



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 214; April 21, 2023

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER was a wonderful time of celebration across our diocese, with reports of the highest attendance at church in several years. We were very pleased with the turnout at the **Outdoor Way of the Cross** on Good Friday here in Peterborough. Hundreds of people gathered for the return of this event and walked prayerfully through the downtown streets. The production was inspiring and prayerful, a fitting commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord. Sincere thanks to all the organizers and cast, who worked so hard to stage this beautiful presentation of faith.

THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN will soon be released, the fruit of several years of input, meetings and prayerful discussions. The Pastoral Planning Committee met this week to work on some finishing touches and to plan for the rollout. “Transforming our Lives; Building our Church” will be released across the diocese on the weekend of Pentecost, May 27/28. Priests and deacons will meet later that week to discuss what is involved in the practical implementation of this pastoral plan over the next five years. It is my hope that each parish community will embrace the plan and discuss how best to realise the pastoral goals and strategies in their local circumstances. What better weekend to inaugurate it than Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church!

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE in the Diocese of Peterborough will celebrate their convention next weekend, April 29/30, beginning with Mass in our Cathedral on Saturday morning at 9:00. They will then convene at St. Peter’s Catholic Secondary School for a full agenda that takes them through Sunday. I look forward to being with them for the Opening Mass and some of the Saturday program at this first in-person convention in several years. League members are happy to be marking the 100th Anniversary of the CWL in the Diocese of Peterborough – something we should all celebrate!

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK begins on Sunday, April 30. Focused on the theme “We are Many; We are One,” drawn from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 12:5, it emphasizes the great value of communion – unity in diversity - in our Catholic schools. Many activities will be taking place in school boards across our diocese and province this week, as we celebrate the great gift of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

MEMBERS OF OUR PRIEST BENEFIT FUND COMMITTEE met this week. While every meeting is important, we are always especially focused on having a successful collection in June to support the PBF, which is the way that we provide for our retired priests. We certainly appreciate the generosity of the faithful in that collection, taking place this year on June 10/11.

EASTER SEASON MEANS CONFIRMATION SEASON in the Diocese of Peterborough. I am looking forward to beginning that circuit this weekend, at St. Joseph Parish in Powassan. Please pray for the young people who have been preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in this sacrament.

Fraternaly, † Daniel