



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 86; December 20, 2019

STUDENTS FROM OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL stopped by the Diocesan Pastoral Centre on Tuesday, part of their 2019 Christmas Carolling Tour. Their angelic voices could be heard up and down Hunter Street as they convened their very fine choir on our front lawn. I was happy to bestow a little gift of Christmas chocolate on them for their performance. They also brought their Christmas medley to nursing homes and the local hospital that day.

WE ENJOYED A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AS STAFF OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE earlier this week. We are just over a dozen between full and part-time, lay and clergy, so it is just the right size for a convivial gathering. And it is rare that we are all together in the same place at the same time! It gives me an opportunity to thank the people who work with such dedication on behalf of the Church in our diocese.

THE CELEBRATION OF SIMBANG GABI, an important religious custom of the Filipino community has been going on since Sunday evening at St. Anne Parish. I was pleased to celebrate the first in this series of nine evening Masses, and I will conclude with a Mass on the night of December 23. Many thanks to all the priests who are celebrating Mass on the other nights and to Father Randy Foster and St. Anne Parish for hosting this annual Advent festivity.

FATHER TOM LYNCH AND THE STAFF OF THE CATHEDRAL have been working hard to get things ready for the celebration of the Christmas Masses. I look forward to celebrating the “Mass during the Night” on Christmas Eve, which we have maintained at the customary Midnight Hour. All are welcome to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains for this solemn and joyful celebration of the Lord’s Nativity.

I MET WITH TWO STUDENTS FROM ST. PETER CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL this week, who are doing an interesting video project. They are asking various people what advice they would give to their younger selves, based on what they’ve learned over the years. It sounds like it will make for a captivating little film and I was pleased to participate, imparting all the wisdom that I could in one minute!

I CELEBRATED MASS AT PETERBOROUGH MANOR this week, happy to be in the company of Father Andrew Begin who gives such good service as chaplain to our local care facilities. We should be attentive to visiting our senior relatives and friends this Christmas, especially those living in retirement homes and long-term care facilities.

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE and so I have published my annual Christmas Message on the Diocesan website today. *From the Vineyard* will take a little break over Christmas and will return in the New Year as good as ever – however good that is. A very blessed and joyful Christmas to you all!

Pax et Bonum, †Daniel