



Heart to Heart

March 3, 2017 (#275)

LAST EVENING'S ANNUAL C.Y.O. CHILDREN'S FUNDRAISER was another huge success! This year's Honourary Campers, Molly and Claire, stole our hearts and their parents reassured us that financial support for the Camp Marydale 'One-to-One' program is a very worthy cause indeed! Congratulations to CYO Director, John Spatazzo, and his team for another spectacular evening!

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT BEGAN ON ASH WEDNESDAY, this week. A [pastoral letter](#) was written inviting all to enter into the traditional Lenten program of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The letter can be found on the Diocesan website: www.hamiltondiocese.com. May your Lenten journey deepen your faith and lead you to reach out to others in generosity and goodness.

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE FOR REFUGEES RECEIVED NOTICE from the Immigration Department that an Afghan family of 16 will be arriving in Canada this week! The application to sponsor the family was submitted in 2010. Two sisters and their families, who have been living in asylum in Pakistan, will soon be joining their brother (the sponsor) in Hamilton. When he received the good news he wrote: *"On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank the Diocese of Hamilton and the Government of Canada for all of their efforts and hard work for making this possible to bring my family to Canada. It is greatly appreciated by all of us and I know that they will contribute to keep this country always great. May God bless us all!"*

THE MARCH 18th WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE OFFICE FOR REFUGEES, announced in last week's Heart to Heart, has been organized for Pastors and parishioners *already involved* in the BVOR Program. Participation in the workshop requires *advance registration*. If you plan to attend and have not yet registered, please contact Erin Pease, Director of the Office for Refugees by March 10th. We are planning to welcome approximately 75 participants. The workshop will take place at St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Kitchener.

BISHOP DANIEL MIEHM IS CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION at Notre Dame Parish in Hamilton tonight. This gives him another opportunity to preside "en français"! He even does his homily in French, to the delight of the assembly. Tomorrow he will preside at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Burlington. Thanks to the Pastors, teachers and catechists who assure the young people are always so well prepared. We pray for the Confirmandi – who, filled with the Holy Spirit, will "renew the face of the earth"!

THE FORMATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE continues this Saturday at the Chancery. Sister Eileen Schuller, OSU, Professor of Religious Studies at McMaster University, will speak about The Prophets to the Year One candidates, and Mr. Michael Chow, former Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener, will speak to the Year Three candidates about Pastoral Theology: The Sick and Dying. Father Jim Petrie, Pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Milton, will celebrate the Mass in the Annunciation Chapel. Dean Stephane Zara will present on Prison Ministry. We pray for our Permanent Deacon candidates.

THE RITE OF ELECTION TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY AT 1:30 PM at both the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton and the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. 100 Catechumens from 35 Parishes in the Diocese will "sign in" and be formally declared "The Elect". In the coming weeks they will intensify their preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, which will be celebrated in their Parishes at the Easter Vigil. Pray for them – it is a big step in their lives and a blessing for the whole Church!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, have mercy on us!

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI