



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 276; December 20, 2024

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING AS WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS, the joyful celebration of the Lord's Birth and the Inauguration of a Jubilee Year in the Church. Earlier this week I published my Christmas message and – with the help of others – managed to produce a video version.

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS, THE CROSS HAS BEEN RESTORED to the top of our Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. A casualty of the derecho storm in May 2022, the new cross was installed on Wednesday through the efforts of many workers, the help of a huge crane and the good wishes and prayers of the large crowd that gathered. I was pleased to bless the new cross just before it was hoisted into place. What a blessing to have the visual symbol of the Lord Jesus restored to its rightful place and overlooking our city! There was some nice media coverage of this joyful event including a [report](#) by the local television station, CHEX.

SIMBANG GABI IS WELL UNDERWAY, a nine-night celebration of Masses in advance of Christmas. This is a major celebration of the faith for Filipino Catholics and all who wish to participate. The festivities are ongoing at St. Therese Parish in Courtyce where, I understand, the Masses have been well-attended. In Peterborough, Simbang Gabi is being hosted at St. Anne's Church and I look forward to celebrating the Mass for them this evening at 6:30.

OUR 10 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at the Cathedral will be televised by Cogeco/Your TV, who kindly broadcast this Mass every second year. Additionally, it is picked up by other Cogeco stations across the province and so is viewed by many people in Ontario. It is always a nice chance to show off our Cathedral and the celebration of this major liturgical feast of the Lord's Nativity! Please join us at the Cathedral this Christmas eve as we gather to celebrate Christ's birth with family, friends and visitors from near and far. All are welcome! (Please note that our 10:30 Christmas Day Mass will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.)

POPE FRANCIS INAUGURATES THE JUBILEE YEAR (Pilgrims of Hope) on Christmas eve at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Locally, we will celebrate the Opening of the Jubilee Year at our 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 29th. Please join us for this great liturgical celebration, which will begin (weather permitting) across the street from the Cathedral at Bishop Doyle Hall. And be sure to check out our website for information and frequent updates about events in the Jubilee Year. May this coming year be for us a great celebration and true experience of growing in faith, hope and charity

FROM THE VINEYARD will go on a brief winter hibernation over the Christmas season. In the meantime, my prayers are with you all for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year (a Jubilee Year) of good health, hope and much happiness.

Fraternally,
† Daniel