



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 126; December 18, 2020

**IT IS ONE WEEK UNTIL CHRISTMAS**, and it will be a rather different experience this year for many of us. I published my Christmas message earlier this week. We also issued some directives and advice for people who will be attending Mass within the Diocese of Peterborough this Christmas, with an emphasis on safety and care for one another. But even in this unusual pandemic year of 2020, let the joy of the Lord's Nativity resound in us!

**ON THURSDAY I ATTENDED THE INSTALLATION OF MOST REVEREND THOMAS DOWD** as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. It was a COVID-style Installation with only about 100 people present in the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption in North Bay, and perhaps thirty or so socially distanced guests at the banquet afterwards. Still, it was a celebration of great joy and I was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. Bishop Dowd has relocated from the Archdiocese of Montreal after serving nine years as Auxiliary Bishop – it will be good to have him as our northern neighbour!

**THE BISHOPS OF ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES** have published an excellent letter on the use of the anti-COVID vaccines, with an emphasis on any ethical implications involved. The letter is thoughtful and carefully written and should reassure Catholics about taking these vaccines as they begin to be distributed in our county.

**I HOSTED A "VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR"** with the priests and deacons of the Diocese earlier this week, an online gathering that also included several deacons' wives and our two seminarians. Many families will be substituting online get-togethers for in-person ones this Christmas, and the Diocese is no different: we weren't able to gather for our usual Mass and Dinner in Advent, so it seemed important to try to do something. It was a delightful hour of catching up with each other and story telling. I'm afraid that the Happy Hour theme didn't really catch on, though – I seemed to be the only one with a drink in his hand!

**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. Check your local listings for any re-broadcast times. We had a walk-through the Cathedral with the Cogeco YourTV technicians earlier this week, and everything seems to be ready to go. We will not have the pre-recorded YouTube Mass on our Diocesan YouTube channel for Christmas, but it will return on Sunday, December 27 for the Feast of the Holy Family. Other viewing options for a Christmas television Mass include Salt & Light TV, EWTN, Shalom World TV, Daily TV Mass, Catholic TV, and Vatican Media Live.

**FROM THE VINEYARD** will be going into self-isolation over the Christmas season but never fear, it will return early in 2021! I pray that you will enjoy a blessed and safe Christmas day and season, and that we will remain strong in faith with hopes for better days to come.

Fraternally, + Daniel