



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 146; June 4, 2021

THE TERRIBLE DISCOVERY OF 215 CHILDREN'S UNMARKED GRAVES at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School has shaken our country. This revelation has opened old wounds, especially those of our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and has highlighted again the Church's shameful participation in a corrupt system. Silent memorials have sprung up across the country including our Cathedral and some of our churches. They remind us to pray for rest for those who were lost and healing for those who remain. I have asked the priests of the Diocese to address this at Masses this Sunday, expressing our sorrow and offering prayers. I have also released a statement today about this tragic discovery and its implications. Additionally, you will find the statement from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on our website.

IT WAS GOOD TO MEET WITH OUR COUNCIL OF PRIESTS online this week, which we do seasonally. With many challenges in the Church and the world we were kept busy with a full agenda; but the discussion is always good and beneficial. I am grateful to the priests who serve on the Council in addition to their own pastoral duties, with particular appreciation for our efficient Chair, Father Neil Campbell.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 IS THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART and the World Day of Prayer for Priests. I ask your prayers for our priests, especially those serving in our Diocese, that they may remain close to the heart of Jesus and may imitate his love in all they do. This is also a meaningful devotion for families, and the image of the Sacred Heart in the home is a sign that the love of Jesus rules over the family. Several weeks ago, Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto published this pastoral letter on the theme of the Sacred Heart.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY OF TORONTO is offering an online Novena Retreat on the Sacred Heart. Every day from June 3 to 10 a new reflection will be presented by a faculty member on the Seminary's YouTube Channel. To conclude the retreat on June 11, you are invited to tune in to the Livestream Mass from St. Michael's Cathedral, celebrated by Cardinal Collins.

MORE PARISHES HAVE ACQUIRED FM TRANSMITTERS and are offering the option "Drive-in" Masses, which are allowed under the current pandemic restrictions. It is not possible for every parish to do so depending on their property layout and parking lot size, but I acknowledge the efforts of those who been able to gather people for worship in this way.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE invites us to pray for all engaged couples as they prepare for marriage. As the Holy Father notes, "marriage is something beautiful!" This venture is part of the year long celebration of the 5th Anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*, his encyclical on the family. Watch the Pope's message here (in Spanish with English subtitles) "The Beauty of Marriage."

Fraternally, † Daniel