



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 55; February 1, 2019

THE WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE takes place annually on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This past Saturday evening, we had an anticipatory Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, with many of the religious communities who serve our diocese present. We continue to hold them in prayer this weekend, grateful for the witness they give in serving Christ through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

THE INSTALLATION OF MOST REV. PETER HUNDT as Archbishop of St. John's, Newfoundland took place on Tuesday evening. I was happy to be among the twenty or so bishops in attendance from across Canada and pleased to participate in the festivities. It had been more than twenty years since I visited St. John's, and I didn't mind the relatively balmy temperatures (just below freezing) and missing out on the big blizzard here. Most important though, was the chance to offer prayer and fraternal support to Archbishop Hundt – a former colleague from Hamilton – as he undertakes this new ministry and responsibility.

POPE FRANCIS RELEASED HIS MESSAGE FOR THE JUNE 2ND WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2019. The message is entitled, "*We are members of one another (Eph 4:25): From social network communities to the human community.*" Since the Church as a proclaimer of the Good News is in the communications field, the Holy Father always issues a statement for this day. This year, Pope Francis' message is a thoughtful reflection on the impact that the internet (especially social media) has on our experience of human community.

LAST SUNDAY TOOK ME TO ST. MARTIN OF TOURS in Ennismore, where I very happily substituted for Fr. Dominick Mbah and Fr. Israel Oruebi. Both are members of the Missionary Society of St. Paul and were away for meetings of their community. Offering such "relief service" is something I am pleased to do as it helps the priests who serve their parishes so faithfully and consistently. I must admit though, it was a wintry drive out there and a bit harrowing in places!

FATHER PETER SEABROOKE WAS RELATIVELY SURPRISED at the Surprise 75th birthday party thrown for him at St. Anne Parish Hall in Peterborough this past Sunday. Despite the weather, many friends and well-wishers dropped in throughout the afternoon. And I was delighted to see that parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi in Newcastle, where Fr. Peter served for eleven years, had organized a bus and were there in good numbers.

THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE met last week for an initial discussion about clergy transfers in the coming year. I reflected with them that there may be no more important set of meetings as we look to the assignment of our priests and the wellbeing of forty parishes. Please pray for the work of this group and for all priests who will be asked to take on new pastoral responsibilities.

THE ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH DINNER FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY will take place tomorrow night at Personal Touch Banquet Centre in Peterborough. Guests can be sure of a fine meal, an excellent program and the support of a very worthy cause.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel