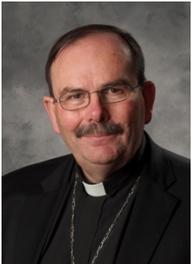


Deacons of Manitoba Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 7 January 2021

Words from The Archbishops



Dear friends,

In writing this message, I realize that we just recently passed the one-year mark since the first Covid-19 case was identified in Canada. What a year! So many changes! And while the end of this pandemic is on the horizon, there remains much that is unknown till then.

I am sure all this has impacted your families very much. I hope that you and yours have been able to stay healthy and safe. We are in this together and we hold each other in prayer.

However, I am equally sure your active ministry of charity, helping those in need, has also been impacted, whether it is prison ministry or comforting the grieving or seeing to the elderly homebound of your parish. We have all had to be both faithful and creative, looking for new ways to assure that a kind voice and a compassionate support are still there for those who most need it.

Many have spoken of the emotional and spiritual toll this pandemic has taken on different people they know; their experience of isolation, loneliness, fear, depression, that has touched many hearts.

The Church as a whole, all of our parishes and each of you in your own ministry, are challenged to respond to this suffering. If ever there was a time to be the consoling voice of Jesus, the healing touch of God (even if physically distanced we cannot literally embrace one another), now is that time.

Whether involved in your own outreach or working within your parish, with your pastor and parish leadership, I pray that you find ways to respond to this suffering, to be that loving sign of Christ's presence who never abandons his flock.

May God bless, inspire, and strengthen you all.

United in prayer,

+ Albert LeGatt

+Albert LeGatt

Archbishop of Saint Boniface

Words from Deacon James

Happy New Year and those of us that like haggis, happy Robbie Burns day (Jan. 25).

What to write?

This got me thinking that all the heroes of this time Health care people, grocer's, delivery people, and the rest that continue to provide essential services, in spite of this pandemic must be at times overwhelmed and anxious, just as we become at times.

As Christians we can ask for help. In the times when I feel a little stressed I find that this little prayer, found on the internet is helpful.

Deacon's Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of all,
Send your spirit upon me as I serve your Church.
Give me eyes to see the needs of your people.
Give me a discerning mind to know your truth.
Give me a generous spirit when I am tired but needed.
Give me a humble heart when my work goes unnoticed.
Give me peace of mind in obedience and service.
Give me health of body so I may serve with strength.
Make me fertile ground for your inspiration and love.
Comfort me when I question myself and my ministry.
Grant me grace as I age so I may share your wisdom.
Make my heart like yours so I may love your people.

Amen.

Deacon Jim Frater



Words from Deacon Murray



During the Christmas season I was drawn to one of the candles we had in our advent wreath. I observed that as it burned it gave off light and heat and it was giving of itself in the burning of the wax and the wick. I realized that is what Christ the son of God does for us in our lives. To become the light of the world he gave of himself by coming into the world as a baby which we celebrate at Christmas.

Our challenge is to trust in Christ and become the light of Christ to our family, community and the world. We too must be like the candle and give of ourselves to give hope, peace and love to those whom we meet.

We will do this through prayer, support of our Bishop, priests, parishioners and community particular during this pandemic.

As our churches are empty and our celebrations are different it is more important for us as deacons to be the light of Christ in our communities.

This newsletter will be released the end of January and Lent begins February 17.

My hope and prayer is that we will be able to once again celebrate in our churches this Lenten season with the full experience of the risen Christ at Easter.

Until then draw on the Light of Christ to help us remain safe and sane.

United in Christ,

Deacon Murray & Adrienne Teetaert

Suggestions or comments:

Please do let us know how to do better with the newsletter through email: jrfrater@mymts.net or michaelmartincordova@yahoo.com