



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 110; June 26, 2020

THE REOPENING OF CHURCHES went smoothly this past Sunday with all our parishes resuming the public celebration of the Mass. In video meetings held with our four geographic deaneries, the priests reported on their experiences of the relaunch. Some parishes added Masses, some organized crowds by reservation or alphabetically by last name, and for some it was first come, first served. By all accounts there was ample room at the Masses, with our rural parishes seeing a higher proportion of people than our urban ones. I am grateful for all who worked hard to put the precautionary measures in place at each church – we are really relying on those volunteers! A reminder that you can read about the measures in place to protect people as they come to our churches or view a video with the same information. And for those who are ill or vulnerable, please check the website for the taped Mass from the Cathedral which continues to be aired on COGECO YourTV Peterborough.

OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTRE ALSO RE-OPENED LAST WEEK but we are not yet at full force. During this Phase 2 of the province's re-opening, a portion of our staff people have returned to the office while others continue working from home. That will increase as we move through the phases. Like other places, we are being attentive to good sanitation and physical distancing as we deal with the ongoing risks of the pandemic. We are not yet open to the public but will receive visitors by appointment when the province moves into Phase 3.

THE ONTARIO STATE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS has achieved the level of "Circle of Honour" conferred by the Supreme Council in New Haven, Connecticut. This honour is awarded to Councils that have significantly increased their membership in the previous year, and it is a benchmark the Ontario State Council has reached in four of the last five years. It was great to hear that good news in these trying times! We are grateful for all that the Knights of Columbus do in our Diocese and well beyond.

THE SUMMER IS NOW UPON US, but it may be a very different summer for our cottage country parishes. They rely on an influx of seasonal parishioners to help in a myriad of ways, including financially. I know pastors are waiting to see in what numbers the seasonal parishioners will return, with all that is going on with the pandemic. I am grateful to parishioners all over the Diocese who have made the effort to maintain their donations during the lockdown or catch up afterwards. Not everyone is able to do the same, but we are grateful for whatever you can do to help your parish in these times.

CANADA DAY FALLS ON WEDNESDAY THIS YEAR, depriving us of a long weekend – or maybe giving some people the opportunity for an extra long weekend! Next week is the beginning of Summer Hours in the Diocese and the parishes – be sure to check the website for the summer office hours. I pray that everyone will remain safe for the coming holiday, one in which we certainly pray for the wellbeing of our nation as we continue to face the impacts of the coronavirus.

Fraternally, † Daniel