



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 238; December 8, 2023

THE VICE-PRINCIPALS of PVNC Catholic District School Board have been meeting last night and today on annual retreat. I was very happy to celebrate Mass with the group this morning and then stay for the opening talk by Dr. Doug Finbow, “How Catholic Schools are Good News.” These have obviously been good days of professional and spiritual development for leaders in Catholic Education.

CARDINAL GERALD CYPRIEN LACROIX opens a celebratory Holy Year today to mark the 350th Anniversary of the Diocese of Quebec, which is the oldest diocese north of Mexico. Beginning today and until December 8, 2024, he invites Catholics from across North America to make a pilgrimage to Quebec City, the cradle of faith in our country and the eastern and southern United States. The Diocese of Quebec has given birth to 150 dioceses across North America! The Holy Door of the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Quebec will be open to welcome pilgrims throughout this holy year. Check out their website at [here](#). The opening celebration will be live at 7:00 p.m. tonight at www.ECDQ.tv.

OUR CLERGY GATHERING FOR ADVENT was a great success on Thursday, beginning with Mass at the Cathedral, followed by a luncheon at Bishop Doyle Hall. It was a convivial and fraternal event, with priests and deacons from all parts of the Diocese of Peterborough. Sincere thanks to everyone who worked to stage this annual gathering, with special appreciation to our Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Center staff.

THE ANNUAL VISIT OF THE PRESIDENCY of the Canadian Bishops (CCCB) to the Holy See is taking place between November 28 and December 12. The team consists of our new president, Bishop William McGrattan, and vice-president, Bishop Pierre Goudreault, who met with Pope Francis on November 30. Accompanied by CCCB General Secretary, Father Jean Vezina, they are visiting more than twenty Vatican offices on a busy round of meetings!

SIMBANG GABI is the Novena of Masses celebrated by Filipinos around the world in anticipation of Christmas – and it is happening once again in Peterborough! Each of the Novena Masses will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Church on Rogers St., from Friday, December 15 to Saturday, December 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by a feast with an array of Philippine dishes. Everyone is welcome! A whole cadre of priests is involved, and I am looking forward to being the celebrant for the grand finale on December 23.

HAPPY FEAST DAY (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who minister at St. Therese Parish in Courtice, and to the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate who serve at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School and our Diocesan Pastoral Center.

Fraternally, † Daniel