



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 284; March 6, 2025

POPE FRANCIS CONTINUES TO FACE A CRITICAL ILLNESS as he now marks three weeks in the hospital. Yesterday, he released an audio message in which he said, "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers for my health from the square and I accompany you from here. May God bless you and the Virgin protect you. Thank you." We continue our prayers for the Holy Father, beseeching God's strength and healing grace at this time.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD takes place in our Diocese this weekend, running from Friday evening to Saturday evening. As part of our Jubilee celebrations, extended times of prayer, Eucharistic adoration and confessions are being offered in all parish churches. (Times will vary from place to place and you should check for details.) I have seen the crowded sign-up sheets in several churches, so this should be a fruitful and prayerful time for us at the dawn of the season of Lent. The door is open, and the welcome mat is out!

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT is an online video series that is sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Gary Franken of the Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta, offers a weekly reflection on the Scriptures, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing on each Sunday of Lent. These brief videos would be a wonderful addition to anyone's Lenten activities. You may access the videos [here](#).

1700 YEARS NICENE CREED, a talk by Father Hubertus Drobner, will be offered at St. Alphonsus Liguori Church in Peterborough on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by **Sacred Heart Center for Evangelization**, this lecture is a great addition to our Jubilee calendar of activities. We're delighted to welcome Father Drobner, a professor at Ecclesiastical History and Patristics in Paderborn, who is giving this talk in Toronto and Peterborough. It promises to be a fascinating exploration of the "sources, meaning and lasting impact" of the Nicene Creed, which is such a fundamental statement of our faith.

"TURN DEBT INTO HOPE" is a major theme of **Development and Peace-Caritas Canada's** actions for this Jubilee Year and for the annual Share Lent Collection. We are asked to hear and respond to Pope Francis' call to demand debt justice for communities and nations crushed under the burden of unpayable debts. Please see my [letter](#) in support of this campaign and the annual Share Lent Collection (which is taken up on the 5th Sunday of Lent.)

BISHOP ALAN CAMPEAU was ordained and installed as the new Bishop of Thunder Bay late last week. I was happy to make a whirlwind trip north to be part of the Ordination Mass and celebration. A priest of the Diocese of London, then Father Campeau went "on loan" to Thunder Bay for a year back in 1995 and never left! As he remarked, he is no longer on loan but is now a fixture in the diocese as their sixth bishop.

Fraternally,
† Daniel