



# FROM THE VINEYARD

**Newsletter No. 125; December 11, 2020**

**A YEAR DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH:** On the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church (December 8, 2020) Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart.) It is a quick read and a beautiful exposition on the significance of St. Joseph in the life of the Church. The year dedicated to St. Joseph runs from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, beginning and ending on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**WITH SOME NEW, ENHANCED COVID PROTOCOLS** prepared by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, parishes are amplifying their efforts to make sure that our churches are safe. I published a letter to the faithful earlier this week reminding everyone that we need to be diligent about our attention to these measures, especially as the number of cases climbs in our province. Let us be attentive to our own wellbeing and the welfare of our neighbours as the Christmas season approaches!

**THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (DECEMBER 12)** is the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This initiative was first proposed by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, which was founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1998. The Council has published a message for our reflection – a timely one, as we continue to strive for Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as a society and Church.

**I CELEBRATED MASS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON** this morning at École Monsignor Jamot, our local school that is part of the Mon Avenir French Catholic School Board. It was cleverly done: three staff members were present with me in the chapel as the congregation and technical crew, and the Mass was livestreamed to the students in their various classrooms. The celebration was well-planned, student readers were able to do their ministry from their classroom, and I managed to survive in French for forty minutes! Thanks to all who organized this celebration for the season of Advent.

**I MADE AN AFTER HOURS VISIT TO OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL** this week, privileged to be one of the three judges for their Lego Bible Scenes Competition. More than twenty entries from students and staff alike depicted various scenes from the Bible – some famous and some less so! The exhibits were quite ingenious, and it was hard to choose winners from so many creative and deserving entries.

**ON CHRISTMAS EVE, MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER-IN-CHAINS** will be broadcast live on Cogeco YourTV, beginning at 11:30 p.m. We will not have the pre-recorded YouTube Mass on our Diocesan website for Christmas, but it will return on Sunday, December 27 for the Feast of the Holy Family.

**Fraternally, + Daniel**