



# FROM THE VINEYARD

**Newsletter No. 124; December 4, 2020**

**THE ANNUAL INAUGURAL MEETING** of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board was held on Tuesday. Congratulations to David Bernier who was elected chair, stepping into the role that has been fulfilled with great dedication by Michelle Griepsma these last seven years. Afterwards we gathered for a celebration of the Mass with Board trustees and senior leadership at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. There were various speeches after the Mass to honour and thank Michael Nasello, the Director of Education, who retires at Christmas. I was very happy to present him with an icon of our Lord and St. Peter as a gift from the Diocese, acknowledging his excellent work over many years in Catholic education, most recently among us in Peterborough.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER IVAN CAMILLERI**, who was appointed earlier this week as a new Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Father Camilleri was ordained to the priesthood in 2007 and has served in recent years as Vicar General and Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs for the Archdiocese. His Episcopal ordination will take place in the New Year.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO** has updated the *Worship Safe* Directives and shared those with Dioceses this week. Our Re-Opening Planning Committee has studied them, and we will be communicating information to our pastors and parishes early next week. The directives concern matters like mask-wearing and exemptions, reception of Holy Communion and contact tracing. Close adherence to these first-rate standards in our parishes is crucial, as we work to minimize risk and keep everyone safe.

**A GIFT OF WISDOM.** The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is inviting young people to honour their grandparents and the elderly. They are urging youth to post online some memory, piece of advice or "gift of wisdom" they have received from one of the elderly people with whom they have formed a bond. These can be tracked if the posts include the hashtag #GiftOfWisdom. Afterwards, the Dicastery will collect some of the best posts and share them on their website. The Vatican is promoting this venture especially during this time of the pandemic, when many elderly people are isolated and living alone. What a great form of outreach and thanks from young to old at Christmas time!

**OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE** met online this week, after a long hiatus. The planning process in our diocese has been delayed by the realities of the pandemic, and the planned consultation events in 2020 haven't taken place. But we will still be working on some tasks in the coming months to make progress on: *Transforming our Lives; Building our Church*. The webpages will be updated soon and circulated once the revisions have been made. Also, an online survey is in the works as we reach out to people during this downtime to hear what their hopes, concerns, and priorities are for the future of the Church in our Diocese. Stay tuned!

Fraternally, † Daniel