



FROM THE VINEYARD

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THE ANNUAL ADVENT GATHERING for priests and deacons of the diocese takes place next Thursday. Mass at our Cathedral at 12:10 p.m. is followed by a festive lunch at Bishop Doyle Hall. We always enjoy this pre-Christmas get-together, a chance to catch up and celebrate before the busy-ness of the season overtakes us. Clergy are reminded to RSVP if they haven't done so already. Afterwards, priests and deacons are welcome to cross the street to visit our new Campus Ministry Center on Rubidge.

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT WITH MARY is the theme of this year's Advent video series from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. These brief videos produced by the bishops are a wonderful way to embrace the spirit of the liturgical seasons. This year's presenter is Archbishop Francis Leo of Toronto, filmed from the sanctuary of St. Michael's Cathedral. Each week, Archbishop Leo reflects on the Gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass. As a Marian scholar of some note, he will have excellent insights to share. The first video of the series has been released: it and the others can be viewed [here](#).

I WAS HAPPY TO JOIN VICE-PRINCIPALS from the PVNC Catholic District School Board for their retreat day. Miriam Wright from Encounter School of Ministry gave the opening address and led a time of reflection, and we concluded the morning with the celebration of Mass. It is heartening to see such good efforts made at spiritual formation for leaders in our Catholic education system.

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL held their annual Donor Appreciation Dinner last night. I was pleased to attend and to see more than a few of our local priests there as well. We and the many guests were treated to a delicious meal, a fine musical performance by the students, and a rousing speech by Board Chair Nancy Dunk. It was a great event to acknowledge and thank the people who support Our Lady of the Wayside with time, treasure and talent!

THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS meets next week, as they do four times each year, offering input and sharing ideas about pastoral initiatives and life in the diocese. I am grateful to the priests who give generously of their time to serve on this group, one of the most important consultative bodies for a local Church.

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL IN PARIS will re-open next week, five-and-a-half years after the devastating fire that did so much damage to this magnificent church. I recall with great sadness the television images of that fire in 2019 – it is now with equal joy that the Church celebrates the re-opening of this Cathedral, truly an iconic place in the history of Christianity. This [article](#) from Reuters gives a nice summary of the “fall and rise” of Notre Dame.

Fraternally,

† Daniel