



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 204; February 3, 2023

MEMBERS OF OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY PLANNING TEAM met this week, discussing various plans and fundraising projects to assist our 19 pilgrims going to Lisbon this summer. Among the events is a Portuguese themed dinner to be held at Immaculate Conception Church in Peterborough on Saturday, March 25. More information on that will be coming. I have also agreed that the pilgrims may make appeals at parishes of the Diocese, as they did at our Cathedral last Sunday. The support showed by the parishioners there was very encouraging, and we hope that other parishes may be just as supportive.

THE SECOND OF THREE DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS for the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund takes place on February 18/19. Your donations will help the Diocese of Peterborough meet its responsibilities to the 30-million-dollar IRF commitment made by the Catholic Bishops of Canada. Projects are vetted at both a local and national committee level with funds going to support initiatives for healing and reconciliation, Indigenous culture, language and spirituality, and education and community building. (A final IRF collection will take place in our diocese in the month of November.)

YESTERDAY'S FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD was also the **World Day of Consecrated Life**. Established by Pope St. John Paul II, the purpose of this day is to help the entire Church to appreciate more fully the witness of those people who have chosen to follow Christ in religious communities, taking the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Although he was busy with events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday, Pope Francis released this [message](#) for the World Day of Consecrated Life.

OUR PROPERTY, PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE met this week, as we do every few months. It is helpful to have the input of knowledgeable and experienced lay people to review the various construction and renovation projects that parishes undertake. This week, we had reports from Father Tom Lynch and Father Eric Mason, as they updated us on restoration work taking place at our Cathedral and St. Joseph Parish in Powassan, respectively. And Father Peter Seabrooke chairs those busy meetings and always keeps us on task.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS have been busily running in the fall and winter, through the help of many dedicated volunteers. For the past few months, a small committee has been meeting to discuss the updating of those programs, especially as the resource we now use for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation is going out of print. I am grateful to the members of that committee, who have worked carefully and selected "Signs of Grace," published by the Augustine Institute, as our new resource beginning in September of 2023. The committee will also be providing new material to help parish catechists work with this excellent program.

Fraternally, † Daniel