



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 111; July 3, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP GUY DESROCHERS, installed today as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke. Typically, I would be at such an event for a brother Ontario bishop and a neighbour, but not this year: it was a low-key celebration at St. Columbkille Cathedral in these pandemic times, held in the presence of the priests who form the College of Consultors, a few of the other clergy and lay faithful, and the metropolitan, Archbishop Terry Prendergast of Ottawa-Cornwall. Bishop Desrochers' Episcopal motto, *Praedica Verbum*, means "Proclaim the Word," a fundamental task in the ministry of a bishop. May he do so joyfully and effectively as the new chief shepherd of the Diocese of Pembroke!

PEOPLE ARE GRADUALLY MAKING THE RETURN TO CHURCH, although we know not everyone will be back immediately – especially those at greater risk from COVID-19. I have continued to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass while we confront this serious health risk. Various parishes have continued to livestream the celebration of the Mass and a list of them may be found on our website. And of course, we continue to tape and broadcast the Sunday Mass from our Cathedral, which may be viewed on YourTV Peterborough at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, or anytime through the link on our webpage to our YouTube channel. I am grateful to David Feeley and Marcus Ferguson from YourTV, Deirdre Thomas at our Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Father Tom Lynch and the Cathedral staff, and Fr. Paul Massel and Kelly Robertson, our musicians. Everyone has worked together to produce a very professional broadcast of the Mass, which has been a real service to many people in this time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN BEAL who retires at the end of this month as Director of Education of the Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic District School Board. That board includes a large part of the north of the Diocese of Peterborough. Brian has fulfilled this leadership role very effectively for eleven years, serving students, teachers and parents alike through his strong faith and commitment to Catholic education. We wish him a blessed retirement, but it will be a busy one – Brian has been appointed the new General Secretary of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, a work he begins this fall. I am glad that the Catholic community in Ontario will continue to benefit from his leadership.

CANADIAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY, like a lot of groups, has learned to run events online! Their planned Round Table on Evangelization was supposed to take place at St. Augustine's Seminary this August but will instead happen in virtual fashion. As their liaison from the Canadian Bishops, I was happy to add my piece in a message of welcome that was taped earlier this week. I was even happier to see that they found a way to proceed with this conference, which will help Catholic campus ministers from across the country learn about best practices in sharing the faith in a university setting.

Fraternally, † Daniel