



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 220; June 2, 2023

THE ANNUAL PRIESTS' RETREAT takes place this week (Monday to Friday) at Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga. We are looking forward to a time of prayer and spiritual refreshment, led throughout the week by Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI, retired archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas. Please pray for us as we embark on this important time of spiritual retreat and priestly fraternity.

THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD & THE VIRGIN OF MATARA (often known as the SSVM Sisters) have served at Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist Parishes in Peterborough for many years. Today, I was graced with a visit from their Provincial Superior, Mother Immaculate Conception, who leads a province that encompasses the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico. I assured her of our great appreciation for the presence and apostolate of the sisters here in the Diocese of Peterborough. And I know that Father Alex Salazar, IVE, pastor of Sacred Heart and St. John's, is of a similar mind!

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH in Kirkfield hosted the priests and deacons of the diocese on Wednesday for a meeting about our Pastoral Plan and some other topics of interest. It is hard to find a central point in the geographic territory of the Diocese of Peterborough, but Kirkfield comes about the closest. We were very grateful to Father Michael Njeji and his good staff and many volunteers who received us well and fed us! And the clergy were grateful that the meeting did not extend much beyond 2:00 p.m. as it was getting warmer by the minute.

SPEAKING OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN I was pleased with the official rollout that took place on Pentecost Sunday – an appropriate day to ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide the Church in the Diocese of Peterborough. Although we did not print that many copies, the plan has been published on our Diocesan website, where you will find it to be well laid out, concise and easy to read.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION continues across the Diocese, stretching even beyond the Easter season into late June. Our own Cathedral always has a standing date with me for Confirmation on the feast of Pentecost, and we had a wonderful celebration there. During the week, I conferred Confirmation at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Campbellford and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in the appropriately named Assumption. Congratulations to all the newly confirmed and sincere thanks to all the clergy, catechists, parents, sponsors and teachers who have helped to prepare the young people.

SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATIONS will take place across our Diocese in the month of June. We pray for our 2023 graduating class as the students prepare for their final exams and anticipate new pathways. May your futures be filled with God's rich blessings as you respond to His call for you to serve others and build the Kingdom of God!

Fraternally, † Daniel