



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 59; March 8, 2019

LENT BEGAN WITH ASH WEDNESDAY CELEBRATIONS across the Diocese this week. We certainly had big crowds at the Cathedral of Saint Peter-in-Chains and I have heard similar reports from other parishes. It is inspiring to see the many people who come to receive the ashes and begin this penitential season in a spirit of prayer and humility. In his message for Lent 2019, Pope Francis reflects on Romans 8:19, "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." It is a short read and certainly a good way for all of us to frame our Lenten journey.

WE WERE SADDENED TO LEARN THAT FATHER BILL FELLION PASSED AWAY on Sunday of this week. Father Bill served as pastor in Kinmount and Honey Harbour and, in recent years, led an active retirement at St. Mary Parish in Lindsay. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary Parish in Lindsay this Monday at 11:00 a.m. Visitation takes place in the church on Sunday, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Office for the Dead will be prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

LIKE MANY PARISHES, THE CATHEDRAL HOSTED A PANCAKE SUPPER on Shrove Tuesday. I was happy to see the good turnout and I was a willing participant in "the Pancake Games" in which I vied with Father Tom Lynch, Father Roy Villas and Deacon Bill Radigan for valuable prizes and bragging rights. I didn't embarrass myself quite as badly as last year, but nobody could top Father Roy in the pancake flipping department!

I LOVE THE POSTER FOR THE CITY-WIDE PARISH MISSION with Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria. It shows Bishop Gordon sprinting across a parking lot in full vestments accompanied by his faithful dog! That is an indicator of his down-to-earth personality which makes him a very engaging speaker. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Mission at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, Monday March 18 to Wednesday March 20. You can find more information on our Diocesan Website.

FATHER PAUL MASSEL RECENTLY RETURNED FROM UGANDA, part of a team known as the Peterborough Medical Brigade. This group of doctors, nurses and support staff brought medicines and health care to those who would otherwise never see a doctor. This year, the brigade celebrates nineteen years of travelling to poorer countries of the world. Father Paul wishes to thank the many parishioners, Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League members who donated vitamins and assisted in many ways to make this project possible.

OUR PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MET AGAIN THIS WEEK, taking another look at the various Clergy transfers which happen in June. It is no small task, considering the gifts and talents of our priests and the needs of our various parishes and trying to match them up! Please pray for our priests and especially those who will be asked to accept new assignments in the coming weeks.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel