



FROM THE VINEYARD

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“RESETTLED” IS A VIDEO PRODUCED BY OUR DIOCESE about recent efforts at welcoming refugees from Syria. It details the stories of two families who were sponsored by our parishes and who have begun to make new lives in Canada. It is just one of many stories, since seventeen of our parishes and twenty-five other community groups welcomed Syrian refugees through our Diocese’s sponsorship agreement with the federal government. Many parishes have shown this brief video in recent weeks, and now it is up on our You Tube page. Click on the link to see this film which is both inspiring and encouraging! My sincere thanks to Sr. Ruth Hennessy CSJ, Aspa Bouzinelos, and Deirdre Thomas who were our producers, and to Rob Viscardis for the fine work in filming and editing.

PRIESTS, PRINCIPALS AND CHAPLAINCY LEADERS from the PVNC Catholic District School Board convened this week for one of our periodic gatherings. We had valuable discussions around Sacramental Preparation programs and our Diocesan protocols for responding to allegations of sexual abuse by clergy. The presentations were helpful, the conversations robust and the lunch – much appreciated! These meetings are a good opportunity for us to meet together to enhance the faith life of our Catholic schools.

THIS SUNDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD. It falls every year on February 2nd and so lands on a Sunday only occasionally. This gives us the perfect opportunity to celebrate the World Day of Consecrated Life which always coincides with the Feast of the Presentation. We are looking forward to gathering with the consecrated men and women who serve our diocese at St. Therese Parish in Courtice for a celebration of the Mass at 3:00 p.m. Any and all are welcome to join us in this Mass of Thanksgiving for those who serve the Lord and the Church in Consecrated Life.

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. This yearly gathering is not only lots of fun, it is a vital way that we support our active campus ministry at Trent University and Fleming College. And it’s always a treat to hear from the students themselves as they speak about their experiences. Tickets can be ordered on the Office of Vocations website.

OUR DIOCESAN PLANNING COMMITTEE met for the second time ever this week, and we discussed the process of Pastoral Planning in the Diocese. The Diocesan committee supports the good work that is being done by the various Parish committees, which have been firing up in recent months. It is a big job of coordination and scheduling but – with the Holy Spirit’s guidance – we are looking toward the development of a cohesive pastoral plan over the next two years – one that will address mission and vision, pastoral priorities and the alignment of resources.

Fraternally, † Daniel