



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 217; May 12, 2023

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS issued two letters about access to Euthanasia/Medical Assistance in Dying for those living with mental illness. One is addressed to the government and another to all the Catholic faithful. The bishops raise serious concerns about expanding the eligibility criteria for “MAID” to those whose sole medical condition is mental illness. They note that Euthanasia always violates the dignity of the human person and to extend this “treatment” to those suffering from mental illness reneges on our societal responsibility to provide support, caring and proper therapeutic interventions in such cases. To the good words of these letters, which you may read [here](#), I add the appeal that we should write to our Members of Parliament about this deeply concerning issue.

OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN will be published on the Solemnity of Pentecost, Sunday, May 28. Entitled, “**Transforming our Lives; Building our Church,**” the plan will lay out six pastoral goals and some recommended strategies that can be taken at the parish and diocesan levels. This plan was the fruit of much good input and discussion over the past couple of years. I am preparing a pastoral letter to be read in all parishes of the Diocese on Pentecost, and we will also be promoting the pastoral plan on our website and social media platforms. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to receive this plan enthusiastically and pursue its pastoral goals!

THE CAST AND CREW who presented the Outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday, will be gathering for a celebratory barbecue tomorrow. It will be a great time for them to unpack the experience of presenting our Lord’s Passion in such an inspirational way. And it will also give them some well-deserved social time after a job well done!

MR. JOE GERONIMO, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville, has received the papal honour of the Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great. This award is being conferred on him by the Holy Father in recognition of his fine service to the Catholic community and beyond, including parish activities, the Knights of Columbus and pro-life initiatives. I am looking forward to investing him with the insignia of the Order tomorrow at the parish Saturday night Mass. Congratulations, Joe, and thank you for your faithful service over many years!

PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE are planning for our annual retreat, taking place at Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga, June 5 to 9. Our presenter will be the Most Rev. Sylvain Lavoie, retired archbishop of Keewatin- Le Pas in Manitoba. These are always good days characterized by thoughtful presentations, spiritual refreshment and fraternal enjoyment!

MOTHER’S DAY is celebrated this Sunday and I extend my prayerful best wishes to all the moms out there, with much appreciation for all that you do. May God bless you and may your families shower you with a few blessings too!

Fraternally, † Daniel