



FROM THE VINEYARD

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I SENT A VIDEO MESSAGE TO OUR PRIESTS LAST WEEK, focused on reviewing the various safety protocols we have in place for the celebration of Mass. It seemed like a timely reminder as our province is well into a second wave of the pandemic with case numbers surpassing even what we saw in the spring. I am grateful to our priests, parish staffs and many volunteers for the work that they have been doing to help us gather safely, and likewise appreciative for the cooperation of parishioners. None of us want to see another closure of our churches, so we should commit to doing the utmost to observe the precautions that have been put in place.

THIS IS NATIONAL CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK, sponsored by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada. The theme of the week is **AWAKEN: Revealing the Courageous Gift of Catholic Health Care**. A few facts about Catholic health care in Canada: there are 129 Catholic health care organizations in Canada providing 19,575 beds. Staff numbering 88,000+ serve more than 5 million people with an annual operating budget of 6 billion dollars. Catholic health care in Canada rests on the foundational work of Religious Sisters, visionary women who for generations cared for the most destitute people in their communities. In the Diocese of Peterborough, we owe much to the Sisters of St. Joseph whose legacy of service in health care continues today at St. Joseph's at Fleming and Marycrest at Inglewood. What a blessing they are in our community!

POPE FRANCIS' NEW ENCYCLICAL LETTER FRATELLI TUTTI was released on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4) and draws on much of his thought. This letter on "fraternity and social friendship" calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance. For those not eager to tackle a 45,000-word letter, good summaries are available and this short video also introduces the major themes of this papal document.

WE ARE REBOOTING OUR COLLECTION FOR THE PRIEST BENEFIT FUND, which was missed in the spring with the pandemic lockdown. Rather than sending out my annual letter, we produced a short video with me and Fr. Peter Seabrooke speaking about the life of a retired priest. That will be in circulation very soon. We truly appreciate your generosity to this fund which cares for our retired priests: the collection will be taken on the weekend of November 22nd.

IT WAS GOOD TO MEET WITH OUR PRIESTS ONLINE this week as we managed to convene three of our four geographic Deaneries. One benefit of these strange times is that we are all becoming more adept at using technology and finding new ways to stay connected.

IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT KIND OF THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION THIS YEAR. However, you may be getting together with loved ones, let's not neglect to give thanks to God, the source of all good gifts, especially for the blessings of freedom and prosperity that we enjoy in our nation. Blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

Fraternally, † Daniel