



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 249; March 15, 2024

“PLEDGE OF FUTURE GLORY” was our first city-wide Lenten Mission in five years, and we were thrilled with its success. Fr. Juan Diego and Fr. Luke Joseph preached an inspiring message each of the three days, and large crowds were out at our Cathedral – at both the daytime and evening sessions. No doubt, God has blessed us with many graces in this Lenten season because of this Mission. The three sessions may still be viewed on our Diocesan YouTube channel. Sincere thanks to Father Tom Lynch and priests of the Cathedral for their work in hosting the mission and to the priests of the City Deanery for promoting it.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH received me very kindly at the “The Mount” yesterday, where we discussed various topics including refugee sponsorship, Truth and Reconciliation, and other pastoral challenges and opportunities. I was very happy to receive a copy of the new book “Wide Sleeves” by Sr. Veronica O’Reilly, CSJ and Sr. Joan Driscoll, CSJ, a history of the Sisters of St. Joseph from 1851 to 1951. As I mentioned here two weeks ago, copies of this book may be purchased by phoning 705-745-1309, ext. 502 or emailing kmoncrief-kitchen@csj.org. And as a nice surprise, the Sisters returned to the diocese a pectoral cross that had been gifted to them by Bishop Benjamin Webster, eighth bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough (1954-68). Thanks so much, Sister Margo Ritchie, CSJ and members of the Leadership Team!

ESTABLISHED IN 1967 by the Bishops of Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace supports development and aid projects in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, while informing Catholics on international and social justice issues. The Canadian Bishops have reserved the season of Lent for a collection (usually branded as “Share Lent”) to assist the Global South. This year, the collection will be held this weekend, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity is appreciated, as the Church seeks to ensure that the blessings of peace, prosperity and justice are extended around the world.

MASS WITH THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY at St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville last Sunday was lively and faith filled; and the meal and program afterwards were fantastic. I couldn’t help but remark that the Church in the Diocese of Peterborough is starting to look more and more like the Church around the world! Thank you, Fr. Craig, Fr. Darlington and members of the Nigerian community for your very gracious welcome.

“THE ORDINANDI DINNER” is a big event in the Archdiocese of Toronto, a yearly celebration of those at St. Augustine’s Seminary who will be ordained to the priesthood in the spring. I am looking forward to attending the 34th Annual Ordinandi Dinner next week, along with about 1700 other people! Father Stephen DeCarlo, Director of Vocations, will also be attending. I have not gone in many years so was very happy to score a ticket for what promises to be a fine evening – one that celebrates vocations to the priesthood.

Fraternally, + Daniel