



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 292; May 2, 2025

AFTER THE FUNERAL MASS FOR POPE FRANCIS, the Cardinals are now gathered in Rome for the general congregations in advance of the papal conclave. This will be a time of meeting, discussing and discerning the needs of the Church and who will be best equipped to meet them as the new pontiff. The papal conclave begins on Wednesday, May 7, and faithful around the world will be praying for the Cardinal-electors entrusted with this vital task. This [Prayer for the Election of a New Pope](#) is one that we should offer in the coming days.

THE [DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE](#) is being held at St. Mary's Church in Lindsay today and tomorrow. They have a busy program of events and meetings over two days which will include the choosing of a new Diocesan Executive. I was very pleased to celebrate the Opening Mass for them this morning and stay throughout the morning program. I am grateful for the fine work of the Catholic Women's League across our diocese, so dedicated to prayer, works of mercy and social action.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK takes place in Ontario from May 4 to 9, an annual event when we celebrate the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education. This year's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," echoes the Jubilee Year, and calls us to embrace the virtue of hope as we shape the academic and spiritual lives of the students we serve. This excellent [faith bulletin](#) from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees contains prayers and resources for the week. Additionally, you may view my video message for Catholic Education week here.

[THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE](#) takes place in Ottawa on Thursday, May 8. Thousands from across Canada will gather to march in defense of life and in support of "Protection at Conception," this year's theme. Various groups and parishes from our diocese will be attending, adding their prayerful presence to this peaceful protest that urges the protection of life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. Check out the March for Life website [here](#).

THE NATION WAS SHOCKED AT THE VIOLENCE at the Lapu Lapu Filipino Festival in Vancouver this past weekend. Bishop William McGrattan, President of the Canadian Bishops, issued [this statement](#) in the wake of the tragedy. We join in prayer for the victims of this violence and in solidarity with the Filipino community in our diocese and across the country.

I CELEBRATED THE FIRST CONFIRMATION OF "THE SEASON" at St. Joseph's in Douro this past Sunday. I am looking forward to getting around the diocese in the coming weeks to bestow the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon many young people. Sincere thanks to all the parents, sponsors, clergy, teachers and catechists who have prepared these candidates.

THE LIST OF PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS has been sent to the clergy of the Diocese today for announcement this weekend in the parishes that will be impacted by transfers. Those Pastoral Appointments will be published on our website on Monday.

Fraternally,
† Daniel