



FROM THE VINEYARD

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THE FEDERAL ELECTION TAKES PLACE THIS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. As Catholics, exercising our right to vote is one way that we fulfill the obligations of citizenship, and promote the common good of society. A statement released by the Executive of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops this week reminds us that voting is “a duty, a gift, and an opportunity.” Let us keep all candidates and citizens in our prayers as we prepare for this important event in our nation.

OUR FOUR PARISH CELEBRATIONS FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH concluded last Saturday in Bowmanville. Fr. Craig Cruikshank and parishioners from St. Joseph’s organized an outdoor gathering at St. Stephen’s Catholic Secondary school. The weather was great, even if a bit windy, and our day concluded with Mass and the Litany of St. Joseph with more than 200 people in attendance. I wish to thank the priests and parishioners of our four St. Joseph parishes (Douro, Powassan, Bracebridge & Bowmanville) for organizing these gatherings and liturgies to celebrate this Holy Year.

OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE met this week, as we relaunch this initiative after “the pause” imposed by Covid-19. In some ways it comes at an opportune time, as we look to the future and grapple with issues like a post-pandemic Church, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, missionary outreach, vocations, and lay ministry. Meetings in person and online will take place at the parish level and regional (deanery) level over the next ten months. Look for an online “Thought Exchange” survey to come out in the next several weeks as we seek the broadest possible input. Please pray that this Planning Process in our Diocese, “Transforming our Lives: Building our Church,” will be guided by the Holy Spirit and bear much good fruit!

THE ORDINATION OF PETER LUKOW TO THE DIACONATE will take place at St. Therese Parish in Courtice on Friday, October 1st. It is an occasion of great joy for Peter, his family, and our Diocese as he takes this important step toward the Ministerial priesthood. Because of Covid restrictions, the Ordination Mass will be limited to invited guests only, but you may participate online, connecting through our Diocesan website.

THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS takes place this coming week and will be held once again in virtual fashion. Prominent among our discussions will be the issues of Truth and Reconciliation and the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and the Church’s response. Please pray for a successful plenary meeting as we strive to meet a variety of challenges and concerns in these unprecedented times.

LET US PRAY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF in our Catholic schools and in all schools, as they navigate the return to in-person learning this September. May everyone work together for the safety and benefit of all in these coming months!

Fraternally, † Daniel