



FROM THE VINEYARD

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DISTURBING REPORTS ABOUT MORE UNMARKED GRAVES at a former Indian Residential School emerged this week, coming from Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. This is another report that implicates the Church for its part in a reprehensible and destructive Residential School system. There are likely to be more such revelations as the summer goes on: difficult as they are to hear they are a necessary step in the ongoing process of truth and reconciliation. This letter from Archbishop Don Bolen of Regina to Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation expresses the Church's sorrow and shame and commits to concrete acts to redress the harm that has been done. It is evident that the issue of this cemetery has been under discussion by Indigenous and Church leaders for some time. Several clergy and faithful have been present at the memorial gatherings sponsored by our local Indigenous peoples. And I see this as a hopeful step. Let us continue to pray for all those harmed by the Indian Residential School system and for our nation and Church, to commit to find ways to promote healing and rebuild trust.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 GRADUATES FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS! This has been such an exceptional time for the leaders and the staff in Catholic schools, students, and their families. The pandemic and the accompanying health precautions have posed many challenges over the past months – and you have prevailed well. For the 2021 graduates from Mon Avenir, Nipissing-Parry Sound, Our Lady of the Wayside, PVNC, and Simcoe-Muskoka – congratulations on this achievement and God bless you!

IT IS GOOD NEWS THAT OUR PROVINCE WILL ENTER STEP 2 of Reopening on June 30, a couple of days ahead of schedule. With building capacity now increased to 25% parishes will have an easier time welcoming the faithful. Because space is still limited, some parishes have continued with “drive-in” services as well. Let us pray that this pandemic will soon be overcome and that we may move quickly through this stage of reopening. I am sure we are all looking forward to gathering without restrictions and returning to our more customary liturgical practices.

IN THIS YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, many Dioceses are celebrating an “Act of Entrustment to St. Joseph” on Canada Day. A Mass from our Cathedral which concludes with the Act of Entrustment will be broadcast on July 1. Additionally, the faithful are invited to make the Novena leading up to Canada Day.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH in our Diocese at our four parishes who claim him as their patron saint. On four consecutive Saturdays, from August 21 to September 11, liturgical celebrations and devotions will take place at St. Joseph's in Douro, Powassan, Bracebridge and Bowmanville – one parish each Saturday. I am looking forward to being in each place to join in prayer and celebrate the Mass. Stay tuned through the summer for more information: you may want to attend one or more of these celebrations, making it into a pilgrimage for this holy year.

FROM THE VINEYARD will go on its usual summer hiatus after this issue, possibly making a quick reappearance if events require it. God bless you all with a restful and safe summer!

Fraternally, † Daniel