



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 287; March 28, 2025

MY PLANNED TRIP TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY this afternoon, along with Father Stephen DeCarlo, has been scuttled by the coming ice storm. We were looking forward to meeting the faculty and hosting our two seminarians (Deacon Peter Bissonnette and Andrew Roelands) to dinner. We have had to pivot to a Zoom meeting with the rector, Father Edwin Gonsalves, and plan the dinner for another time. Earlier this week, St. Augustine's Seminary announced a series of changes in leadership for the next year, and so we pray for all those who are coming and going.

A DAY OF GRACE will be held in our diocese on Saturday, April 5, a chance for people to celebrate God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I have asked priests to provide extended hours of confession in every parish church, so that Lent in this Jubilee year may truly be a time of grace, mercy and peace. Check with your local parishes for their schedule of times and be assured of God's invitation to you to experience His forgiveness in this sacrament.

LAST NIGHT'S PRESENTATION ON THE NICENE CREED, sponsored by Sacred Heart Center for Evangelization, drew over a hundred people to St. Alphonsus Church. Father Hubertus Drobner gave a scholarly and lively talk on the history and significance of the Nicene Creed and was very true to his promised length of 45 minutes. The many good questions asked afterwards were a good indicator of people's attention and interest! Sincere thanks to all the organizers and to the many people who attended.

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE HALFWAY THROUGH LENT and Holy Week will soon be upon us. The annual **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated on Monday of Holy Week at our Cathedral and, again this year, we are opting for a 2:00 p.m. start time. This allows the priests and deacons to enjoy a leisurely gathering afterward and then get on the road in good time. And judging by last year, the time works well for many lay people to attend the Mass. Priests and permanent deacons are reminded to RSVP soon to the invitation they received earlier this week, so that plans may be put in place!

GOOD RESOURCES FOR LENT can be found at the touch of a button. A reminder that the Journey through Lent Series of weekly reflections is available at the Canadian Bishops' website. And lots of great videos for adults and children can be accessed through FORMED, which we can all view easily and for free because of our Diocesan subscription.

THE SHARE LENT COLLECTION supports this year's theme of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada: **Turn Debt into Hope**. Pope Francis in "The Joy of the Gospel," reminds us that "Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor and for enabling them to be fully part of society." Please consider signing the debt petition and contributing generously to the Share Lent Collection this year. More information is available on the Development and Peace website.

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*