



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 11; December 15, 2017

I WAS KEPT BUSY LAST FRIDAY ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. First, I was pleased to celebrate a Mass at our Cathedral with priests and deacons of the Diocese and to follow it up with a luncheon at Bishop Doyle Hall. In the evening, I offered Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish here in Peterborough where the conclusion of their three-day Mission was timed to coincide with the Feast Day of the parish. Father Bill Moloney had things well-organized and had arranged for a potluck dinner in the hall to complete the festivities. Not that I needed another meal – but the offerings just looked too good! All in all, it was a festive (but calorie-heavy) way to mark one of the great Solemnities of the Church year.

ST. MARY PARISH IN LINDSAY HELD A GRAND CELEBRATION last Sunday - a Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing of the interior renovations in the church. I was privileged to be the celebrant while Father Tom Lynch gave a rousing homily explaining many of the beautiful images and artistry employed in the restoration. The Mass was truly beautiful with lovely music and some well-chosen words by various people at the end. The parishioners are thrilled and rightly proud of the beautiful work that has been accomplished. It was a labour of love several years in the making. Hundreds of people gathered in St. Mary Catholic Elementary School after the Mass for a celebratory meal. Congratulations Father Tom and everyone involved!

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SACRED HEART COLLEGE gathered for our quarterly meeting this past Saturday. We were excited to learn of the various course offerings that will be on the roster for second semester including an Introduction to the New Testament, the Religions of Planet Earth, and Elementary Latin – to name a few. There will even be a course offered online titled “Ideas of Love.” All this activity is in addition to the excitement of being able to launch our own degree in the fall - a B.A. in Catholic Studies. If you haven’t already done so, check out [Sacred Heart College](#) online! It is a great Catholic treasure, right here in Peterborough.

THE CHRISTMAS MAIL RUSH has impacted us here at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre with an avalanche of cards and letters coming and going. I have developed writer’s cramp given the Herculean task of communicating with so many priests, religious and lay people at this time of the year: and yet it is a happy duty, because it affords me the opportunity to say thank-you to the many people who contribute to the Catholic community in countless ways. And every now and then, I receive a card via email from one of my brother bishops. Cheaters!

I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING AT BOTH SACRED HEART AND ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI PARISHES on Saturday evening. At Sacred Heart, I will celebrate their annual Memorial Mass at 5:00 p.m. And then I will make tracks for a later Mass at St. Alphonsus Liguori to celebrate the traditional “Simbang Gabi” (Night Mass) with the Filipino community. Both liturgies promise to be moving celebrations of faith strong on the Advent themes of hope and expectation.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel