



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. ##; Month ##, 2020

OUR NATION AND WORLD CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH THE PANDEMIC. The new Omicron variant of Covid-19 is causing a lot of concern and anxiety with rising case numbers everywhere. At a press conference today, the provincial government announced new measures, but places of worship will remain at current capacity levels. Earlier this week, I published a statement about adherence to health measures in our churches and have instructed all pastors to read it at the Masses this Sunday. Although people are tired of restrictions and precautions, it seems that the virus is not yet tired of us. It is important that we not let down our guard but continue to do all in our power to keep ourselves and our fellow parishioners safe.

WE WELCOME FATHER MARTIN MAIRENA, IVE, to the Diocese of Peterborough. The Institute of the Incarnate Word asked that he be assigned to live with Father Alex Salazar, IVE at Sacred Heart Parish here in the city. Father Martin will continue to work for Radio Maria in Toronto while providing some companionship and occasional assistance to Father Alex in his pastoral work at Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist. It is wonderful to welcome him among us!

A POLAR PLUNGE FUNDRAISER was held by St. Mary Parish in Campbellford, with eight souls braving the icy waters at Booster Park in Marmora. Sponsored by St. Mary's Parish and the Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart in Marmora, the event attracted 100 people this past Sunday. Congratulations to the organizers who raised over \$3000.00 for the Knights' Council and the parish. You can view a brief video on St. Mary's Facebook page, but it's not for the faint of heart!

AN ORIENTATION SESSION FOR PRIESTS new to the Diocese of Peterborough was held online earlier this week. Various priests and staff from our Diocesan Pastoral Center walked the new arrivals through a variety of policies, some historical perspectives, and a discussion of current initiatives. I only participated at the beginning and the end, but I'm told that it was a good event and helpful to the participants. We benefit from the service of priests who come to us from religious orders and other dioceses around the world and always want their ministry to be fruitful.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR with our four seminarians and their parents this weekend. It will be a good chance to touch base with our young men studying for the priesthood at the end of the semester and to chat with their parents. My thanks to Fr. John Perdue and Fr. Stephen DeCarlo for organizing it.

"THE IRISH CATHOLICS OF DOWNEYVILLE," was published recently by Dan Sullivan and was featured in this article in the Catholic Register. It looks like an interesting read, and St. Luke's Church is, of course, prominently featured!

I DON'T EXPECT TO PUBLISH FROM THE VINEYARD next week unless there is late breaking news. Please read my Christmas message here and be assured of my prayers for you all that you may enjoy a safe and blessed Christmas day and season.

Fraternally, † Daniel