



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 156; October 21, 2021

THE MASS FOR THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE SYNOD was celebrated this past Sunday at our Cathedral. Pope Francis has asked that Dioceses engage in a consultation process in the coming months so that the faithful can offer their perspectives in advance of the Synod of Bishops in 2023. We are planning to do that by way of an online survey and parish meetings (whether virtual or in person.) We held a virtual meeting with the priests and deacons this week, to discuss how they might organize such parish gatherings. The three questions to be used in those parish meetings will focus on the Synod themes of “Communion, Participation and Mission.” Those questions and other Synod materials can be found on our website. Let us pray for the help of the Holy Spirit as we embark upon this “synodal path” as a Diocese.

PETERBOROUGH CAMPUS MINISTRY announced earlier this week the acquisition of a house on Rubidge St. very near the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. This facility, whose purchase was made possible by the gift of a generous donor, will be used as a Newman Centre for outreach to students at Trent University and Fleming College. Catholic Campus ministry has been taking place for a long time in Peterborough, but now it has a home! There is still some more work to be done on re-zoning and building improvements, but hopes are high to move in sometime in 2022. The location of this home, so close to the Cathedral and on major bus routes, will serve our Catholic students well. With spaces for prayer, offices and gathering, it will be a fine headquarters for Campus ministry.

THE MISSIONARIES OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (CCO) have been a vital part of our Campus ministry since 2018. They have worked closely with Father John Perdue to offer faith studies, prayer opportunities and other resources to promote discipleship among our young people. CCO is present on campuses across our country, from Newfoundland to British Columbia. This week, I was happy to meet with Marc Moreau, the central regional director, to learn more about the mission of CCO and to express our thanks for their good work here. Their presence and ministry are bearing fruit in many ways!

TODAY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT announced the easing of capacity limits in some venues – including places of worship – provided that they check for vaccination certificates. We will NOT require vaccination certificates for people to attend Mass or other liturgies and will continue working within the current capacity limits. I urge people, however, to adhere to all the health precautions, including masking. I know that people are getting weary of these measures but observing them reduces both risk and anxiety for others and is an expression of our Christian charity and concern.

DR. CATHERINE FERRIER, president of Physicians’ Alliance Against Euthanasia, has invited Doctors and other supporters to sign a letter clearly rejecting Euthanasia. “Doctors say No to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide” can be found on this website and invites your support.

Fraternally, † Daniel