



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 259; May 24, 2024

FATHER TOM LYNCH CELEBRATES HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD this weekend. He will be the principal celebrant of the 10:30 a.m. Mass this Sunday at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, where he has served as rector since 2018. The Mass will be followed by an informal reception at Bishop Doyle Hall where all are welcome. I am looking forward to being there with many other people as we express gratitude to God for Father Tom's four decades of dedicated priestly ministry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER SIMMY JOSEPH, CMI, the pastor of St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Peterborough. He has recently become a Canadian citizen, which he informed me of when I was at St. Alphonsus for Confirmation last weekend. He also apparently aced the online test, though he was too modest to describe it that way. Father Simmy came to us last summer after serving several years in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. We were very happy to welcome him then as a pastor and now as a new citizen of our country!

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PALLIATIVE CARE was held in Toronto this week, jointly sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Pontifical Academy for Life. Pope Francis sent warm greetings to the conference participants, pointing out the importance of loving palliative care for the dying, very different from euthanasia, which is often presented falsely as a form of compassion. You may read the press release from the Symposium [here](#), with a link to the message from Pope Francis.

FATHER JOE MORAN IS FEATURED IN A RECENT VIDEO, one of a series we are releasing prior to our annual collection for the Priest Benefit Fund (June 15/16). With his customary humour and wisdom, Father Joe speaks very strikingly about the life and ministry of a priest. I encourage you to view it here, where you will also find a new video each week in advance of the PBF appeal. Thanks so much for your generosity in this collection, so important for the care of our senior priests: many of whom, though retired, are still active and minister in various ways.

THE ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF DEACON EDMUND SCOTT is rapidly approaching. All are welcome to attend the Ordination Mass being held at our Cathedral next Friday, May 31 at 7:00 p.m. Please keep him in your prayers, that God may bless him abundantly and equip him with many graces to preach, sanctify and shepherd the faithful.

OUR ANNUAL PRIESTS' RETREAT is also imminent, taking place from June 3 to 7 at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre. We are looking forward to these days of fraternity and spiritual refreshment. We are also anticipating the conferences provided by Father John O'Brien, SJ, known to many of our priests from his time in Peterborough as a principal of Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic school.

Fraternally, † Daniel