



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 205; February 10, 2023

THE DEVASTATION OF THE EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA is causing human suffering on an unimaginable scale. Bishop Raymond Poisson, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, has said, “As Catholics, we are compelled to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in dire circumstances, like the thousands that have lost loved ones or are injured and have lost their homes.” The Diocese of Peterborough will join in the campaign organized by the Canadian Bishops and Catholic relief organizations (Development and Peace – Caritas Canada; Catholic Near East Welfare Association; Aid to the Church Need; Canadian Jesuits International) to provide much needed assistance to victims of this terrible earthquake. Click [here](#) for more information and to donate online.

“THAT WE MAY WALK TOGETHER,” a [series of letters](#) about reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, was published yesterday by the Canadian Bishops. Each of the four pastoral letters is addressed to a particular group, one each to First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities and to the People of God in Canada. These letters are the fruit of many months of listening and encounter, including the Indigenous delegation to the Vatican last March and Pope Francis’s historic penitential pilgrimage to Canada in July. These letters lay out a framework of ongoing dialogue and encounter at the local level and specify the commitments being made by the Bishops in Canada make progress on the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

OUR DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR THE INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND takes place next weekend, February 18/19. Your donations will help the Diocese of Peterborough meet its obligations to the 30-million-dollar IRF commitment made by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is the second of three collections being taken up in our Diocese: the first was our annual Bishop’s Appeal last July and the third will take place in November of this year. More information about the collection and its purposes can be found [here](#).

TOMORROW IS THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, observed each year on February 11, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Instituted by Pope John Paul II, this day highlights the healing ministry of the Church and the importance of service to the sick and suffering. Pope Francis’ message for the 31st World Day of the Sick, can be found [here](#). I am looking forward to being at St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough tomorrow for a Healing Mass at which the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES from Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist Parishes in Peterborough came by for a tour of our Cathedral yesterday. I was happy to be able speak with them and participate in the expert, guided tour given by Father Tom Lynch. There isn’t much about the Cathedral he doesn’t know, and I always learn something new!

Fraternally, † Daniel