



FROM THE VINEYARD

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FATHER ALLAN HOOD passed away in Belleville earlier this week. A priest of the Diocese of Peterborough, he had formerly served as pastor of St. Mary's in Grafton and St. Michael's in Cobourg. Please keep him in your prayers. Arrangements are still being finalized, but it is expected that the Funeral Mass will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Belleville.

WE WERE SORRY TO LEARN THAT HELEN MCCARTHY died last week. A former teacher at St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School, Helen also served two terms as a trustee for the PVNC Catholic District School Board. Among other things, she was a principal founder of THE ABRAHAM FESTIVAL which brings together Christians, Jews and Muslims annually in a celebration of faith and mutual understanding. May she rest in God's peace.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY begins on Thursday, January 18 and concludes on January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. This week is celebrated annually by Christians around the world as we pray for the restoration of unity among the followers of Jesus. The Vatican Dicastery for promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches have collaborated on a resource to promote prayer and reflection for this week. It is centered on the Scriptural verse "You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself," and can be found on our website.

PRINCIPALS AND MANAGERS from PVNC Catholic District School Board were on a two-day retreat focused on the theme of hope. I joined them for the celebration of the Mass today and was happy to be present for these annual days of personal and professional growth for our leaders in Catholic education. It was especially fitting to celebrate today's feast of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, who did so much to establish Catholic schools in Quebec in the 1600's.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY takes place next weekend, January 21st, the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Established at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has encouraged faith communities to use this Sunday to make the Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. The Vatican Dicastery for Evangelization has prepared an excellent resource for this Sunday, entitled "Remain in my Word." In addition to a catechesis on praying with Scripture from Pope Francis, it contains some practical ideas for celebrating this Sunday in the parish and the family home. You can find the resource on our website.

THE BISHOPS OF ONTARIO will gather for several days of retreat next week. We are looking forward to the conferences that will be given by the retreat master, Bishop John Corriveau, OFM, Cap, who is the retired bishop of the Diocese of Nelson, B.C. We appreciate your prayers for us during this time of retreat and renewal.

Fraternally, + Daniel