



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 243; February 2, 2024

TODAY IS THE WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE, established by St. John Paul II in 1997 to be held annually on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The purpose of the day is to help the faithful to value and appreciate the witness of consecrated men and women – members of religious orders whether priests, sisters or brothers – who have dedicated themselves to follow Christ in community by living out the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In his [homily](#) for this feast day Mass, Pope Francis spoke of the gift that consecrated men and women are in the life of the Church. Let us be especially thankful for the members of religious communities who serve the Church here in the Diocese of Peterborough!

THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS is back, and planning is beginning in earnest! The casting call and first meeting about the Way of the Cross takes place St. Alphonsus Church Hall in Peterborough (810 Frank St.) tomorrow (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m. We are looking forward to another prayerful and moving dramatization of our Lord's Passion and Death this Good Friday, which happens only through the good efforts of many volunteers.

OUR INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION FUND has launched round two of the Application Process which will continue until March 21. In round one we were excited to fund eight projects totalling nearly \$160,000.00 in First Nations communities and Metis councils, all to further the cause of "walking together" with Indigenous People. I wish to thank all those who have generously contributed to our IRF, which is helping to sponsor important projects and, in the process, build bridges and establish new relationships.

I MET LAST WEEK with representatives of the **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada**. It was good to connect with Bill Mackasey, our Diocesan President and the new Central Ontario Regional Animator, Randy Haluza-Delay. Among other things we discussed the upcoming Share Lent Campaign, "Reaping our Rights." Resources for this year's campaign (including a letter of support from Bishop William McGrattan, President of the CCCB) can be found [here](#). Each year, Development and Peace strives to forge links between Canadians and people in the Global south, promoting justice and fighting poverty in accord with Catholic social teaching.

OUR PRIESTS AND DEACONS enjoyed a good online learning session this week about promoting safe environments. Sincere thanks to all our presenters, Laura Quibell, Robyn Henighan, Father Joe Moran and Father Alex Laschuk. And special thanks to the staff of the Diocese who kept all the technical stuff working!

ASH WEDNESDAY FALLS ON VALENTINE'S DAY yet again, for the second time in six years. That means Lent is coming soon! Pope Francis' message for Lent can be found [here](#) and [this page on our website](#) can help you with some advance preparations for this holy season.

Fraternally, + Daniel