



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 293; May 9, 2025

“PEACE BE WITH ALL OF YOU.” POPE LEO XIV stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome yesterday and echoed the words of Jesus on Easter night. It took the Cardinals just four ballots to achieve this historic result, the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as the first-ever American pope. Hailing from Chicago, Pope Leo will also bring a broad international perspective to his ministry as the Vicar of Christ, based on his years of service in Peru, Rome, and as the worldwide Superior of the Augustinian Order. I issued a brief statement upon the election of Pope Leo which can be found [here](#). Bishop William McGrattan, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued this [press release](#) yesterday, which includes some helpful background on our new Holy Father. Let us pray for Pope Leo XIV, that the Holy Spirit may guide him as he shepherds the Universal Church!

PRAYER FOR THE POPE

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Leo XIV, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example, he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

OUR CLERGY APPOINTMENTS were announced on Monday this week. It is a rather extensive list this year, which you can read on our website. I invite your prayers for all of the priests and the parishes who will be affected by the moves, that these changes will bear good fruit for individuals and communities.

THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE was held yesterday in Ottawa, with thousands gathering on Parliament Hill to advocate for “Protection at Conception.” I was glad to concelebrate the morning Mass at Notre-Dame Cathedral and then participate in the rally in front of the House of Commons. Events in Rome then led to my early departure, but the Diocese of Peterborough was well-represented by various groups, including some parishes and a contingent of young people from Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School. Father Tom Lynch and [“Priests for Life Canada”](#) also made a strong showing as they do every year.

“ABOUND IN HOPE!” is the theme for this year’s National Family and Life Week, being celebrated in dioceses and parishes across Canada from May 11 to 18. The theme is a powerful message drawn from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans and aligns with this Jubilee Year of Hope. You can see all the material and resources [here](#) on the Canadian Bishops’ website. Family and life are intricately linked: it is in our family that we first experience love and learn how to love – love is what gives hope, so celebrate the importance of family in the coming week. And how appropriate that it begins on **Mothers’ Day**, as we thank God for all the loving care of our mothers.

Fraternally,
† Daniel