



# FROM THE VINEYARD

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**THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER** is celebrated tomorrow, May 1st. Instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII, it has additional meaning here in Canada as St. Joseph is the patron saint of our country. On this feast day the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released this brief but timely message, focused on the importance of work and the many challenges and inequities being faced by workers, especially during the pandemic. “St. Joseph, patron saint of workers, pray for us!”

**THE LIFE OF OUR PARISHES CONTINUES**, despite the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though our ability to gather indoors is limited, priests and parishioners are finding ways to maintain the life of prayer. Many parishes are livestreaming the Mass, and some are taking advantage of the permission to hold “drive-in” services where this can be accommodated. Weekday Masses, albeit with small numbers, are still being celebrated. Eucharistic Adoration and the sacrament of Confession are being offered and I even heard of a Deacon who is leading the rosary online. And of course, our sacramental preparation programs have been proceeding online as they have throughout this year. My sincere thanks to all those who are working to maintain the life of worship and prayer within their parishes. As we do so, let us not neglect to pray for an end to this pandemic and for all those who have been affected by it.

**POPE FRANCIS IS URGING THAT THE ROSARY BE PRAYED** throughout the month of May, beseeching our Blessed Mother for an end to this pandemic. To promote this effort of prayer, thirty Marian shrines around the world will take it in turn to lead the Holy Rosary on each day of the month. Among the Marian shrines chosen is Notre Dame du Cap in Trois Rivieres where the rosary will be led on May 23rd. The Holy Father will open and close this month of prayer on May 1st and 31st. This effort is being coordinated by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization and you may go to their website to find more details, prayer resources, and to view the daily broadcasts of these Marian devotions.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK** begins on Sunday centered on the theme Catholic Education: Nurturing Hope. This annual event celebrates the blessing of publicly funded Catholic education in our province. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association is sponsoring a Mass to be celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto on Wednesday, May 5th: Catholic schools across the province will join in by this Mass link. I was also pleased to record a brief message for Catholic Education Week, offering my prayers and blessings to students, staff, and parents.

**THE ONTARIO STATE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** is holding their annual convention online tomorrow, and I’m looking forward to joining in. Various business matters and elections will be dealt with, but above all it is a chance for Knights to meet - even virtually - and celebrate the many good works of the Order!

Fraternally, † Daniel