



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 130; February 5, 2021

THIS PAST TUESDAY'S FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD was also the World Day for Consecrated Life; a day held annually to recognize priests, sisters and brothers of religious congregations who serve the Church so faithfully. We are blessed to have many such religious priests and sisters serving in the Diocese of Peterborough, in a whole host of ministries. May God bless them all in their community life and devoted apostolic service!

WE CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN across our province. It is unclear at this stage whether things will have opened more by Ash Wednesday on February 17. If not, we will still celebrate the first day of Lent, allowing for the distribution of ashes while carefully observing all capacity limits and safety protocols. The Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments has stated that, across the universal Church, ashes this year are to be sprinkled upon the head rather than imposed on the forehead, to avoid direct personal contact.

OUR PRIESTS' ONGOING FORMATION COMMITTEE has been busy in recent weeks. In addition to confirming the program for our November Study Days, we have also arranged for two online sessions in the next month. Christie Morrisette will focus on "Caring for Ourselves" in the pandemic and its wake, while Father James Mallon (of "Divine Renovation") will address "Caring for Parishioners" during this challenging time. I am grateful to the members of the committee for organizing these timely presentations which will be of great assistance to our priests in their personal wellbeing and ministry. On top of all that, we have managed to reschedule our annual Priests' Retreat from June to October, a time when we pray the major pandemic concerns will be behind us.

I WILL BE ONLINE TOMORROW WITH DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE MEMBERS from our Diocese, as they prepare to kick off this year's Share Lent campaign. The 2021 campaign, "Share Love," is inspired by the message of social fraternity in Pope Francis' recent encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti*. It is a timely and well-chosen theme.

WE RECEIVED THE SAD NEWS TODAY THAT DEACON JOHN CANNON has passed away. A Permanent Deacon of the Archdiocese of Toronto, he served many years in our diocese because of his summer home near Apsley. Deacon John provided good ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cardiff and mission churches at Chandos Lake and Highland Grove. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord!

OUR DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL MET THIS WEEK, dealing with a very full agenda, made more so by the challenges of COVID-19 and another provincial lockdown. I know that parishes are doing their best to provide pastoral ministry in the current difficult circumstances, which includes reduced revenue. Thanks for all you are doing to support your parish at this time.

Fraternally, † Daniel