



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 211; March 24, 2023

OUR INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND COMMITTEE held its first meeting this week, which included members from First Nations and Metis groups and representatives from the Diocese of Peterborough. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops asked that each Diocese establish an IRF committee to promote local connections and relationships to further the cause of reconciliation. The local committees will work with the National IRF committee to identify worthy projects that promote healing reconciliation, Indigenous culture, language, spirituality and education. I am grateful to all those who have agreed to serve on this committee and assist in its important work. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Indigenous Reconciliation fund in parish collections that were held in February and last summer.

I SIT ON THE HINDU-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE on behalf of the CCCB and have learned a lot at the twice-yearly meetings that address a variety of issues. Last weekend, we took our Dialogue out of the G.T.A. and down the 401 to Montreal. With the McGill School of Religious Studies, we sponsored a fascinating lecture by Dr. Arvind Sharma on the topic of “Jesus and Gandhi.” Dr. Sharma explored some convergences in the thought and practice of Mahatma Gandhi and Jesus, with a focus on the Sermon on the Mount. This Hindu-Catholic Dialogue, founded in 2012, is one of eleven ecumenical/interfaith dialogues sponsored by the Canadian Bishops.

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Peterborough recently announced the hiring of a new headmaster. John Jalsevac comes to the position with degrees in theology and philosophy from Christendom College and the University of Toronto and is currently a PhD candidate at the Center for Medieval Studies in Toronto. We wish him well in his appointment and pray that he will build on the good work that has been done and continues at Our Lady of the Wayside!

THE MOST REVEREND FRANK LEO WILL BE INSTALLED as the new Archbishop of Toronto on Saturday, the Feast of the Annunciation. Many clergy, lay faithful and bishops from across Canada will gather at St. Michael’s Cathedral to ask God’s blessing on Archbishop Leo in his pastoral leadership. Please keep him in your prayers as he assumes the episcopal care of a major archdiocese, and one which carries with it a pre-eminence for the Catholic Church in all of English Canada. And may God richly bless Cardinal Thomas Collins in his retirement.

I LOST MY FRIENDLY HOCKEY BET with Bishop Tom Dowd of Sault Ste. Marie, after the Peterborough Petes lost to the Sudbury Wolves last Friday. According to the terms of our contract I shall don a Wolves jersey for a social media photo and the abject humiliation that goes with it. Stay tuned to our Facebook and Twitter posts if you wish to see me suffer this dishonour!

Fraternally, † Daniel