Below is a special message from Fr. Peter Poel. If you would like to send your well-wishes to Father Peter, please email him directly at ppoel@dol.ca.

Dear Friends in the Diocese of London:

As many of you will have seen in the Diocesan Pastoral Appointments and Changes, I am going to enter novitiate with the Capuchins.

Some will be familiar with the Capuchins, who are a branch of the Franciscan “family tree”. They live a shared life of prayer and fraternity. They work in a variety of ministries, which include parish ministry and outreach ministries to the sick, the poor and the marginalized. In our diocese, they are located in Blenheim and London.

Since November, I have been blessed to have been welcomed into their home in London, near Sherwood Forest Mall, for a time of “lived discernment” as I considered joining their community. The whole process of discernment really began about a year ago, although I have felt drawn to the Franciscan way of life for quite a while. Still, I was surprised to be experiencing this calling within my call to the priesthood.

I have decided, with Bishop Fabbro’s gracious permission, to enter into the Capuchin Novitiate – a year of formation in the spirituality and way of life of the community. At the end of that year, if I decide to continue with the Capuchins (and they’ll have me!), I will make First Profession. Final Profession would take place two or three years later. Novitiate takes place near Santa Ynez, in Central California (which isn’t too hard to take!). I will be leaving to go there by the middle of July. When I return, I will meet with the Provincial Minister of the Capuchins to discuss a suitable placement. He will assign me to one of the three areas where the Capuchins of Central Canada are established: London, Toronto or Winnipeg.

So this is a big change and one which I am simultaneously excited and somewhat anxious about. I will certainly miss the wonderful relationships and constant support which I have experienced in this diocese. Thank you all!

In the meantime, I will be continuing my Diocesan ministries until the end of June.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Peace,

Fr. Peter Poel