



FROM THE VINEYARD

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WE WERE SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF DEACON JOSEPH MCTEAGUE, who passed away on February 1st. His funeral was held at St. Martin Parish in Ennismore last week. Deacon Joseph was among the first class of permanent deacons to be ordained in the Archdiocese of Toronto, and in his retirement, he gave very willing service at St. Martin of Tours. Our prayers and sympathies go to his family. May he rest in eternal peace.

TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES: BUILDING OUR CHURCH. That is the name that has been bestowed upon our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process, and it is one which evokes hope for the future. Our Diocesan Planning Committee met this week to discuss the many things that will be happening at the parish, deanery, and diocesan levels as we look to shape the future of our local Church – all with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit!

THE ST. JOSEPH DINNER TO SUPPORT CAMPUS MINISTRY last Saturday was a great success. Although I could not attend, Msgr. Michael Heffernan, the Vicar General, extended greetings on my behalf and I am told that the banquet hall was full and that spirits were high. Angele Regnier, co-founder of Catholic Christian Outreach hit all the right notes as guest speaker. Congratulations to Father John Perdue and his team on organizing another successful dinner.

I WAS HAPPY TO MEET TODAY WITH THE DIOCESAN LEADERS OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. After many years as Diocesan chair, Karen Staunton is passing the baton of leadership to Donna Modeste. We are grateful for Karen's long and dedicated service in this role. In our meeting, we discussed, among other things, the upcoming Share Lent collection, "For Our Common Home."

OUR DIOCESAN YOUTH COMMISSION met earlier this week – it is the table at which we discuss various youth initiatives taking place in our faith community. Prominent on the agenda this time was learning about the good work done for young people at Camp Northern Lights. We were also updated on the plans for the Good Friday Way of the Cross – this annual portrayal of the passion of Christ by our young people is being coordinated this year by Deacon Aidan Murphy and Anne Heemskerk. It is a major, complex production, but they are already well-organized!

FATHER STAN WITCZAK RETURNED TO POLAND this week to celebrate the funeral Mass of his beloved mother, Rozalia. The funeral was barely over and they were shocked by the death of his brother, Lesaek. We are certainly keeping Father Stan and his family in our prayers at this time.

OUR PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MET THIS AFTERNOON for the first of several confabs. Consisting of yours truly, the Vicar General, Chancellor and the four Deans, we gathered to start pondering the transfer of priests in the coming months. It is no small task and an essential one for the life of our Diocese. May God grant us wisdom to discern well!

Fraternally, † Daniel