



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 85; December 13, 2019

TODAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD OF POPE FRANCIS. In a letter sent to the Holy Father on behalf of the Bishops of Canada, Archbishop Richard Gagnon writes, “Holy Father, we humbly offer our heartfelt thanks for your fifty years of faithful service to the Lord and to his Mystical Body as a priest, and fervently pray that the bountiful grace of Christ, the eternal high priest, may continue to guide, console and strengthen you in your petrine ministry to the Universal Church...”

ST. JOSEPH PARISH IN DOURO HELD THEIR ADVENT DINNER last Friday night, and it was a rousing success. I was happy to attend along with about 200 other people, who all enjoyed a fine dinner followed by a silent auction and some entertainment in the parish hall. All the proceeds are going to support the restoration of the beautiful, historic St. Joseph Parish. It was a great night in support of a good cause!

SIMBANG GABI or “Night Mass” kicks off at St. Anne Parish in Peterborough this Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Organized each year by the Filipino community, it maintains their custom of Masses on the nine evenings leading up to Christmas. As I recall, there is often food to be found after the celebration of the liturgy. All are welcome to attend these Masses, being kindly hosted by St. Anne Parish throughout the week.

MANY OF OUR PARISHES WILL CELEBRATE “BAMBINELLI SUNDAY” on this Third Sunday of Advent. This wonderful custom, which originated in Italy, entails the blessing of the Christ figures from people’s Nativity scenes, which they are asked to bring with them to Mass. The words of the blessing capture the spirit of this holy season: “Open our hearts so that we may be able to receive Jesus in joy, always do what he asks and see him in all those who are in need of our love.”

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS will be presented at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough by the students of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School, this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. This traditional Advent service of Scripture and carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It promises to be a beautiful celebration and fitting for the season. Freewill donations will be accepted at the church doors.

TIS THE SEASON FOR CHRISTMAS SOCIALS! Our Deacon Formation Candidates will wrap up their monthly fall sessions at St. Martin Parish in Ennismore tomorrow, featuring a festive lunch. Later that same day, our seminarians, their parents and those young men discerning a vocation at St. John Paul II House will gather right there for a little social time and celebration. Please pray for all those from our diocese discerning their vocation or in preparation for Holy Orders.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel