



FROM THE VINEYARD

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A WELCOME TO CANADA ORIENTATION SESSION was held at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre this week. Our newly arrived priests from Nigeria, Fr. Michael Nneji and Fr. Isaac Ogwu were treated to presentations on Church life in Canada, adapting as a new Canadian, parish administration, ministry in the Catholic school system and pastoral concerns in the diocese. They were very willing and eager students, and I was grateful to the presenters, which included many of our DPC staff and Fr. Joshy George from the Cathedral – he kindly reflected on his own experience of arriving in Canada some four years ago.

“THERE IS JOY” is the original song and music video that was produced for our “Virtual Vianney Fair,” held in August. The annual Vocations gathering happened online this year and included this song and video, beautifully performed by Rhythm and Grace (better known to some in our area as the talented Duketow family!) It is very professionally done, and certainly does convey the joy of our faith and a life given in God’s service. Take a few moments to view this fine video, which also features star performances from some priests, religious sisters and at least one seminarian!

THIS SUNDAY IS WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, established by Pope Francis several years ago to fall on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Holy Father inaugurated it at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (2015-16) to help us keep paramount the concerns of the poor and our response to them. In his message for the 4th World Day of the Poor, “Stretch forth your hand to the poor,” Pope Francis challenges us to overcome the barriers of indifference and to encounter the Lord Jesus who reveals himself as present through those in need.

I PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING OF THE ST. PETER’S SEMINARY BOARD this week; in the only way these meetings seem to happen lately – online! I know that that faculty, staff, and students at our two Ontario seminaries (St. Peter’s in London and St. Augustine’s in Toronto) are doing their level best under the trying conditions of the pandemic, focused on safety protocols and maintaining a safe bubble in the seminary community.

LET US NOT GIVE IN TO PANDEMIC FATIGUE. With COVID-19 cases rising in our province and across the country, we must continue to be diligent in our parishes about observing the protocols around mask-wearing, physical distancing, and hand sanitizing. Let’s work together to keep everyone safe and our churches open!

OUR ONLINE PARISH FINANCE FORUMS were a great success, with over 60 participants joining one of the two sessions. Finance Committee members are doing an invaluable service for our parishes, especially in these unprecedented days when the concerns are many and the dollars are tight; but we will get through this, by God’s grace.

Fraternally, † Daniel