



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 244; February 9, 2024

THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK takes place this Sunday. Established by St. Pope John Paul II to fall annually on February 11, it highlights the healing ministry of the Church and reminds us that service to the sick and suffering is essential. In his message for this 32nd World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis reflects on the Scripture passage “It is not good that man should be alone” (Gen 2:18). The Holy Father highlights the importance of friendship and solidarity to relieve the isolation and alienation that sick people may feel. “The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our pastoral attention.” To read Pope Francis’ statement and that of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, please click [here](#).

I ENJOYED A VISIT TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL PARISH in Hastings last Friday evening where I did some “substitute ministry” for Father Joseph Devereaux who was away for a few days. He and the parishioners had everything ready for a fitting celebration of the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, including many candles to be blessed on the day traditionally known as “Candlemas.” Thank you, everyone, for your kind welcome!

THE SEASON OF LENT begins this week with the solemn celebration of Ash Wednesday. Didn’t we just put the Christmas decorations away? It is rather early this year, but it’s never too early for us to embark on this annual journey of penance, conversion and renewal. If you haven’t done so yet, this is the ideal time to check out the many good video resources available through [FORMED](#), which can be accessed for free for parishioners in the Diocese of Peterborough. (Just go to the “[Formed](#)” page on our website, click on the link and follow the instructions.)

GET SCHOOLED IN “[FORMED](#)” through our online workshop this week. A one-hour session will be held this Thursday, beginning at 2:00 p.m. for clergy and laity. All are welcome to join this session which will be a good introduction to the world of Formed with special attention given to the excellent resources there for the season of Lent. Go to the “[Formed](#)” page on our Diocesan website and click on the Zoom meeting link. (But get the right one – there is one for Lent and a later meeting for Easter.) This is an open meeting, so come one, come all!

THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER STAFF enjoyed two social gatherings this week: a pre-Lent Pancake lunch on Thursday, and a celebration on Wednesday evening for Chris LeBlanc (Director of Stewardship and Development) and his wife Stephanie who are expecting their first child. Congratulations to them, and sincere thanks to those who planned these light-hearted socials!

MIKE PERRAULT, GRAND KNIGHT OF LINDSAY COUNCIL #1124, stopped by today with a nice gift – a ceremonial gavel for yours truly. I attended the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner in Lindsay last October and made several comments about the Grand Knights’ gavel and how it would be nice to own such a thing. And now I do, which should help me to keep meetings in order around here! Thanks so much, GK Michael Perrault and brother Knights of Columbus.

Fraternally, + Daniel