



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 263; June 28, 2024

**CONFIRMATION SEASON IN OUR DIOCESE** wrapped up this past Sunday, at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Parry Sound, where I was very happy to spend the weekend. Thank you, Fr. Jerry Tavares and parishioners, for your very kind welcome. I take this opportunity to thank all the clergy, laity and religious who prepared the young people of our diocese for the Sacrament of Confirmation – and sincere congratulations to the newly confirmed. May you continue to be strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your lives of faith!

**OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH IN PORT HOPE** is celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic community in that town on the weekend of July 6 and 7. Fr. Dempsey began serving the community in 1824, while also having pastoral care of Catholics in Cobourg. Our Lady of Mercy was eventually established as a parish of its own in 1853. I am looking forward to being with Fr. Gerry McMahon and parishioners next weekend as they celebrate this bicentennial of the Port Hope Catholic faith community!

**ON NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY** (June 21), the co-chairs of the **Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle** issued a statement calling on Catholics and all Canadians to unite in prayer for spiritual unity. Recognizing the profound impact of Pope Francis' visit two years ago, they urge us to embrace the ongoing journey of reconciliation with courage, humility and love. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle is a Catholic coalition of Indigenous people, clergy, consecrated men and women and members of lay movements engaged in promoting that journey of reconciliation. You may read the text of the statement [here](#).

**THE CANADIAN BISHOPS' SPONSOR A FORUM** on Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogues, that is held every three years. This forum brings together participants from the [11 dialogues](#) that the CCCB sponsors with various Christian denominations and other faith groups. I look forward to participating in these meetings at St. Augustine's Seminary later this week in my role as co-chair of the Hindu-Catholic Dialogue. These gatherings are always a helpful time for Catholics engaged in this work to share common concerns and best practices, seeking to learn from each other and find ways to be a ["Church in Dialogue."](#)

**CLERGY TRANSFERS IN THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH** took place on Wednesday of this week, and we pray for all priests who are undertaking new pastoral assignments. Congratulations to Father Christopher Reynolds and Father Ron Meyer who have retired as pastors but expect to be kept busy "helping out." We also welcome Father Erwin Rodriguez from the Diocese of Calbayog in the Philippines, who arrived in Canada on Monday. He will soon begin his assignment as associate pastor at St. Joseph's in Bowmanville.

**CANADA DAY WEEKEND IS UPON US**, so safe travels to all those heading to cottage country and beyond. This also marks the summer hiatus for "From the Vineyard, which will return to publication in September. Have a blessed and relaxing summer, everyone!

**Fraternally, +Daniel**