



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 287; March 28, 2025

LAST WEEKEND'S ICE STORM hit large swaths of the Diocese of Peterborough leaving many people in the dark. I heard of a few parishes that celebrated the Sunday Mass by candlelight for the faithful who braved the elements that morning. Despite round the clock labours by hydro workers, not everyone is back online yet. We were relieved to get power back at our Cathedral on Tuesday – but our Cathedral priests are still surviving on generators at the rectory. Father Tom Lynch tells me there is some hope of having power restored today. We are keeping them and all those impacted by this storm in our prayers.

THE DAY OF GRACE will take place tomorrow in the churches of our diocese, with priests available for extended hours to celebrate the sacrament of Confession. This outreach is part of our Jubilee celebrations and a way that we can make this holy year a time of grace, mercy and peace. Check with your local parish or nearby parishes for the times of Confession and take advantage of the sacrament this Lent.

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ONTARIO met in Toronto this past week, one of our two yearly gatherings to discuss important matters for the Church in our province. Reports about Catholic education, health care, and the charismatic renewal populated the agenda along with the drier but necessary discussions around finance and administration. Mostly, it is of benefit to gather with other bishops and share mutual concerns, successes and hopes and to enjoy some time of prayer and hospitality.

“SO THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE” is the title of this year’s appeal from the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada. The **Good Friday Collection** provides financial aid to Christian pilgrimage sites in the Holy Land, which are labouring under great hardship because of the current turmoil. The Holy Land Commissariats around the world promote the cause of these pilgrimage sites. Please be generous to them this Good Friday. To learn more, you may go to their website [here](#).

THE ANNUAL CHRISM MASS will be celebrated on Monday of Holy Week at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in Chains. All are welcome to his solemn celebration in which the sacred oils are blessed for the coming year and when priests serving in the diocese renew their priestly promises. Priests and permanent deacons are gently reminded to make sure they RSVP to last week’s invitation.

REHEARSALS FOR “THE WAY OF THE CROSS” are going well, and the young cast members are ready to present this devotion in the streets of Peterborough on Good Friday. This continues a twenty-year long Holy Week tradition. We begin with a prayer service in our Cathedral at 10:00 a.m.; the cast and participants will then make their way along Hunter St. concluding at Immaculate Conception Church. This moving testimony of faith from our young people is always prayerful and inspiring!

*Fraternally,
+Daniel*