



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 242; January 26, 2024

**ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH IN COBOURG** recently welcomed Hanna and Betty, two refugees from "Ethiopia via Peru." Their journey to Canada has been a long one, with the refugee sponsorship process taking over five years. They were warmly welcomed to the community at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 14, celebrated by Father MacAnthony Obikili. What good news for them and for the parish community! Sincere thanks to all those who have made this happen, including the parish refugee committee, the many parishioners who supported them, our own Diocesan refugee coordinators, and the Sisters of St. Joseph at Villa St. Joseph in Cobourg.

**"LET YOUR SPEECH ALWAYS BE GRACIOUS"** is a pastoral letter released by the Canadian Bishops this week on the use of Social Media. While recognizing the great potential for good in social media, it also points out how it "can play on the worst of our human tendencies, leading to online environments that violate the core Christian values of truth and human dignity." The bishops go on to recommend seven commitments we can make together to build healthy online environments that serve the common good. In a world that is more and more influenced by social media, this brief letter with its practical advice is well worth a read.

**THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS** is once again being planned for the streets of Peterborough on Good Friday and, after last year's triumphant return of this event, we have high hopes! This moving presentation of the Lord's Passion has a long history in our community and has engaged the talents of many youth and adult volunteers. The casting call and first meeting about the Way of the Cross takes place St. Alphonsus Church Hall in Peterborough (810 Frank St.) on Saturday, February 3 at 10:00 a.m. For further details, phone Father Stephen DeCarlo, 705-745-5123.

**POPE FRANCIS HAS SET THE STAGE FOR A NEW CANADIAN SAINT.** Earlier this week he signed a decree recognising a miracle attributed to Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis, who founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. She died in Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1912 and was beatified by St. Pope John Paul II on his visit to Canada in 1984. This brief article from Catholic News Agency describes something of her life and ministry.

**CLERGY ARE REMINDED ABOUT THE ONLINE TRAINING SESSION** regarding safe environments, taking place Thursday, February 1 at 1:30 p.m. This is an important session where valuable information will be shared, and we look forward to welcoming our priests and deacons for this online learning.

**OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER STAFF** pitched in at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry earlier this week, helping to sort and distribute food. I was sorry that my cold symptoms sidelined me from helping but was delighted that our little team was able to lend support to this vital Catholic agency that does such good work serving the poor.

Fraternally, † Daniel