



Heart to Heart

April 25, 2014 (#161)

THE CANONIZATIONS OF BLESSED JOHN XXIII AND BLESSED JOHN PAUL II will take place in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City on Sunday morning. The Vatican media service has announced that they are expecting about 3 million pilgrims at the event! The Diocese of Hamilton will provide live-streaming of the ceremony on our website thanks to Salt and Light Television. The broadcast begins at 3 a.m. on Sunday morning. It is an historic event in the life of the Church and a time of grace and divine mercy for us all.

ANNE JAMIESON AND MONICA VERIN FROM OUR CATECHESIS OFFICE report that the *Catechetical Correspondence Courses* have wrapped up for the 2013-2014 year. Over 1600 programs were used by Parishes in the catechetical instruction of young people throughout the Diocese. A further 340 programs went directly to families who were enriched by these programs in home study. They were supported by dozens of volunteer catechists. Five new Parishes have begun to use these materials this year – good news for us all!

DEACON MILES SCHELL FROM THE TORONTO ARCHDIOCESE was recently hired as Chaplain at the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener. He comes from service in a similar correctional institution in Gravenhurst, Ontario. He was very helpful in facilitating a visit by Father Con O'Mahony and me for a service on Holy Thursday afternoon. He looks forward to meeting Priests in the Kitchener-Waterloo area who might provide assistance by celebrating Mass occasionally for the women in the institution. If you are willing, give him a call please.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK IS OBSERVED MAY 4-9, 2014 IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS throughout the Diocese. Masses of Thanksgiving will be celebrated to acknowledge the blessings which the schools are for the students and for us all! The Diocesan Communication Office has made packages and a brief DVD available to our Parishes which promote and encourage Catholic Education.

THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE TAKES PLACE IN OTTAWA, MAY 7-9, 2014. Three days of events include Masses, prayer services, a candlelight vigil, Eucharistic Adoration, a rally on Parliament Hill, banquets and a youth conference. At noon, on Thursday, May 8th, pro-life people from across Canada will gather on Parliament Hill. This year's theme is RU-4LIFE. Young people and other marchers from Hamilton make the trek annually. Check out details on www.marchforlife.ca.

THE CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR LIFE AND FAMILY has published its *Message on the Occasion of the 2014 National March for Life*. It is available on their website and on the website of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. **ABORTION: THE BIG LIE** outlines some of the false information that is often touted by abortion proponents. Our Diocesan Office for Family Ministry is e-mailing the document to our Parishes to facilitate its distribution.

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN TO MR. JOHN O'BRIEN who was recently invited by the Deputy Minister of Consumer Affairs to serve on a Provincial Government Committee which will administer regulatory oversight of cemeteries, crematoriums, funeral and transfer services. His long experience with The Catholic Cemeteries of Hamilton Diocese has prepared him well for such an important role.

THE CLERGY PERSONNEL CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK and will be effective on June 25, 2014. Thanks to the Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians who have accepted new assignments. May God bless each one. Thanks also to the members of the Personnel Committee for their assistance with this year's appointments.

Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II, pray for us.

Ex corde, + *Douglas*, OMI