



FROM THE VINEYARD

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“JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT,” is a series of four videos produced by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, reflecting on the Sunday readings of the season. Bishop Jon Hansen of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith offers these brief, weekly reflections that explore the great Advent themes of waiting, hope and preparation. With Christmas falling on Monday, Advent is as short as it can be this year: viewing one of these videos each week will help us to use this time well as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS went well at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains last Sunday. I was very happy to bless and recommission the Diocesan Youth Cross as it will now make frequent appearances at gatherings of young people. Following the Mass, we had excellent presentations in Bishop Doyle Hall from Fr. Stephen DeCarlo (Diocesan Youth Director) and two of the pilgrims who attended the World Youth Day Festivities in Lisbon this past summer. Thanks so much to those who came out, and to parishioners across the diocese who supported the pilgrims in various ways so that they could make this historic journey to Lisbon.

OUR ANNUAL ADVENT MASS AND LUNCHEON for priests and deacons of our diocese will take place this Thursday at our Cathedral. We usually like to gather for this fraternal event early in Advent, before the busyness of Christmas really ramps up in the parishes. A reminder to priests and deacons to RSVP today, if you haven't done so. Sincere thanks to the Cathedral and Diocesan Pastoral Center staff for their work in pulling all this together!

THE CANADIAN BISHOPS RELEASED A STATEMENT yesterday on the non-permissibility of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide within Catholic health institutions in Canada. As so-called “Medical Assistance in Dying” grows rapidly in Canada, the bishops are opposed to any efforts to “compel such facilities to perform MAiD in violation of Catholic teachings.” The statement reaffirms the Church’s commitment to the dignity of all life with an emphasis on access to high quality palliative care for those who are irremediably ill. You may read the full text of the statement [here](#).

THE CPKC HOLIDAY TRAIN, made a stop in Bowmanville this week, collecting over 250 lbs and financial donations, thanks to the good work of community agencies, including the St. Vincent de Paul Bowmanville Food Bank. [The CPKC Holiday Train](#) travels cross country raising money, food and awareness of the good work done by community food banks.

FATHER ERIC MASON AND I ENJOYED LUNCH WITH THE CCO MISSIONARIES, who do great ministry at Trent University through faith studies and building Catholic community. Thanks so much to Erika, Byron and Kenisha, who are among the many missionaries of [“Catholic Christian Outreach,”](#) a university student movement present on seventeen campuses in Canada!

Fraternally, † Daniel