



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 47; November 30, 2018

I RECEIVED A NOTE FROM ARCHBISHOP PAUL-ANDRE DUROCHER OF GATINEAU-HULL, thanking us for a recent donation we sent them. You will recall that several tornados hit the Ottawa-Gatineau region in late September. He writes, “Your donation will help to restore a food bank close to where the victims live – a much needed boost to that area.” We are fortunate to have a relief fund from which to draw in our Diocese, thanks to the kind offerings of parishioners in various appeals over the years.

I CELEBRATED SEVERAL CONFIRMATIONS in the Diocese of Hamilton last week, to help Bishop Crosby with his rather heavy schedule there. I was particularly happy to be back at St. Benedict Parish in Milton, of which I was the founding pastor in 2012. They are still housed at Our Lady of Fatima School, but I was heartened to see a construction shed, equipment and various workers getting organized on the building site! They look forward to expected completion of their new church building in early 2020.

THE PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD held another session of their Leadership Series this past Tuesday. I was pleased to present to a group of about 25 people on the theme of “Rejoice and be Glad,” Pope Francis’ Apostolic letter on holiness that was released earlier this year. It was a good event and it gave me a chance to do a second reading of that very good letter, where the Pope reflects on the universal call to holiness.

OUR DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MET TODAY with lots on the agenda as we conclude matters for this year and look ahead to 2019. We really appreciate the expertise of the members who give invaluable guidance on the fiscal management of our Diocese.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT begins this Sunday, and parishes will be busy in the coming weeks gearing up for Christmas in this season of joyful preparation. At the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, they are planning a presentation of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 9 at 3:00 p.m., featuring a choir from Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School. May all our parishes enjoy a blessed and prayerful Advent season. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IS PLANNING TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF SIMBANG GABI (Night Mass) this Advent. Last December they brought to Peterborough this cultural custom of nine Masses in advance of Christmas. This year, I will be the celebrant of the first Mass in the cycle, taking place at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough on Saturday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. Various priests will be involved with the Masses being offered on the following evenings at either Sacred Heart Parish or the Cathedral.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD to our annual Advent clergy gathering, being held this Thursday, beginning with Mass at the Cathedral and continuing with a lunch at Bishop Doyle Hall. This is a good time to gather as priests, deacons and seminarians from around the diocese a little ahead of the chaotic days around Christmas. And I might even be persuaded to play Kris Kringle at some point in the proceedings!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel