



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 48; December 7, 2018

LAST SUNDAY'S TRAVELS TOOK ME TO ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH in Lakefield. It was something of a last-minute arrangement that I concocted with Fr. John Rathinaswamy, and I was glad that I did so. It gave me the privilege of blessing the outdoor Christmas crèche after Mass, adorned with statues that children carried from the church to the front lawn during the recessional hymn. No baby Jesus though – he will appear in time for Christmas!

THE PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD held their inaugural meeting of the new term this past Tuesday evening. After the business meeting we celebrated Mass in the chapel of the “The Mount” thanks to the kind hospitality of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Prayers of blessing were offered for the eight elected trustees, three of whom are new to their role. We are grateful for the service of our Catholic school board trustees, who exercise a vital task of leadership and stewardship.

OUR COUNCIL OF PRIESTS MET THIS WEEK and the agenda was as full as ever. I was pleased to hear from Fr. Craig Cruikshank who presented to the Council about the efforts of our Ad Hoc Parish Website Committee in the Diocese. They are working to develop guidelines and resources to ensure that every parish has an effective online presence, whether their own website or a page hosted on the Diocesan website. As one presenter at our recent study days told us, “People used to knock on the front door of your rectory, now they go looking for your website!” I am grateful for the work of that committee who are helping us to extend our reach on the internet.

ON THE SUBJECT OF WEBSITES, OUR DIOCESE HAS A GOOD ONE. We are working now to post on the website the Christmas season Mass times of every parish and hope to have that information available well before December 24th!

OUR ADVENT GATHERING OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS took place on Thursday of this week. 12:10 Mass at the Cathedral was followed by a luncheon at the Bishop Doyle Hall. This year it coincided with the memorial of St. Nicholas, appropriately enough! At Mass, we remembered in a special way the 11th Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Nicola DeAngelis. (He always enjoyed celebrating his “name day,” which is a strong custom in many Catholic countries.) At the luncheon afterwards, I had the chance to thank priests and deacons for their good service in our parishes and beyond.

Pencilled in my Calendar is BELLS AND VOICES FOR CHRISTMAS, taking place on Wednesday, December 12 at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough. The concert will feature the Sacred Heart Girls’ Schola and Choir, who are equally adept at singing and ringing handbells! I am told that Father Andrew Ayala will also lend his fine voice to the proceedings.

TOMORROW IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, one of the great Marian feasts of the Church’s year. I will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Peterborough and will join in the potluck supper afterwards. They are always good about marking their parish feast day!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel