



FROM THE VINEYARD

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FATHER JAMES MALLON gave our priests a fantastic online seminar earlier this week, focusing on parish ministry during the pandemic and beyond. The author of *Divine Renovation* and an internationally known speaker, he offered some inspiring thoughts on the challenges and opportunities of these unique times, and what God is calling forth from priests and parishioners alike. Many thanks to our Priests' Ongoing Formation Committee for arranging this session!

MATERIAL ABOUT CONSCIENCE RIGHTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS has been posted on our website and sent to the parishes. This campaign, spearheaded by the Coalition for Healthcare and Conscience, and supported by the Ontario Bishops, seeks provincial legislation to protect the conscience rights of doctors, nurses and pharmacists who do not wish to participate in Medical Assistance in Dying. By going to the Coalition website, you can voice your concern to your MPP and the Premier about this vital issue.

MARCH 19 (NEXT FRIDAY) IS THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH, and it is even more meaningful in this Year of St. Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis this past December. The Holy Father has a special devotion to St. Joseph and early in his papacy, he confirmed Pope Benedict XVI's initiative to add the name of St. Joseph to the Eucharistic Prayers. Our Diocesan website has many good resources on St. Joseph, including Novena prayers, which are often said in advance of the feast day, but which could be prayed any time! On the feast of St. Joseph, we will broadcast a Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on our Diocesan YouTube channel. Let us remember that St. Joseph is the patron saint of Canada and ask his intercession for our country during this time of the pandemic.

PATRICK KELLY IS NOW THE SUPREME KNIGHT of the Knights of Columbus worldwide. He took over on March 1st following the retirement of Carl Anderson, who served as Supreme Knight for more than twenty years. Mr. Kelly has been Deputy Supreme Knight for the past four years and comes with a long pedigree of service in civil society and the Church. Such transitions come only rarely in the life of the Order! Let us pray for Patrick Kelly in his new role for the Knights of Columbus and for Carl Anderson as he enters retirement.

WE HAVE HIT THE HALFWAY POINT on the season of Lent, and sometimes people are flagging a little by now. If you haven't checked them out, the "Journey through Lent" videos on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' website can provide a spiritual boost. Bishop Gerard Bergie of St. Catharines reflects each week on the Sunday readings, making valuable connections for us in our daily living.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL FACING A TIME OF MUCH UNCERTAINTY with the pandemic, we are rejoicing that this Sunday, for the first time in many weeks, every region of our Diocese is out of the grey zone. All our churches are open at a capacity of 30%. It is a cause for celebration on this "Laetare Sunday," the Fourth Sunday of Lent!

Fraternally, + Daniel