



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 7; November 17, 2017

THE CONGREGATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY OF LEUCA have served in our Diocese since 1994. They operate a very fine and popular Day Care Centre based on the Montessori method, adjacent to St. Therese Parish in Courtice. I had a chance to tour the Day Care Centre back in the summer, and this past Saturday was pleased to visit the Sisters and celebrate Mass with them. Their good efforts are much appreciated by the families in Courtice and beyond; and their presence and involvement at the parish is a real blessing! I have enjoyed my summer and fall visits to the Consecrated Women in our diocese who serve so faithfully.

THIS PAST SUNDAY WAS SPENT WITH FR. CRAIG CRUIKSHANK AND PARISHIONERS at St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook and St. Bernadette Mission. The catalyst for the visit was the occasion of blessing the new church being used by the St. Bernadette community: they have relocated recently from rented facilities in Yelverton to a former United Church in North Nestleton. The new locale suits them well and provides them with more readily usable hall space. I enjoyed my visit with both communities: like lots of our parishes and missions, they are small in number but mighty in spirit!

A SYMPOSIUM ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION WAS HELD THIS WEEK IN TORONTO, jointly sponsored by ICE (Institute for Catholic Education) and OPECO (Office Provincial de l'Éducation de la foi Catholique de l'Ontario). Such gatherings have been held every ten years or so and include educators, bishops, priests, trustees, parents and students. I was happy to attend as part of the PVNC Catholic District School Board delegation – and to see most of my fellow Ontario Bishops present as well. Being in the presence of 700 or so people committed to Catholic Education was very encouraging, as we endeavored to chart the path forward in our province in the coming years.

STAFF AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE worked hard on a major fall cleaning and general purge. The time had come to separate the wheat from the chaff, and decide what should be kept and what could easily go. And they did all the heavy lifting. My sole contribution was to point at things and complain!

THIS SUNDAY IS THE FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR. Pope Francis called for the creation of this day at the closing of the Year of Mercy, to be celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. As a new event in the life of the Church, it is still taking shape and I expect it will evolve in future years. For this year, I would like to thank all those in our parishes who work on behalf of the poor and underprivileged, with particular appreciation for the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS DEACON RICHARD BLAKE who serves at St. Anne Parish in Peterborough and is very ill at this time.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel