



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 173; March 11, 2022

THE TRAGEDY UNFOLDING IN UKRAINE continues to occupy our thoughts and prayers. I mentioned in last week's Vineyard various organizations that are providing humanitarian aid. The Diocese of Peterborough has made a substantial donation through Catholic Near East Welfare Association. I also noted relief efforts underway through Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and Aid to the Church in Need. This week I am happy to include the Knights of Columbus who have members on the ground in Poland who are already aiding refugees. More information about their campaign, including a video from Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, may be found [here](#).

POPE FRANCIS HAS SENT TWO CARDINALS to represent him in Ukraine and neighbouring countries as the humanitarian crisis grows. Among them is Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny who works at the Vatican in the Dicastery for Integral Human Development. Let us pray that these visits with refugees and political leaders may reflect the care and concern of Pope Francis and the entire Catholic community.

OUR PERMANENT DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM continues to educate and prepare our two candidates, who are now in their final semester. I look forward to joining them tomorrow for a presentation on the Canadian Directory for Permanent Deacons, the Gospel of Luke and Communication matters. My sincere thanks to all those who participate in and offer this program, which has truly been a great communal effort in the Diocese of Peterborough.

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO (ACBO) met virtually this past week. Among many other tasks we elected a new Executive to serve for the next two years. Congratulations to Bishop Gerard Bergie of St. Catharines who has been chosen as the new president of the ACBO. I have been tagged to serve as one of the two Counselors on the Executive. Even though it means some more meetings I'm happy to serve in this capacity as the ACBO does so much to assist the bishops and Catholic dioceses in Ontario.

CANADIAN PHYSICIANS FOR LIFE invites doctors, medical and law students to join the CPL Bioethics Symposium on "Conscience in the Culture and in the Professions," being held June 23-26 in Ottawa. For more information or to register go to the CPL website. It looks like a good program and scholarships are available to help offset travel and hotel costs for participants.

PLANS FOR THE CHRISM MASS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. We look forward to gathering with our priests, deacons and faithful in Holy Week with the kind of full program we have not had since 2019. More information will be coming next week. Priests and Deacons are reminded to RSVP so that we can solidify our plans.

SINCERE THANKS TO THE STAFF OF OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER, who held a small gathering for me yesterday, the 5th Anniversary of the announcement of my appointment as the Bishop of Peterborough. It was much appreciated!

Fraternally, † Daniel