



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 41; October 12, 2018

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH IN NEWCASTLE celebrated their 40th Anniversary this past Sunday. For many years, the Catholics in the area were served as a mission of St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville, and then in 1978 St. Francis was erected as a parish. I enjoyed celebrating the 10:00 a.m. Mass and then participating in the program afterwards. A barbecue, some musical numbers, a few humorous speeches and a video presentation made for an entertaining gathering. Congratulations to Father Ace Podelino and his parishioners on such a successful event!

OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEES take place the next two Sundays – this weekend at St. Paul Parish in Gravenhurst and next weekend at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough. It's a good time for pastors and Parish finance committee members to meet with our Temporal Affairs staff and a cohort from the Diocesan finance council. Keeping all the books balanced and facilities in good repair is no small task these days, so we're grateful to everyone who works hard to make that happen. (An agenda and the Diocesan financial statement were sent by email to pastors and finance committee chairs earlier today.)

THE ONTARIO LITURGICAL CONFERENCE met in Bolton this week, and I managed to join with them for a day as their liaison bishop. The Conference consists of members from various Ontario dioceses who work in chancery offices, seminaries and parishes in the realm of liturgy and liturgical music. I always appreciate being at the annual meeting and invariably manage to learn a thing or two.

At the gathering with the Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy last week in Trout Creek, I was very happy to be gifted with a book. **FATHER THEO NNOROM**, pastor at St. Patrick's in Kearney has published a little volume entitled *Building Bridges of Peaceful Coexistence between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria*. The book grew out of his studies for his master's degree. Congratulations, Father Theo!

WHEN I MET WITH THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE PRIEST BENEFIT FUND this week, there was good news to share. Apparently, the Diocesan collection for the PBF, held each year in June, cracked the \$100,000.00 mark for the first time. Thanks to all who generously supported that collection and to pastors who promoted it in their parish. The Priest Benefit Fund is the way that we care for the retired priests of our diocese, something that I know we are all concerned to do well.

THE APPEAL TO HELP HOLY FAMILY PARISH IN BRITT is going well. As I mentioned a few issues back, they have been struggling financially because of the summer forest fires that kept people away from the region. Various parishes around the diocese have responded with donations. We have our ten-thousand-dollar goal in sight but haven't quite achieved it yet. Any gift, large or small, will help us to get there!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel