



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 317; February 13, 2026

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS with on Ash Wednesday this week. A reminder that this is a traditional day of fasting and abstinence from meat, as we embark upon a 40-day spiritual journey to prepare for Easter. Many of our parishes offer additional programs and devotions during Lent, and it would be good to check out all the offerings in your community. May God bless us all throughout this season of penance and spiritual renewal.

A WINTER SOCIAL for the Peterborough Catholic 20's and 30's group will take place on Saturday, February 21. Things start off with a fun skate at the Quaker Rink at 3:00 p.m, and then continue with a potluck gathering and games night at the meeting rooms of Sacred Heart rectory, 208 Romaine St. in Peterborough. No need to register – just come out and enjoy!

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – CARITAS CANADA is preparing for its annual Share Lent Collection. This yearly appeal is the principal way that the Church in Canada supports justice initiatives in the Global South. There will be an online kickoff for this year's campaign, "On Track for Justice," on Saturday, February 21 at 1:30 p.m. You may register by following this [link](#). Additionally, there will be an in-person meeting for our Diocesan Development and Peace Committee on Saturday, February 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph, 1555 Monaghan Road in Peterborough. Drinks provided – please bring your own lunch.

FORTY YOUNG PEOPLE participated last weekend in the 4th Annual Winter Camping Expedition at Holy Family Parish in Britt. Despite the temperature dropping to -36C, snow huts were expertly built – I'm not sure if anyone stayed in them! The group enjoyed spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and joining the parish community for Sunday morning Mass. Sincere thanks to Father Neil Campbell, the pastor at Holy Family and to Father Peter Bissonnette and (seminarian) Andrew Roelands for making it all happen.

LENT IS A GOOD TIME TO GET BACK INTO "FORMED." This amazing video library has a wealth of fine resources, especially for this season. Of course, it is free to all of our parishioners because of our Diocesan subscription. You may sign up for "Formed" through our Diocesan website. You can also refer to this helpful Lenten calendar, which has viewing options for each day of Lent. People are often looking to do a little "something extra" for Lent and FORMED provides great material to do just that.

WITH THE FAMILY DAY WEEKEND UPON US, I pray that everyone may have a safe and relaxing holiday – and hopefully enjoy some time with family as we continue to battle this frigid and snowy winter!

Fraternally,
† Daniel