



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 261; June 14, 2024

I WILL ORDAIN PETER BISSONNETTE to the Diaconate tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church in Cobourg. Peter is doing a summer pastoral placement there, a town and parish in which he also has some family roots. He will serve as a deacon at St. Michael's this summer prior to returning to St. Augustine's Seminary in September for his final year of preparation to the priesthood. Please keep Peter in your prayers and know that you are very welcome to attend the Ordination Mass.

THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE FINISHED THEIR RETREAT one week ago today. The spiritual reflections by Father John O'Brien SJ, were excellent and provided lots of food for thought and prayer. These days, Father O'Brien is the director of Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, and he based his retreat on the writings and the lives of St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. Isaac Jogues, and their companions. In addition to hosting these great talks, the retreat fueled interest in re-launching the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine, hopefully by next year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER CHARLES ORCHARD, who was recently "incardinated" as a priest of the Diocese of Peterborough, after serving for many years with the Companions of the Cross. Father Charles is a native son of the Diocese of Peterborough, hailing from St. Michael's Parish in Cobourg. After serving for a year as associate at our Cathedral, he took on a new charge a year ago as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Honey Harbour (including St. John the Baptist mission in Port Severn). We have been blessed with Fr. Charles' service these past two years and are happy to welcome him to the presbyterate of the Diocese.

THE GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Bowmanville took place today at the corner of Northglen Blvd. and Middle Rd. I was happy to join in the proceedings with Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan, Board Chair Kevin Mackenzie, senior leadership, trustees and Father Craig Cruikshank, pastor of St. Joseph's Parish. Let us pray that the construction may proceed speedily and well for his newest addition to the PVNC Catholic District Schoolboard – which is very much needed in Clarington.

OUR ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIEST BENEFIT FUND takes place at Masses this weekend. Click [here](#) to see the latest videos we have produced for this appeal. We truly appreciate your generosity in this collection, which enables us to care for our senior priests who have spent their lives in the Lord's service.

AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF CLERGY TRANSFERS was published earlier this week. You can read that memo [here](#). As always, I invite your prayers for all priests who are preparing for changes in their pastoral assignment.

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHERS' DAY to all dads, with much appreciation for all you do to love, care for and guide your families.

Fraternally, + Daniel