



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 100; April 17, 2020

THIS IS THE MILESTONE 100TH EDITION OF FROM THE VINEYARD. I am grateful to all the loyal readers who have stayed with it these two-and-a-half years! I only wish that I had more news to report but current events in the Church have been a little scarce in this time of the pandemic. Still, I hope that this weekly newsletter is one small effort to combat the recent phenomena of distancing, isolation and sequestration – at least it’s my attempt to keep the lines of communication open.

SPEAKING OF MILESTONES, THIS SUNDAY IS THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MY INSTALLATION AS THE BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH. It’s hard to celebrate an anniversary or anything else while confined to quarters and sheltering in place! Be assured, though, that I will offer my Mass that day in thanksgiving to God for the blessings of serving here in this wonderful Diocese; and, as always, I will place before God the intentions of all the faithful of the Diocese of Peterborough, especially as we face the challenges of the current pandemic.

IT WAS AN EASTER UNLIKE ANY IN LIVING MEMORY, one where the Church celebrated the resurrection of the Lord behind closed doors and on media platforms new and old. I was grateful that COGECO Your TV did a live broadcast of our Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. We were also able to livestream the Mass on our Diocesan Facebook page which, except for one small technical glitch, came off very well. Sincere thanks to all those who worked to make those broadcasts possible.

SEVERAL OF OUR PARISHES HAVE BEGUN LIVESTREAMING AND BROADCASTING Masses and other events. A list of them can be found on our Diocesan website. I am grateful for the work that parishes are doing to reach out to their people through these means, or other social media connections, or good old-fashioned things like the telephone! It is important that we find ways to stay connected as a Church during these difficult times.

THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. It was established by then Pope, Saint John Paul II in 2000 when he canonized St. Faustina Kowalska, on whose writings the devotion is based. Once again, our Sunday Mass from the Cathedral will be broadcast by COGECO Your TV Peterborough on local channels (10 or 700) at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and will also be available on their Your Tube channel. You may link to it from our Diocesan website. I also joined with the Cathedral priests in leading the Divine Mercy devotions, and that video can be viewed by accessing this YouTube link.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH GOES ON despite the current restrictions imposed by COVID-19. I’m looking forward to meeting with the priests of our four Deaneries by videoconference next week, something that we are trying to do regularly. Likewise, our Diocesan Finance Council will hold another virtual meeting next week, as we strive to respond to the current financial challenges and the fast-changing situation. Our Diocesan Pastoral Center remains closed, but our dedicated staff continues to work from home. Most importantly, we should all continue to pray for an end to this pandemic, that God in His mercy may bring healing, consolation, and strength in the midst of affliction.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel