



FROM THE VINEYARD

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FATHER NEIL PEREIRA will be appointed as the new Campus Minister for Trent University and Fleming College, effective at the end of June. With Father John Perdue going for further studies in theology, I was concerned to provide a priest to carry on the good work being done at Peterborough Campus Ministry. Father Pereira is a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto, so I am grateful to Cardinal Thomas Collins for allowing him to take on this assignment with us. A graduate of St. Augustine's Seminary and ordained to the priesthood in 2020, Father Pereira currently serves as the associate pastor at St. Isaac Jogues parish in Pickering. We look forward to welcoming him to Peterborough as he takes on this important and vital ministry with students!

SPEAKING OF PETERBOROUGH CAMPUS MINISTRY, students and others will gather for a year-end banquet tomorrow night at Bishop Doyle Hall. This event will not only celebrate another successful year but will also allow the students to bid farewell to Father John Perdue and welcome Father Neil Pereira. What a blessing for them to be able to gather, as the year end festivities in 2020 and 2021 had to be held online.

THE ANNUAL FAITH DAY for PVNC Catholic District School Board took place today. While staff gathered in schools, Archbishop Paul-Andre Durocher of Gatineau offered reflections virtually on "Being a Community that Accompanies." I enjoyed viewing those presentations (one pre-recorded and one done "live") as Archbishop Durocher explored how we can be more "synodal" and participatory, as a Church and Catholic school community.

HOLY WEEK IS UPON US and begins with this weekend's Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Lent seems to have flown by! We are also looking forward to the celebration of the Chrism Mass on Monday evening at our Cathedral. It is a joy this year to be able to welcome the faithful to this Mass and gather for a meal beforehand with priests and deacons. This is the annual Mass at which we bless the holy oils for sacramental use in the Diocese and at which priests renew their priestly promises. I managed to record a brief video explaining the Chrism Mass (through the good graces of Father Tom Lynch and Cathedral staff) and that may be viewed here.

OUR PRIEST BENEFIT FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE met this week, the first meeting of a new group at the start of its three-year term. The committee does important work managing the Priest Benefit Fund on behalf of our retired priests – and those who one day will be! My sincere thanks to all the Committee members, new and old, who give themselves to this important task on behalf of the priests.

I'VE MENTIONED BEFORE THE "BIBLE IN A YEAR PODCAST," with Father Mike Schmitz, which has been one of the most popular ones anywhere. The story of this podcast's remarkable success was picked up CBS news last week. It's worth checking out the report and the video here.

Fraternally, † Daniel