



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 84; December 6, 2019

**WE HAD A FINE ADVENT CELEBRATION YESTERDAY** with the priests, permanent deacons, their wives and our seminarians. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains was followed by a luncheon at Bishop Doyle Hall, I even got to play Santa Claus (figuratively) by dispensing presents to everyone. Sincere thanks to the fine choir of St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Cobourg for leading the music so beautifully at the Mass. And of course, to the Knights of Columbus for their always gracious hospitality to our clergy.

**THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR THE PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD** took place this past Tuesday. Congratulations to Michelle Griepsma on being elected chair and David Bernier on being chosen as vice-chair. I was happy to celebrate Mass after the meeting, where we appreciated the kind hospitality of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Mount.

**ADMIRABLE SIGNUM** is a new apostolic letter by Pope Francis on the meaning and importance of the Christmas crèche. It is a brief read, and a very interesting reflection on the history and symbolism of the Nativity Scene. As the Holy Father notes, "The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the Incarnation of the Son of God." Reading this lovely reflection would be a fine preparation for all of us to celebrate the coming feast of Christmas.

**I WAS HAPPY TO MEET THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM NET MINISTRIES** at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre this week. Net Ministries sends out young Catholic missionaries to challenge and inspire youth to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. The young people were busy in various schools here in Peterborough, Ennismore and Courtice. Sincere thanks to Claire Button for organizing their visit and to the kind people who billeted the missionaries during their stay!

**WE HAD THE FIRST MEETING OF OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** this week. This group of various clergy and lay people from around the Diocese will support the planning conversations going on in each parish and coordinate wider discussions in deaneries. We look forward to formulating a Diocesan Pastoral Plan by 2021 that will help us to set key priorities in Parish Life, Sacramental Preparation, Evangelization and Catechesis, Stewardship and Leadership.

**THE FILIPPINO COMMUNITY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CELEBRATION OF SIMBANG GABI.** Translated as "Night Mass," it is a series of Masses on the nine evenings leading up to Christmas. This year, St. Anne Parish in Peterborough is hosting the event, 7:00 p.m. each night from Sunday, December 15 to Monday, December 23. I agreed to celebrate the opening and closing Mass, and lots of other priests are involved. And all are welcome to attend!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel