



FROM THE VINEYARD

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MOTHER MARIE-LEONIE PARADIS just became the third Canadian-born person elevated to sainthood. The Mass of Canonization took place at St. Peter's Square in Rome this past Sunday, and included about 150 Canadian pilgrims, mainly from the province of Quebec. St. Marie-Leonie founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family in New Brunswick in 1880, whose motherhouse was eventually transferred to Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1895. Her formal cause for sainthood was opened in 1952 and she was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1984. With her recent canonization, she joins St. Marguerite D'Youville and St. Andre Bessette to form a worthy trio of Canadian-born saints. This [article](#) from the Catholic Register provides some interesting information and background on her life and journey toward sainthood.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER ROY VILLAS, pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Bracebridge, who took the oath of Canadian citizenship yesterday. Hailing originally from the Philippines (where he was ordained in 2004), Father Roy has served for ten years in our diocese, the last five as pastor in Bracebridge. We join with him and his parishioners in celebrating this happy news!

DILEXIT NOS (HE LOVED US) is a new encyclical letter published by Pope Francis and released yesterday. This encyclical (the fourth of his papacy) focuses on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Holy Father proposes this devotion as a remedy for troubled times, writing that in contemplating the heart of the Lord, the faithful can be "filled with the living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together toward a more just, solidary and fraternal world." The [text](#) of the encyclical may be accessed on the Vatican website.

A WORKSHOP FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS was held at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Huntsville last Saturday for parishes of our Northern Deanery. Over one hundred lectors, musicians and extraordinary Ministers of Communion gathered in the morning for a talk by Father Paul Massel on "Beauty and the Liturgy." Following lunch, each ministry group participated in a specific workshop to hone their skills. By all reports, it was a fun-filled day, celebrating service to God at Sunday Mass, and an opportunity to build liturgical skills. Hopefully, such a day will extend to other deaneries in the near future!

MISSIONARIES FROM [NET MINISTRIES](#) WERE IN TOWN LAST WEEKEND, conducting a pre-Confirmation retreat at Bishop Doyle Hall for Grade 7 students. About thirty young people from St. Alphonsus, St. John the Baptist and St. Paul's (Lakefield) participated in a day of fun activities, talks, breakout sessions and quiet prayer time. I was happy to meet the ten young missionaries at the Saturday night Mass at the Cathedral afterwards – it sounds like they did a great job for all the participants!

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*