



FROM THE VINEYARD

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WE ARE IN THE LATTER PART OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON with parishes preparing for the celebration of Epiphany this Sunday. I was pleased to see a good turnout for Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral, where the choir was in excellent form and COGECO Peterborough (Your TV) did a very fine job on the television broadcast. I know that all our parishes around the Diocese were busy over these days: sincere thanks to the many staff and dedicated volunteers who worked to provide beautiful liturgies in this Holy Season.

I WAS HAPPY TO BE WITH FR. STAN WICZAK AND PARISHIONERS OF ST. ANNE PARISH IN PETERBOROUGH this past Sunday for the feast of the Holy Family. They have completed the renovations to their weekday chapel and sacristy and were planning to bless it this week. They have managed both to beautify the space and to make it much more functional!

I WAS SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF BISHOP ATTILA MIKLOSHAZY, SJ, last week. A former professor and Academic dean of St. Augustine's Seminary, he was responsible for training a whole generation of priests (including yours truly) now serving in dioceses across Canada. In 1989, he was appointed a bishop by Pope John Paul II, with the responsibility of providing spiritual assistance to Hungarian Catholic emigres around the world. Funeral services were held for him in Toronto on Wednesday and Thursday. May he rest in peace.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY will be celebrated around the world from January 18 to 25. I am looking forward to the Ecumenical Service which will be held at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church on Brock St. in Peterborough, on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. Last year we hosted the service at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough and I was the main celebrant. This year, our Anglican brothers and sisters will host, and I have the privilege of being the homilist. This year's theme is "Justice and only justice shall you pursue." This is a great annual celebration, and one that reminds Christians of the importance of praying together that all may be one, as our Lord desires.

THE PASSIONIST SISTERS HERE IN PETERBOROUGH very kindly received me to their convent for a Mass and Christmas get-together this week. Their community has served here in Peterborough for over forty years and were employed here at our Diocesan Pastoral Centre for decades. They still provide invaluable assistance to the Polish Catholic community that gathers at Immaculate Conception Parish in Peterborough. I was grateful for their hospitality and also for the "care package" of sauerkraut that I took home with me!

WITH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WINDING DOWN we start to return to business as usual in our parishes. The priests of the City Deanery are meeting this week to look ahead to the coming year. One of the major topics will be the upcoming City-wide Lenten Mission preached by Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, which will take place from March 17th to 20th.

A VERY BLESSED, HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2019 to you all! I pray that we all may continue to grow in wisdom, grace and charity in the coming year.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel