



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 49; December 14, 2018

BELLS AND VOICES FOR CHRISTMAS was a wonderful concert held at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough this past Wednesday. The girls' choir did a tremendous job, both ringing and singing, and they were ably assisted by Father Andrew Ayala on a few of the numbers. I was delighted to see a great turnout in the church for this Advent concert – an appreciative crowd who gave the girls a well-deserved standing ovation at the conclusion.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH in Peterborough, for last Saturday's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The feast day merged perfectly into the Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent that evening, and then everything moved seamlessly into the potluck social afterwards. I am always impressed at the activity and dedication of our parish community in "East City," always with the strong encouragement of Father Bill Moloney.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ARE POURING INTO THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE, both electronically and traditionally. I was especially pleased to receive an email greeting from my predecessor, Bishop Nicola DeAngelis, enjoying a happy retirement in Italy. And I have returned greetings, prayers and best wishes to His Excellency on behalf of the priests, religious and lay people of the Diocese of Peterborough.

I HAD A MEETING IN BOBCAYGEON ON WEDNESDAY, which allowed me privilege of celebrating the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish. It was an appropriate setting to mark the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. I had not been there since installing Father Luis Lapinid as pastor back in August. I was impressed at the sizeable crowd for a midday, mid-week Mass and was happy to chat with many of the parishioners afterwards.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (DECEMBER 12) is also the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. The Church in Canada has been marking this as a special day of prayer since 1998. So, on Wednesday, the newly-formed Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle – a coalition of bishops, Indigenous leaders, clergy, lay people and religious – launched their website. This will be an important outlet for them to advance their mission of renewing and fostering relationships between the Catholic Church and Indigenous peoples in Canada.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING THE FIRST CELEBRANT OF SIMBANG GABI (Night Mass) this Saturday evening at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough. The Filipino community will gather for their traditional celebration of nine Masses (a novena) in advance of Christmas. Masses will continue through the coming week, offered either at Sacred Heart Parish or the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains.

THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE IS NOW DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS and that is no mean feat in a place this size. I was grateful for the efforts of a couple of generous volunteers, which kept my input to a minimum. I have virtually no abilities when it comes to home decorating, but I can appreciate when something looks nice. And I am happy that the festive atmosphere has ramped up the Christmas spirit here at headquarters!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel