



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 144; May 21, 2021

**WE ARE RESPONDING TO POPE FRANCIS' ROSARY PRAYER INITIATIVE.** The Holy Father has asked that during May, the month dedicated to Our Lady, the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for an end to the pandemic. I mentioned this world-wide initiative several weeks ago in *From the Vineyard* and this mention inspired the faithful to ask for a Diocesan wide prayer here. On Sunday, May 30, I invite all Catholics in our Diocese to pray the Holy Rosary for an end to COVID-19 pandemic and for all those most intensely affected by it. Tune in to our Diocesan You Tube channel that Sunday at 2:00 p.m. as the priests of our Cathedral and I lead the recitation of the Holy Rosary, beseeching our Blessed Mother for her intercession and consolation.

**THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY A RE-OPENING STRATEGY** for the coming weeks. It was disappointing and concerning to see that in Step 1, places of worship will continue to be held to a hard cap of ten persons (including the celebrant and liturgical ministers) even as other enterprises are allowed a percentage of building capacity. Discussion with provincial leaders will, I strongly expect, be ongoing. In the meantime, several parishes have been providing the option of drive-in Masses per provincial regulations – and having good success. Step 1 provisions will allow increased gathering sizes for outdoor religious services (not just “drive-in” settings) and we will be considering all such possibilities to allow for the faithful to gather for Sunday Mass.

**ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION** come up at this time of year, and several priests are marking major milestones in their priestly service. These include Fr. Bart Burke (65 years), Fr. Neil Roy (35 years), Fr. Neil Campbell and Fr. Jozef Vano (30 years), Fr. Paul Hogan, Fr. Larry Rogers, and Fr. Gene Shin (25 years), Fr. Emmanuel Okpataku, SMMM (15 years) and Fr. Ante Market (10 years). Please pray for these men, that the Lord may continue to bless them with joy in the priesthood and in the service of God's people.

**GLOBAL PRAYER FOR CHINA** takes place in the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, May 23-30. May 24 is the traditional feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the day Pope Benedict XVI dedicated to praying for the Church in China. Pope Francis continues to invite us to accompany the faithful in China with our prayers. Interesting information about this project can be found on this website.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE COUNCIL** at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. They were recently recognized in The Canadian League magazine for their 100th Anniversary. I am told that celebrations are being deferred until a point later in the year when gathering will be easier. What a wonderful milestone and legacy of service!

**THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST** marks the end of Easter and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. Despite the challenges of these days, let us never doubt the Holy Spirit is with the Church, guiding, sustaining, and animating her. “Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!”

Fraternally, † Daniel