



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 158; November 12, 2021

**THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE** will participate in their annual **Study Days** this week. We are looking forward to several online sessions with Dan Cellucci, C.E.O. of the *Catholic Leadership Institute*. Dan is a well-known speaker in the United States and Canada and has given talks and seminars to bishops, priests, and lay leaders in many different settings. His talks will focus on helping our priests to face pastoral challenges and opportunities as we come through the pandemic and move beyond it. Please pray for our priests as they gather for some learning and inspiration this Wednesday and Thursday.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS** released some more details this week about the delegation of Indigenous Elders, Knowledge keepers and Youth meeting with Pope Francis. The visit will take place from December 17 to 20, when Pope Francis will hear from First Nations, Metis and Inuit delegates about their experiences and the traumatic legacy of Indian Residential schools. Delegates will also have the opportunity to share their hopes and desires for Pope Francis' visit to Canada, which was announced two weeks ago. Let us pray for the success of these meetings, an important step in the journey of reconciliation.

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**, has been celebrated by the Church in Canada since 1998. It is typically held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday, we are planning an event at our Cathedral for the morning of Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. We will welcome Deacon John Brown, a lawyer of Indigenous heritage and a permanent deacon with the Archdiocese of Toronto, who will lead us in prayer and reflection that morning. More details to come soon!

**BE A SAINT FOR ST. JOSEPH'S AT FLEMING CAMPAIGN** has been quietly gathering steam and will be moving into its public phase. This 3.5-million-dollar effort will ensure that St. Joseph's at Fleming will be able to carry on the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph in caring for the elderly in our community and beyond. I was pleased to meet with Jim Coghlan and Neil Hamman from the campaign team today, and to learn about the good progress that has already been made. You can read about the campaign and donate or pledge here.

**I MET THIS WEEK WITH JOAN CARRAGHER**, Director of Education for the PVNC Catholic District School Board, to plan our upcoming Priests-Principals-Chaplains meeting – the first such gathering in almost two years! I also had the pleasure to be updated this week on life at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School, courtesy of Sr. Mary Catherine Perdue, SOLI (headmistress) and Raphael Dunne (Board chair). Let us hold in prayer everyone in our Catholic school communities in these challenging times for education!

**OUR ONLINE SURVEY** for the Worldwide Synod and Diocesan Planning Process is still live for two weeks, until Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. It can be accessed in two formats here, either as a Google form or a Thought Exchange. We really value your input in this process and are grateful for the 700 responses received so far.

Fraternally, † Daniel