



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 114; September 18, 2020

WELCOME FATHER MICHAEL NNEJI AND FATHER ISAAC OGWU, who arrived from the Diocese of Enugu, Nigeria earlier this week. They braved the hazards of COVID-19 and the uncertainties of international travel in these times and made it to Canada safe and sound. Fr. Michael will be the Associate at our Cathedral and Fr. Isaac will be assigned as the Associate at St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville. For now, they are doing their fourteen-day isolation at St. Luke Parish Rectory in Downeyville, where Fr. Israel Oruebi kindly vacated his rectory to make a place for them. Fr. Tom Lynch and I were delighted to have a porch visit on Tuesday with our new arrivals. And I wish to thank Fr. Balonwu Okpe, who has organized the arrival of his confreres from Enugu, which was no easy task in these pandemic days.

THE ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE CANADIAN BISHOPS (CCCB) takes place next week. Instead of our usual five-day gathering in Cornwall, we will have a daily afternoon meeting online. And we are all praying that the technology works! It is a more streamlined agenda under these circumstances, but we will still be tackling a range of topics from Family Ministry to Initiatives with Indigenous Peoples to the protection of minors and vulnerable persons in the Church. On Monday, I will be one of four bishops leading a forum on the impacts of COVID-19 on society and the Catholic community. Please pray for the bishops as we gather virtually next week and check out the CCCB website for updates from the Plenary meeting.

THE BROADCAST OF THE SUNDAY MASS FROM OUR CATHEDRAL IS BACK and will appear on our Diocesan YouTube channel. We took a one-week hiatus and transmitted from St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville last week, while we got the technology in place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. Thanks to truly herculean efforts on the part of Fr. Tom Lynch, Fr. Joshy George, Fr. Paul Massel and Deirdre Thomas, we were able to get the equipment installed and do our first taping. We are still mastering the technology and working out the kinks, but we expect to get better with it each week! As mentioned, you may view the Mass on our YouTube channel, accessible through our Diocesan website.

PASTORS ARE CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION around the Diocese. The Confirmations scheduled for this past spring didn't happen because of the pandemic lockdown. Now, we can gather the young people and their families (in smaller groups) to celebrate this sacrament and bestow upon the candidates the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I have delegated pastors to confer Confirmation this fall and, as pastor of the Cathedral parish, I was delighted to celebrate the sacrament with the young people and their families this past Sunday.

PLEASE KEEP FATHER PETER SEABROOKE IN YOUR PRAYERS. He had some minor but unexpected surgery yesterday. I spoke to him last night and he is recovering well, looking forward to returning home to Immaculate Conception in Peterborough today or tomorrow.

Fraternally, † Daniel