



# FROM THE VINEYARD

**Newsletter No. 154; October 8, 2021**

**POPE FRANCIS HAS ANNOUNCED** that the next Synod of Bishops will take place in October of 2023. The theme will be “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” The two-year path leading up to the Synod will involve local Churches in a worldwide conversation. The Synod process will begin with a Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome this Sunday. The first phase of the synodal path in Dioceses will commence next weekend, October 16/17. I will celebrate a special Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains on 10:30 a.m. next Sunday which will root this process in prayer, sacramentality, and community. (This Mass will be livestreamed on our You Tube Channel.) We will link this Synodal process with our Diocesan Pastoral Planning effort, with conversations to be held at the parish, Deanery and Diocesan level. A first initiative will be the launch of an online survey in the coming week, prepared by our Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission. I pray this will give the people of God a chance to offer input on pastoral priorities in this important worldwide and local conversation.

**WHAT IS A SYNOD IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?** This brief article on the Aleteia website gives a great explanation and quick historical roundup with reference to the current Synod.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE** of St. Mary’s in Lindsay, who celebrated their 100th Anniversary last weekend. I was pleased to celebrate the Mass at St. Mary’s last Saturday, kindly welcomed by the pastor Father Joseph LoJacono, IVE. Father Tom Lynch gave a rousing homily, and it was great to be joined by Father Roy Villas, newly appointed Diocesan Spiritual Advisor to the CWL. Much fun was had afterwards at the dinner, where we listened to an address by Margaret Ann Jacobs, former National President of the CWL. Kudos to all the organizers for planning a great celebration!

**WE HELD OUR BIENNIAL PLENARY** for the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario this past week. It was yet another such meeting held virtually with a busy agenda focused on Education, Covid-19, and relationships with Indigenous peoples. We are praying that we might hold an in-person gathering for our Spring Plenary, since online is never quite the same.

**THIS IS NATIONAL CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK**, which runs from October 3-9. Sponsored by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, this year’s celebration focuses on the Catholic health care community’s mission and response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have a proud legacy of Catholic health care in our Diocese embodied in the ongoing work of St. Joseph’s at Fleming and Marycrest at Inglewood.

**MONDAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY IN CANADA**, a fitting time for us to offer public thanks for the many blessings we have received. For people of faith, thankfulness for always means thankfulness to our loving God. It also entails our generous sharing with others. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

**Fraternally, † Daniel**