



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 194; October 28, 2022

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND BOOKEEPERS from around the Diocese gathered for their first social in three years on Tuesday. I was glad to join them with members of our Diocesan Pastoral Center staff at St. Joseph Parish in Douro, where we were well received by Mary Ann Clancy and Father Randy Foster. Mass was followed by a lunch reception in the parish hall. I learned from the photo album there that these annual (until Covid) socials began in 2006 and have taken place in many different parishes of the Diocese. This is a great tradition, bringing together the committed employees who are so essential to keep our parishes running. For next year's social, we are planning to head to one of our northern deanery parishes.

THE PRIESTS' STUDY DAYS will take place from November 8 to 10 at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston. This will be our first in-person gathering since 2019, though we did manage to run a program online last November. The theme is "Pastors and Pastoral Planning," and will be facilitated for us by Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry for the Diocese of Hamilton. She has been leading our Deanery discussions for Diocesan Pastoral Planning, and her input here will help us to consider the opportunities and challenges of this process, especially on a parish level.

ON THE SUBJECT OF PASTORAL PLANNING, we look forward to tomorrow's session for the northern deanery at St. Paul's Parish in Gravenhurst. Additionally, young people can participate in an online youth session on Monday evening, November 7. Go to our [Diocesan website](#) for information about how to take part in this virtual consultation meeting with young people – they are an essential voice to hear in the planning process!

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'S VIRTUAL FALL CAMPAIGN IS "People and Planet First." An online session will be held tomorrow, Saturday, October 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to present this year's campaign. You can get more information about the session and register [here](#). This informative meeting will acquaint people with the work of Development and Peace, nationally and in dioceses and parishes.

THE STAFF OF OUR CATHEDRAL SAID GOODBYE TO RUSSEL BLAKE at a luncheon this week. He is retiring after long service as Cathedral custodian – which often meant being pressed into various tasks here at the Diocesan Pastoral Center too! We thank Russell for his hard work over the years and wish him well in retirement.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER is almost here, the time when we traditionally offer prayers for the faithful departed. The Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st is followed by the Commemoration of All Souls the next day. I will be celebrating a "Candlelight Mass" at our Cathedral on All Souls Day, Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Let us keep our deceased loved ones in prayer during these holy days, that they may dwell with God in eternal rest and perpetual light.

Fraternally, † Daniel