



Heart to Heart

July 28, 2017 (#293)

WELCOME TO THE HONOURABLE ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who is visiting St. Patrick Parish, Hamilton today as part of the celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the Parish. Her Excellency was invested as the 29th Lieutenant Governor on September 23, 2014. She will be greeted at the Parish by Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Vicar General and Chancellor for the Diocese of Hamilton, Father Tony O'Dell, OMI, Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Father Jarek Pachocki, OMI, Director of the Oblate Mission Centre, civic dignitaries, parish staff and parishioners. Next weekend a special Mass will be celebrated in thanksgiving for the long and significant history of the Parish.

PLEASE PRAY FOR PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE who are suffering ill health. Father Pablito Labado is recuperating at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington following surgery on his knee. Father Michael Bennett is recovering from open heart surgery that appears to have been successful. And Father Ted Hughes continues his courageous battle with cancer.

THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME celebrate special Jubilees at a Mass tomorrow! Sisters Estelle Malleck and Eleanor Olinski celebrate a remarkable 80 years of profession! Sister Eileen Pautler, 75 years; Sisters Therese Messner, Gloria Seifried and Margaret Volk, 70 years; Sisters Margaret Liethen, Rosanne Morgan, Norma Schmidt, and Doreen Swift, 60 years; and Sisters Mary Jane Berges and Louise Vanderploeg, 50 years. We offer our thanks for such fidelity and dedication, and our good wishes for a happy celebration!

49 NEWCOMERS WERE WELCOMED TO CANADA IN JULY through the BVOR program and sponsorship agreements arranged by the Diocesan Office of Refugees! This is the largest number of refugees welcomed by the Office in any month this year – in fact, ever! A mother and son will be arriving in Canada to reunite with their husband/father after 10 years of separation. Forced to flee after learning of his wife's pregnancy, it will be the first time the father has seen his son in person. A family of five will be arriving in Canada in July after waiting for their case to be processed since 2012. St. Patrick Parish, Burlington, also welcomed an Eritrean family of 5 this week. Blessed times!

THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPAL BOARD had its annual planning retreat this week, reviewing the many events of the pastoral year 2016-17, reflecting on the concerns and challenges we face, and planning for the coming year. This year's retreat was also a time to welcome Father Michael King, who was appointed to the Board by virtue of succeeding Monsignor Earl Talbot as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy.

SIX ASPIRANTS WERE ACCEPTED by the Admissions Committee for the Diocesan Permanent Deacon Program. They will be invited to enter the Propaedeutic Period of final discernment prior to acceptance as candidates for the Program. There will be five Saturday Propaedeutic Sessions during the coming year. Next May the Admissions Committee will meet to make final decisions. In September there will be three candidates in the second year of formation and four candidates in the final year of formation. Our thanks to the men who respond to this call to serve, and to all concerned with their formation.

A FORMAL VISITATION AT THE CARMEL OF ST. JOSEPH will take place next week. Father Wayne Lobsinger, Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life, will assist me with the visit. We treasure the presence and ministry of the Carmelite Nuns in St. Agatha, and look forward to the days of intense visitation, prayer and discussion.

MOTHER CROSBY ARRIVES for a time of vacation with me during the month of August. It is a blessing to be able to welcome her!

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, +*Douglas*, OMI