



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 159; November 19, 2021

FROM RITUAL TO RELATIONSHIP is a 3-night Parish Mission with Sr. Helena Burns, fps. This Mission is being co-sponsored by Sacred Heart College and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough, and it is designed to be done in hybrid format! Sr. Helena has recorded her video presentations which can be utilized in a parish or home setting. I am looking forward to being part of the Mission at our Cathedral from December 6 to 8. It is also being offered at Immaculate Conception and St. Alphonsus Liguori Parishes (both in Peterborough) and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Huntsville. There is still time for other parishes and small groups to register to “host” the Mission, with materials provided by Sacred Heart. Check out this information at the Sacred Heart College website. Sr. Helena is an appealing speaker, well-known in Catholic media and this Parish Mission promises to be a fine presentation on how Catholic rituals strengthen our faith.

THE ANNUAL PRIEST STUDY DAYS were a great success this past week. We met online with Dan Cellucci of the Catholic Leadership Institute, who gave talks both visionary and practical on parish renewal and priestly ministry. My sincere thanks to the members of the Priests’ Ongoing Formation Committee for pulling it all together: Fr. Tom Lynch, Fr. Paul Massel, Fr. Jerry Tavares, and Fr. Sany Sessaiah.

A 5-PART VIDEO SERIES, “JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT” is being released by the Canadian Bishops, beginning this weekend with the Solemnity of Christ the King. “Indigenous Peoples and the Church: Walking Together Toward Healing and Reconciliation,” has been produced in view of the Indigenous Delegation that will travel to Rome in December to meet with Pope Francis. Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina will reflect each week on one of the five essential stages of reconciliation, based on scripts developed with Indigenous partners. It is hoped that these video reflections will assist the faithful, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, to prepare for Pope Francis’ eventual apostolic journey to Canada.

THE SPIRIT GARDEN project is a Residential Schools Memorial planned for Nathan Philips Square in Toronto. This project responds in part to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #82, for governments to install a memorial in each capital city to honour residential school survivors. I was happy to receive an update from the organizing committee this week, who look forward to breaking ground on the memorial next year. The Diocese of Peterborough has been a contributor to this worthy project over the last several years, along with many other church and community groups. You can read more about this venture and view a brief video here.

MEMBERS OF THE PVNC CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD came to our Cathedral on Tuesday evening for their annual Memorial Mass. I was pleased to celebrate this Mass which I always find a moving and prayerful tribute to those who have served our local Catholic School Board so faithfully. I am grateful to Father Paul Massel and the organizing committee for their work to plan and prepare this Mass, always a special event in our school year.

Fraternally, † Daniel