



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 195; November 4, 2022

“ENLARGE THE SPACE OF YOUR TENT” (Is. 54:2) is the title of the 44-page Working Document for the Continental Phase of the Worldwide Synod. The document represents the responses received from 112 Bishops’ Conferences and 15 Oriental Catholic Churches around the world. It is an interesting and thought-provoking read and one that will now fuel discussions at online continental sessions. Delegates from Canadian dioceses will join in these sessions with participants from dioceses of the United States in December and January. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has published an interesting FAQ about the continental phase of the Synod which you may read here.

WHEN THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS COVENES IN ROME in October of 2023 and 2024, it will include four elected delegates from Canada – two anglophone and two francophone bishops. These representatives were chosen at our recent CCCB Meeting in September; and while I was not chosen as a delegate I was elected as the anglophone “substitute.” As I like to say, that makes me the winner of the losers! I will attend if one of the two elected delegates is not able to go. While I don’t know what my chances are of actually being at the Synod of the Bishops, it would certainly be a privilege to attend – and undoubtedly among the experiences of a lifetime.

OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS rolls forward! We had a good session with parish representatives from our Northern Deanery at St. Paul’s in Gravenhurst last Saturday. Tomorrow, we look forward to meeting with parishioners of the City Deanery at St. Anne Parish. That will conclude our regional meetings, leading up to the Diocese-wide forum to be held on November 19. Let us continue to pray for the success of this planning process, that God may guide us in our gathering and discerning.

THE FATHER PATRICK FOGARTY AWARDS DINNER was held in Toronto last Saturday, honouring various people and groups for their contribution to Catholic education. CEFO (Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario) Awards are handed out to secondary students who have made notable contributions to their schools. Congratulations to the six award recipients from PVNC Catholic District School Board: Sarah English (Holy Cross CSS); Isaac Smith (Holy Trinity CSS); Myah Brady (St. Mary CSS); Kundai Mudzimba (St. Peter CSS); Ella Morash (St. Stephen CSS); and Jessica Seaton (St. Thomas Aquinas CSS).

THE PRIESTS’ STUDY DAYS will take from Tuesday to Thursday next week, at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston. We are looking forward to these first in-person Study days in three years, a chance to be together as priests and explore topics of importance. It should be a valuable couple of days as we dive into the theme of “Pastors and Pastoral Planning.” Please keep our priests in your prayers in the coming week, that this time of study and fraternity may serve us and the Diocese well!

Fraternally, † Daniel