



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 201; December 22, 2022

I PUBLISHED MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE to the Diocese earlier this week, just in time for the joyful celebrations of the Lord's birth that we are about to commence! I pray that, despite some dire weather predictions (this is Canada, after all) your Christmas plans are coming together.

THE CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS EVE 10 P.M. MASS (the latest Mass at the Cathedral this Christmas eve) will be broadcast on **Cogeco/Your TV**. Father Tom Lynch tells me that everything is ready for that Mass and a very busy liturgical schedule at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. We are grateful to Cogeco/Your TV who broadcast this Christmas Mass every other year as a service to the community. Since not everyone in our Diocese is able to access that televised Mass, either because of geography or service provider, we will also livestream on our You Tube channel the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas day from the Cathedral.

CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL was held last night, a concert put on by our pilgrims who are attending World Youth Day in Portugal next summer. It was a fine program of Advent and Christmas music, featuring choirs from Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School and St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough. The pilgrims themselves formed an excellent choir to close out the evening with several songs. And it was great to see seminarian Peter Bissonnette (currently on his pastoral internship year at St. Joseph's in Bracebridge) reveal hitherto unknown talents on the banjo! Thanks to all who participated and the audience who attended this concert – the generous freewill offerings will help the pilgrims in their fundraising efforts.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WISH TREE MASS took place at Sacred Heart Parish in Peterborough this past Saturday evening. I was privileged to be the celebrant and to join Father Alex Salazar, IVE and his parishioners for this Memorial Mass. And I truly enjoyed attending the fine Nativity Play afterwards, presented by the children of Sacred Heart and St. John's. Congratulations to all who were involved in these celebrations!

I WAS PLEASED TO CELEBRATE AN ADVENT MASS for the students and staff at Ecole Monsignor Jamot on Wednesday this week. It is the school belonging to the "Mon Avenir" French Catholic School Board and they have a student population of about 300, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Father Tom Lynch kindly joined me and concelebrated the Mass, where we both did our best to muddle through in our rusty French! Sincere thanks to the principal, Mr. St.-Amour and his good staff for all they did to prepare the liturgy and the students.

WE WERE DELIGHTED to gather our Diocesan staff for a Christmas luncheon earlier this week, the first time in a few years we managed to do it. The mood was convivial and I had the opportunity to thank them for all their hard work this past year. I hope and pray that your Christmas gatherings will be equally blessed and that you and yours will be heartened this season by the good news of Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas!

Fraternally, + Daniel