



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 280; January 31, 2025

THE JUBILEE OF CONSECRATED LIFE will take place at St. Mary's Church in Lindsay this Sunday, February 2 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. This Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is annually the World Day for Consecrated Life, established by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997. It happens to fall on a Sunday this year which adds to the festivity! We have invited to this Mass priests and sisters from religious orders who serve with great faithfulness in the Diocese of Peterborough – and we will host them at the celebratory luncheon afterwards. This Mass for Consecrated Life is one of our first major Diocesan events for the Jubilee year, and I am delighted that it will also be livestreamed. You can look ahead to other planned events for the Jubilee on our Diocesan website.

I HEARD THE OFFICIAL HYMN FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR for the first time this week and both the words and the music are quite beautiful. You can listen to “Pilgrims of Hope” (and read the lyrics) on You Tube [here](#). Our Office for Spiritual Affairs has created a bookmark with the lyrics that has been sent to parishes so they can insert it in their hymnals for this year. I know many people dread learning new hymns, but I think this one will be a hit!

AT THE END OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, Pope Francis reiterated that the Catholic Church would be open to finding a common date for the celebration of Easter. There is often a disparity in this date between the Churches of the West and the East, because of our use of different calendars. In 2025, it just happens that Easter falls on the same date for all Churches. The Holy Father has taken this opportunity to propose “that this coincidence may serve as an appeal to all Christians to take a decisive step toward unity around a common date for Easter.” This [article](#) in the Catholic Register provides a good explanation of the issue.

OUR DIOCESAN PROPERTY, PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE met this week, as we do on a quarterly basis. These meetings enable us to review and give advice on the various building projects that are proposed or ongoing in our parishes. This week, we were happy to get an update about restoration work at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, with the current phase nearing completion. Anyone in this area will have noticed that the scaffolding has been taken down from around the steeple and the beautiful spire and restored cross are beautiful and prominent on the Peterborough skyline!

THE FRANCISCAN CAPUCHINS HAVE BEEN OPERATING LA VERNA House of Prayer here in Peterborough since 2022. Brother Alan and Brother Stephen run a variety of programs centered on Franciscan spirituality, both on site (820 Frank St.) and off. It is worth checking out their [page](#) on our website. Among other activities, they are organizing a pilgrimage to the tomb of Brother Solanus Casey in Detroit, this coming June.

Fraternally,
† Daniel