



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 4; October 27, 2017

MY NORTHERN EXCURSIONS ARE WINDING DOWN; STILL, I WAS PLEASED TO VISIT ST. PETER PARISH IN PARRY SOUND last weekend. Back in June, I had managed a kind of drive-by and unofficial visit, but this was my first time celebrating Mass with the parish community. The summertime crowds are already dispersing, although the good weather may have helped our cause a little. Father Vic Valles and the parishioners were kind and gracious and I enjoyed both the food and the entertainment in the Parish Hall after the Sunday morning Mass. And the walk around Parry Sound on a beautiful fall afternoon (with Fr. Vic as guide) was an added bonus!

THE ALTAR SERVERS' APPRECIATION was held at St. Martin Parish in Ennismore last Saturday. Father John Perdue of the Vocation Office did the organizing, Fr. Dominick Mbah and parishioners hosted, and about seventy-five Altar Servers from around the diocese came out. I was happy to celebrate Mass for the group, and then rescue a couple of pizza slices from the buffet afterwards. I didn't stay around for the games but I know that a good time was had by all. It was a nice group of young people ranging from junior grades to high school. We owe our thanks to these children and teens who serve our parishes so faithfully Sunday after Sunday.

THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE IS HOLDING MEETINGS FOR PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS. Last Sunday, we gathered with northern parishioners in Parry Sound and this Sunday, we will convene at Immaculate Conception Parish in Peterborough. It is a good opportunity to review our Diocesan Finances and parish policies related to banking, investing and building. We are grateful to Finance Council members around the diocese who work so hard for the wellbeing of their parishes. Thanks to Father Peter Seabrooke, Deb McCrae and David Gray for organizing these meetings. I am appreciative of our good staff and the members of the Diocesan Finance Council for the work they do to ensure that our fiscal house is in order.

LAST FRIDAY I DID SOME TAPING WITH SHALOM WORLD TELEVISION at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. A Catholic Television Network founded in India, Shalom is now on the air in Canada and the United States. Check them out [online](#) for more information. I was pleased to meet with some of their Canadian leadership about six weeks ago and happily agreed to this follow-up taping session. I should make it clear – it was simply brief greetings and then quick messages for Christmas and Easter. Bishop Robert Barron won't have to look over his shoulder! But I meant what I said in those greetings. I am pleased that we have another strong voice in Catholic media here in our country.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE ROSARY PRAYER PROGRAM gathered at the PVNC Catholic District School Board for an in-service yesterday. This dedicated group of catechists will go into the classrooms to teach students the rosary and promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We appreciate their dedicated work to enhance the faith lives of the young people in our Catholic schools.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel