



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 174; March 18, 2022

POPE FRANCIS WILL CONSECRATE RUSSIA AND UKRAINE to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation, Friday, March 25th. He has asked bishops and priests around the world to join him in this Act of Consecration. I will celebrate Holy Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation at 12:10 p.m. next Friday at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, and afterwards make the Act of Consecration in union with the Holy Father. The Mass will be broadcast on our Diocesan YouTube channel. As we pray for peace in Ukraine and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I have also asked the priests of the diocese to offer the prayer of consecration in their parishes next Friday. In these troubled times let us continue to hold in prayer all who have died and been harmed by this terrible war.

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS HAS PUBLISHED A NOVENA, to be prayed in advance of the Feast of the Annunciation. This prayer for peace was composed by Ukrainian Catholic leaders and may be found on our website. I ask parishes and individual members of the faithful to offer it over the coming days.

FATHER ERIC MASON RECENTLY LED A WINTER CAMPING EXCURSION of 45 young people and chaperones from around the diocese. This outing was organized to raise funds for the major repairs needed at St. Joseph's Church in Powassan. The young people collected pledges and then braved the elements constructing about a dozen quinzees (igloo-like structures) on the grounds Holy Family Church in Britt. The group was warmly received by Father Neil Campbell and well cared for by many volunteers. The weekend included time for Mass and adoration, spiritual talks, and traditional winter pursuits like snowshoeing and ice fishing. Congratulations to all the intrepid organizers and participants!

THE VISIT OF THE DELEGATION of Indigenous Leaders and Bishops to the Holy See will run from March 28th to April 1st. This meeting with Pope Francis should be a significant moment in the journey toward reconciliation. In preparation for this meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, a coalition of Indigenous people and clergy has published two resources: a prayer card and a document entitled Sacred Fire and Prayer Wave for Healing and Reconciliation. These resources will enable the faithful to support prayerfully the work of the Delegation in their historic and important visit.

OUR CLERGY WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE MINI-RETREAT this Wednesday. We are looking forward to Bishop Wayne Lobsinger (Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton) addressing us on the theme of, "Shepherds after the Heart of Jesus, according to Luke." Bishop Lobsinger has spoken on this theme with groups of seminarians, and it is a fitting one for our clergy as we too need spiritual nourishment during Lent!

Fraternally, † Daniel