



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 330; May 22, 2026

ORDINATIONS TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE for our diocese will take place on Saturday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. I look forward to conferring the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Peter Bagnall, Sean Dunlop and Nic Dubonnet. They have been preparing for four years in our Formation Program and are now ready to undertake this sacred ministry as Permanent Deacons. I know that they will embrace fully their new role in the Church in this ministry of the Word, the altar and service. Please pray for them and their families as they prepare for this day and for their dedicated service to the Church in the years to come.

PAPAL ENCYCLICALS (letters written by the Pope to the universal Church) don't often get much media coverage. But there seems to be some buzz around "**Magnifica Humanitas**," which Pope Leo XIV will release on Monday. It deals with a timely and urgent topic, which is the protection of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence. The rapid changes brought on by A.I. and its possible implications are concerning on many different fronts, and so it's not surprising that this letter is generating some interest. This [article](#) offers a good summary of what Pope Leo has already said on this subject and of the background behind this important issue. Let us pray that the coming encyclical will be well-received and spark some helpful reflections and discussions.

I WAS HAPPY TO VISIT THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH at Mount St. Joseph yesterday, as my weeks begin gradually to turn into a farewell tour. Mass with the Sisters was followed by lunch in their refectory, a presentation and some very kind words. It gave me the opportunity to thank the Sisters of St. Joseph for their good work in our community, and to thank Father Peter Seabrook who has been their chaplain for many years. We also celebrated the fact that I am not abandoning the Sisters, since there is a large community of them in the Diocese of London.

OUR PRIESTS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR ANNUAL RETREAT, which will be held from June 1 to 5 at Queen of Apostles' Renewal Center in Mississauga. These days of rest, spiritual renewal and priestly fraternity are always welcome ones, and we are looking forward to the talks to be given by Father Paul Pearson. FYI – during the days of the retreat, daily Mass will be offered here in the city at 8:00 a.m.: Monday and Wednesday at St. John the Baptist Church; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Sacred Heart Church.

I WAS AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN BRACEBRIDGE ON SUNDAY FOR CONFIRMATION. Muskoka is a good place to meet people from all over, and I met a young couple from my new diocese who are involved in young adult ministry in Windsor. I had to laugh when I saw the "doctored up" photograph they had prepared to welcome me (and teach people how to say my last name). Although it does give one pause about what Artificial Intelligence can do.

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*