED A LETTER ON THIS MATTER** two weeks ago, which I asked to be read in all the parishes of the diocese. It can be found on our website, along with statements from Pope Francis and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. I won't repeat what I've written earlier, except to say that this is certainly a time to pray for victims, for healing and necessary renewal within the Church.

WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL VIANNEY FAIR in August, our annual celebration of Vocations for priesthood, diaconate and religious life. I was privileged to celebrate Mass at the start of the event and then enjoyed touring the booths of various religious orders – and of course, our own Diocesan Vocations Office. Many thanks to the religious who joined us from near and far and to the several hundred Catholics who participated in a great afternoon. Fr. John Perdue and his excellent team did a great job of organizing, as always.

I was happy to celebrate Mass last week with **PVNC CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATORS** and to celebrate a Rite of Commissioning for those undertaking new leadership assignments in our Catholic schools. Last night, I was at **OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL** for their Opening Mass and Celebration. Our prayers for a successful school year to all Catholic students and teachers across the diocese!

THE ONGOING RENOVATION PROJECT AT ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH IN CAMPBELLFORD is well into its current phase. Work to restore the south tower has proceeded over the summer and will continue through this month. I was delighted to make a site visit there on Tuesday to meet with Fr. Jean-Pierre Pilon and the project coordinators. This restoration is really enhancing the beauty and structure of one of the architectural gems of our diocese. And as Father Pilon likes to say, it is a spiritual mission as much as a construction project.

I HAVE OFTEN BEEN TO THE NORTH OF THE DIOCESE this summer and will be exploring “the far north” this weekend, with visits to Holy Family Parish in Britt and St. Joseph Parish in Powassan. I'm looking forward to both!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel