



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 285; March 14, 2025

**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD** was a great success in the parishes of the diocese last weekend. Even if not every parish was able to go “around the clock,” they all held extended hours of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament (often going through the night) and lots of opportunities for Confession. Sincere thanks to all who organized and attended these prayerful vigils, which provided a wonderful beginning to the Lenten season.

**THERE IS LOTS OF INTEREST IN “1700 YEARS NICENE CREED,”** a talk by Father Hubertus Drobner, being given at St. Alphonsus Liguori Church in Peterborough on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. When Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year, he took special note that it coincided with this major anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a foundational statement of our Christian faith. With Father Drobner’s expertise in ecclesiastical history and patristic studies, he is an ideal speaker on the sources, meaning and impact of the Nicene Creed. Check out the event poster here. There is no need to register, just plan to attend and make this a part of your Lent!

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS** sent two important letters to the federal government this week. The first was addressed to the Minister of Finance and dealt with worrying recommendations in pre-Budget consultations that charitable status no longer be applied to “anti-abortion” organizations and to remove the “privileged status of the advancement of religion as a charitable purpose.” Clearly, such moves would have far-ranging and negative implications in Canadian society. A second letter to the Minister of Health addresses the inadequacy of a recent online survey that the government conducted about Medical Assistance in Dying: the survey was written in a way that presumed agreement on issues with which the Catholic Church and many other people disagree. CCCB President Bishop William McGrattan reiterated our view that the government should seek compassionate alternatives to MAID, especially by improving access to good palliative care.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME** for the Jubilee Year? Father Roy Villas, pastor of St. Joseph’s in Bracebridge, is way ahead of you! He is planning a Jubilee excursion which will run from October 24 to November 3, and will include stops at sacred sites in Assisi, Siena, and Florence. Click here to access the brochure and more information about what will be a very memorable pilgrimage. There is plenty of interest, as Father Roy tells me he already has fifteen pilgrims signed up.

**MONDAY IS ST. PATRICK’S DAY**, a saint we celebrate with special recognition in Peterborough, as he is the secondary patron of our diocese (after our principal patron, St. Peter.) Just a couple of days later, we celebrate St. Joseph on March 19, patron of the Universal Church and principal patron saint of Canada. St. Patrick and St. Joseph, pray for us!

*Fraternally,*  
† Daniel