



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 160; November 26, 2021

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES has been celebrated by the Church in Canada since 1998. It is held on December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Catholic Indigenous Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has published a message for this year's event, one that is timely in view of the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian Residential Schools – many of them run by the Catholic Church. We are planning a liturgy at our Cathedral for the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Because December 12 falls on Sunday we will gather in prayer on Saturday, December 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A committee of clergy and lay people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous has been working hard to plan the liturgy. We look forward to joining with Deacon John Brown of the Archdiocese of Toronto and other Indigenous representatives in a morning of prayer and reflection. All are welcome!

I WILL BE AT THE DEDICATION OF ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH IN MILTON this Sunday. I was the founding pastor of that parish in 2012, but my tenure ended quickly when I was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton the following year. After eight plus years of celebrating Mass in a school gym, the parish community completed the church earlier this year. (The official Dedication has been postponed twice because of Covid-19.) Bishop Douglas Crosby of Hamilton will preside at the Dedication, and he is giving me the great privilege of anointing the walls of the new church building. Congratulations to Father Jim Petrie, the building committee, and parishioners at coming to this long-awaited day!

WE HAVE COME THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT and the beginning of a new liturgical year. I am pleased to announce that, with the advice of public health officials, we are returning to congregational and choir singing at our churches. That is a real blessing as we begin the Advent season and look ahead to Christmas! Other health precautions regarding capacity and masking remain in place, and I ask people to be diligent about those. News this week about a new variant of Covid-19 has reminded us that we still have a road ahead of us in fighting this pandemic.

PRIESTS, PRINCIPALS AND CHAPLAINCY LEADERS met at the Catholic Education Centre in Peterborough earlier this week. It was our first such meeting in two years and it was good to get together to discuss matters ranging from the Synod to Truth and Reconciliation to the launch of new Religious Education materials for Intermediate students. My sincere thanks to Director of Education Joan Carragher and her team at PVNC for hosting everyone!

FOUR MISSIONARIES FROM CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH serve our student population, primarily at Trent University. Father John Perdue and I were pleased to host them at lunch earlier this week, my first opportunity to meet several of them. The four missionaries (Cameron, Erika, Claudine, and Matt) come from different parts of the country and are offering excellent ministry to our young people pursuing higher education in Peterborough.

Fraternally, † Daniel