



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 267; October 3, 2024

[FATHER CLAIR HICKSON](#) PASSED AWAY earlier this week at the age of ninety-one. He was well-known to many in Peterborough from his years of teaching at St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School. He also ministered in other parts of our diocese, notably as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Huntsville and for some twenty years at St. Mary of the Visitation Parish in Campbellford. In retirement, he lived at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains until moving into a care facility several years ago. His funeral Mass will be celebrated at his home parish of Sacred Heart in Peterborough, this Monday 10:00 a.m. As we give thanks for his devoted priestly ministry of nearly sixty years, we also pray for the repose of his soul.

AN ORIENTATION SESSION FOR PRIESTS new to our Diocese was held yesterday here at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Whether they are new to the priesthood or new to us, we always do our best to ensure that such priests have a smooth landing as they begin their ministry. Of the four participants, two are new to Canada, and so had many questions about parish life here. Sincere thanks to the staff of our Diocese and to Father Tom Lynch who was the excellent tour guide on their visit to the Cathedral!

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (CCCB) finished its annual Plenary meeting one week ago in Quebec City. A full program of meetings included discussions of the Jubilee Year in 2025, ongoing efforts at Truth and Reconciliation, and the provision of good palliative care in our health system. Salt and Light media has produced this excellent brief [video](#), covering some of the major moments and themes of the recent plenary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SONS OF MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY, who are celebrating twenty-five years of service in Canada. This order of priests from Nigeria staffs three parishes in our diocese: St. James the Greater in Mactier, St. Paul's in Gravenhurst and St. Michael's in Cobourg. They have also provided a priest for our Campus Ministry at Trent University and Fleming College. The SMMM's first assignment in Canada was in Cornwall, and it is there at Our Lady of Grace Church that they will mark this milestone on Tuesday, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 5:00 p.m. We extend to all the members of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy our thanks and prayerful best wishes!

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND BOOKEEPERS will gather for their annual social on Thursday next week. Father Bill Moloney at St. Mary's in Campbellford has organized a day of food, friendship and fun! This yearly gathering is a good opportunity for us to thank the people who work so hard to keep our parishes running smoothly.

THE BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO) will gather for one of our twice-yearly meetings this week in Toronto. As well as dealing with a busy agenda, we look forward to welcoming Bishop Michael Brehl, who was ordained and installed as the new bishop in our neighbouring Diocese of Pembroke earlier this summer.

*Fraternally,  
+Daniel*