



# FROM THE VINEYARD

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**EVERY YEAR THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HOSTS A CHURCH LEADERS' RETREAT** for the heads of various Christian denominations. I was very happy to be delegated to represent the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and attend that two-day meeting at the Convent of the Sisters of St. John the Divine in Toronto. It was a very good ecumenical gathering, a time to share the mix of joys and challenges that go with leadership in the church. We also enjoyed some time united in prayer; and all of it just in advance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**SPEAKING OF WHICH - THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** begins tomorrow and continues until January 25. This year, the city's Ecumenical Service is being hosted by us 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. The theme, "they showed us unusual kindness," remembers St. Paul's shipwreck on Malta and calls us to generosity and hospitality. All are encouraged and welcome to attend, praying for unity in the body of Christ.

**I ANNOUNCED SEVERAL CLERGY TRANSFERS LAST WEEK.** Effective on February 10, Father David West will become Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish and missions in Kirkfield. Father Peter Wayow, C.S.Sp., who has been giving pastoral service on a transitional basis in Kirkfield, will take Father West's place at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Grafton. He will serve there temporarily until the appointment of a new Pastor in the spring. We are also welcoming to our diocese Father Salvador Curutchet, IVE, who will be assuming pastoral leadership from Father Andres Ayala, IVE at Sacred Heart Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish in Peterborough. (Father Ayala has been assigned by his religious order to teach in their seminary in Washington, DC.)

**A RECENT EPISODE OF "DEACON-STRUCTING"** on Salt & Light Television featured the activities of the Hindu-Catholic Dialogue of which I am Co-Chair. They gave fine coverage of our Youth Forum held at the University of St. Michael's College in September. The host, Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann was an excellent interviewer and presenter, and I was pleased to see the work of our Dialogue become a little better known. Salt & Light even managed to make me sound good in editing!

**THE ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH DINNER TO SUPPORT CAMPUS MINISTRY** takes place on Saturday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Personal Touch Banquet Hall in Peterborough. It promises to be a fine meal and great evening, all dedicated to the spiritual care of our post-secondary students. Tickets can be ordered on the Vocations Office website.

Fraternally, † Daniel