



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 202; January 13, 2023

**BLESSINGS OF THE NEW YEAR** to one and all! During From the Vineyard's three-week Christmas vacation, there was some major news in the Catholic world.

**POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI** completed his earthly pilgrimage and passed away on December 31<sup>st</sup>. His frail health in recent years meant that his death was hardly a surprise – still, it was the end of a long and faithful life spent in the service of God and the Church as priest, bishop, and theologian. This culminated in his eight years as the Vicar of Christ, from 2005 to 2013, where he certainly made his mark as one of the great teaching popes in all of history. A humble and self-effacing man, his last great act of humility was to resign the papacy when he realized he could no longer fulfill its demands. A [statement](#) by Bishop Raymond Poisson, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, pays tribute to Pope Benedict XVI, with special attention to his significance for the Church in Canada.

“Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict who governed your Church with love.”

**A MEMORIAL MASS** for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was celebrated at our Cathedral on Thursday, January 5. Inclement weather kept our numbers rather low, but I notice that the Mass has had many views on our You Tube channel, where you can still see it. Sincere thanks to the priests, staff and volunteers of the Cathedral who organized a beautiful and fitting liturgy on short notice.

**“MOTHER TERESA: NO GREATER LOVE”** is a movie produced by the Knights of Columbus about one of the most renowned saints of our time. Although it bypassed Peterborough on its initial run in the fall, it is coming to the Galaxy cinema downtown on Sunday, January 22 and Monday, January 23. By all accounts it is a well-made and moving documentary about a woman whose singular vision was to serve Christ in the poor. Click [here](#) for more information.

**IT WAS A PLEASURE TO VISIT ST. JOSEPH PARISH** in Powassan for the Solemnity of the Epiphany last Sunday. I am grateful to Father Eric Mason and the parishioners for their very kind welcome. And I am grateful to God for the nice weather that made the drive up and back much easier than I anticipated!

**FATHER STAN WITZAK** begins his retirement from priestly ministry later this month. Parishioners at St. Anne's in Peterborough will have a chance to say their goodbyes at Masses and a reception this Sunday. Though he will be residing outside the diocese, he has graciously agreed to celebrate Mass for the Polish community at Immaculate Conception Parish a couple of times a month. We thank Father Stan for his more than thirty years of priestly service in our diocese and pray for many blessings in his retirement from ministry.

Fraternally, † Daniel