



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 277; January 10, 2025

IT WAS A BUSY CHRISTMAS SEASON around the Diocese, with crowds of worshippers attending our churches in good numbers. We were happy to broadcast the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass from our Cathedral on Cogeco/Your TV, a program that always draws many viewers. Sincere thanks to all the staff and volunteers of our parishes who worked hard over Christmas to welcome people and to celebrate the Birth of our Lord with festivity and joy. The season is now winding down and wraps up formally with the Sunday's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

THE JUBILEE YEAR "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" was formally begun by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Basilica. Along with other dioceses around the world, we opened the Jubilee Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, the Sunday following Christmas. A good crowd of the faithful came out for the 10:30 a.m. Mass at our Cathedral, undeterred by the wet weather. After a brief, opening service outside of Bishop Doyle Hall, we made the brief trek across the street with the Holy Cross, to begin the Solemn Mass. My sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to plan this Opening of the Jubilee in our diocese, which was carried out with great solemnity. Check our website for periodic updates about Jubilee plans in our Diocese and to view this brief, video message that I recorded for the coming year.

WE RECENTLY WELCOMED FATHER JOSEPH LOURDUSAMY OFM Cap, to the Diocese of Peterborough. He is a Franciscan Capuchin priest who has served previously in the Diocese of London and Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Father Joseph has been assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Joseph's in Bowmanville, where he will work and live for part of the week. The rest of the week he will reside with his Franciscan community here in Peterborough at La Verna house. Welcome to the Diocese of Peterborough, Father Joseph!

FATHER AJI SEBASTIEN, CMI, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Kearney, recently became a Canadian citizen. We happily extend to him our congratulations and prayerful best wishes as a new Canadian!

OUR PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM resumes its schedule this Saturday at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall. The three candidates will be focused on topics such as Prophets in the Bible, Canon Law and Pastoral and Spiritual Issues in Ministry. It is a full program of study to start the new year!

FATHER ALAN CAMPEAU has been appointed today by the Holy Father as the new Bishop of the [Diocese of Thunder Bay](#). A priest of the Diocese of London, Father Campeau has served as a pastor in Thunder Bay for many years, currently at St. Joseph Parish in Dryden.

Fraternally,

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