



FROM THE VINEYARD

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WHAT A TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO THIS WEEK'S CITY-WIDE MISSION. People filled the Cathedral twice daily from Monday to Wednesday, to hear Bishop Gary Gordon's inspiring Lenten message, delivered with homespun humour and much pastoral wisdom. And the live streaming on our Facebook page was a huge success, with more than 500 people logging in from locations near and far. Sincere thanks to the priests of the City Deanery and the committee that worked so hard for more than a year to prepare this Lenten Mission.

THE WORLD WAS SHOCKED BY THE MASS SHOOTINGS AT TWO MOSQUES IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND a week ago. Most Rev. Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, addressed a letter to Muslim communities to express support and offer prayers in the wake of this tragedy. I wrote to the Kawartha Muslim Religious Association to express similar sentiments of prayerful concern and solidarity. May this be, yet again, a call to build understanding and trust among all peoples.

BISHOP GARY GORDON STAYED AN EXTRA DAY TO PRESENT TO OUR PRIESTS. Since the time he was in Seminary, he has had pastoral involvement and many friendships with Indigenous peoples, something that he continues to foster as the Bishop of Victoria. We asked him to speak about his ministry with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples over the years and he shared many great insights with us. We were grateful for his reflections both spiritual and practical, as the whole Church in our country seeks to learn and to embrace the call to reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO BISHOPS (ACBO) took place over two days in Toronto this past week. I was sorry it took me away from the Lenten Mission, but several important issues were discussed there including Catholic Education and support for our Northern Missions in Canada. With auxiliary bishops and Eastern rite bishops, we typically make a group of about twenty, and they are always informative and spirited gatherings!

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING TODAY WITH CHAPLAINCY LEADERS from the six secondary schools that belong to the PVNC Catholic District School Board. These people do invaluable work to help foster the life of faith in our schools for both the students and the staff. I anticipate a good sharing of views and discussions of the joys and challenges of their vital ministry.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE IS SPONSORING THE CHRIST OF THE APOCALYPSE, a seminar with Monsignor Robert Nusca. And there is still time to register for this presentation on the Book of Revelation, being held tomorrow at St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School in Peterborough 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It promises to be an informative seminar on one of the least understood books of the Bible!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel