



FROM THE VINEYARD

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TODAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, and in this Year of St. Joseph it is the occasion for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to introduce a special page on their website. You will find there various resources to help celebrate this holy year: pastors should feel free to make use of them. Also, a Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph is available for viewing on our Diocesan You Tube channel.

WE WERE SADDENED BY THE NEWS THAT FATHER CHARLIE FITZPATRICK passed way earlier this week. A native of Philadelphia, Father Charlie was ordained for the Diocese of Peterborough in 1992 and served as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Honey Harbor. More recently, he was the associate pastor of St. Mary's in Lindsay where he remained active after his retirement in 2012. Father was well known and appreciated especially in Lindsay where he spent so many years. His Funeral Mass will be offered at St. Mary Parish on Tuesday, with attendance limited because of COVID-19 restrictions. A livestream of the Mass will be available. Let us join in praying for the repose of Father Charlie's soul and in thanksgiving for his priestly ministry.

I RECENTLY APPOINTED FATHER BILL MOLONEY to be the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer. He and I were online a couple of weeks back with Ecumenical officers and a few bishops from Ontario and the Western provinces, discussing the various opportunities and challenges in the field of Christian dialogue and unity. I thank Father Bill for his willingness to take on this role and pray that his ministry will be fruitful!

THIS 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT IS SOLIDARITY SUNDAY, our chance to contribute to the Share Lent campaign of Development and Peace or to the Diocese's Other Lenten Charities. Development and Peace is focusing their campaign on the theme "Share Love; Share Lent," as part of their mission to assist disadvantaged communities in the Global South. We know that almsgiving, an expression of concern for our neighbour, is an essential part of Lent. Thank you everyone for your contribution to these Lenten collections.

PLANS ARE PROCEEDING FOR OUR CHRISM MASS being celebrated on the Monday of Holy Week. This Mass in which the sacred oils are blessed, and priests renew their priestly promises is one of the major liturgies for any diocese. Alas, we have decided this year not to open the Mass to the public, to make sure that we do not exceed our capacity limits. We are putting livestreaming arrangements in place. And of course, I invite your prayers for our priests who minister faithfully and have been doing so with many challenges this past year.

I WAS HAPPY TO HAVE AN ONLINE VISIT WITH THE GRADE 5/6 CLASS from St. Thomas Aquinas Virtual School earlier this week. I spoke about Vocations and the Season of Lent and was impressed with the good questions the students asked! I was also reminded of the challenges faced by educators during this pandemic, including those who are managing the task of teaching online – it is no easy feat!

Fraternally, + Daniel