



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 43; October 26, 2018

THE BOARD OF ST. PETER'S SEMINARY IN LONDON met earlier this week. I have mentioned before on this page that we have a young man pursuing studies for the priesthood at St. Peter's. When Bishop Ronald Fabbro of London asked me last year about serving on the Seminary Board, I was happy to agree, especially because of that connection. St. Peter's has been undergoing a multi-year major renovation project, which will equip it to serve the needs of the Church in Canada for many years to come.

IT WAS GOOD TO CELEBRATE MASS AT ST. PETER CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL here in Peterborough on Tuesday. This first Mass of the school year was somewhat delayed as they attended to repairs to the gymnasium floor. I was glad to be warmly received by the principal, Sherry Davis, and appreciated the good work of their chaplain, Deacon Aidan Murphy in organizing everything for the Mass. And it was good to be joined by Father Bill Moloney, the priest assigned to provide sacramental ministry at St. Peter CSS.

WE CELEBRATED OKTOBERFEST AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE this week. Every couple of months we gather as a staff for a potluck lunch which lately has been organized around a theme – seasonal or ethnic. And I will admit it: the bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad and German pot roast did my Teutonic heart good, taking me back to the days of my Kitchener boyhood! The “near beer” was not a great substitute for the real thing, but at least it did not break any Diocesan policies about alcohol.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS AND BOOKKEEPERS from around the Diocese met on Wednesday for our annual Mass and Luncheon. These are the vital employees who keep our parishes running by managing phones, appointments, emails, bulletins and money. Where would be without them? Sincere thanks to Father Jean-Pierre Pilon and Cathy Gevaert for hosting us at the beautiful St. Mary of the Visitation Church in Campbellford: thanks also to St. Mary Catholic Elementary School for lending us their gym for the lunch.

ON SUNDAY, WE CONCLUDED THE SECOND OF TWO MEETINGS with Parish Finance Committee members. We hosted both a northern and southern edition of the meeting, last week's being at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough. Sincere thanks to the Committee Members and pastors who attended, and to our own DPC staff and the Diocesan Finance Council members. There was a good spirit of sharing and discussion at these gatherings which will serve us well in the Diocese.

THE ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS' APPRECIATION will take place at St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville on Saturday. I am looking forward to celebrating Mass with them, and then joining in whatever food and games Father John Perdue has planned for afterwards. This is a wonderful event, an important way to say “thank you” to the young people who serve at Mass so faithfully in the parishes across our Diocese.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel