



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 179; April 29, 2022

THE MONTH OF MAY SEES MANY OF OUR PRIESTS celebrating Ordination Anniversaries. Our sincere congratulations go out to those priests celebrating milestone anniversaries this year: Monsignor James Scott (60 years); Father Peter Seabrooke (50 years); Monsignor Michael Heffernan, Father Martin Dalida and Father Vic Valles (all at 40 years). We always take the time at our annual Priests' Retreat to honour the Jubilarians and give thanks to God for their priestly service!

I WILL BE ONLINE WITH THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF SASKATOON next week. Bishop Mark Hagemoen invited me to lead the annual Priests' Retreat for them this year and I'm happy to do so. Short timelines and other commitments made it difficult for me to go there in person, but they tell me I won't be the first Retreat speaker to present virtually. I'm looking forward to offering a couple of conferences daily over the course of four days, on the theme of Paul to the Colossians 2:2, "I want your hearts to be encouraged." Please pray that all the technology works as planned!

THE EASTER EDITION OF "THE CATHOLIC HERALD," was published online earlier this week. I am constantly thankful to our intrepid editor, Father Ray Rick, and to the many contributors who make our Diocese's newsmagazine an always worthwhile read.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK takes place across our province from May 1 to 6. This year's theme is "Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together." Some good resources and information can be found on the Ontario Catholic School Trustees website.

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY IN LONDON formed and educated many of our priests over the years. Their annual Alumni Reunion will take place on Tuesday, May 10th, being held as a hybrid event: some alumni will participate in person, others by Zoom. Cardinal Gerald Cyprien LaCroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, will be their special guest speaker. The program begins with Mass in the St. Thomas Aquinas chapel at 4:00 p.m. and continues with a reception and dinner in the refectory.

THE BOARD OF CANADIAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY met online today, including me as their Liaison-Bishop. There is much excitement and anticipation as they plan for their annual convention, being held this year at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, June 7 to 10. The convention brings together Catholic Campus Ministers from across the country, and it is the first time the group has been able to gather in-person for this meeting since 2019.

I BEGAN MY VISITS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION last weekend and the season will continue well into June. Sincere thanks to all the clergy, religious, teachers and lay catechists who have prepared the young people for this Sacrament!

Fraternally, + Daniel