



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 94; March 6, 2020

**WE WELCOME FATHER JOSHY GEORGE, CMI**, to the Diocese of Peterborough, where he takes up pastoral duties at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. Father George's community, the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, serve around the world including various places in Ontario. Originally from India, he was most recently the associate pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Barrie. We are delighted to have him join our Cathedral pastoral team.

**TODAY IS THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**, traditionally celebrated on the first Friday of March. This global event is an invitation and opportunity for Christians to pray together ecumenically about the concerns of our society and world. Sponsored by the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada and its counterparts around the world, it is celebrated in some 165 countries. This year's prayer service was prepared by Christians from Zimbabwe on the theme of "Rise, take your mat and walk."

**THE WORLD HAS BEEN ATTUNED TO THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS** in recent weeks. Even though the outbreak has not been widespread in Canada, it has certainly been on the increase. A letter was sent to priests and parishes today to ensure a consistent response for the celebration of Masses in our diocese. The letter addresses various matters like handwashing, the sign of peace and the distribution and reception of Holy Communion. Like other dioceses around the country we are continuing to monitor the situation. Further communication may become necessary in the event of a major viral outbreak in Canada.

**I ENJOYED A WONDERFUL VISIT TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY** this week, in the company of Father John Perdue, our Vocation Director. We were blessed to meet with the rector, Father Edwin Gonsalves and many of the faculty who work so hard in the formation of men for the priesthood. Afterward, we enjoyed some social time with our two young men who are studying there. And we made to sure to include Father Ante Market from Peterborough, who has finished his studies in Canon Law and is one of the newest faculty members at St. Augustine's.

**OUR VOCATIONS OFFICE IS HOSTING THE "FATHER COSTELLO CLASSIC" HOCKEY TOURNAMENT** this weekend. Six teams will participate in games at the Warsaw Arena on Saturday, including squads from Catholic secondary schools and St. Augustine's Seminary. May everyone play well and be safe!

**OUR CITY DEANERY OF PRIESTS HOSTED AN EVENING OF LENTEN RECOLLECTION** on Wednesday for the city priests. A holy hour was followed by an hour or more of food and fraternity. Sincere thanks to Father Jerry Tavares for organizing our prayer and to Father Tom Lynch and the Cathedral staff for hosting and feeding us!

Pax et Bonum, † Daniel