



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 115; September 25, 2020

**THE FIRST EVER ONLINE PLENARY MEETING OF THE CANADIAN BISHOPS (CCCB)** concluded today. The constraints of time zones and the sheer effort required for virtual meetings meant that we were limited to two hours each afternoon, although we went past the deadline a few times. Still, the technology worked wonderfully well, the CCCB staff kept everything organized, and we were able to deal with a surprisingly full agenda. I was pleased to give my brief presentation yesterday on the impacts of COVID-19 upon the Church in Ontario, battling “cleanup” after three reports earlier in the week from Bishops of other regions. Everything worked wonderfully well, though it’s safe to say that we are all praying that we will be able to gather in person for next year’s Plenary Meeting.

**THE 106TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES** will be celebrated this Sunday, September 27th. This year’s theme is “Forced like Jesus Christ to Flee.” Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the plight of internally displaced people across the globe, those who have been forcibly dislocated within the borders of their own country. At the end of 2019, the U.N. Refugee Agency reported that an astonishing 45.7 million people were internally displaced due to armed conflict, generalized violence of human rights abuses. Let us hold these people in our prayers in a special way this Sunday. And if you haven’t yet seen it, you should view Resettled a short film which presents the work of Refugee Sponsorship undertaken in the Diocese of Peterborough, in the wake of the Syrian crisis.

**I WILL INSTITUTE INTO THE MINISTRY OF READER** our two candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, Rob Vandenburg and Christopher Borsellino. That celebration will take place at this Saturday’s 5:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. The ministries of “reader” and “acolyte” are steps that every man takes on the way to Holy Orders, prior to being ordained a deacon. By receiving the ministry of reader, they will be incorporated more fully into the Church’s task of proclaiming the Word of God. Please pray for Christopher and Rob, and for all those who work with them in our Permanent Deacon Formation Program.

**I CELEBRATED AN “OPENING SCHOOL MASS”** for the entire PVNC Catholic District School Board at our Cathedral this morning. In this age of the pandemic, very few people were present, but the Mass was recorded for future viewing. It will be broadcast in schools across the PVNC Board in the coming days. Even in virtual fashion, it was important for us to ask God’s blessing upon the coming school year and all our students, staff and parents. And it gave us yet another opportunity to use the newly installed video system at the Cathedral! Sincere thanks to Fr. Paul Massel, Mr. Michael Nasello, Fr. Tom Lynch and Fr. Joshy George for coordinating the celebration and broadcast of this Mass.

**OUR DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MEETS NEXT WEEK**, with more than a few items on the agenda given the challenges we are facing these days. My sincere thanks to all of you who, I know, are doing your best to support your parish in these difficult times.

Fraternally, † Daniel