



FROM THE VINEYARD

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WE WERE SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF FATHER TADEUSZ PORZUCZEK, who passed away a week ago. Father Porzuczek was ordained in Poland and subsequently served for many years in the Diocese of Peterborough, including terms as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Cardiff and Our Lady of the Assumption in Otonabee. He had been retired and living in Toronto for many years. Visitation will take place at the Turner-Porter Funeral Home on Bloor Street West in Toronto on Saturday, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., by reservation only. At Father's request, a Funeral Mass will take place in Poland at a later date. Please remember Father Porzuczek in your prayers.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY continues until January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Even though we couldn't hold our traditional Ecumenical gathering here in Peterborough, we collaborated on a brief, online service. Sincere thanks to Father Jerry Tavares of St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church and Rev. Brad Smith of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, who helped to lead the prayer and managed the technical production. I was happy to offer a few reflections on this year's theme from John 15:1-17: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit."

THE ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER to support campus ministry is going virtual on Saturday, February 6. People can view the excellent speakers and program online, and one of the six partner restaurants/caterers will deliver the meal to their door. What a great workaround in these pandemic times! Tickets are \$100 which provides participants with a \$50 tax receipt. This year's guest speaker is Dan Burke, EWTN radio contributor and founder of the Avila Institute. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to the Peterborough Vocations website.

THIS 3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME IS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD. Pope Francis launched this annual initiative in 2019 to help Catholics to know better and treasure the riches of Sacred Scripture. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has some good resources on their website for this Sunday, including this helpful, brief article on Understanding the Bible. I was moved to make this theme a big part of my homily for the Mass which is broadcast each Sunday on our Diocesan YouTube channel.

I ZOOMED IN WITH STUDENTS FROM THE CATHOLIC STREAM OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION at Trent University, earlier this week. It was great to be online with about 25 young people and to share with them a few thoughts on the theme of "Professional, Personal and Spiritual Growth for Catholic Teachers." I spoke somewhat longer than intended, which is an occupational hazard! It didn't leave quite as much time for questions, but I still enjoyed hearing from these students who are preparing for a career in Catholic education – and doing so under challenging circumstances this year, with the whole program being delivered online.

Fraternally, † Daniel