



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 155; October 15, 2021

**POPE FRANCIS OPENED THE TWO-YEAR PATH TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS** with a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome last Sunday. In his homily, he set out his hopes and expectations for the Synod, including the conversations that will take place in each Diocese. The Holy Father prays that we may "encounter, listen and discern," in the upcoming process. You may read his entire homily here. The Diocesan celebration for the beginning of the Synodal path will take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains this Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Later this week, I will meet with the priests of the Diocese online to discuss the work of our Steering Committee and look at ways to encourage a broad participation in our local input to this worldwide conversation. We pray for God's blessing on this important initiative of Pope Francis, and for a Diocesan response that will aid our own project of pastoral planning.

**FATHER JOHN PERDUE IS PREPARING FOR GRADUATE STUDIES** in Rome to begin next summer. At the request of Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto, I have agreed that Father Perdue will pursue these studies in Sacred Scripture so that he may join the teaching and formation faculty of St. Augustine's Seminary. His departure will be a loss for us, especially in Campus Ministry and Vocations, where he has ministered so effectively. Still, I am pleased that he will use his many gifts to contribute to the formation of future priests – a vital and important work in the Church! Please pray for Fr. John, who is already "hitting the books" in preparation for his studies, even as he continues his current ministries with young people.

**SPEAKING OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY**, Father John Perdue and Father Stephen DeCarlo (Associate Vocations Director) visited the Seminary this week and our four young men who are studying there. Let us keep all of them in prayer and continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, especially for our Diocese.

**THE FIRST OF OUR ANNUAL FINANCIAL FORUMS** took place online earlier this week. We meet yearly with members of Parish Finance Councils and our Diocesan Finance Council to review various matters. These gatherings have taken on extra importance with the various fiscal challenges that the pandemic has imposed upon us. I am grateful to the committed volunteers who serve parishes and the Diocese on these councils. For those members who missed the meeting this week, there is still the possibility to join in for the second of the two forums (same agenda) online on October 26.

**THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED** writes that 327 million Christians around the world are touched by persecution to some degree. Once again, this year, they are promoting the celebration of Red Wednesday (Nov. 18) and encourage parishes to participate according to their ability – a Mass, a Rosary, a Vigil – to pray for persecuted Christians. Please visit their website for more information.

Fraternally, † Daniel