



FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 316; February 6, 2026

THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS issued a [statement](#) this week in support of Private Members Bill C-218, limiting Medical Assistance in Dying. The bill proposes that people whose sole underlying condition is mental illness, should not have access to euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. The CCCB has long argued against “MAID” in all its forms, advocating instead for compassionate alternatives like good and accessible palliative care. We also advocate for measures like this one, which seeks to limit the scope of MAID especially as it may affect vulnerable people and groups. Mental illness is not necessarily irremediable, and society should respond to it in better ways. As the statement notes, this is an important time for the Catholic faithful to reach out to their federal MP’s and express support for this bill. You are encouraged to read the statement in its entirety [here](#).

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK takes place on Wednesday this week, a day when the Church focuses especially on service to the sick and the suffering. Falling each year on February 11 (the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) we reflect on the important work of health care professionals and all that the Church does in her ministry to those who are weakened by illness or age. You may read Pope Leo’s statement for the World Day of the Sick, “The Compassion of the Samaritan,” by going to the Vatican [website](#). The Holy Father reflects on our shared mission of caring for the sick, as members of Christ’s Body, the Church.

ECUMENICAL OFFICERS FROM ONTARIO DIOCESES will gather at Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga this week for an overnight gathering and meeting. I am looking forward to being there as the liaison from the Ontario bishops and supporting the priests and deacons (including our own Father Bill Moloney) who promote this important work of ecumenical cooperation and dialogue in our province. With a full agenda and two interesting guest speakers, it promises to be worthwhile meeting.

A REMINDER THAT PLANNING HAS BEGUN FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. We expect that a delegation from our diocese will travel to Seoul from July 27th to August 9th. Any interested pilgrims who wish to join in our Diocesan cohort may contact Father Stephen DeCarlo at FrStephenDeCarlo@peterboroughdiocese.org. He will be happy to provide more information.

I WAS PRESENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP JOSEPH DABROWSKI as the tenth Bishop of Hamilton earlier this week. Some eighteen bishops, hundreds of lay people and many priests and deacons filled the Cathedral of Christ the King for this jubilant celebration. It was also an occasion to thank and bid farewell to Bishop Douglas Crosby (my former boss) who is retiring after shepherding the Diocese of Hamilton since 2010.

Fraternally,
† Daniel