



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 320; March 6, 2026

THE MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. COLLINS OKAFOR, SMMM was beautiful and well-attended at our Cathedral this Wednesday. More than fifty priests concelebrated, including those from our diocese and many from Father Collins' religious order, the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy. A nice contingent of parishioners from Wooler, Warkworth and Brighton were also present, along with former parishioners of Fr. Collins. Sincere thanks to Fr. Paul Njoku, SMMM, who preached the homily at the Mass and to Fr. Cyprian Ihedoro, SMMM who brought greetings from his religious order. Let us continue to pray for Father Collins, who served in the priesthood for over twenty-five years, nearly fifteen of those here in the Diocese of Peterborough.

TROUBLING EVENTS WITH WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST prompted a statement from the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops this week. They have called upon the faithful to offer prayers for peace in the wake of a conflict that risks escalating into a protracted war. Quoting Pope Leo in his Sunday Angelus this week, in his calls for responsible dialogue, the bishops also invite us to pray for peace, and for a world reconciled in the love of Christ. You may read the full statement [here](#).

I ENJOYED A PLEASANT "MEET, GREET AND EAT," with two Directors of Education yesterday. Stephen O'Sullivan, head of PVNC Catholic, kindly hosted me and Kimberly Dixon, the new Director of Education for Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic District School Board. Lest we forget, the Diocese of Peterborough encompasses four schools in the Muskoka part of Simcoe-Muskoka: two in Bracebridge, one in Huntsville and one in Parry Sound. It was a pleasant and worthwhile get-together as we discussed various issues in Catholic education and simply enjoyed a bit of social time.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FROM OUR DIOCESE will gather for a Diocesan meeting, this Saturday at 9:00 a.m., at Bishop Doyle Hall in Peterborough. State Deputy David Gelinias will be their special guest. The Knights of Columbus do such valuable work in our parishes and communities – these periodic diocesan meetings help them to collaborate in that work and in carrying out their important mission.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE WAY OF THE CROSS, which makes its return to Peterborough on Good Friday, April 3rd. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, the young people of the diocese will present the Stations of the Cross along Hunter St., leading to Immaculate Conception Church in on Rogers St. in east city. All are welcome to be part of this prayerful Holy Week devotion!

I LOOK FORWARD TO INSTALLING FATHER RICHARD OPOKU as the new pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Millbrook this Sunday at a special 10:00 a.m. Mass. May God bless his ministry and the communities of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette's in Nestleton.

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*