



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 245; February 16, 2024

**THE SEASON OF LENT** began this week, our annual 40-day pilgrimage of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that leads to Easter. We had large crowds for Ash Wednesday at our Cathedral and other parishes, a good sign of people's enthusiasm for this season of prayer, penance and spiritual renewal. Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2024 focuses on a theme from Exodus, "Through the Desert, God leads us to freedom." The Holy Father remarks, "Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which He reminds us, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.'" You may read find the full text of Pope Francis' Lenten message here.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT is returning this year. Each week on the Canadian Bishops' website you will find these brief video reflections on Lenten themes, starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through until Palm Sunday. These videos are always well-produced and insightful and a good addition to anyone's Lenten devotions. And at six or seven minutes long, they can be easily fit into the busiest person's schedule! This year, the presenters of the English videos are Bishop Mark Hagemoen of the Diocese of Saskatoon and Bishop Stephen Hero of the Diocese of Prince Albert. The first couple look great! Check them out here.

**ALSO RETURNING IS THE CITY-WIDE LENTEN MISSION.** We had great success with this in Peterborough in 2019 and we are looking forward to a good response to this year's offering. "**Pledge of Future Glory**" will be presented by Father Luke Joseph Leighton, CFR, and Father Juan Diego Sutherland, CFR, who are both members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The mission will be presented twice daily (morning and evening) at the Cathedral of St. Peter's in Chain from Monday, March 11 to Wednesday, March 13. Father Luke and Father Juan Diego will be present for Mass at the Cathedral and some other city parishes that Sunday to invite you to the City-wide Mission. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

**OUR PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION PROGRAM** continues to meet monthly on Saturdays at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall. Several men are pursuing studies and formation for this important ordained ministry in the Church. I was pleased to visit them this past Saturday and hear something of Fr. Stephen DeCarlo's fine presentation on the Sacraments of Initiation. Please pray for all our candidates for the diaconate, their families, and the members of our Deacon community who are helping in this program.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Peterborough Diocesan Association Meeting is being held on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bishop Doyle Hall in Peterborough; registration at 9:30 a.m. with meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m. It looks like a full agenda and a good opportunity for Knights from across the diocese to meet and discuss important matters, and simply enjoy some fraternal time!

Fraternally, + Daniel