



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 65; April 18, 2019

FROM THE VINEYARD is early this week, as we get ready for the great celebrations of the Easter Triduum. I published my Holy Week and Easter message last week, and it has been posted to our website.

SHOCKING IMAGES OF THE FIRE AT NOTRE DAME DE PARIS CATHEDRAL have been all over the news this week. In the end, we can be thankful that there was no loss of life and that the damage to this iconic Cathedral, while extensive, was not as bad as first thought. Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has sent a letter of condolence and support to Archbishop Michel Aupetit of Paris in the wake of this tragic fire.

THE YOUNG CAST IS READY AND THE GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS takes place tomorrow in Peterborough. Because of the dire weather forecasts, the decision has been made to stay indoors at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, rather than braving the elements in the city streets. It begins at 10:00 a.m. – come early for a good seat!

I ENJOYED BEING AT THE ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING OF THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, held last Saturday at St. Anne Parish in Peterborough. The Society does invaluable work on behalf of the Church with the poor and the marginalized. I was especially interested to learn about some of the social justice projects of St. Vincent de Paul, along with their many charitable activities.

THE CHRISM MASS FESTIVITIES went off beautifully at our Cathedral on Monday of this week. Sincere thanks to Father Tom Lynch and his Cathedral staff, Father Jerry Tavares, our Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Father Luis Lapinid who gave a beautiful reflection at the Holy Hour beforehand, and to Deirdre Thomas who coordinated many of the administrative details. This Mass is always one of the highpoints of our liturgical year in the diocese, and I am grateful to the many people who packed the Cathedral for the celebration.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY seemed an appropriate time to prayerfully observe a Holy Hour for Healing and Conversion in the Church, especially in the wake of the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. Each parish in the Diocese will offer this Holy Hour on the afternoon of Sunday, April 28. May we be united in prayer at this time and renewed in our commitment to protect the most vulnerable.

WE SHOULD KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS the many people who will be baptized and received into the Church this Easter. And the prayers will continue at our annual **MASS FOR NEW CATHOLICS**, being celebrated on Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. New Catholics, family members and RCIA team members are all welcome to the Mass and the Reception following in Bishop Doyle Hall.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel