



# FROM THE VINEYARD

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**TODAY, IN ROME**, after a week of meetings with Indigenous delegates, Pope Francis offered a heartfelt apology for the Catholic Church's role in the Residential School system in Canada. Acknowledging the abuse and disrespect inflicted on Indigenous culture, language and spiritual values, the Holy Father stated, "I ask God's forgiveness and I want to say to you with all my heart: I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops, in asking your pardon." Indigenous and Church leaders acknowledge that much more remains to be done in the ongoing process of truth and reconciliation. Pope Francis has committed to come to Canada soon so that he may have further encounters with Indigenous people including Residential School survivors. You may read the Canadian Bishops' response to Pope Francis' apology [here](#).

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE**, and for the restoration of peace and the protection of all those impacted by this war. I was moved to join with Pope Francis in his Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary last Friday; and heartened by the hundreds of people who came to the Cathedral to attend the Mass and Act of Consecration afterwards. It was a great sign of solidarity, concern and union in the faith.

**PRIESTS, PRINCIPALS AND CHAPLAINCY LEADERS** gathered for a meeting at the PVNC Catholic District School Board this past Wednesday. We usually convene twice a year discuss matters of common concern. We had good sharing around one of the Synod questions and updates on the Pastoral planning process both in the diocese and at the school board. Sincere thanks to the staff of the Catholic Education Center for their kind hospitality to our priests!

**FATHER JOHN PERDUE, FATHER STEPHEN DECARLO AND I** had an enjoyable trip to St. Augustine's Seminary yesterday. A meeting with the faculty afforded us the chance to hear all the encouraging news about our three candidates preparing for the priesthood. Afterwards, a pleasant meal at a local restaurant with our three seminarians put a nice cap on the evening. One of them, Deacon Peter Lukow, will be ordained to the priesthood in our Cathedral on Friday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. Please keep him in your prayers.

**FATHER BILL MOLONEY IS STEPPING AWAY** temporarily from pastoral duties at St. Mary's in Campbellford while he deals with some health concerns. I know that he appreciates your prayers and is looking forward to resuming his ministry when he is able. Yesterday, I appointed Father Isaac Ogwu (currently associate at St. Joseph's in Bowmanville) to be the temporary parish administrator during Father Moloney's absence.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO VALERIE FINLEY**, who is retiring as Office Manager at St. Mary's Parish in Lindsay. She is one of our longest serving employees in the diocese, having worked for some thirty-seven years at St. Mary's. We are grateful for her long and excellent service to the parish! A little soiree of friends, family and clergy will gather on Sunday to mark the occasion.

Fraternally, † Daniel