



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 162; December 10, 2021

THE PLANNED DELEGATION OF INDIGENOUS LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES to visit Pope Francis has been postponed. It was to have taken place next week, but after careful assessment of the increasing pandemic risks, the CCCB Executive, the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami jointly decided to reschedule the delegation for the earliest opportunity in 2022. While disappointing, the decision is understandable in the current circumstances. You can read the joint statement [here](#), which also expresses the great desire of the participants to work together toward healing and reconciliation and reschedule this important meeting.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY with Indigenous peoples will be celebrated at our Cathedral, tomorrow, Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a luncheon at Doyle Hall. The 2021 message for that day, drafted and approved by the Catholic Indigenous Council of the CCCB can be read [here](#). Additionally, the apology issued by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to Indigenous People in September is now featured in a You Tube video [here](#).

THE VIRTUAL ADVENT MISSION with Sister Helena Burns has had a great response! It was co-sponsored by our Diocese and Sacred Heart College and designed for use by parishes and home groups as well. Father Tom Lynch tells me that ten parishes in our Diocese are presenting the Mission with another sixteen across North America. Additionally, dozens of groups signed on to view the Mission virtually at home. (We never know if that means one person in a group or ten people, but it's good either way.) Sister Helena has a great message on the theme "From Ritual to Relationship" and I am delighted that this parish mission is being offered in so many places and ways.

OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE met this week, and we were pleased to learn that there have been 1000 responses to the online survey. We are planning to reopen it for a couple of weeks at Christmas to engage even more people. Additionally, conversations are being held in parishes in a variety of ways to discuss the questions of the Worldwide Synod. I was happy to see this nice article recently in the Catholic Register about the efforts we are making in the Diocese of Peterborough for the Synod. As we begin to review the results and collect reports from the parish conversations, it will all feed into our Diocesan Pastoral Planning project, helping us to set priorities and goals for the coming years.

OUR PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM met in person for the first time in a couple of years this past Saturday. Fr. Dominick Mbah and parishioners kindly hosted the group at St. Martin's Parish in Ennismore and I'm told it was good to be together after a long series of Zoom meetings. Our two candidates are in their final year of preparation for Ordination, and we pray for them all those committed to their training.

Fraternally, † Daniel