



FROM THE VINEYARD

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JOAN CARRAGHER, who has been appointed the new Director of Education for the Peterborough-Victoria-Northumberland-Clarington Catholic District School Board. The Board announced her appointment earlier this week and her term starts on January 1, 2021 as she replaces Michael Nasello who begins his well-earned retirement. Ms. Carragher has a long history with the PVNC Catholic District School Board, as a teacher, vice-principal, and principal. Since 2012 she has been a Superintendent of Education with the board. No doubt, her long experience in Catholic education and leadership will equip her well as she assumes this role and enable her to serve the community of students, staff, and parents.

OUR ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIEST BENEFIT FUND takes place on the weekend of November 22nd. This is another collection that we have had to reschedule from the period of church closures in the spring. It is an essential one as it maintains the fund that cares for our retired priests in the Diocese, so we really appreciate your generosity in supporting it. Rather than write the customary appeal letter, I tried something a little different this year; a conversation in which I interview Father Peter Seabrooke, who is one of our retired priests. You can view that brief video to learn about the life of a retired priest with its various blessings and a few challenges as well. Thanks, Father Peter, for being a willing participant!

FATHER STEPHEN DECARLO was recently featured in an article in the Catholic Register. His ingenious use of a skateboard for his Catholic Education Week video message apparently caught the attention of someone at the newspaper. In a message tailored to students, Father urged them to practice their faith with the same diligence one would have in trying to master a sport or a hobby. This is but one example of the many clever ways our priests have used social media, during the pandemic lockdown and since. But Father Stephen, please be careful on that skateboard!

OUR REOPENING PLANNING COMMITTEE met again this week for online discussions. Although we are now more than four months into the reopening of our parishes, matters of concern continue to be raised, especially as COVID numbers in our province have escalated in recent weeks. These days I am emphasizing as much as possible with people the danger of COVID fatigue. We must continue to be vigilant about our practices and safety protocols, both for the safety of our people and because we all want to avoid another round of closures. Prominent in our discussions this week was the celebration of Christmas which will undoubtedly present a few challenges given the current conditions.

I MENTIONED TWO WEEKS AGO THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP THOMAS DOWD as the new bishop of Sault Ste. Marie. The Diocese has produced this very interesting 30-minute video in which Bishop Dowd is interviewed by Fr. Daniele Muscolino. It is another example of how the pandemic has propelled Dioceses five years ahead in their use of technology and media.

Fraternally, + Daniel