



FROM THE VINEYARD

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PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR POPE FRANCIS as he battles pneumonia and a respiratory infection in hospital, serious concerns in a man of his age. This [statement](#) from Bishop William McGrattan, President of the CCCB, invites people to pray for the Pope's recovery. I most certainly join in those sentiments and have asked that a petition for the Holy Father's wellbeing be included in Masses at churches in our diocese this Sunday.

DEACON PETER BISSONNETTE WILL BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD on Friday May 30th at 7:00 p.m. I was delighted to issue the official "call to orders" late last week and to set things in motion for the Mass of Ordination. This Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, where we look forward to welcoming many parishioners, family and friends of Deacon Peter, and faithful from around our diocese and beyond. Please keep him in your prayers as he completes his final semester at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto and prepares for priestly ordination.

THERE IS A CASTING CALL FOR OUR OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS, which is always an important part of our Holy Week celebrations. Any interested teenagers or young adults (15-22) are invited to this casting call on Saturday, March 1st at 12:00 noon at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall (82 Frank St. in Peterborough). No prior acting experience required, and I am assured that there will be roles for everyone! Father Stephen DeCarlo has been busily recruiting at our area secondary schools, confident of assembling an excellent team again this year. You can also contact our intrepid director, Tom, at 705-313-9846 for more information. The Way of the Cross will be held on Good Friday morning, April 18th.

A SPEAKER NIGHT AND POTLUCK is being held this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Bishop Doyle Hall in Peterborough. Father Tom Lynch will give a timely presentation entitled "MAID – The Catholic Truth and our Real Answers." As euthanasia and MAID become growing realities in our society, this is an important topic for us – and one on which Father Tom is well-versed.

A CEREMONY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH was held at the PVNC Catholic Education Center in Peterborough this week (rescheduled on account of a snow day.) I was very happy to attend along with Father Max Delamour and to hear presentations from the students of Holy Trinity in Courtice and Holy Family in Bowmanville. Father MacAnthony Obikili from St. Michael's in Cobourg also zoomed in with his reflection. Congratulations to the organizers who put together a fine programme despite having to pivot because of winter weather!

FROM THE VINEYARD will not publish next week as I will be in Thunder Bay for a couple of days, attending the Ordination and Installation of Bishop Alan Campeau.

Fraternally,
† Daniel