



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 87; January 10, 2020

IT IS THE FIRST FROM THE VINEYARD of the New Year and the first in awhile. I pray that your Christmas celebrations were joyful and filled with the abundant blessings of the Holy Season.

I HAVE APPOINTED MONSIGNOR MICHAEL HEFFERAN AS THE VICAR GENERAL of the Diocese of Peterborough, effective yesterday. In the Diocesan structure, the Vicar General is the Bishop's good right arm and assists him in the leadership of the Diocese. Monsignor Heffernan steps into a role that has been fulfilled very ably for many years by Father Joe Moran. I thank them both for their dedicated service and priestly commitment to the Church in our Diocese. I hasten to add that Monsignor Heffernan will remain as Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Otonabee and St. John the Evangelist Mission in Keene – he will just have a lot more added to his plate!

I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE AT THE "RISE UP" CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH in Toronto between Christmas and New Year's. Over 1300 Catholic University students from across Canada gathered for inspiring talks, great community, sharing of faith and (ahem!) loud music. Father John Perdue had organized about 35 students from Trent University and beyond to attend, and it was energizing to see such a strong Peterborough presence. I was glad to attend for a couple of days, and very happy to cross paths with Bishop Bill McGrattan, who was in the area visiting family for Christmas.

PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS FROM PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD just concluded a couple of days of retreat and professional development. I was pleased to celebrate Mass for them and to meet their speaker (and a long-ago professor of mine) Father Michael Mulhall, O. Carm. It seems they enjoyed some good and productive days together.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY takes place from January 18 to 25. I am looking forward to being part of the annual Ecumenical Service, this year being hosted at St. Anne Parish in Peterborough on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. The texts for the service are used internationally and have been prepared this year by church communities in Malta and Gozo, based on Acts 27:18- 28:10. Appropriately, the theme this year, "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of St. Paul on the island of Malta and calls us to respond generously to those in need.

THE WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY ON FEBRUARY 2. And this year, it happens to be a Sunday! Consecrated men and women from the Diocese along with the faithful will be invited to a Mass that day at 3:00 p.m. at St. Therese Parish in Courtice. It is a fitting location, since the parish is served by a religious order of priests, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and supported by a religious order of women, the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca, who run their day care on that site. We hope that parishioners from St. Therese and environs will make the effort to join us, as we thank God for the gift of consecrated life in the Church.

Fraternally, † Daniel