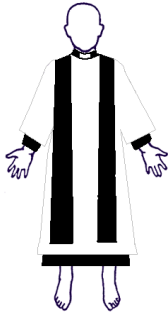


PASTOR'S CORNER – March 2020



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you know I went to Vietnam for holidays from January 17 and returned to Canada safe and sound on Feb 12, 2020. How happy I was to see my mom, siblings, relatives and friends and to celebrate the Vietnamese New Year with them as well! Thanks God that my mom is fine and gradually coping with the sickness of her old age.

The holiday joy is greater as I welcomed Bishop Albert Thévenot of Prince Albert Diocese in Vietnam. He came to visit Vietnam with Fr. D.J. Vu, pastor of St. Michael parish, Prince Albert. During his visit, Bishop Albert celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood on January 20, 2020. Fr. Joseph Nguyen, pastor of Thuan An parish and godfather of Fr. D.J. Vu hosted this celebration at Thuan An parish. I arrived in Vietnamese just in time to attend Bishop's anniversary. Then Bishop Albert celebrated Mass on the 4th day of Lunar New Year, the Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations at Lam Son parish where my family resides.

We also had another honor to welcome Archbishop Albert LeGatt of St. Boniface Archdiocese, MB on January 30, 2020. Before coming to Vietnam, the Archbishop went to the Philippines and South Korea for his pastoral visits with the local bishops whose priests are serving in St. Boniface Archdiocese. While in Vietnam, the archbishop visited bishops of Xuan Loc, Kontum and Hue dioceses where he accepted 5 seminarians and brought them to study theology at St. Peter's Seminary in London, ON, Canada. So far, there are two ordained priests for the archdiocese. On February 1 & 2 Archbishop Albert LeGatt celebrated the Sunday Mass of Presentation of the Lord, at Lam Son parish. What a blessing for the parish and for my family in welcoming and celebrating Mass with the two Canadian bishops in Vietnam!

As I was ready to return to Canada, the Coronavirus has been breaking out from China and other countries. It effected with some cases in northern Vietnam. Fortunately, I am from the south and my return flight was on schedule from Vietnam to Hong Kong on Jan 11. There was a delay of 16 hours in Hong Kong airport but I got another connection to leave Hong Kong for Toronto on the next day. Then from Toronto I got back to Saskatoon safe and sound on Feb 12. Thank you so much for your prayers so that I had good holiday and safe trip back and forth.

As we enter the season of Lent, let us spend time with God in prayer, discipline ourselves with fasting and open ourselves to care for others in charity. Have a blessed Lent!

With love in Christ

Fr. Matthew Nguyen