



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 310; December 12, 2025

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES has been celebrated by the Church in Canada since 1998. It falls every year on this day, December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. [The Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council](#) has published this [statement](#) on the Canadian Bishops' website, reminding us that the work of reconciliation is both a personal and communal endeavor. We acknowledge the harm caused by residential schools and the work that still remains to be done: "As Catholics, we need to share Pope Francis' vision of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people walking together in prayerful and respectful ways towards a stronger, shared future."

I WAS SORRY TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP LUIGI BONAZZI, who served as Apostolic Nuncio to Canada from 2013 to 2020. Among many activities during his seven years as the Pope's representative to Canada, he was present in Peterborough and brought greetings both for my installation in 2017, and that of my predecessor, Bishop William McGrattan in 2014. May he rest in peace.

SIMBANG GABI ("NIGHT MASS") is a popular custom among our Filipino Catholics. It consists of nine Masses celebrated in the days leading up to Christmas, and it is being observed in several places in our diocese. I believe the largest gathering will be at our Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, from December 15th to 23rd, each evening at 6:30 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a snack at Bishop Doyle Hall on the first eight nights, and a potluck dinner on the 23rd.

OUR PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM holds their monthly meeting tomorrow at St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough. I will celebrate Mass with them and then join in a Christmas luncheon for our Permanent Deacon community. I am looking forward to the gathering and to a little time to speak with our three deacon candidates and their families afterward. Please pray for them as they prepare for Ordination in the spring.

I WAS HAPPY TO CELEBRATE MASS THIS WEEK AT "THE MOUNT" for the Sisters of St. Joseph. I was very kindly received by the sisters and enjoyed the lunch with them afterwards. Among other things, it gave me a chance to congratulate Sister Anne Karges, CSJ, recently elected and installed as Congregational Leader. It was also good to catch up with their chaplain, Father Peter Seabrooke, who concelebrated the Mass with me.

A REMINDER THAT THE "JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT" [video series](#) on the Canadian Bishops' website is well worth viewing in this holy season. Each week, Bishop Wayne Lobsinger from the Diocese of Hamilton reflects on the Sunday readings, helping us to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord.

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*