



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 116; October 2, 2020

**LIFE CHAIN TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY** and is being held in more than 200 locations across Canada. This annual hour of silent demonstration is a way for us to protest the injustice of abortion and proclaim the dignity of all human life, beginning in the womb. In Peterborough, Life Chain will take place outside the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. A Holy Hour will be held in the Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. following Life Chain. For the location of the Life Chain near you and other information, check out their website.

**OUR DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM HAS GONE ONLINE.** The couples who are participating in this fall's program have started receiving videos for viewing and discussion. Then, on October 17, participants will join in live, online, for a full day of presentations and discussions. I appreciate the efforts of Fr. Paul Massel, Deirdre Thomas, and our whole Marriage Preparation team for designing a program that will be comprehensive, accessible and that brings couples from our Diocese together as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

**THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO** will gather for our biannual Plenary meeting this coming week - once again, all taking place online. We will deal with a streamlined agenda under the circumstances but will still be tackling a variety of issues ranging from Catholic education to priestly ministry to finances – all of which have been impacted by the current pandemic. Please pray for the success of these meetings as we gather to deal with topics of great importance.

**I TOURED THE CHURCH CONSTRUCTION AT ST. BENEDICT PARISH IN MILTON** earlier this week. In 2012 I was the founding pastor of the new parish, a work from which I was whisked away when I was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton the following year. Father Jim Petrie took over and has worked with parishioners and his building committee to construct a truly beautiful church. I am looking forward to the Opening and Dedication in late November: it's wonderful to see this great work, begun with such hope, nearing completion.

**OUR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION COMMITTEE** has done stellar work putting resources online for students preparing for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. It will be a different kind of preparation this year, but I am impressed at the quality of materials that have been provided and their ease of use. I pray that families will find them helpful as young people prepare to receive the sacraments in this very unusual year.

**FATHER MICHAEL NNEJI & FATHER ISAAC OGWU** went to their parishes this week, following their fourteen-day self-isolation after arriving from Nigeria: Father Michael to our Cathedral and Father Isaac to St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville. I know they are looking forward to meeting parishioners this Sunday. Please welcome them warmly!

Fraternally, † Daniel