



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 1; October 6, 2017

WELCOME to the first edition of *From the Vineyard*, my attempt at a weekly newsletter about life in the Diocese of Peterborough and beyond, seen mostly through the eyes of yours truly. “The vineyard” is a rich biblical symbol of the people of God. So, I hope that this regular dispatch will keep you current on my activities as Bishop and on happenings among God’s people, the Church. So, without further ado....

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (CCCB) wrapped up their annual Plenary meeting in Cornwall last Friday. It was a wonderful opportunity for Bishops from across the country to gather and discuss matters of concern for the Church in Canada. This was my fifth plenary, but my first as Bishop of Peterborough! During our five days together, we received information on a variety of important topics and had ample time to discuss them, both in large and small groups. A highlight of the week was our trip to Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa, where we celebrated Mass for the 150th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation. On that occasion, we joined together in consecrating our nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, praying for our Blessed Mother’s intercession and protection. It was also a transitional year: Bishop Douglas Crosby of Hamilton completed his two-year term as CCCB President, and has now been succeeded by Bishop Lionel Gendron of St-Jean-Longueuil.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE was held at St. Joseph’s Parish in Bowmanville this past weekend. About 100 delegates from across the province enjoyed two days of workshops, meetings and fellowship. I was pleased to celebrate Mass for the group on Saturday morning and shared with them my appreciation for and personal connection to the Society – both of my parents were Vincentians. The St. Vincent de Paul Society does vital work in their personal service of the poor, and it was an honour to receive them here in our Diocese. Many thanks to Father Paul Hogan and his good staff for hosting the group and welcoming them so warmly.

I WAS HAPPY TO BE AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH IN OTONABEE this past Sunday, where I was warmly received by Monsignor Michael Heffernan and his parishioners. After a summer spent mostly going north, I am now starting to visit some parishes in my own back yard. I enjoyed celebrating Mass in such a beautiful church, and the donuts and muffins afterwards only sweetened the deal! Best of all was the chance to meet and chat with many parishioners, who rightly take pride in their parish. I look forward to my return.

THE ANNUAL LIFE CHAIN took place in many locations across Canada this past Sunday, including here in the city of Peterborough. I was happy to join with many dedicated people who committed to join in one hour of silent witness to defend the unborn. It was a moving experience and I am grateful to all who came out for this time of prayerful demonstration.

OUR NATION CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING this weekend. May God bless you abundantly as you gather with family and friends in gratitude for His many gifts.

*Pax et Bonum,
†Daniel*