



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 104; May 15, 2020

SISTER RUTH HENNESSEY, CSJ, PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY. Her death is a significant loss to the Sisters of St. Joseph, our Diocese and the community. A long-time teacher, Sister Ruth became especially well-known for her work with refugees on behalf of the Sisters and the Diocese of Peterborough. For many years she oversaw Casa Maria, a place that has welcomed many refugee families to our community. In recent years, she spearheaded the initiative to receive Syrian refugees, a venture in which many of our parishes and numerous other church and community groups participated. Sister Ruth received the Peterborough-Kawartha Women's Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, recognizing her great contribution to refugee resettlement. Our sincere sympathy to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and all those who knew and loved Sr. Ruth. May she rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER JOE MORAN, who celebrates his 50th Anniversary of priestly ordination tomorrow! Father Joe retired as pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Gravenhurst last year and, until earlier this year, was the Vicar general for our Diocese. He continues to give good service even in retirement. Congratulations and best wishes also to Father Andrew Begin (chaplain to the care facilities in Peterborough) and Father Allan Hood (retired) who celebrate their 25th anniversary of Ordination later this month. And Father Bill Brown (retired) marks the major milestone of 60 years of priesthood later in June. Please keep these jubilarians in your prayers, asking that God may continue to bless and strengthen them in the priesthood.

I REALLY ENJOYED TEACHING "ONLINE" with our Permanent Deacon candidates last Saturday. Fr. Ray Rick and I shared a presentation on Canon Law, utilizing the technology as best we could. (His power point was better than mine!) My sincere thanks to Deacon Bill Radigan and Dr. Doug Finbow who lead this program and to all those who assist with it: especially as they have found ways to forge ahead in these difficult times.

I HAVE BEGUN TO SHARE THE PREACHING DUTIES on our televised COGECO YourTV Mass, tapping into the wealth of good homilists we have in our Diocese. I am grateful to Fr. Joseph Devereaux for his reflections this past Sunday. I have reclaimed the pulpit for this Sunday but will relinquish it to Fr. Tom Lynch for the Ascension of the Lord. Please check the website banner for the link to the Sixth Sunday of Easter Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains.

WE LEARNED THIS WEEK THAT THE EMERGENCY MEASURES IN ONTARIO HAVE BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 2 with the hopeful sign that there will be some re-openings in the province as Phase One gets underway. I will have more to communicate about the reopening of places of worship next week and we pray that the progress made to date to reduce the spread of the virus will continue.

Fraternally, † Daniel