



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 106; May 29, 2020

**CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER ANDREW BRODA**, who enters retirement on Monday June 1, after more than forty years of priestly service, thirty-three spent here in the Diocese of Peterborough. Father Andrew will be leaving St. Luke Parish in Downeyville, where he has served as pastor for five years, with plans to settle into Muskoka. Parishioners are planning a “drive-by” celebration on Sunday, with hopes for a more formal gathering once the pandemic restrictions are behind us. I express my congratulations as well to Father Israel Oruebi, who is appointed the new administrator of St. Luke Parish. The full list of Clergy appointments for our diocese will be published early next week.

**OUR SYMPATHIES GO TO THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE** at the recent death of Father Frank Morrissey, OMI. Father Morrissey was a world-renowned canon lawyer who wrote extensively and taught at the University of St. Paul in Ottawa for many years. His death is a significant loss for the Church in Canada and the canon law community around the world. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

**WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT’S RECENT ALLOWANCE** for church gatherings in parking lots, pastors are trying different prayer services, depending on their congregation, property and circumstances. I have heard of Vespers, Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions being offered in outdoor settings. These are good efforts, often requiring some ingenuity, which will provide spiritual nourishment in these difficult times.

**THE PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI IN NEWCASTLE** has been doubly hit, both with the suspension of public Masses and the absence of their pastor. Father Ace Podelino was on vacation in the Philippines when the pandemic restrictions took effect, and he has been working to come home for some time now. This weekend, in addition to the Mass that we broadcast via COGECO YourTV, I will celebrate a Mass at St. Francis of Assisi that will be available for viewing. And I am happy that I will be able to read a little message from Fr. Ace to the parishioners. I know they are missing him and he them.

**THE FACULTY OF ST. AUGUSTINE’S SEMINARY IN TORONTO** has been presenting a Novena to the Holy Spirit Retreat on their YouTube channel. This is the original, the prototype of all novenas, which commemorates the nine days between the Ascension of our Lord and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. I have really enjoyed following the spiritual reflections each day, which are about thirty minutes in length. And it’s not too late: one could go back and view those talks beginning now as a great spiritual exercise for these days around the time of Pentecost.

**TOMORROW, MAY 30, POPE FRANCIS** will lead the recitation of the Rosary from various Marian shrines around the world. The Holy Father will lead the Church in fervent prayer, to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us amid this pandemic. The prayer will be broadcast from the grotto of Lourdes in the Vatican Gardens, 5:30 p.m. Rome time and 12:30 p.m. our time.

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel