



FROM THE VINEYARD

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WELCOME BACK! THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF THE MASS resumed on Tuesday, and this weekend will mark our first celebrations of the Sunday Mass since mid-March. It will be a day of rejoicing but one tempered by caution as well. We know that the risks of COVID-19 are still real, and we have worked with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and government health authorities to ensure that we have appropriate procedures and safeguards. Our entire “Worship Safe” document can be found on our website, where a succinct picture and point form version can also be viewed. Or check out the very fine video which has been produced through the combined efforts of our Diocesan team and the staff at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish. Fr. Jerry Tavares does a great job as the on-air host and the video covers all you need to know as we strive to gather both safely and reverently.

I REMIND PEOPLE THAT WHILE THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES, I am maintaining the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Indeed, no one is obliged to attend Mass when ill, and people should remain at home if they are not well or exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus. Through the good graces of YourTV Peterborough, we will continue throughout the summer to broadcast the celebration of the Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. The Mass may be viewed on Your TV on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and may also be accessed via our Diocese of Peterborough website and a YouTube link.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA which celebrated its 100th Anniversary on June 17th. The in-person National convention scheduled for August has been cancelled because of COVID-19 but plans are in place to meet online and to mark this centennial in virtual fashion. For 100 years the Catholic Women’s League has lived out its motto, “For God and Canada,” and has helped its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Many blessings now and in the future!

TODAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS and it is also the World Day of Prayer for Priests. St. John Paul II initiated this day in 2002, to coincide with the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the goal of encouraging all Catholics to pray for the sanctification of priests. This seems especially fitting timing this year, as priests prepare to welcome back their parishioners to the celebration of the Mass. Let us pray that all priests may imitate the Good Shepherd and show forth the love of the Lord in all that they do in their ministry.

MANY OF THE PRIESTS HAVE TAPED CONGRATULATION MESSAGES FOR THE GRADUATES FROM THE SCHOOLS. I congratulate all of the 2020 graduates as they mark this worthy achievement virtually and creatively. And I extend my appreciation to the parents, school administration, teaching staff, and support staff who have worked with the graduates at school and more recently, at home.

A VERY BLESSED FATHERS’ DAY to all the fathers and to those who extend fatherly care throughout our Diocese. We missed out on the traditional Mothers’ Day blessing because of the pandemic pause, so we extend our prayerful best wishes to both mothers and fathers! Your role as parents is vitally important and, for those with young families, these recent times have had some challenges. May God bless and strengthen you in all you do, especially as you share with your children the precious gift of faith.

Fraternally, † Daniel