



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 296; May 30, 2025

DEACON PETER BISSONNETTE will be ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains tonight at 7:00 p.m. Last night's rehearsal went well and portends that everything is ready for a beautiful liturgy and celebration. All are welcome to the Cathedral for this Ordination Mass. We are also livestreaming this Mass which you will be able to view online here. Please keep soon-to-be Father Peter in your prayers!

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES are often celebrated in the spring, and many of our priests are marking significant milestones this year. Father Luis Lapinid and Father Stan Wiczak are celebrating 50 years of priesthood; a mere decade behind, Father Peter Conlin and Father Terry Foley are marking their 40th anniversary. And we have many jubilarians celebrating their silver anniversary this year: Father John Rathinaswamy, Father Collins Okafor, SMMM, Father Max Delamour, Father Paul Massel, Father Emmanuel Mbam, MSP and Father Joseph Devereaux – all marking 25 years of priestly ministry. Congratulations and prayerful blessings to all these priest jubilarians!

OUR ANNUAL PRIESTS' RETREAT takes place this coming week, Monday to Friday, at Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga. Bishop Gerard Bergie of the Diocese of St. Catharines will be our speaker for these days of prayer and spiritual renewal. We always look forward to this annual retreat – the talks, the prayer time and the fraternity are all important ways that we experience God's grace and strength for our priestly vocation.

"A NOTE ON PRAYER" is a brief article just released by the Canadian Bishops' Episcopal Commission for Doctrine. Many people will admit that they struggle to pray, and this resource explores an important topic for Catholics and also provides a helpful list of links and resources. For any of us wishing to improve our prayer lives (probably all of us!) it is certainly a helpful and worthwhile read. You may find it on the CCCB website [here](#).

I NOTICE THAT THE VATICAN WEBSITE has had a significant re-design and update as of this week. Knowing how long these things take, one can only assume it was in the works long before the recent papal election. To my untrained eye it is a marked improvement over the old website as it is both attractive and easy to navigate.

THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS will meet on Monday afternoon just prior to the start of the Priests' Retreat. We always append one meeting to the retreat since priests are already together and it saves on travel time. The Council of Priests is one of the main advisory bodies in any diocese, and I am grateful to those priests – most of whom are chosen by their confreres – who give of their time and talent to serve the diocese in this way.

Fraternally,
† Daniel