



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 319; February 27, 2026

A MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER COLLINS OKAFOR, SMMM will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, this Wednesday, March 4 at 12:10 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a light luncheon in Bishop Doyle Hall. We look forward to welcoming priests from our diocese and beyond, and parishioners from those parishes where Father Collins served. (Priests from our diocese are reminded to complete their electronic RSVP.) Father Collins was mostly recently serving as the pastor of Holy Angels in Brighton and St. Alphonsus in Wooler. He passed away two weeks ago in Germany, while on his way home from Nigeria to Canada. Please continue to pray for him and the repose of his soul.

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO held their biannual plenary meeting in Toronto this past week. It was good to get together with bishops from across the province to discuss matters ranging from Catholic education to outreach and evangelization to issues in Catholic health care. We often receive various groups who wish to present to us on important topics and this time we were blessed with excellent presentations from the [Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute](#) and the [Catholic Health Association of Ontario](#).

OUR CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD held our first meeting this past week, looking ahead to the transfer of priests and deacons in our diocese this coming spring. Please keep us in your prayers as we endeavor to make wise decisions for the good of our parishes!

THE GATHERING FOR THE PETERBOROUGH CATHOLIC 20'S AND 30'S group went well this past Saturday. Fittingly, between twenty and thirty young people came out for the skate at Quaker Rink and the social afterwards. Some advance planning has begun for a possible St. Patrick's Day event, so stay tuned!

A REMINDER THAT OUR DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMITTEE will hold their general meeting at Mount St. Joseph in Peterborough tomorrow, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring their own lunch – drinks will be provided.

A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THIS YEAR'S SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN, written by Bishop Pierre Goudreault, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, may be read [here](#). Bishop Goudreault emphasizes the words of Pope Leo in calling us to support this annual campaign and thereby support those who have made a radical choice to aid the weakest and most vulnerable.

THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE BISHOPS OF THE AMERICAS was held last week in Tampa Florida, bringing together the executive committees of Bishops' Conferences from Canada, the United States and Latin America. They have emphasized the unity of the Church of the Americas, called to a common mission of proclaiming hope and faith. You may read the joint message they issued [here](#).

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*