



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 57; February 22, 2019

POPE FRANCIS OPENED THE SUMMIT ON THE PROTECTION OF MINORS IN THE CHURCH yesterday in Rome. This meeting of the Presidents of Bishops' Conferences from around the world will address the evil of sexual abuse committed by clergy and the all too frequent failure of Church leaders to deal with it justly and responsibly. Pope Francis opened the meeting by stating "The holy people of God are watching us and wait for more than simple condemnations, they expect concrete and effective measures." The summit continues through Sunday and we should join in prayer for its success and a truly international response in the Church to the plague of sexual abuse.

IN THE LEADUP TO THE SUMMIT, Vatican officials pointed favourably to the protocols that had been established by the Canadian Bishops over many years and most recently updated this past fall. *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse* is a renewal of *From Pain to Hope*, first published in 1992. The new document pulls together lessons learned in these past decades, with insights drawn from contemporary research as well as the experiences of victims, perpetrators, Church members and leaders.

I WAS BACK IN THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON last week, assisting with the rather heavy Confirmation schedule there. I even stayed an extra day to participate in the Winter Wonderland Dinner for the new Hamilton parish, St. Catherine of Siena. This new parish is a union of Our Lady of Lourdes (of which I was pastor) and Corpus Christi parishes. Fr. Mark Gatto and his team are eager to begin the construction of a new church this year, allowing them to bring the two communities together in one building by next fall – if all goes well!

BISHOP GUY DESROCHERS will be ordained today as the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. That Diocese is currently twinned with the Archdiocese of Ottawa and led by Archbishop Terry Prendergast. Having an Auxiliary Bishop dedicated specifically to the needs of the faithful in Alexandria-Cornwall will be of great assistance to the clergy and the faithful of that region. And I am delighted to be able to attend the Ordination at St. Finnan's Cathedral in Alexandria, the first time I will have crossed its threshold.

I WAS HAPPY TO MEET THIS WEEK WITH FR. ALBERTO BARATERRO, IVE, who is the provincial superior of the Institute of the Incarnate Word. Their priests serve the communities of St. Michael's in Cobourg, and Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist in Peterborough. I told Father Baraterro that we are grateful for their good priestly service and the leadership that they give to those parishes.

I WILL BE AT ST. THERESE PARISH IN COURTICE THIS WEEKEND, happy to be hosted by Fr. Thomas Koscincki and Fr. Paul Patrick. Though I have attended quite a number of events at St. Therese, this is my first Sunday visit and I am looking forward to it.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel