



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 172; March 4, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY WAS BUSY in churches across our diocese, as many of the faithful observed the solemn celebration of the beginning of Lent. It was wonderful to return to full capacity in our churches the day before and to see an easing of some of the other pandemic restrictions under which we have laboured. I noted those in last week's Vineyard, and you may read the full letter about it here. Let us pray that this holy season may be a time of prayer, penance and works of charity for all of us. Pope Francis' letter for Lent 2022 is entitled "Let us not grow tired of doing good," taken from a verse in the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE, and the many Ukrainian Canadians who are our friends and neighbours. A devastating humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Ukraine as many flee the violence caused by the Russian invasion. The United Nations reports that in the past week some 1.2 million Ukrainians (about 2% of the population) have fled the country. Let us pray for a diplomatic solution to this tragedy and an end to the violence and loss of life. There are several ways in which people could contribute to humanitarian relief efforts. The Catholic Near East Welfare Association is one that various Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in Canada are recommending. There are also good relief efforts underway through Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and Aid to the Church in Need.

PRIESTS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE INCARNATE WORD (IVE) staff St. Mary's in Lindsay and St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart in Peterborough. The Institute also has priests serving in Ukraine. Father Joseph LoJacono, IVE, pastor of St. Mary's, received a message last week from Father Antonio Vatsaba, IVE with a request for prayers. "Priests remain in their places of mission, together with their faithful. I ask you to pray especially for Fathers Pietro Tsidylo and Josef Popovych who are in Kramatorsk and Fathers Mykhailo Lespuch and Joseph Montes who are in Skadvosk....we trust very much in the prayers of all of you." Let us keep in prayer these priests and faithful and all priests and sisters who are serving in Ukraine in these dangerous times.

DEACON PETER LUKOW HAS BEEN CALLED TO HOLY ORDERS. I informed him last week by letter that I would ordain him to the priesthood on Friday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. We will begin the Ordination planning in earnest at a meeting next week. Please keep Deacon Peter in your prayers as he finishes his final semester at St. Augustine's Seminary and prepares to be ordained to the priesthood for our diocese.

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO) meets virtually next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is always an informative gathering for Bishops of the twelve Latin rite Dioceses in Ontario and Bishops of several of the Eastern rite "Eparchies." These biannual gatherings are an important means of communication and pastoral cooperation between the Catholic dioceses of Ontario.

Fraternally, † Daniel