



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 253; April 11, 2024

FATHER JOSEPH DEVEREAUX celebrated 25-ish years of priesthood at a festive banquet last Saturday night. More than 200 people – friends, relatives, priests, and parishioners from hither and yon - gathered at Dreamland Resort in Hastings for an entertaining and convivial night. Alex Schadenberg of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (a long-time friend of Fr. Joseph) gave the after-dinner talk, and the guest of honour himself spoke eloquently about the gift of priesthood. Continued blessings in your ministry, Fr. Joseph, and as we say, *ad multos annos!*

BIRTHDAYS AND RETIREMENTS were celebrated at a casual gathering at our Diocesan Pastoral Center yesterday. Among the departures, Maggie Baker is stepping back from the task of coordinating refugee sponsorship in the diocese, something she has worked very hard at these last few years. We also bid farewell to Deirdre Thomas, who is retiring next week from her “second career” as Bishop’s Assistant and Communications Manager. With profound thanks and assurance of our prayers, we wish both Deirdre and Maggie much happiness.

“FORMED” HAS BEEN A GREAT RESOURCE for our Diocese in the past year. A three-year subscription means that every Catholic in our Diocese has ongoing free access to great Catholic content which is entertaining and educational. Yesterday, clergy and lay people participated in a Zoom meeting with the representatives from the Augustine Institute, who led us through a workshop on tapping into the riches of Formed. A video of that session can be viewed online here, and it will be very helpful for those new to Formed and those who wish to know it even better. Click [here](#) for a direct link to the fine Easter resources on Formed.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH CELEBRATES A JUBILEE every twenty-five years, and in 2025, that jubilee will be centered on the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” Some excellent resources for the Jubilee are already on our [website](#), including “Teach us to Pray,” a catechesis on this Year of Prayer leading up to the Jubilee. In the words of the official prayer for the 2025 Jubilee, “May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.”

IT WILL BE A BUSY SATURDAY, as 21 couples participate in our online Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program. Meanwhile, at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, our monthly session of formation for Permanent Deacon candidates will be taking place. Please keep in your prayers all those participating in these important programs and those who facilitate them.

SPRING MEANS CONFIRMATION SEASON, and we will kick things off tomorrow afternoon at St. John Vianney church in Highland Grove (a mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cardiff). Father Vic Valles and his parishioners have everything ready, and I am looking forward to the first of many joyful celebrations of this sacrament with our young people in the coming months.

Fraternally, † Daniel