



FROM THE VINEYARD

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NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED. Today is the Solemnity of All Saints, when we celebrate the blessed in heaven, holy people famous and obscure. Tomorrow we celebrate the Commemoration of All Souls, praying for the faithful who are still being purified in purgatory. Many people will gather in prayer for departed family and friends, and our churches will undoubtedly be welcoming many people. Let us keep in our prayers all the faithful departed throughout this month.

FATHER RAY RICK AND THE STAFF AT ST. PAUL PARISH in Lakefield hosted the second of our two meetings for Parish Finance Committee members this past Sunday. There was a good spirit of openness and idea sharing amongst the fifty or so participants who do so much to care for our parishes. And I was delighted that Father Joe Moran, our intrepid meeting chairman, kept us right on schedule!

MANY ALTAR SERVERS GATHERED FOR THE ANNUAL APPRECIATION EVENT, held at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough this past Saturday. I was happy to celebrate Mass with the group, which involved incense and all the regalia, giving many servers a chance to experience what is involved in a solemn Mass with the bishop. Lunch was provided by the Knights of Columbus and a willing group of St. Alphonsus volunteers. Thanks, Father John Perdue for organizing another great event and Father Jerry Tavares for kindly hosting us.

I WAS HAPPY TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL this week. The Principal, Sr. Mary Catherine Perdue, SOLI, and Mr. Brian Smith, Chair of the Board, very kindly brought me up to speed on recent renovations, new teachers and increasing enrollment at this local, private Catholic school. I am looking forward to a visit and the opportunity to celebrate Mass in the near future!

LATER THIS WEEK, I WILL ATTEND THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS AT HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL in Courtice. These annual awards are given to students who have excelled in their studies and achieved high academic standards. It is a blessing to be able to visit our Catholic schools, and certainly a happy occasion in which to celebrate with students, staff and parents.

SINCERE THANKS TO FATHER CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS AND PARISHIONERS in Wooler, Brighton and Warkworth. I enjoyed celebrating Mass in all three communities last weekend and was very kindly received. It was especially good to mark the 130th anniversary of St. Alphonsus Church in Wooler and to see the fine interior restoration that has recently been done.

A REMINDER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK on Saturday night, or you will be one hour early for Mass! That actually happened to me once in my thirty years of priesthood, which was at least much better than being one hour late.

Fraternally, † Daniel