



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 200; December 16, 2022

BACK FROM A BRIEF HIATUS, and just in time for Christmas, From the Vineyard hits its milestone 200th issue! Thanks to all of you who have stuck with this newsletter for five-plus years and those who began reading more recently. I pray that my weekly humble attempt at communication and outreach may continue to bear some good fruit.

I ANNOUNCED SEVERAL TRANSFERS OF PRIESTS earlier this week, taking effect in January and February. My sincere thanks to all those who are preparing for new pastoral assignments at what is admittedly a bit of an unusual time. Among these moves, we welcome to the Diocese Father Aji Sebastian, CMI. He will be staying with his confreres Father Joshy George and Father Jithin Jose at St. Alphonsus in Peterborough this month, before going to St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Huntsville to provide priestly ministry for January and February.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL continues to offer much needed service out of their Food Pantry on Murray Street in Peterborough. They have seen a great jump in their number of clients since the summer, because of inflation and other economic pressures. Staff of the Diocesan Pastoral Center, the Vocation Office, Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, and the Campus Ministry program spent Wednesday morning there helping their dedicated volunteers prepare food packages. We were warmly welcomed by Sue Armitage, Peter Gruneberg, Paul Beamish, and many others who keep that good operation running. To learn more about the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and how to donate or volunteer, check out their website!

CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL is a concert sponsored by Peterborough Campus Ministry in support of those attending World Youth Day next summer. It is being held on Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains - a great night of seasonal music that should put people in the Christmas spirit! There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted at the doors, with all proceeds going to support the World Youth Day Pilgrimage.

THE HONOURABLE GRAYDON NICHOLAS was in Hamilton on Monday, giving his talk on The Encounter of Indigenous Peoples in North America with the Church. It was an interesting perspective offered by Justice Nicholas, a Catholic who was also the first Indigenous person to hold the office of Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. Among many other responsibilities, he sits on the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, a coalition of Catholic individuals and organizations working together to foster relationships with Indigenous people in Canada.

THE CONTINENTAL PHASE of preparation for the upcoming "Synod on Synodality," is being held through online sessions in December and January. Several people from our Diocese participated in a virtual meeting and discussion this week with about 120 other participants from Canada and the United States. It was interesting to hear various perspectives from a diverse group of Catholics as the Church prepares for a Synod of Bishops that reflects on "Communion, Participation and Mission."

Fraternally, + Daniel