



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 250; March 22, 2024

SISTER RUTH HENNESSEY, CSJ, worked tirelessly for refugees on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Diocese of Peterborough, until her passing in 2020. A refugee family arrived in Canada from Kenya this week, and they represented the very last application submitted by Sr. Ruth to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. What a wonderful sign of how the good work carried out by Sr. Ruth over many years continues to bear fruit in our community. Charlotte and Gerome, who came to Canada with Sr. Ruth's help in 2016, are the co-sponsors for these newcomers, who were orphaned children that they met in the Kakuma Refugee camp. Sr. Anne Karges, CSJ, was also part of the welcome party at the airport, a fitting representative considering all the work done by Sr. Ruth to make this happen!

CONSULTATIONS FOR THE NEXT PHASE of the "Synod on Synodality" are ongoing in dioceses around the world. Each local Church was asked to organize some small gatherings to discuss various Synod themes presented in the "Interim Report." We carried out some conversations with priests and deacons at our various regional Deanery Meetings and held an online meeting with a group of lay people last night. Sincere thanks to Dawn Michie and Teresa Hartnett who coordinated these efforts and hosted last night's session. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance upon all who participate in the next round of the Synod this fall.

RENOVATIONS AT THE CAMPUS MINISTRY CENTER on Rubidge Street are nearing completion. This house was acquired through the generosity of a donor in 2021 as a place for Catholic students from Trent and Fleming to gather for faith studies, prayer and social activity. But some zoning changes and physical changes were required to make it usable for its new purpose. I enjoyed a walking tour of the facility earlier this week and was happy to see the fine work being done by the contractors. All should be finished within a couple of weeks, and it will allow us to start of the new school year in the fall on a very positive note.

THE EX CORDE FOUNDATION of the Diocese of Hamilton recently gave a generous \$10,000.00 donation toward the renovation of our Campus Ministry Center. This foundation allots a portion of their grant money to projects outside of the Diocese of Hamilton, and we are among the fortunate recipients of their assistance. We are so grateful, since it will help us to complete those renovations and create a truly fine spiritual center for Catholic college and university students.

HOLY WEEK IS UPON US beginning with the celebration of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord this weekend. On Monday at 2:00 p.m., we will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass at which priests from around the Diocese will gather and renew their priestly promises. And we are looking forward to the Outdoor Way of the Cross, beginning at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains at 10:00 a.m. on Good Friday, then wending its way across the city and concluding at Immaculate Conception Church. Let us pray for many blessings and graces this Holy Week.

Fraternally, + Daniel