



FROM THE VINEYARD

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OUR DIOCESAN LEARNING DAY was a great success, attended by priests, deacons and the lay employees of our parishes this past Tuesday. It's the first time in many years that the whole diocesan staff was brought together. We addressed several important topics including volunteer screening, health and safety and the Diocesan and parish websites. Sincere thanks to the kind staff at the PVNC Catholic District School Board for hosting our group.

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH REPRESENTATIVES from various Ontario Dioceses gathered in Toronto this week. This committee sponsored by the Ontario Bishops meets once a year for some professional development and sharing of ecumenical news and activities from around the province. I have enjoyed being the Bishops' liaison to this group for the past couple of years. We were especially interested to learn about a new Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue being offered at the University of St. Michael's College.

SINCERE THANKS TO FR. PAUL HOGAN and the staff of St. Mary Parish in Huntsville for hosting our Finance Committee forum last Sunday. This annual meeting brought together priests and Finance Committee members from our northern parishes, for a time of information and idea sharing. We pick up our southern parishes at a meeting this Sunday at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Lakefield.

THE ANNUAL ALTAR SERVERS' APPRECIATION takes place tomorrow at St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough. This venture is organized by Fr. John Perdue in our Vocations Office and brings together Altar Servers from across the diocese for a day of food, fun, and maybe even some learning! I am looking forward to celebrating Mass for the group and staying for some of the entertainment, although I will probably dodge the dodgeball game. We are grateful to the boys and girls in our parishes who serve in this important ministry!

A REPORT ON "POVERTY IN CANADA" was released by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops this week, with special attention given to the issue of affordable housing. The report gives a brief overview of poverty and housing issues in our country and provides a short list of some key Catholic agencies involved in the alleviation of poverty. The Canadian Bishops have issued this report in advance of the World Day of the Poor, instituted by Pope Francis in 2017 to coincide with the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (which falls this year on November 17.)

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A VISIT TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE DIOCESE this weekend, with Father Christopher Reynolds and parishioners at St. Alphonsus in Wooler, St. Jerome's in Warkworth and Holy Angels in Brighton. I am especially curious to lay eyes on the interior renovations that have been completed at St. Alphonsus.

Fraternally, † Daniel