



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 9; December 1, 2017

**MY RECENT CONFIRMATION TOUR IN HAMILTON** was a mere warm-up for the Confirmations at **ST. MARY PARISH IN LINDSAY** this past Sunday. I met a fine group of over thirty young people who prepared throughout the fall for this Sacrament. The pastoral team and school staffs will continue to work with them to explore what Confirmation means. And I will be making a return trip to St. Mary Parish next Sunday for a Mass of Thanksgiving. The major interior renovation project will be completed, and the church will be fully ready for worship. The last scaffolding will be gone. I look forward to seeing the finished product which promises to be beautiful!

**AMONG MY VARIOUS TASKS FOR THE ONTARIO BISHOPS (ACBO)**, I am liaison to the Conference for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews and Interfaith Dialogue. How is that for a mouthful? On Monday, I enjoyed meeting with various priests (and one deacon) who coordinate Ecumenical and Interfaith activity in their respective dioceses. It was interesting to hear the variety of events that take place to promote understanding and cooperation among people of different faiths and denominations. And here in Peterborough, an Ecumenical Service will take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains in January, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. More details on that in the New Year.

**I DID SOME TAPING YESTERDAY WITH PAUL WILSON** for his show *All Around the Town* which airs on the local COGECO channel. I have caught the show on a couple of occasions and I know that my predecessor, Bishop McGrattan, was twice interviewed for it. I enjoyed our amiable half hour conversation and can only pray that it comes across well on television! I am told that the show will air on Sunday, December 10.

**WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FATHER ALAREY ABELLA, C.Ss.P.** for several years now. He has served as Catholic chaplain to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre with great dedication. Parishioners at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish will know him well as he resides there and helps as he is able. We learned recently that Father Rey's community is calling him back to serve as their Vocations Director, an assignment which begins on January 10th. His departure is not happy for us but we recognize that he is being called to serve the Church in a new way. We have been very grateful for his ministry to the sick and their families.

**THE DAWN OF A NEW CHURCH YEAR IS UPON US WITH THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.** I look forward to being with Father Jerry Tavares and the community at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish this weekend. The Advent wreaths that will be blessed and lit this week remind us of the coming of Jesus Christ, a light shining in the darkness of our world.

**THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE** (a.k.a. Chancery Office) has been fully and extremely decorated for the season, thanks to a cache of trees, trinkets and baubles that I inherited from Hamilton Diocese, and to the labours of some good friends of mine. And I even helped – a little.

*Pax et Bonum, †Daniel*