



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 66; April 26, 2019

**THE EASTER CELEBRATIONS** around our Diocese were beautiful and well-attended, joyful and faith-filled. Sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard in our many parishes to prepare the Holy Week Liturgies. Now we get to appreciate fifty days of this Easter season, one imbued with the joy of the Risen Lord.

**THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIPPERS** in Sri Lanka shocked the world. It was particularly horrible that faithful people should have been targeted in their churches on Easter Sunday. We pray for the victims and their family members and for our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Council of Imams issued a joint statement condemning these attacks and rejecting all forms of hatred and violence. I was heartened to receive a letter of condolence and support from Muhammed Shaikh, President of the Kawartha Muslim Religious Association.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CAST AND DIRECTORS** of our Good Friday Way of the Cross, who gave a moving and inspirational presentation of the Lord's Passion and Death. And they had to do some last-minute scrambling, when the decision was made to move the proceedings indoors to the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. Still, the production came off beautifully and some 900 people crowded into the Cathedral to make this part of their Good Friday observances. Sincere thanks to Father Craig Cruikshank and Deacon Aidan Murphy, the principal leaders of this year's Way of the Cross.

**THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** takes place this weekend at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School here in Peterborough. It's an important gathering as they examine the theme "Honouring the Treaties Traditional Territory," and as they prepare for the CWL's 100th Anniversary next year. I am looking forward to being with them tomorrow for the Opening Ceremonies and Mass.

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER IS KNOWN AS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.** It seemed the fitting time for us to mark a Holy Hour for Healing and Conversion in the Church, as revelations about clergy sexual abuse have been so disturbing in recent months. As the Universal Church seeks better ways to confront this serious crime, we offer our prayers for victims, families and for a spirit of reparation and renewal. Check your parish bulletin for the time of the Holy Hour in your community.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK** takes place May 5th to 9th this year, focused on the theme "Living as Joyful Disciples." This annual celebration is a vital way in which we can promote the importance of publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario. I was happy to tape my Catholic Education Week message today and am hopeful that it will be improved greatly in the editing!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel