



## DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

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### THE CHANCERY

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### MEMO

To: All Clergy and Religious in the Diocese of St. Catharines

From: Bishop Gerard Bergie

Date: May 22, 2020

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- Today we are nine days away from the great Solemnity of Pentecost. This is an ancient Feast that holds great significance for the life of the Church. One of the traditions that is associated with Pentecost is the Novena to the Holy Spirit. Given the current situation that our Church is facing during this time of pandemic, we need the Paraclete. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us through these stormy waters to a safe harbour. With this in mind, I am inviting you to join with me in praying a Novena to the Holy Spirit in preparation for Pentecost. I have included a link to the prayer found on the website of the Companions of the Cross. It focuses on the both the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit; ask that we use them to renew the face of the earth. <https://shar.es/aHU5fj>. Let us pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in each one of us and upon our entire Diocese. Come Holy Spirit!
- The faculty of St. Augustine's Seminary is offering an on-line Holy Spirit Novena Retreat in preparation for Pentecost. Each 30 minute video will be released daily at 7 am from Friday, May 22 to Sunday, May 31. The Retreat conferences will feature many of the priests of the seminary community: Rev. Edwin Gonsalves | Rev. Tomasz Skibinski | Rev. Frederick Chung | Rev. Scott Birchall | Rev. Charles Anang | Rev. John Elmer Abad | Rev. Kevin Belgrave | Rev. Peter Marr | Rev. Séamus Hogan | Rev. Favin Alemao. This is the seminary's YouTube channel link: [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HLcBa-6rOc2r8yVUhdylQOnp652U7EfZYAOTurk0teQsfO3zD0jmUqd3Q9sch7sWtQjXdt61Gw7DLcudkfbWZc9YmdNzX0KDkDZ2Mzo0pQu-rniWhdn\\_Dlnh\\_Ytmpqohi5NH6dk6Equktb2tFkMgQWVpbknbtjiUQWh8JUSXYpB1U6p2E4IqJHsXDC8CFO&c=pu0SAbqtfBtSDkuSmx6drIh44ULAFXohHhtxmOPXEV8o-64iiF2MOg===&ch=FbC\\_HBE5sR5zxDjQw3i6R\\_03u5idAjD7LhN5SajNYL-3qFREXggzfA==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001HLcBa-6rOc2r8yVUhdylQOnp652U7EfZYAOTurk0teQsfO3zD0jmUqd3Q9sch7sWtQjXdt61Gw7DLcudkfbWZc9YmdNzX0KDkDZ2Mzo0pQu-rniWhdn_Dlnh_Ytmpqohi5NH6dk6Equktb2tFkMgQWVpbknbtjiUQWh8JUSXYpB1U6p2E4IqJHsXDC8CFO&c=pu0SAbqtfBtSDkuSmx6drIh44ULAFXohHhtxmOPXEV8o-64iiF2MOg===&ch=FbC_HBE5sR5zxDjQw3i6R_03u5idAjD7LhN5SajNYL-3qFREXggzfA==)

- Starting next week, I would like to have a brief Zoom meeting with the priests and deacons of each deanery. You will receive an email invitation to this virtual meeting from my assistant, Sharon Goossen in the coming days. There will be no formal agenda other than providing an opportunity to share how we are doing in light of the pandemic. Despite the fact that we will not be physically present, it will still be good to see and hear one another. These meetings will not be any longer than 40 minutes. This is the limit set by Zoom for those who do not have a subscription.
- On Wednesday I had a Zoom meeting with a number of religious leaders (over 70) from the Niagara and Hamilton Region and our local Provincial Members of Parliament. The focus of the meeting was the reopening of our Churches for worship. The politicians were seeking our input and they seemed to be sympathetic to our concerns. I will keep you posted regarding any developments.