



FROM THE VINEYARD

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THE ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE took place in Ottawa yesterday, with thousands gathering on Parliament Hill to advocate for the sacredness of life from conception until natural death. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops released a statement in communion with Pope Francis on the occasion of this year's march. Although I was unable to attend this year, I was glad that there was a good representation from the Diocese of Peterborough.

VOS ESTES LUX MUNDI (You are the Light of the World) was published by Pope Francis yesterday, a document detailing processes to be followed when dealing with allegations of sexual abuse by the clergy. Some of the provisions enshrine the kinds of practices that have been in place here, as the Church in Canada has had robust protocols and reporting procedures for many years. There are further directions regarding how to deal with accusations against bishops, a development that emerged from the February meeting at the Vatican of heads of Bishops' Conferences from around the world. These good measures are a step forward in helping the Universal Church to confront the blight of clergy sexual abuse in a manner that is effective, pastoral and just.

After a productive meeting at St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville on the issue of Clergy Sexual Abuse, we have decided to hold a similar session here in Peterborough. **An INFORMATION SESSION ON RESPONDING TO SEXUAL ABUSE BY CLERGY** will be held at St. Anne Parish on Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. I look forward to presenting on this topic again with Father Joe Moran, Deirdre Thomas and Robyn Henighan from our Diocesan Pastoral Centre Staff. All are welcome to attend this session, dealing with matters so crucial to the wellbeing of the Church community.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK nears its end, and there have been many fine events involving students, parents and school staffs. A very special one was the Catholic Student Leadership Awards Ceremony for the PVNC Catholic District School Board on Wednesday evening. It was inspiring to see the many young people in our schools who have put their faith into action in a variety of ministries and services and who have been leaders among their peers.

I WAS PLEASED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER FOR SOUTHDOWN INSTITUTE this week, where I was the after-dinner speaker. Southdown has done invaluable work, helping priests and religious deal with psychological, emotional and spiritual challenges. Their vision is "Healthy Ministers for a Healthy Church," and for over fifty years, they have done much to make that vision a reality.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING AT ST. THERESE PARISH in Courtice for Confirmations this weekend. I am also delighted to be participating in the Clergy Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Councils of District 48, being hosted this year by the Knights of Port Hope. It should be a great evening!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel