



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 103; May 8, 2020

**POPE FRANCIS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR A DAY OF PRAYER, FASTING AND WORKS OF CHARITY.** The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue has announced that this Thursday, May 14 will be the day when people of faith around the world beseech God for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. There will be no public events that day, but it will be for each believer to place himself or herself before God in the offering of prayer, sacrifice and charity. Let us be united in a prayerful spirit with people of faith around the world, imploring an end to this current affliction of COVID-19.

**THE MARCH FOR LIFE** scheduled for Ottawa this week has been cancelled, but **THE VIRTUAL MARCH FOR LIFE** is on! This week-long online program will run from May 10 to 15. It will include movies and interviews streamed online from May 10-12, a virtual candlelight vigil on Wednesday, May 13, online Masses and religious services on Thursday May 14 with the culmination of the virtual rally, including guests from Canada and around the world. All events will be hosted at [MarchForLife.ca](http://MarchForLife.ca). This is a great opportunity to learn about and support the pro-life cause from your own home.

**OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO THE JESUIT COMMUNITY IN PICKERING,** which includes their infirmary, Rene Goupil House. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a huge toll on the infirmary community, where five Jesuits have died. Sixteen residents and some staff have tested positive for the virus; some are in critical condition. Among the deceased are Father Francis Johnston, SJ, who served in 1975-76 as the administrator of Holy Family Parish in Britt, in the northern deanery of our Diocese. Father Erik Oland, SJ, Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Canada, has asked that we pray for the residents, those who care for them and that the coming weeks may bring some relief and comfort. And we pray...for the Jesuit community and all those afflicted by the coronavirus.

**IT WAS A BUSY WEEK OF NEWS FOR THE CHURCH IN ONTARIO.** Pope Francis announced that the Archdiocese of Ottawa and the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall have been united into the new Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. Bishop Marcel Damphousse of the Diocese of Sault-Ste Marie has been named the Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, which means that he will succeed Archbishop Terence Prendergast when he retires. Additionally, the Most Rev. Guy Desrochers, until now the Auxiliary Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke. We join in prayer for the lay faithful, priests and bishops of all these dioceses, in a week of much change!

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK HAS CONCLUDED,** and it was a week with a lot of online activity. I was happy to join in the Catholic Leadership Awards on Wednesday evening and was intrigued at the ingenious way it was all done on Twitter. Congratulations to the Award winners from our PVNC Catholic Schools, who have shown themselves to be true leaders!

**OUR PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION SESSIONS GO AHEAD TOMORROW** all by videoconference. Father Ray Rick and I hope to master the technology and present an Introduction to Canon Law in the morning. Participants will continue in the afternoon with the study of Church History and Spirituality, all done remotely and virtually – and always diligently!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel