



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 83; November 29, 2019

**I WAS AT ST. MICHAEL PARISH IN WATERLOO** this week, which is a center for campus ministry, being situated next to two universities. I was happy to attend their family dinner and then give the post-dinner talk as part of their fall lecture series, “Who do you say that I am?”. It was a great chance for me to touch base with my old confrère, Father Frank Freitas, and to see some of the good activity they have going for campus ministry at the St. John Paul II Student Centre. It was a pleasure to be with Father Frank, campus minister, Joe Goodwin and about 60 students for dinner and the talk following.

**I ENJOYED A ROAD TRIP TO BARRIE** last Friday, in the company of PVNC Catholic School Board Director of Education, Michael Nasello. We met with his counterpart, Brian Beal, who is the Director of Education for the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic School Board, which covers most of the northern portion of our diocese. It was a great opportunity to discuss various matters of common concern and also to enjoy a very fine lunch. I appreciate the cooperative and collaborative relationship that we have with our Catholic educational community.

**THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR THE PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** takes place this coming week at the Mount Community Centre. I am happy to be able to join the trustees and senior administration for the meeting and to celebrate Mass. And once again, there is the promise of some food!

**THE CALENDAR HAS COME AROUND ONCE AGAIN TO THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT!** Parishes will be dusting off wreaths and putting plans in place for Christmas, which will be on us soon enough. Let’s pray that amid the hustle and bustle of the world at this time, that this will be a season of expectancy and preparation for the coming of Christ.

**THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE AND THE PERMANENT DEACONS WITH THEIR WIVES** will gather on Thursday for our annual Advent celebration, a chance to be together and celebrate in advance of the busy Christmas rush. The choir from St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Cobourg will provide the liturgical music ministry for the 12:10 p.m. Mass on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by a luncheon at Bishop Doyle Hall.

**I ENJOYED BEING AT THE MEETING OF OUR SOUTHERN DEANERY** this past week, with our “Lakeshore priests” from Courtice to Wooler and Brighton. We enjoyed free-flowing and amiable discussions about various issues in the diocese. Thanks so much to the Sisters of St. Joseph for hosting us at Villa St. Joseph in Cobourg.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR COUNCIL OF PRIESTS MEETING** next week, and it will be something of a changing of the guard. This council is reaching the end of its three-year term: the newly elected council begins to function in the new year. The Council of Priests must exist in every diocese, and it is one of the major bodies of consultation.

Fraternally, † Daniel