



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 168; February 4, 2022

**THE DELEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE IS BACK ON.** Earlier this week, the Canadian Bishops, the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami announced rescheduled dates for the delegation to meet with Pope Francis in Rome. Originally scheduled for December last year, the visit was postponed because of Covid-19. The Holy Father is now scheduled to meet with groups of Indigenous Leaders and Residential school survivors in the week of March 28, and with the whole delegation on April 1. We pray that the event will be an occasion of healing and reconciliation and step on the road toward a planned visit by Pope Francis to Canada in the near future.

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** in solidarity with Indigenous People, held at our Cathedral in December, was a good event. You can still view the video of that gathering here. We are planning for other opportunities for education and encounter around the issue of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, although plans have been put back a little by the Omicron wave. We look forward to publishing more details as they become available.

**EVERYTHING IS SET FOR THE ST. JOSEPH'S DINNER**, taking place online tomorrow night to support Campus Ministry in our Diocese. Although ticket sales are now concluded, those who are joining in will be assured of a good program and interesting talks – and a nice dinner, for those who purchased the meal option! It's heartening to see how people have supported this event, especially last year and this, as we have pivoted to an online format.

**A WEBINAR WITH AUTHORS MOIRA MCQUEEN & MASSIMO FAGGIOLI** will focus on Synodality – how the faithful can participate in Pope Francis's call to solidarity and contribute to the Synod's reflection on "Communion, Participation and Mission." Co-sponsored by Novalis and other Catholic publishers, it looks like it will be a great presentation. I am looking forward to participating in this webinar on February 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It is open to everyone at no charge. You may register here.

**OUR PRIESTS' ONGOING FORMATION COMMITTEE** will be meeting next week as we plan for the annual retreats this year and next, and the Study Days in November. The Priests' Retreat was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid so we are determined to make it happen this year! Priests should have marked the dates in their calendars already, but just in case not, the Retreat takes place from May 30 to June 3 at Queen of Apostles in Mississauga.

**"NIGHTIME DEVOTIONALS FOR TEEN GIRLS"** was recently published by my former colleague from the Diocese of Hamilton, Teresa Hartnett. Co-authored with her daughter Catherine, the book offers 5-minute daily Scriptural reflections about issues of concern for teenage girls. I was happy to be one of the "endorsers," and in that spirit I will say that, with many insightful spiritual reflections, it is an ideal gift for a daughter, granddaughter, or niece!

Fraternally, † Daniel