



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 297; June 13, 2025

**BISHOP GERARD BERGIE** was the director our recent Priests' Retreat, held from Monday to Friday last week. It was wonderful to spend five days with about forty-five priests of our diocese, hearing Bishop Bergie's inspiring talks on the "The Gift of Peace." The setting at Queen of Apostles Center in Mississauga also provided a truly peaceful atmosphere for these days of retreat. My sincere thanks to the members of the Clergy Ongoing Formation Committee who worked hard before and during the retreat .

**OUR ANNUAL [PRIEST BENEFIT FUND COLLECTION](#)** takes place in parishes of the Diocese this weekend. We truly appreciate your generosity in this yearly appeal, as it helps us to care for our senior priests now and ensure care for those who will retire in the future. As you may know, priests typically resign from pastoral assignments at age seventy-five: many of them continue to offer ministry on a substitute basis, health permitting.

**I HAVE CO-CHAIR THE HINDU-CATHOLIC DIALOGUE** since 2014, one of several such inter-religious dialogues sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The CCCB is trying to make the work of these dialogues a little better known and, to that end, recently issued this [press release](#) about our April meeting. Our group meets twice a year to address topics and themes of mutual concern, and this meeting focused on the challenges of mental health in our respective faith traditions. The press release notes that we are considering planning a public event in the near future, something we have not done for a few years.

**THERE ARE TWO JUBILEES GOING ON IN THE CHURCH RIGHT NOW.** Of course, we all know about the Jubilee of Hope that the Universal Church is celebrating throughout 2025. But we have also celebrated a [Jubilee Year of the Sacred Heart](#), which began in December of 2023 and concludes with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart this June 27. This Jubilee "Year" (way more than a year) celebrates the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. I look forward to being in Sacred Heart Parish in Trout Creek on June 27 as we celebrate this great feast day and the conclusion of the Jubilee. I know that Father Isaac Ogwu and the parishioners of Sacred Heart are planning for a fitting celebration of the Mass and other festivities to commemorate this important day!

**I WILL CONCLUDE THE SEASON FOR CONFIRMATIONS** with two Masses at St. Joseph's Parish in Bowmanville this weekend. Congratulations to all the newly confirmed young people in our diocese and sincere thanks to all who helped prepare them to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit fruitfully in this sacrament.

**A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHERS' DAY** to all dads, with much appreciation for all you do to love, care for and guide your families.

Fraternally,  
† Daniel