



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 231; October 20, 2023

POPE FRANCIS has called for Friday, October 27 to be a day of fasting and prayer for peace in the world. The worsening situation in Israel and Gaza and the looming humanitarian crisis are certainly causing great concern around the world. The Holy Father invited “the various Christian confessions, members of other religions and all who hold the cause of peace in the world at heart to participate.” Priests in our diocese are encouraged to celebrate the Mass that day for the intention of peace in the world and provide some time of Eucharistic adoration.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND BOOKKEEPERS from our diocese gathered at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Parry Sound yesterday for a Mass and luncheon and some enjoyable social time. This annual gathering is a small way that we show thanks to our faithful parish employees. Sincere thanks to Father Jerry Tavares, Kristen Penfold and parishioners for receiving and hosting us. Although the planned boat cruise did not take place (too windy!) we enjoyed a trip around town to see some local sites, with Fr. Jerry as our excellent tour guide!

ORIENTATION SESSIONS for new pastors and priests newly arrived in the Diocese of Peterborough were held at our Diocesan Pastoral Center today. We had excellent sessions in the morning and afternoon as we discussed various pastoral and administrative matters. The mood was collegial and the lunch most enjoyable! Sincere thanks to the priests who participated, and to those who presented on the various topics.

I WILL CELEBRATE THE FINAL MASS ever at Our Lady of Lourdes church in Hamilton on Sunday. I was blessed to serve there from 1998 to 2004, my first assignment as a pastor. Our Lady of Lourdes and Corpus Christi parishes have been merged into the new St. Catherine of Siena parish. On Sunday afternoon, having helped “turn out the lights” at Lourdes, I will be present for the blessing and dedication of the new St. Catherine of Siena church. It is a bittersweet occasion to be sure, saying goodbye to a beloved and familiar faith community while embracing all the possibilities of the new!

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’S ACTION CAMPAIGN is focused on human rights in Honduras, which have been jeopardized by corrupt mining practices. Earlier this week I released a letter supporting this campaign, which seeks to pressure the Honduran government to respect human rights and the preservation of the environment. It is an important campaign by Development and Peace, a Catholic agency that works closely with the Canadian Bishops to advance justice and peace around the world.

“A DINNER OF THANKSGIVING WITH THE BISHOP,” is how Sir Guy Mills Council of the Knights of Columbus in Lindsay is billing tonight’s festivities. I am looking forward to joining them for this celebration and will try to keep my after-dinner talk both brief and light!

Fraternally, + Daniel