



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 76; October 4, 2019

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS** held productive meetings in Cornwall last week at our annual Plenary Assembly. Our gathering covered a wide range of topics including missionary outreach, the challenges of northern dioceses, relationship with First Nation peoples and current assaults on religious freedom. I was delighted to see and speak with my predecessor, Bishop Bill McGrattan, and to learn that he is doing well! In addition to his duties in the Diocese of Calgary, he is also serving ably as co-treasurer of our Bishops' Conference.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS AND BOOKEEPERS** from across our Diocese held their annual get-together at St. Alphonsus Parish in Peterborough on Wednesday. It was a privilege to celebrate Mass for them and join in the luncheon afterwards. As it was the feast of the Guardian Angels, I couldn't help but comment that they are the angels who keep our parishes running. Sincere thanks to Fr. Jerry Tavares, Hanna Dracup and the staff of St. Alphonsus for hosting us.

**LIFE CHAIN TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY**, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., held in various locations around our Diocese. This silent hour of prayerful demonstration is a crucial way for us to show our belief in the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. At a time when life is disvalued in so many ways, our presence and witness proclaim a message that is timely and essential within our society.

**THESE ARE ANXIOUS DAYS FOR EDUCATION IN OUR PROVINCE.** Like many of you I am praying for successful negotiations over the weekend so that a strike and school closures might be averted next week. We should certainly keep support workers, teachers, administrators, trustees, parents and students in our prayers during these tense times: may the Holy Spirit guide deliberations toward a swift and fair resolution.

**I ENJOYED WATCHING THE FEDERAL ELECTION DEBATE** sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto and livestreamed last night. Candidates were asked questions on a range of issues of concern to Catholic voters. A thousand people packed the John Basset Auditorium and thousands more viewed the livestream, both individually and gathered in parishes across the country. Don't forget about the resources available on our website, published both by the CCCB and the Archdiocese of Toronto, to help Catholics consider various political and moral issues as we decide how to vote.

**The movie UNPLANNED** is being screened by Peterborough Pro-Life at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall this Saturday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It tells the story of how Abby Johnson went from being a director of Planned Parenthood to a dedicated pro-life activist. Both the movie and the dinner are free. The film is for those age 14 and up. You may call Brad Waggoner at 705-772-1579 or email [info@peterboroughprolife.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughprolife.ca) to reserve a seat.

Fraternally, † Daniel