



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 101; April 24, 2020

BISHOPS IN CANADA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CONSECRATE THEIR DIOCESES to Mary, Mother of the Church on Friday, May 1. The request came this week from the Executive Committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and is being done in conjunction with various Bishops' Conferences around the world. The Consecration seeks the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the Coronavirus pandemic. Pastors too are invited to consecrate the parishes and missions entrusted to their care. Families and other faith communities are invited to offer the prayer of consecration as well. The necessary prayer resources will be made available next week. Our Lady, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

STRONG IN THE FACE OF TRIBULATION is an online prayer book, released by the Vatican as a spiritual resource during this time of the Coronavirus. The first part contains various prayer and supplications; the second explains how Catholics may continue to practice the faith in this time without the support of the Sacraments; a third section gathers Pope Francis' reflections since the pandemic began. The book has been produced by the Vatican's Dicastery for Communications and will be updated regularly.

CANADIANS AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WERE SHOCKED BY THE RECENT MASS SHOOTINGS in Nova Scotia. It has been hard to comprehend and process, even with the round the clock news coverage. We continue to hold in prayer all the victims, those who have lost loved ones, and those impacted in any way by this tragedy.

OUR SUNDAY MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER-IN-CHAINS has been viewed by many people during this time of the pandemic. We have been blessed that COGECO YourTV Peterborough has committed to taping and broadcasting this Mass each weekend. And I have been grateful to the parishes that have promoted the Mass on their website and social media platforms. It may be viewed again this Sunday on COGECO YourTV (Channel 10 or Channel 700HD) at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Peterborough and Huntsville area; and in the Cobourg area at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. or via their YouTube channel for those outside the viewing area.

THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE has published many helpful and informative resources about COVID-19 resources. Check out their website to view articles that will help you to be well-informed about ethical concerns during a time of pandemic. The material is certainly timely, and we have included some of it on our Diocesan website. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful Catholic institute to help us reflect on life and death issues during this time of crisis.

I KNOW THAT MANY PRIESTS HAVE BEEN WORKING THE PHONES to check in with their parishioners. And many have told me that parishioners are calling them to make sure they are doing well. I am glad for the care and solicitude being shown by our priests – and to them! May God continue to bless us all in these trying times.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel