



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 133; February 26, 2021

**THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST** has announced that they will be closing their Convent here in Peterborough. Often known as “the Polish Sisters,” the Congregation arrived here in 1977 and their Sisters served in various roles at our Diocesan Pastoral Center and worked closely with the Polish Catholic community here in town. They are well known in our city parishes and will be sorely missed by the priests, religious and lay people alike. The closure means that Montreal will remain as the sole religious house that the Passionist Sisters operate here in Canada. We will pray for the Sisters and prepare for a goodbye celebration sometime before their departure later this year.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS and DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE** issued a joint press release yesterday. Concerns raised about some of Development and Peace’s international partners and their adherence to Catholic social and moral teaching have been addressed in a thorough three-year review. Problematic partnerships have been ended and a new structure is in place for approving and reviewing new partners. Ongoing organizational review and change at Development and Peace, overseen by the Bishops, will ensure that they fulfill their mandate of assisting communities in the global south, always in harmony with Catholic teaching. This is positive news coming in advance of the Share Lent collection for Development and Peace taking place later this Lent.

**OUR REOPENING PLANNING COMMITTEE MET ONLINE** this week, dealing with the ongoing issues brought on by the pandemic and its restrictions. Although most of our churches have returned to 30% capacity, our five northernmost parishes in the North Bay-Parry Sound Health District remain in lockdown. Given the lengthy period this has stretched on, and in view of the smaller populations in those communities, I have decided to extend the permission for weekday Mass to include Sundays as well, observing the provincial limit of ten people. Let us all continue to pray for an end to this COVID-19 pandemic and for all those who have been impacted by the virus.

**WE CONTINUE TO BROADCAST THE SUNDAY MASS** from our Cathedral each week on YouTube, and with the purchase of some new equipment, are working to upgrade the video quality. I am grateful to our production team that supports that Cathedral Mass, and to all such teams around the Diocese who have been broadcasting parish Masses, liturgies and putting other resources online. This pandemic has turned us into producers and increased our “media know-how,” something that will benefit the Church long after this pandemic is behind us!

**LET US KEEP POPE FRANCIS IN OUR PRAYERS** as he prepares to make an apostolic journey next week to Iraq, where Christian communities have suffered terribly for more than twenty years. The Holy Father intends this trip to be a sign of solidarity and encouragement for that beleaguered faith community. Let us pray that he will travel safely and that his presence will bring consolation and hope.

Fraternally, + Daniel