



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 46; November 23, 2018

I ENJOYED BEING WITH WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS at St. Therese Parish in Courtice this past Saturday. They are part of a larger group of young people from several G.T.A. parishes administered by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who are heading to Panama in January for the World Youth Day festivities. I was happy to learn that the group also includes some young people from St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville. I spent the morning with them and then their program continued throughout the afternoon. The winter timing for World Youth Day is rather unusual and it has probably deterred many Canadian youth from attending: I am grateful to the Oblates for organizing this large group and happy to see representation from the Diocese of Peterborough.

LAST FRIDAY EVENING, CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (our Lay Missionaries at Trent University) held a time of faith-sharing, confessions and Eucharistic adoration at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. It was heartening to see about 100 university aged youth in prayerful attendance. Sincere thanks to Fr. Jerry Tavares for his reflections on the parable of the Prodigal Son, and to Fr. Tom Lynch for hosting – which included a social time back at the Cathedral rectory that was also well attended!

THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE HAD THEIR ANNUAL STUDY DAYS this past week. Paul Tratnyek presented on Christian Meditation in our Catholic schools and Father Frank Freitas spoke on Tuesday about “Re-Imagining the Parish.” Lots of good ideas were shared and there was much food for thought that priests could take back to their parishes. And the best part of these days is simply the chance to bring our priests together for some fraternity and mutual support. We can go a long time without seeing each other in this far-flung diocese.

OUR ONLY CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION IN THE DIOCESE THIS FALL took place at St. Mary Parish in Lindsay this past Sunday. It’s always a pleasure to be in that beautiful church and I was happy to see that the young people were well-prepared and eager to receive the Sacrament. I will spend a few days this week celebrating Confirmation in the Diocese of Hamilton, providing some much-needed help to Bishop Crosby with his greater numbers of Confirmandi and busy schedule.

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING THIS WEEKEND marks the final Sunday in Ordinary Time. From there we head into a busy Advent Season and we all know that Christmas isn’t far behind. It seems that the weather thinks it is already Christmas time, but I am praying for a warming trend!

INVITATIONS WENT OUT TO OUR PRIESTS, DEACONS, AND SEMINARIANS for our annual pre-Christmas gathering, being held on Thursday, December 6 at the Cathedral. It is the memorial of St. Nicholas, which seems fitting enough. The Mass will be followed by a luncheon at Bishop Doyle Hall, with the musical stylings of the Our Lady of the Wayside Choral Group. Clergy are reminded about the importance of replying to the invitation so that we can know firm numbers.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel