



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 39; September 21, 2018

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, our Catholic institute of higher education right here in Peterborough, has begun its new academic year. Our Board of Trustees met last Saturday and heard about the fall semester and ongoing efforts to promote Sacred Heart. We were heartened to hear about student interest in various courses, including “Adventures in Catholic Thought,” “Introduction to Old Testament” and “Darwin, Evolution and Religious Belief.” Check out Sacred Heart online to see what is planned for the coming year!

OUR DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL (DFC) met this week, and we celebrated a “passing of the gavel.” David Gray, who has chaired the DFC for the past fifteen years is now stepping back from that role, although he will continue to lend his expertise to the group. David has served on the DFC under three bishops and was instrumental in steering the Diocese through some major financial challenges. We are in a much better place today because of him. We are grateful to him for his generous service over many years! Thanks also to Michael Sullivan who will now assume the role of Chair of the DFC.

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEES will take place next month: Sunday, October 14 at St. Paul Parish in Gravenhurst and Sunday, October 21 at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough. These yearly meetings are a good opportunity for the Diocesan Finance Council (and yours truly) to meet with the parish committee members for a sharing of information and concerns. I’m appreciative of all those who serve in these capacities for their local parishes, helping to ensure that financial and building concerns are well-managed.

It was a great celebration with the SISTERS OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST at Immaculate Conception Parish in Peterborough last Sunday. Many people, especially from the Polish Catholic community, came out to celebrate with the Sisters the 100th anniversary of the founding of their order. And many fond stories and memories were shared about their 41 years of service here in Peterborough.

CATECHIST WORKSHOPS have been held around the diocese this past week, helping parishes to get ready to prepare children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Sessions have been held at parishes in Gravenhurst (where Confirmation was also on the agenda) Newmarket and here in Peterborough. The Diocesan team has been working hard to make sure that catechists are well-prepared for this important ministry within the parishes. A couple of workshops on Confirmation are still to come!

MEMBERS OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will gather at St. Therese Parish in Courtice tomorrow for a Mass and conference. I look forward to being with them and doing all I can to support their Gospel mission of serving Christ in the poor.

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS will be gathering in Cornwall this coming week, for the Annual Plenary Meeting. Please pray for us as we deliberate about a variety of important matters at a rather challenging time in the life of the Church.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel